

December 8, 2016

6:30 p.m.

**Accommodation Review Committee  
(ARC)**

**Honey Harbour Public School  
ARC Public Meeting # 1**

**Baxter Ward Community Centre  
Lounge**

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**Facilitator:** Michael (Mike) Ash

**ARC Members:** Linda Foster, Andrea Elgar, Tricia Fenn, Amy McDonald

**Resource Staff:** Larry Hope, Dave Golden, Bob Kaye, Catherine Shedden, Deb Wines

**Trustees:** John Byrne, Louise Clodd, David Morrison

**Staff Support:** Karen Franke

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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DECISION / ACTION
Meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m.	
	Accommodation Review Committee members were provided with updated Honey Harbour Public School Information Profile and documentation for their Information binders.
Welcome & Introductions	<p>Director of Education, Larry Hope, welcomed Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) members, staff, guests, and trustees to the meeting. Director Hope introduced Trillium Lakelands DSB staff who will act as resources during ARC meetings. These included: Superintendent of Business Services Bob Kaye, Superintendent of Learning Dave Golden, District Manager Catherine Shedden, Principal of Honey Harbour Public School and Glen Orchard Public School Deb Wines, and Administrative Assistant Karen Franke. Director Hope also introduced Trustee Chair Louise Clodd from Muskoka and Trustees John Byrne, David Morrison from City of Kawartha Lakes.</p> <p>Director Hope introduced Mike Ash who will be acting as Chair/Facilitator during the Accommodation Review process.</p> <p>Facilitator Ash asked committee members to introduce themselves and their connection to their school. All members have children in their school.</p> <p>Facilitator Ash reviewed the public feedback process in regards to the accommodation review process. Presenters have completed a Public Input form and provided a copy of their presentation. These presentations will be made available on the board website.</p>

	<p>Individuals receive 5 minutes to present and groups will have 10 minutes. The ARC will review alternatives presented by the community that address the issues identified by the school board. ARC members may ask questions of the delegate for clarification.</p> <p>The ARC will develop a Staff Report at the end of the public consolidations that will be submitted to the school board.</p> <p>All ARC meetings will be recorded. Minutes of the meeting are taken. Though the minutes will not be verbatim, the recording will be available if required. Minutes are voted on and approved at the next meeting.</p>
Approval of Minutes of November 29, 2016	<p>Minutes of the Honey Harbour Accommodation Review Committee Orientation Meeting on November 29, 2016 were sent to members for review.</p> <p>No errors or omissions.</p> <p>Approved by Linda Foster, seconded by Tricia Fenn.</p> <p>All in favour.</p> <p>Carried.</p>
Meeting Norms	<p>Facilitator Ash reviewed the meeting norms that will be adhered to in all meetings and the process of delegations made.</p>
<b>Presentations</b>	
Annemarie Grigaitis	<p>Ms.Grigaitis believes that a community with no school will impact local business, the workforce and real estate. Should students attend Glen Orchard Public School, Ms.Grigaitis expressed concerns with the length of bus rides for students, meeting extracurricular needs and keeping students in their own community. Annemarie Grigaitis presented two alternatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Honey Harbour Public School remain open as is or with a addition/renovation.</li> <li>2. That Honey Harbour students co-locate with Our Lady of Mercy School of Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board as French immersion and secondary students already attend schools in Simocoe Muskoka DSB and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic DSB.</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">Link to full presentation</a></p>
Honey Harbour Association – Peter Koetsier	<p>Mr. Koetsier commented on the accommodation review process, impact on the community, bussing time for students to attend Glen Orchard Public School and how tax dollars are received and spent. He spoke on the fairness of the effects an accommodation review has on board staff, trustees, the community and the students. Mr.Koetsier feels that families will leave the community in order to be closer to schools and the impact to the region’s growth, workforce and children. On behalf of the Honey Harbour Association, Mr. Koetsier implores that Honey Harbour Public School remain open.</p>

	<p>ARC: requested clarification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. What were the distances to schools in Coldwater and Tay Shores?</b></li> </ol> <p><i>Response:</i> Mr.Koetsier stated that it is 13 minutes to Coldwater; 16 minutes to Tay Shores. He has clarified that Tay Shores is a new school that can hold 510 students and can accommodate Honey Harbour students.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to full presentation</a></p>
<p>Save Our Schools in Honey Harbour – Katherine Breeson</p>	<p>Katherine Breeson presented on behalf of the Save Our Schools (SOS) in Honey Harbour. Ms.Breeson reviewed some of the history of Honey Harbour Public Schools, the regions it serves and the impact the school’s closure will have on the economic future of these communities and the well-being of the students.</p> <p>SOS feels that the school is not an immediate threat to resources and recommends that Honey Harbour Public School remain open, or at minimum that closure be delayed for a period of one year to determine if the impact of current housing development and/or separate school board closures would have a positive impact on student enrollment for Honey Harbour Public School.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to full presentation</a></p>
<p>Tricia Richardson</p>	<p>Ms.Richardson expressed concern regarding student safety and well-being when travelling long distances by bus. Ms.Richardson had the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will buses be equipped with proper snow tires?</li> <li>2. What is the transportation plan for large weather events.</li> <li>3. What is the emergency contingency plan in the case of road closures?</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">Link to full presentation</a></p>
<p>Paul Elgar</p>	<p>Mr.Elgar feels that the School Information Profile (SIP) is inaccurate and requests clarification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maps, official plans and incomplete, ie lacking legends</li> <li>2. Clarification on enrollment projections.</li> <li>3. Bussing times are inaccurate as his child currently travels for 80 minutes to get to Honey Harbour PS.</li> <li>4. What are the bussing contingency plans when roads are closed?</li> <li>5. Does staffing reduce with declining enrollments?</li> <li>6. Required repairs quoted in SIP</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">Link to full presentation</a></p>
<p>Neil Richardson</p>	<p>Mr. Richardson spoke to the benefits students experience when in a multi-grade classroom. He would like an explanation why a school that is at 88% capacity is considered for closure and the focus is now on the quality of education and would like to see data that supports education in a larger setting. Mr. Richardson feels that the</p>

	<p>accommodation review has discouraged many new families from enrolling students at Honey Harbour PS.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to full presentation</a></p>
	<p>Facilitator Ash advised that the school board staff will provide answers to questions already received and invites further questions using the question form available at the back of the room.</p>
Staff Presentation	<p>Director Hope expressed his appreciation to all in attendance and their thoughts and comments. Director Hope explained that the school board is bound by the accommodation review process as mandated by the Ministry of Education which includes how public input is received. Director Hope reviewed the 5-year plan to accommodate the students in the 3 areas that the school district serves. The staff met with community organizations to discuss potential partnerships to use the facilities. An open door was left with these organizations if ideas present themselves. No one has come forward to co-habit the facilities.</p> <p>TLDSB Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines. The school board is required by law to present a solution when putting forward a recommendation to begin a pupil accommodation review. This is a consistent process across the province as it is mandated by the Ministry of Education. The closure of Honey Harbour Public School is not a decision that has been made but a recommendation. There will be an opportunity for the public to address the trustees later in the process. A decision will not be made until the community has been heard and questions answered.</p>
Initial Staff Report – October 4, 2016	<p>Director Hope clarified that the staff recommendation through the Initial Staff Report is to close Honey Harbour Public School at the end of the 2016-217 school year and move students to Glen Orchard Public School at the beginning of the 2017 school year. This recommendation has not been approved. Recommendations of the ARC will be received as part of the Final Report presented to trustees prior to a decision being made.</p>
School Information Profiles Review	<p>Director Hope reviewed the Honey Harbour School Information Profile and provided highlights on where the data was drawn from. Document is available on the board website as well as minutes, correspondence, and questions and answers that have been received. It was noted that the Ministry of Education does the inspection of the school facilities and its long term needs based on their formula.</p>
10 minute break	
Questions and Answers	<p>Director Hope and Superintendent of Business Bob Kaye reviewed questions received to date:</p> <p><b>1. The board mentioned that this school doesn't have a ministry number and therefore doesn't have funding. Instead it is run</b></p>

**as a satellite campus of Glen Orchard PS. Why isn't HHPS its own school? Could there be a process to get it a ministry number? Why or why not and what is the process?**

*RESPONSE:* Director Hope explained that the Ministry of Education is aware of Honey Harbour PS. The school is viewed as a portable to Glen Orchard PS and the students are enrolled, in the background, at Glen Orchard. In order to be eligible for a Ministry Identification Number (mident) number, schools must maintain an enrollment of 55 students for 3 consistent years to be independently funded.

**2. Are you doing this so the government doesn't find out you're lying about what school we go to?**

Director Hope stated that no, we are not lying. The Ministry is aware of Honey Harbour Public School and it is viewed as a satellite for Glen Orchard PS. In order to ensure some funding is received the students are enrolled as part of Glen Orchard PS.

**3. If Honey Harbour PS closes and the students are forced to attend Glen Orchard, would TLDSB still turn a blind eye to the graduating Honey Harbour students attending a high school in Simcoe, ie Georgian Bay SS?**

*RESPONSE:* Director Hope stated that TLDSB is aware that students of Honey Harbour attend secondary school outside of TLDSB and that this has been a long standing tradition. TLDSB was providing transportation to allow students to go to secondary school outside of TLDSB. Simcoe Muskoka school boards are now paying the bussing costs.

**4. How many of your high school students reside in the Township of Georgian Bay, and the same question for elementary students?**

*RESPONSE:* Superintendent Kaye stated are no TLDSB high school students that reside in the Township of Georgian Bay. There are currently 39 TLDSB students residing in the Township of Georgian Bay. One student resides outside of the district bringing the total current number of students at Honey Harbour Public School to 40.

**5. What are the actual 'costs' for running Honey Harbour Public School – both income (from the Board and the Province) and expenses including all wages?**

*RESPONSE:* Superintendent Kaye stated the revenue generated by the student enrolment at Honey Harbour Public School is approximately \$422,000. The direct expenses for the students at the school, including compensation, are approximately \$585,000.

**6. Has the idea of co-locating been discussed by the Province or TLDSB rather than closing many rural schools? Can all the students be located in one school in Honey Harbour?**

*RESPONSE:* Superintendent Kaye stated that even if the student population from both schools were combined, the numbers do not create a critical mass that is sufficient for solid programming for kindergarten to grade 8 students. Director Hope advised that municipal leaders, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic School Board and TLDSB are meeting to have an open discussion.

**7. Are you concerned about the length of the bus ride for students?**

*RESPONSE:* Superintendent Kaye stated that Trillium Lakelands District School Board tries to keep bus rides under 60 minutes. This is possible for most areas of the school board and in most cases the rides are significantly less. Currently for Honey Harbour Public School the shortest ride is 3 minutes, the longest is 60 minutes, and the average is 23 minutes. The proposed scenario indicates that the shortest ride will be 40 minutes, the longest 74 minutes, and the average ride will be 58 minutes. While this is not ideal, it becoming a common scenario across the province as declining enrolment results in fewer schools and therefore longer bus rides for students who live a distance from the school.

**8. What happens if more people move into the community?**

*RESPONSE:* Superintendent Kaye stated that we have to base our decisions on the information that we have.

**9. Has there been consideration to bus children to Coldwater or Victoria Harbour for their elementary education?**

*RESPONSE:* Superintendent Kaye advised that the school board has had discussions with Simcoe County District School Board about children registering at Tay Shores Public School, in Victoria Harbour, and providing transportation to this school. Simcoe County DSB is amenable to this suggestion.

**10. Why is the tax revenue collected in our area not dedicated to Honey Harbour Public School?**

*RESPONSE:* Superintendent Kaye stated that September 1st, 2015 to August 31st, 2016 tax revenue collected for education from Georgian Bay Township – Gibson and Baxter Ward was \$4,193,000. The Ministry of Education uses a funding formula which allocates a per pupil amount using education tax revenue collected in all regions of a school board combined with the balance coming from the province. The per pupil amount currently

	<p>is \$10,600.00 per elementary student and \$11, 100.00 per secondary student.</p> <p><b>11. Bussing times are too long and inaccurate and need to be reviewed.</b></p> <p><i>RESPONSE:</i> we will review with consortium that provided the numbers to ensure accuracy.</p> <p><b>12. Numbers regarding enrollment are misleading and need to be reviewed.</b></p> <p><i>RESPONSE:</i> our numbers are indicating in the long term accommodation that we are looking at a 10% decline in the entire board over 5 years. Honey Harbour PS decline is higher as projections are based on the numbers available at this time.</p> <p><b>13. Enrollment has dropped by 25%. Have staffing levels been reduced by 25 %?</b></p> <p><i>RESPONSE:</i> Superintendent Kaye advised that the ministry regulates class size and staffing has been reduced over the past 10 years.</p> <p><b>14. Will the enrollment algorithm be reviewed?</b></p> <p><i>RESPONSE:</i> Facilitator Ash state that yes, it will be reviewed.</p> <p><b>15. What will the transportation costs be to transport children to Glen Orchard?</b></p> <p><i>RESPONSE:</i> Director Hope stated that this will be researched and response shared.</p>
<p>How to provide input</p>	<p>Facilitator Ash advised that the public are given two opportunities to present to the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). The first being today and the second being the public meeting on February 21, 2017. A request to present can be made by submitting a Public Input form. Copies are available at the back of the room, in the school or on the website.</p> <p>The ARC may have two working meetings, January 31 and February 7, 2017. These working meetings provide an opportunity for the committee to discuss the information that has been brought forward to date and prepare a final report that will be submitted. Working meetings are open to the public but there is not an opportunity for the public to speak. The board staff will submit an Initial Final Staff Report to go to the trustees.</p>

	<p>After this report is made public there will be a Special Meeting of the Board held at Trillium Lakelands District School Board, Lindsay Education Centre. The public may make delegations to the board at this special meeting. The staff will then have 10 days to make a Final Report and Decision. After this report is made public there will be a Special Meeting of the Board held at Baxter Ward Community Centre. The public may make delegations to the board at this special meeting. The staff will then have 10 days to submit a Final Report and Decision.</p> <p>Facilitator Ash advised that questions may be directed to members of the Accommodation Review Committee. ARC is intended to act as a conduit between the public and the board. They may be reached through the school or you may connect at the end of the meeting.</p>
<p>Next meeting date and structure</p>	<p>Accommodation Review Committee Working Meeting # 1  Date: January 31, 2017  Location: Baxter Ward Community Centre – Lounge  Time: 6:30 p.m.  Public are invited to attend however there is not an opportunity for the public to speak.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>8:58 p.m.</p>

**Working Meeting # 1**

**DATE:** January 31, 2017  
**Location:** Baxter Ward Community Centre - Lounge  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.