
Colborne-Holmesville ARC Meeting**Wednesday, October 26, 2011****7:00 p.m.****Holmesville P.S.****MINUTES**

Tour of Holmesville PS

The committee had an opportunity to have a tour of the school before the meeting started.

Present:

Committee Members: Rebecca Ingham, Colborne; Darlene Hewitt, Colborne; Bryan Olson, Holmesville; Helen Lobb, Holmesville; Connie Black, Municipality of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh; Brian Barnim, Municipality of Central Huron

School Admin Liaison: Christina VanPoucke, Principal Colborne; Dave Bennett, Principal Holmesville

Admin Liaison: Hugh Cox, Information and Reporting Analyst; Mike Ash, Superintendent; Steve Howe, Manager of Communications, Janet Baird-Jackson, Superintendent of Business

Trustees: Al Sygrove, Robert Hunking

Chair: Wayne Tessier

1.0 Welcome and Chairperson's Remarks

Chair Tessier welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Colborne-Holmesville ARC. He explained that he is a non-voting member of the committee. The education experience of present and future students will be affected by the important work that will happen over the next 90 days. The ARC's task is to create a report for the Avon Maitland DSB that will include a final version of the School Information Profile for each school and an accommodation proposal. Board and ministry regulations require all attendees to sign in to verify that an individual has participated in the review. This is a committee meeting of the Avon Maitland DSB that is open to public; however, there is no open microphone at the meetings. There have been no requests from the public to speak; at future meetings, one hour at each meeting will be for public input. During the break, the audience may approach committee members if you wish to have your comments passed along to the rest of the committee. Microphones will be used at meetings to allow everyone to hear each speaker. Also, we are recording the meetings to be used as a record of each meeting and also to allow for accurate meeting minutes. Members must use a microphone when speaking and state their name and who they represent. When introducing motions, members are asked to write them on the appropriate form. The members of the committee introduced themselves. Trustees Al Sygrove, Robert Hunking and Chair Randy Wagler were in attendance. Chair Wagler explained that, while all trustees will not be in attendance at every meeting, they do receive all the information that is distributed to the committee. The two trustees that are members of the ARC will ensure that any questions that other trustees or the committee has will be relayed and the trustees will be updated on the progress of the ARC at each board meeting.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Chair Tessier asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Moved by Brian Barnim, Central Huron, seconded by Rebecca Ingham, Colborne
CARRIED

3.0 Comments from Committee Members

- Chair Tessier - formal opportunity for comments, ask questions - may not have anything to say, opportunity to make comments if you wish

School Council Representatives

- Bryan Olson, Holmesville - hope this can be a positive outcome, whatever happens is going to happen
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - echo what Bryan says - think both schools feeling pressure, uncomfortable situation - here to make decision on what is best for kids, best for their education - hopefully can come to solution that is agreeable to everybody

Community Representative

- Darlene Hewitt, Colborne - hope we are all here to do what is best for kids, for their education - do it in such a way that this is the last time we have to do this
- Helen Lobb, Holmesville - with Darlene, gone through once before - would like to see what's best for school, students, community

Municipal Leader

- Brian Barnim, Central Huron - children first, always important - Central Huron has taken strong position that rural degradation is occurring rapidly - has taken position on farm severances, keep population so can keep schools, keep what's unique to area which is rural population - wife graduate of this school, daughter, son in this school - emotions run deep - in end, no way everybody will be happy, hope will be doing right things
- Connie Black, Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh - job is to listen to public, get information and take back to council, if they have questions bring back to meeting - have to realize what is best for children and education

4.0 Public Consultation Session

- Individuals
None
- Group
None

5.0 New Business

- Chair Tessier - after item #6 will have recess, talk to public, talk to you, bring back their comments - under requirements of ministry guidelines and board policy, staff must present at least one option - starting point, does not preclude other options, simply a starting point to be used as basis for discussion, discussion can range wherever after that - one option must be put on table by staff by legislation - Mike, would you prefer all questions at one time or as you go
- Superintendent Ash - think would be best if we present option, get all information out, then respond to questions after - one other item in package - one of requirements of Policy 15 is that trustees set membership of ARC, formal legislative process, communities identify who ARC members are, municipal councils identify who their representatives are - trustees have to confirm that membership, happened at last night's board meeting, report on screen and website, bring to your attention

5.1 Presentation of Central Office Staff Option

- Superintendent Ash - we're required to present option, based on information have available, staff's analysis of information - in every review over the past four years, staff option has been modified as part of process, may not be what staff actually recommends when present report to trustees at end of March - report at end of March includes ARC report and its recommendations, staff analysis of those recommendations, staff recommendation - may be same as what ARC's is but doesn't always happen - on screen is background information for more detailed analysis Hugh will speak about - option indicates closure of both Colborne and Holmesville - went over option
- Hugh Cox - start with #4 - Mike explained rationale behind staff option - will go through tables, explain, went over - when ARC comes up with their option, will put together classroom analysis for that option, help you with developing those numbers - #6, went over map - again, when you come up with option can provide maps to help you develop boundaries - #5, financial impact analysis, went over - still going through Facilities Review process, should be done before next meeting, will provide those numbers for renewal piece - questions
- Chair Tessier - anything further

5.2 Determination of Meeting Dates and Locations

- Chair Tessier - go through a little backwards, think will be more productive, open up for discussion - had some possible dates and locations last time, have opportunity to think about, before motion will have general discussion - dates and locations we mentioned last time are October 26th at Holmesville, November 23rd at Colborne, December 14th at Holmesville, January 25th at Colborne and February 15th at Holmesville, that will be evening of presentation of report - discussion before motion
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - see if could, have had comments from Colborne parents, evening up locations of meetings - training session was here and first meeting here, when factor in what is proposed sitting with two meeting locations at Colborne, would like to see evened out, maybe one more meeting location at Colborne
- Chair Tessier - would you like to make suggestion for group to think about
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - OK with proposed dates, if could change one of the locations
- Chair Tessier - what were you thinking about
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - what happens if took last meeting date, February date, date when emotions going to run really high, make that at neutral location, not at either school
- Chair Tessier - legislation, meetings take place in schools that are under discussion - any preferences
- Helen Lobb, Holmesville - that works with us, good with a change
- Chair Tessier - will change February 15th location to Colborne - we can set all other dates but last date must be approved by board - as part of motion, 15th is a recommendation to board, generally speaking not a problem, formality we must go through approve
Moved by Helen Lobb, Holmesville seconded by Darlene Hewitt, Colborne that the meetings be: October 26th at Holmesville, November 23rd at Colborne, December 14th at Holmesville, January 25th at Colborne and February 15th at Colborne - discussion, all in favour, against - **CARRIED**
Will have 10 minute break

6.0 Questions/Comments from Members

- Chair Tessier - before start #7, point should make - group may meet at other times, study information, work on putting together report - but before becomes part of actual record of ARC, must come through committee - can have all the discussions you want outside, but must bring back to go through this process to become part of formal record - on to #7, opportunity for members to ask questions or make comments
- Brian Barnim, Central Huron - in option there isn't a rural option, strictly Clinton or Goderich - don't know if ready to take a motion but prepared to make a motion
- Chair Tessier - you can make a motion
- Brian Barnim, Central Huron - motion is to explore rural option for both Holmesville and Colborne - seconded by Bryan Olson, Holmesville
- Chair Tessier - discussion
- Superintendent Ash - question, motion very broad, wondering if you could be more specific to help guide work of committee
- Brian Barnim, Central Huron - quite sure you were going to ask for that - would create quite a bit of work on part of board to come up with - can't help but think there's been some sort of option that's been looked at already, hasn't been revealed - seems you wouldn't come up with this as only option right now, these two, can't imagine there isn't something out there
- Chair Tessier - this was a motion for committee, wasn't a request of staff to explore an option, maybe misunderstood exactly what you're requesting
- Brian Barnim, Central Huron - going to give you a lot of work maybe - would like to see what type of option there would be to keep one of the two schools open, moving students to either one or other location - seems not seeing option in that direction - what would it take to keep Colborne or Holmesville open, keeping rural presence - rural presence is where I'm heading toward
- Chair Tessier - Mike, do you want to respond in terms of how doable that is
- Superintendent Ash - depends on end point you're contemplating - as discussed at training session, like to get to point where members put forth option that they would like us to do full blown analysis on, as opposed to multiple options that may or may not be realistic - could do classroom analysis with all students from Holmesville in Colborne and all students from Colborne in Holmesville, that's a fairly straight forward calculation - question it begs is, is it a reasonable option, that's the more difficult part - give additional rationale why we didn't put that forward in first place - work required to get Colborne up to useable standard going forward, said at meeting in summer roughly \$2 million, ongoing maintenance and upkeep going to be identified through formal facilities review on top of that - based on conversations with ministry, didn't believe possible to get that kind of capital, why not part of recommended option - if looked at Holmesville, issue will be is there enough classroom space to house all students here, there isn't, would require addition - is capital available for addition when probably more than one or two classrooms, would have to confirm with analysis - was based on availability of money to make schools ready to house that whole population, whether Colborne or Holmesville - can do classroom analysis, see what end result is, that's a given - not sure how realistic it is knowing financial landscape in which we're working
- Chair Tessier - motion on table, can amend if desired - committee does have latitude to develop whatever options it sees fit for community - can request information such as class sizes as part of data to create that recommendation - before we vote, make sure we know what we want out of this - further questions, comments
- Brian Barnim, Central Huron - first thing I said during comment period was children first, this is about money - don't know if anybody has explored the fact that SWEA (South West Economic Alliance), Dalton McGuinty government commitment to southwest Ontario - significant amount of money going to come down that could

- possibly keep a rural school open - have representative from county on that board - it's about dollars and cents that's bottom line, not about rural Ontario, not about anything else - \$400,000 sounds like a lot of money, in big world it's not - if that's what we're going to realize out of this, rip more rural schools out of area, if work required that we're requesting in motion to bring forward acceptable review - if Colborne is out of it, hesitant to say that's really the case, would like to see options - would like to see motion stand - we have some numbers, think can pull numbers out of book to tell there isn't enough room to accommodate all the kids - probably options of moving some children around to keep in rural Ontario - rural presence is important - however the motion has to be amended that it's going to work so that they can provide information we're requesting, look for input to that, if amendment to be made, make a friendly amendment
- Chair Tessier - comments other members
 - Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - clarify, you're wanting one of the two schools kept open - looking for projected enrolment numbers, classroom sizes, capacity in both Holmesville and Colborne, costs associated with having one of the two schools kept open - is that correct
 - Brian Barnim, Central Huron - correct
 - Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - tend to agree with that, something that's been on my mind, would like to see some numbers associated with this building in particular - have a pretty extensive report on Colborne, haven't seen any information on this facility - as curiosity thing, help me work through process and come up with my recommendation - would like to see information that is giving us rural option - don't want to see Colborne closed, Holmesville families feeling the same - maybe it is a viable solution to keep one open
 - Chair Tessier - other questions or comments
 - Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - Mike, not sure heard you correctly - quoting \$2.2ish million for repairs Colborne - would like to point out that not all of that was immediate cost needed, was \$1,095,500 for immediate fix, another \$966,400 over course of, that escapes me, Janet could you help
 - Superintendent Baird-Jackson - correct structural issue and resolution was the immediate \$1,095,000 - other amount, \$960 some thousand was the ten year formal facilities review figure that will be required projected to be over the next ten years - same analysis for this building, that was earlier reference that we are in process of completing that cyclical review for all of our schools, looking to wind up process in mid-November so we can do all of the costing, bring forward that same detailed report for Holmesville
 - Chair Tessier - other questions, comments
 - Superintendent Ash - for clarity of motion, recommendation would be it become more specific - enrolment, class analysis, costing for having students at the two schools at either Colborne or Holmesville
 - Chair Tessier - suggestion, since it would appear they can't all fit in one, may be a third diversion for some kids who live on edge of Goderich
 - Superintendent Ash - OK
 - Chair Tessier - does anybody want to try that
 - Brian Barnim, Central Huron - clarification, when you make reference to class sizes are you including transportation costs, full analysis of what it would cost to be either or
 - Superintendent Ash - you'll get the same information presented tonight - suggestion would be we start with enrolment and class size analysis to see what that looks like - you may decide you prefer one or the other, then we do full blown costing on the one you prefer
 - Chair Tessier - questions or comments

- Brian Barnim, Central Huron - it's a start - if leave without any motion this is a meeting gone by - need something on table, if seconder willing to make friendly amendment to accommodate recommendation coming from Mike - OK with that providing we get information we're looking for
- Chair Tessier - in terms of process, would have to make a motion to amend the primary motion
- Brian Barnim, Central Huron - amended motion - request staff provide enrolment stats for a rural option for Holmesville and Colborne - seconded by Bryan Olson, Holmesville
- Chair Tessier - discussion, all in favour - **CARRIED**
In between times, about a month between our meetings, as information passed from staff to members, if there are questions what happens - there is a remailer system where members can ask questions, automatically sends to all members, response will come back to all members - if you find you need more information in the interim, somebody could request through remailer, get motion passed with all folks giving input in interim, don't have to wait a full month before get first response
- Superintendent Ash - clarification, analysis will take time so it's presented at November meeting, not sent out through remailer - if other questions that come up between now and November meeting, that's where remailer could be used - also a venue for discussions amongst members about things you're thinking of that you want to discuss related to options you're looking at
- Chair Tessier - clarification, when questions asked does it show up on public section
- Superintendent Ash - messages that are posted to remailer are summarized each month and posted on website, ongoing summary of dialogue of group
- Chair Tessier - questions, comments
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - would like to request at some point during process need tour of Colborne site, not Victoria Campus - for information purposes, for people to gather more information, asking questions - have to motion
- Chair Tessier - reason asking for motions, makes request a committee request rather than an individual request
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - we're looking at eventual tours Brookside, Goderich, Clinton, Colborne, Colborne Victoria site - clarification, meetings that will be held for ARC at Colborne will be at Victoria Campus
- Chair Tessier - before read question, do you foresee visits have to be in evening, could they be in the day when principal is available to tour the group
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - hadn't thought of that, think day would be better while principal there
- Chair Tessier - might make it easier, each individual school could come forward with date - only one that might be problematic would be Colborne, because nobody there
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - take some doing, as everyone knows that building is sitting vacant, touring vacant building is never great, need cleaning before a tour for cosmetic purposes
- Chair Tessier - know there's a mold issue there, is it allowable to go in
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - it's been deemed safe, have reports on that
- Superintendent Ash - when last testing done in June, was confirmed it was safe - will need to consult with T. Harris to make sure that's still the case, what parametres they suggest for folks going through, want people to be safe - are you envisioning tours for members of committee
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - yes
- Chair Tessier - ask that you be specific in that you're asking staff to set up times for sessions during day or evening
- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - whichever works better for principal
- Chair Tessier - do you want to make motion now

- Rebecca Ingham, Colborne - motion to tour all school buildings in question: Colborne site old and new, GPS, GPS GDCl, Clinton, Brookside; Colborne to be checked and cleaned first; dates to be decided on by each school; for committee only - seconded by Darlene Hewitt, Colborne
- Chair Tessier - questions, comments - all in favour - **CARRIED** - questions, comments
- Brian Barnim, Central Huron - another motion - for a board trustee to further discuss SWEA possibilities that could be available, contact Dan Mathieson, Mayor of Stratford who is chair South West Economic Alliance
- Chair Tessier - let me understand what you're saying - you're asking a trustee to approach Dan Mathieson for the purpose of seeing how much money is really out there - Mike, should that be a trustee's role or staff member's role
- Superintendent Ash - looking at bosses to figure out - not sure, might be appropriate that it be both, that a trustee accompany a member of central office staff
- Chair Tessier - does that work for you Brian
- Al Sygrove, Trustee - that was going to be my suggestion - for now say member of board, we can determine who, may be combination of both senior staff or trustee, whatever appropriate - for now motion could go through just as member of board
- Brian Barnim, Central Huron - motion - a board member to contact mayor Dan Mathieson, Stratford to further investigate possibilities available through SWEA - seconded by Rebecca Ingham, Colborne
- Chair Tessier - questions, comments
- Al Sygrove, Trustees - may be getting caught up in logistics, may be better to say board representative, board member indicates trustee, board representative could be senior staff
- Chair Tessier - replace trustee with representative - Rebecca, OK with you - questions, comments - all in favour - **CARRIED** - further questions, comments

8.0 Adjournment

Moved by Darlene Hewitt, Colborne

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

CARRIED