

# Transition Meeting

## Mar 10, 2016

### Present:

Jim McCutcheon, Tyler Alexander, Blake Andriessen, Shelia Andriessen, Pat Berfelz, Nancy Rothwell, Helen Shaw, Chet Hudson, Maddy Petrie, Jane Morton, Kathy Boyd, Janet Baird Jackson (no vote), Julie Beirnes, Jean Stacey, Lisa Schaefer

### Regrets:

Crystal Heenan, Ron Galbraith, Jane Morris

### Non Participants:

Recorder: Kara Greydanus

Members of Public in attendance

### Welcome:

- Jane Morton welcomed everyone
- Motion to accept Mar. 3, 2016 minutes by Shelia Andriessen, Seconded by Jean Stacey
- Janet Baird Jackson – wanted to add – after speaking with transportation manager – the bus companies hoping to do first week of June or very end of June at each individual school during the day, often they invite parents to attend as well.

### School Name:

- Kathy Boyd: read an email from Lisa Schaefer – who was running late. Doesn't like North Perth. Feels needs something West in the name. Preferable Westfield. Something else needs to be added but would prefer Listowel being used over North Perth
- Alisa Williams: Is ok with North Perth and Listowel being in the name. But feels more need to be added to North Perth Elementary. Possibly: Meadowridge, fieldstone, cornerstone, Maplewood,
- Kathy Boyd posed to group: Do we want to stick with the three currently on the table or opening to discuss other possibilities? 3 on the table after last meeting:
  - North Perth Elementary
  - Westfield Elementary
  - Westheights Elementary
- It was decided to stick with the three and see where we land
- Nancy Rothwell explained that Heights could be used because North Perth is a higher elevation in Perth County,
- It was asked if people were comfortable subbing Listowel for North Perth?
- Julie Behrns explained It is not in Listowel, it's in Wallace. Also asked for clarification on what a consensus is?
- Janet Baird Jackson explained from the boards prospective it is a decision everyone can live with, not that it was necessarily everyone's first choice?
- Decision was to not substitute it to Listowel, stay with North Perth,
- Discussed if we could eliminate 1. It was decided to eliminate Westheights as there was very little support at the last meeting. And the school Westheights in KW is too close. It was agreed unanimously to take Westheights off the list
- Discussions opened for the last 2 remaining names:

- Tyler Alexander wondered if You could also take off North and call it 'Perth \_\_\_\_'. Some thought this would be too confusing as some municipalities had Perth first in their name, and they worried people would think it was in those municipalities
- Alisia Williams: North Perth doesn't stand for anything in the school. But North Perth West \_\_\_\_ seems too wordy.
- Helen Shaw: Was wondering for signs etc. Could it be called Westfield Elementary School and on the signs and logo say 'in North Perth'
- Jane Morton asked the group if there was anyone who could not live with the school being called Westfield or North Perth Elementary
- Julie Behrns was not ok with Westfield.
- Kathy Boyd: Can live with a combo but not with simply North Perth on it's own – Lisa's email said the same. Helen Shaw also is in that boat, as was Alisia Williams.
- Blake Andriessen: preferred North Perth and doesn't want to add anything to it. Doesn't want Listowel in the same because it comes from Central.
- Kathy Boyd said: No one has proposed Wallace?
- Blake Andriessen and Tyler Alexander like Wallace Westfield, because it's in Wallace
- Maddy Petrie: Doesn't like Wallace Westfield, because only represents Wallace School
- Chet Hudson: Could live with North Perth Westfield but likes Wallace Westfield better
- Pat Berfelz: Doesn't love either of them. Thinks having North and West in the same name doesn't work but doesn't like just North Perth and thinks something needs to be added, Alisia agreed
- Kathy Boyd: What if we got rid of a direction?? So North Perth Fields Elementary?
- It was asked to clarify use of elementary/public
- Janet Baird Jackson explained it was board policy that all new schools have to be called elementary
- It was decided to have a vote to see where people were at with the 2 names, everyone was required to pick one or the other
  - Westfield: 10 (plus Lisa's email would be 11)
  - North Perth: 4
- Since no consensus was reached it was asked what the 4 who do not like Westfield would agree on
- Julie Behrns was ok with something being added to North Perth, does not want Westfield and or Westheights. Asked if there was a school called Westfield already? It was discovered there was a Westfield Public School in Ingersol, Ontario. She asked if this bothered anyone. Most agreed that it was unlikely to find a completely original name, no one opposed another school having a similar name as Westfield Elementary
- Everyone was asked to brainstorm combinations: Alisia brought forth names that could be added to North Perth. Medowridge, Greenwood, Fieldstone, Woodland, Mapleview and Conerstone
- Fieldstone, Greenwood, Mapleview were agreed to be removed, many didn't like fieldstone, Greenwood is a nursing home in Stratford, and Mapleton Township is next door.
- Nancy Rothwell proposed to take a few min.s to have off-the-record discussion in groups and with members in the audience to discuss the name options of North Perth: Medowridge, Cornerstone, Woodland. Everyone agreed
- Discussion Break

- Jim McCutcheon explained it was 10 to 4 for Westfield (11 with Lisa, who had arrived by this time) can't we work to compromise, I like the names brought but it seems like we are working backwards.
- Jane Morton: Let's discuss North Perth Fields again if North Perth 'West' is the sticking point. Doesn't have to refer to the rural fields, could be soccer fields etc.
- Kathy Boyd asked to clarify with everyone that they wanted Medowridge, Cornerstone, and Woodland all taken off the table for discussion. It was agreed to keep working with the words North, Perth, West, and Field, to try and make a combo everyone could live with. Reasons being, they had not had a chance to discuss the other names with the public, and Westfield has been a popular choice through the process.
- Helen Shaw asked again if everyone was ok with calling the school West Field Elementary School in North Perth? People were not ok with that.
- Jane Morton asked: What about North Perth Heights, and North Perth Fields?
- It was agreed to have another vote to see where people were at with the following names
  - North Perth Fields Elementary:
  - North Perth Heights Elementary:
  - Westfield Elementary:
- Everyone was to say their 1<sup>st</sup> choice and if there was 1 they could not live with.
- Say first choice, and one you can't live with if there is one
  - **First Choice:**
  - Westfield: 8
  - North Perth Heights: 6
  - North Perth Fields: 1
  - **Can't Live with:**
  - West: 3
  - Heights: 3
  - Fields: 0
- Kathy Boyd, said we had agreed to end all meetings at 8:00 unless we were close to reaching a consensus, is everyone alright to stay. Everyone said yes.
- Another off the record discussion break was agreed upon, everyone asked to seriously consider North Perth Fields, as no one said they couldn't live with that name.
- It was decided to write all names on a white board, so everyone could have a visual. And everyone was asked to decide on spelling of names as both West Field and Westfield were originally proposed. It was agreed Westfield was to be written as 1 word.
- The agreed 5 names were written down and spelt as the following:
  - North Perth Westfield Elementary School
  - North Perth Fields Elementary School
  - North Perth Heights Elementary School
  - Westfield Elementary School
  - Westfield North Perth Elementary School
- After seeing written out, several agreed North Perth Westfield Elementary School did not look as bad as they had imagined.
- Jim McCutcheon posed the question that if we were just going to call the school Westfield Elementary when we refer to it in the future, why not just drop off the North Perth? Several were opposed to this.

- Another poll happened to see how many could not live with each name
  - North Perth Westfield Elementary: 1
  - North Perth Fields Elementary: 5
  - North Perth Heights Elementary: 5
  - Westfield Elementary: 4
  - Westfield North Perth: 7
- Everyone agreed to immediately Eliminate: Westfield North Perth
- It was also agreed to get rid of the 2 that had 5 people who could not live with that name
- Once it was down to the 2 names there was another vote. Everyone had to pick one of the following and say which was their preferred choice
  - North Perth Westfield Elementary: 7
  - Westfield Elementary: 8
- It was noted that there was only 1 person that could not live with North Perth Westfield Elementary School.
- Another off-record discussion break occurred to give everyone time to process the name North Perth Westfield Elementary School
- When it came back to the table, Maddy Petrie stated her first choice would not be that name but she understood that it would likely be shortened to Westfield around town. And the need to compromise.
- Kathy Boyd and Jane Morton both asked the group if the name was:
  - **North Perth Westfield Elementary School**
- By show of hands it was unanimous that this would be the name sent to the Board for approval

### **Next Meeting:**

- Kathy Boyd explained that by next meeting we would know the trustee's decision so we can choose a team names and colours. Everyone was to ask around and see what people liked for the names. Names from the list from last meeting or new names were welcome. Janet Baird Jackson stated that The board has never turned down a name yet.
- Reminder of **Next meeting: March 31 @ Central**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30