

Transition Committee Meeting Draft Minutes

Thursday, January 14, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Listowel Central Public School, Library
305 Binning St. Listowel

Present:

Kathy Boyd (Co-Chair), Maddy Petrie, Chet Hudson, Jim McCutcheon, Tyler Alexander, Sheila Andriessen, Blake Andriessen, Nancy Rothwell, Crystal Heenan, Pat Berfelz, Laurel Mitchell, Hugh Cox, David Frier, Elaine Merner, Julie Behrns, Ron Galbraith, Helen Shaw, Lisa Schaefer (Recorder), Jean Stacey, and Jane Morton (Co-Chair)

*Various members of the public were also in attendance

Regrets:

Jane Morris and Alisia Williams

Welcome:

- **The meeting began at 6:28 p.m.**
- A brief welcome from the Co-Chairs took place and members of the committee introduced themselves.
- The Co-Chairs shared that meetings will rotate between Listowel Central Public School and Wallace Public School. The next meeting will be at Wallace Public School.

Create Contact List:

- Everyone on the Transition Committee was asked to sign in so that a contact list can be created. It will be used to track attendance as well as to communicate to the group as appropriate.

Norms/process to follow for meetings and decision making:

- Those on the Transition Committee will sit at the table and are the ones that will provide recommendations to the Avon Maitland School Board (Board).
- The public are welcome to attend but will not be able to provide feedback at the meetings. All members of the public are welcome to contact either Co-Chair and provide feedback privately.
- After a brief discussion, it was agreed that:

- Decisions will be made through general consensus. This approach is seen as fair given there are more members on the committee associated with Listowel Central Public School.
- All meetings will start on time.
- If members of the committee are not able to attend the meeting, they are to contact one of the Co-Chairs.
- Generally, meetings will run from 6:30 to 8:00 pm with some flexibility.
- Minutes will be posted on the Board website. The Co-Chairs will send the minutes to Hugh Cox and he will ensure they are posted.
- A link to the minutes will be posted on the New School Facebook page by the Co-Chairs.
- Every member of the Transition Committee has an equal say and voice.

Transportation Information (David Frier from AMDSB):

- David Frier provided high level information regarding the New School transportation (both bus and walking).
- The expanded boundaries of the school was displayed on the Smart Board for committee review (CAN WE GET A COPY TO ATTACH?).
- In general, bus routes from the country are 60 minutes or less in duration. This will not change with the New School. They will most likely continue with the current stop locations. In the country, the bus picks up at home stops and they want to fill the bus with approximately 45 to 60 students.
- A town map was displayed to show the boundaries for in town students. Those who will attend from grade K-8 were shown in green and those who will attend from grade 7-8 only were in purple. (Can we get a copy of this to attach?).
- The Board is currently reviewing the locations of the crossing guards and will determine if they need to change.
- Due to safety concerns, the Board does not want students using the traffic circle that is being constructed at the Highway 85/Highway 23 corner. Instead, the plan is for students to cross at the current cross on the North Perth pathway and lights on Main Street (between Albert Ave and Victoria Ave). They are looking at the possibility of moving the current crossing guard at the Livingston St. to this location.
- Students who live in town will be bused if their walk distance is 1.6 km or more. Town bus stops will be at corner stops versus a house laneway. For the most part, student town bus stops will be no further than 300 yards from a student's home. The Board will look for sidewalk locations as it is safer for students.
- Once the Board knows the demographics of the students (new JK registry complete), they will determine in town bus stops.
- Several questions were asked. The answers to those questions are:
 - The demographics should be known before the current school year is complete and bus stops should be communicated before the school year is complete. The Board needs to

do more monitoring and checking of locations that are safe before final decisions are made.

- Crossing guard locations are not set at this time.
- They are looking at using the First Time Rider Program for students. The plan is for this to happen in June before current schools close.
- Concerns were raised by the Transition Committee regarding the new cross location at the lights as it was agreed by all that students will not want to walk three blocks south to cross the highway over using the traffic circle. They will want the shortest way to get to school. The Board recognizes this as a concern but do not feel it is safe for the students or a crossing guard to be within 300 yards of the traffic circle (visibility concerns). The suggested location was identified as it is already well known. More review will have to take place over the next several months.
- It was suggested by the Transition Committee that the First Time Rider Program for students take place in June during school time and that parents be invited to participate.
- David Frier indicated that both he and Elaine Merner would be happy to return to Transition Committee Meetings, as requested, to provide updates and answer questions.

Naming the new school (sharing of survey suggestions, add suggestions from committee):

- The community was invited to take part in a survey that asked for suggestions of the New School name and team name. For both, rationale was to be provided.
- Kara Cox from Listowel Central has condensed all responses into a spreadsheet for review (see attached).
- The Transition Committee reviewed the spreadsheet and identified that several suggestions would be eliminated immediately. The eliminated names are:
 - North Maitland (school already named Maitland River)
 - Mapleton Community School (school already named Mapleton)
 - Elizabeth Woods Public School (school is not on Elizabeth St.)
 - West Mapleton (school already named Mapleton)
 - The Burning Fireballs (did not feel this was an appropriate school name)
 - North Perth Moo (did not feel this was an appropriate school name)
 - Wallace 2.0 (do not want to highlight only one of the closing schools)
 - North Perth Cyclones (felt this was a better choice for a team name)
 - Wallace/Central P.S. (did not want a school name with a slash)
 - Nathan's BOSS!!!!!! Public school (did not feel this was an appropriate school name)
 - The North Perth little monkeys (as above)
 - Grade ½ Wallace Public School (school is a K-8 school and do not want to highlight only one of the closing schools)
 - Mapleton (school already named Mapleton)

- The Transition Committee will review the remaining names and team names prior to the next meeting to discuss. No one on the committee had additional suggestions.
- The Board stated that the Transition Committee does not have to pick a name on the list. A name could be combined with several suggestions.
- The window for suggestions closed as of this meeting.
- The Transition Committee is welcome to discuss the suggested names with others and the teachers of the committee are welcome to conduct surveys with their students.

Memorabilia:

- Memorabilia is defined as all items in each school (posters, school uniforms, trophies, etc.) that have historical importance to the school.
- Stratford Archives has agreed to take all pictures and paper items. Each school just has to box them up. In addition, since Stratford Archives have moved to a new location and have more space, they are also interested in other memorabilia and will come out to both schools to provide a list of what they are willing to take. Given this, there should not be much remaining to move from each school. Stratford Archives will be here most likely in the spring to review all items at each school.
- Once the Transition Committee knows what is not being taken by the Stratford Archives, discussions can take place on what to do with the remaining items. One suggestion from another school that closed is to have ballet boxes for each item at the closing ceremonies. At the end of the event, the names are drawn and the items are taken home.
- Tyler Schaefer, a teacher at Listowel Central Public School, will be taking pictures of all memorabilia that are not being moved to the Stratford Archives.

Next meeting:

- After a brief discussion on the amount of meetings required for the committee and the responsibilities of the committee, it was agreed that 4 or 5 meetings would most likely be necessary.
- The role of the Transition Committee was discussed. It was identified by the Co-Chairs that the role of the committee is to provide recommendations only. Additional work should not be necessary for those on the committee.
- The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Wallace Public School.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Minutes prepared by L. Schaefer