

Transition Committee Meeting

March 3, 2016 at Wallace Public School

Attendees: Ron Galbraith, Maddy Petrie, Nancy Rothwell, Sheila Andriessen, Blake Andreissen, Tyler Alexander, Jim McCutcheon, Jane Morton, Janet Baird Jackson (part of discussion only), Helen Shaw, Pat Berfelz, Julie Behrns, Kathy Boyd, Lisa Schaefer

Regrets: Jean Stacey, Alisia Williams, Jane Morris, Crystal Heenan, Chet Hudson,

Non-Participants:

Recorder: Kara Greydanus

Members of the public were also in attendance

Welcome: Meeting began at 6:30

- Kathy Boyd showed a slide show of pictures of the new school

Accepting Minutes from Feb 4, 2016:

- Jim McCutcheon made a motion to accept min. Helen Shaw seconded

Question: email from last meeting:

- A party that attended the last meeting sent an email. They worried that there are more people from Central than Wallace on the committee.
- Kathy Boyd asked: How does everyone still feel about working towards a consensus?
- Nancy Rothwell asked: What happens if not everyone can come?
- It was agreed upon that if only a handful of people could attend a meeting no formal decisions would be made, discussions only.
- No one at the table raised concerns about the email sent and that Central had more representation at the table than Wallace and it was agreed upon to still work towards a consensus for all decisions.

School Name:

- Alisia Williams couldn't make it to the meeting but sent an email. Wondering if we can add the location onto all the names proposed, as it seems to be a sticking point for some. Floor opened for discussion.
- Sheilia Andriessen asked if we pick a name and then after the name is chosen can we then discuss about adding location?
- Nancy Rothwell thought we should sit and discuss each name individually. Give people a chance to discuss and put forward why they liked it.
- Kathy Boyd shared a survey done by the Junior and Intermediate students at Listowel Central: Top choice was West Heights – 84, North Perth Elementary – 66, west field – 44, and minimal for John Binning (less than 2%)

- Tyler Alexander said a lot of people like North Perth Elementary because it has the location in the name.
- Maddy Petrie said that her class voted and North Perth and West Field were majority.
- Lisa Schaefer said it seemed like most don't like John Binning, very few have put that forward, in Wallace or Central,
- Kathy Boyd had asked Hugh Cox to check if any doubles of names in Ontario. There is a Westney Heights and West Heights. None of the other names put forward had duplicated in the data. Hugh's email said the name shouldn't matter because each school is given a unique number. ie. there are many St. Mary's schools in Ontario.
- Kathy Boyd asked what do we want to do from here?
- Janet Baird Jackson said we don't have to decide tonight
- Helen Shaw wanted to discuss each name first, and then dots.

Individual Name Discussion

John Binning:

- Helen Shaw: This is my least favourite because it's only 1 person and we have many great people and families in our town.
- Maddy Petrie: The school isn't really in Listowel so naming it after the founder doesn't seem to fit
- Julie Behrns: John doesn't have anything to do with Wallace Ward. The school is actually in Wallace township, not Listowel

West Heights: Decided to discuss first the name and then decide on adding a location

- Sheila Andrisen: Sounds like a high school
- Jim McCutcheon: People don't know where the heights comes from (it was later read in the survey results put forth that it makes reference to the 2 stories)
- Helen Shaw: Because there is one in KW that makes her shy away from it.
- Nancy Rothwell: Asked if anyone knew what grade the school in KW was (It was said it was a 7/8 school)

North Perth Elementary:

- Julie Behrns: Like this best, because it speaks to who we are going forward. North Perth Rec Complex and North Perth Spinrite Day Care are both next door. Has more neutrality. Central and Wallace come together to join making North Perth.
- Blake Andrisen: Likes it because it's not wordy and also has a location
- Lisa Schaefer: Thinks it's boring, and there are 2 other schools in this area. Eastdale and Elma. Makes it sound like we are better than the other ones. Makes it sound like we are 'The' school and we aren't. Lisa likes the west ones because it links Eastdale and West...
- Kathy Boyd: Most people and kids she talked to said they don't like it because boring
- Helen Shaw: has the same problem with it as Lisa, doesn't seem very inclusive.
- Shelia Andrisen said that other schools have their locations in their name
- Maddy Petrie: said it's boring, some of her friends think it's boring

- Shelia Andrissen: doesn't know what is considered boring and what isn't, you could easily say west field is boring

West Field:

- Julie Behrns asked to read definition from survey. It was read: because it's in a field, on the west and because of Eastdale
- Jane: reference to Alisia's email: If the sticking point is North Perth, then can we re-open the discussion for adding the location to the name.
- Janet Baird Jackson: Expect the school to be around for 100 years, want to have a name that stands the test of time.

After discussion:

- Kathy Boyd: Can we eliminate one or 2
- Jane Morton: with 5 away we don't want to make a firm decision on a name
- Lisa Schaefer: I think we could eliminate one
- Kathy Boyd: How would everyone like to do that?
- Lisa Schaefer: I feel it's obvious John Binning should be eliminated

By show of hands it was unanimous to remove John Binning from the pool

- Kathy Boyd: Leaves us with 3: West field, West heights, and North Perth Elementary
- Julie Behrns: Could we do a poll around the table and have everyone say what they want and why?

Poll:

- Jim, Maddy, Ron, Lisa, Helen, Kathy: West Field
- Tyler, Blake, Shelia, Julie: North Perth Elementary
- Undecided: Nancy, Pat, Jane
- Janet Baird Jackson: gave her opinion that she likes having a geographic tag in the name, so therefore liked North Perth Elementary better
- Kathy Boyd asked that because no one mentioned the West Heights, do we want to eliminate it?? It was decided to leave it at 3 names until the meeting next week for everyone to process.
- Pat Berfelz: Wondering about names for teams. Will that effect our choice of School Name? Everyone felt most names would likely go with any school name chosen.
- Lisa Schaefer: It seems it is about 50/50 on who likes what name so wondered if we should just combine it, even though it's wordy
- Helen Shaw: Should we add a 4th option into the voting pool: North Perth Westfield Elementary School?
- It was decided that everyone will think about the 3 remaining names and consider different combinations of the names for next week's meeting.

Team Names:

- Kathy Boyd read through all the names given by the public in the survey. Discussion quickly started about what names could be immediately removed. They went through the list multiple times until it could be agreed upon which to keep and which to remove. The following is the list of names and the outcomes from the discussion.

Team Name	Discussion	Consensus
Aces	Liked	Keep
Aviators	Liked	Keep
Bears	Another school has Bears	Remove
Bombers	Sounds too aggressive, good history of Listowel purchasing bomber in war	Keep
Celtics	Irish references are too exclusive	Remove
Characters	No one Liked	Remove
Clippers	No one liked	Remove
Clover	No one liked	Remove
Cows	No one Liked	Remove
Cyclones	Don't want to be the same as the Listowel Hockey Team	Remove
Explorers	Sounds like Dora the Explorer	Remove
Fire Birds	Central Huron is Phoenix and their logo is a firebird	Remove
Fire Dragons	No one liked	Remove
Flyers	Good	Keep
Irish	Irish references are too exclusive	Remove
Lions	Good	Keep
Lusitanos	Too hard to say	Remove
Mustangs	Maitland River is Mustangs	Remove
Northstars	Too close to North Woods, remove North – keep star	Keep Star
Pacers	No one liked	Remove
Packers	Too American	Remove
Pandas	Not aggressive enough	Remove
Panthers	Seaforth is Panthers	Remove
Patriots	Too American	Remove
Pirates	Too Aggressive	Remove
Pistons	No one liked	Remove
Pitbulls	Too aggressive	Remove
Predators	Sounds too negative	Remove
Pride	Sounds too proud	Remove
Pumas	No one Liked	Remove
Pythons	Don't like the logo of a snake	Remove
Shamrocks	Irish references are too exclusive	Remove
Sonic Wildcats	Too long, don't like it, some liked the combined	Keep
Spirit	No one liked	Remove
Super Sonics	Get rid of Wildcats and Sonics as those are the current names	Remove
Warriors	Stratford Central is warriors	Remove

Wellies	Doesn't really make sense	Remove
Wildcats	Get rid of Wildcats and Sonics as those are the current names	Remove
Wolves	North Woods are Wolves	Remove

- List was down to these 7 names: **Aces, Aviators, Flyers, Lions, Sonic Wildcats, Stars, Bombers**
- It was agreed that we would vote on these next week. Everyone was encouraged to ask the community what they liked. As with the school name, they were not bound to pick one of these and could bring new ideas to the table next week. Names could also be re-added to the list next week if desired.

Colours:

- Kathy Boyd: suggested that maybe it was best to wait until the team name was chose. Everyone agreed

Opening/orientation:

- Kathy: summarized what we talked about last time: Wed August 31st, separate public open house and student/family open house. Possible BBQ. She asked if anyone had anything they wanted to add to the day?
- Blake Andrissen: Will we, as a committee be able to go in the school beforehand to help decide what to do for the openhouse?
- Kathy Boyd: Would like all or several of the 7 and 8's to come in beforehand so they can be the tour guides and leaders of the open house.
- Janet Baird Jackson said Maitland River did something similar. The students came first and learned about the building and were then ambassadors for the open house and were able to explain the building to everyone.
- Kathy Boyd: Asked it to be noted that this would be our intention as well for the open house.
- Janet Baird Jackson: Mentioned that Bus companies want to get in and do bus safety before school starts in September for students who have not previously taken a bus.
- Kathy Boyd: Asked if it could be done before the end of June? Janet thought it would be in the summer.

Next Meeting:

- Kathy Boyd: our next meeting goals: Get school name which will lead to team name which will lead to colours. The other thing on our list is anything we need to think about for the transition that is concerning. If there is something you are concerned about let Kathy Boyd or Jane Morton know before the next meeting so the right people from the board or town can be at the meeting to address the concerns.
- Kathy mentioned students going out for lunch may be a concern. It's much further to stores and restaurants at the new school. Too dangerous for students to cross the round about possibly. What would it look like, should we or shouldn't we? Think about to discuss at the next meeting.

- Julie Behrns mentioned that the roundabout won't be there by the time school opens. So students will be crossing, with or without round about. Danger will still be there.
- Nancy Rothwell expressed her concern with the safety, and stated it was much easier for staff if all students are not let off school property. She wondered what is the percent that actually could walk home from the new school?
- Kathy mentioned currently almost no students go home from Central, they go someplace to eat or to the dollarstore etc.
- Nancy Rothwell again expressed it's a huge safety concern crossing the highway

It was open for other items to discuss at next meeting

- Nancy Rothwell asked Janet to clarify what all needed approval at the board level. Janet said only the school name, not colours or mascot/team name. She said if needed it didn't need to be decided until April 12th
- It was pointed out by Helen Shaw that more time will not make the decision easier
- Kathy Boyd and Lisa Schaefer both stated it would be nice to name it sooner rather than later. Everyone agreed they would come prepare to hopefully pick a name next meeting
- Nancy Rothwell asked about graduation awards at the schools and who would decide if those awards moved to the new school? Discussion occurred and it was decided if the award was academic the joint staff would decide. If the award was in given in honour of an individual or family, that family/individual would be contacted. Nancy Rothwell stated that there are awards that are important to the community and that the community needs to be honoured in the decision.
- Kathy Boyd said the achieves and museum is coming on Mar 22 to both Wallace and Central to look at the memorabilia and say what they want/can take and if there is anything remaining, they as a committee, would need to decide what do with it .
- Lisa Schaefer: Asked if in future the decision to cancel could wait until the day of the meeting, and not be canceled the night before like last week.
- It was decided that it would be canceled around 2:00 the day of the meeting , if needed

Next meeting at Wallace on Thursday Mar 10 @ 6:30 (Snow date 21st)

Addition meeting: Thursday Mar 31st @ 6:30 (raindate of April 14th)

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm