



Rainy River District School Board
Accommodation Review Committee

MINUTES

November 29, 2007 – 6:30 p.m.
Huffman School
Fort Frances, Ontario

Committee Members in Attendance:

Heather Campbell, Dan Belluz (Chair), Donna Kowalchuk, Laurie Holliday, Gord McBride, Petrina Carlson

Administration in Attendance:

Laura Mills, Raymond Roy, Kathie Zatulsky – recording secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Agenda was approved.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting November 22, 2007 were reviewed. There were no changes.
3. Review of Huffman School Valuation Framework

Heather Campbell, Superintendent of Education, explained that the school boards are required to develop a generic School Valuation Framework with the assistance of a public committee. This committee includes parents, educators, board officials and community members.

Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business, provided enrolment data for Huffman School for the past five years (2002-2007) as well as projections for 2008-2012. The data shows average daily enrolment, school capacity and school utilization. It was noted that the drop in school capacity is due to primary class size restrictions. Data was provided on staffing (by grade) which indicates headcount enrolment as well as full-time equivalent (FTE) of teacher. The EQAO data for Huffman indicates steady improvement in math and reading skills for students at the Grade 3 level.

It was noted that the Board administers the Early Development Instrument (EDI) for all senior kindergarten students at the beginning of each year. The EDI is a teacher-rating

instrument that measures the school readiness of senior kindergarten children. Data was provided to committee members for the period 2001/2002 and 2004/2005.

A recommendation was made to provide EQAO data at the public meeting that would show a comparison of data for Huffman, the Board and the Province.

Heather Campbell reviewed the customized valuation document for Huffman with committee members and revisions were noted. Only data that was relevant to the school in respect to increases/decreases of achievement over time would be included in the Customized School Valuation Framework for F.H. Huffman. As well, any data for cohorts that had less than 15 students would be suppressed (not displayed) to keep with EQAO privacy reporting guidelines. The School Valuation Framework for Huffman will be presented at the first public meeting scheduled for December 3, 2007 at Huffman School. Those attending the public consultation will have the opportunity to provide feedback or make comments on the Accommodation Review process.

Raymond Roy, Manager of Plant Operations and Maintenance, provided a report on the condition of Huffman School. (ie. structural, mechanical, electrical)

4. Questions and Answers

Question: Why are the percentages lower in 2004/05 than in 2001/2002 (higher scores indicate better readiness-to-learn skills)?

Answer: Each cohort/class presents different abilities and thus, the results differ from year to year.

Question: Would the class size change if Huffman and Robert Moore consolidated?

Answer: Huffman currently has an average class size of 16 and all primary class sizes are capped at 20 in accordance with Ministry regulations.

Question: What feedback has been received from the community?

Answer: The Fort Frances Chiefs Secretariat has provided a letter of support to build a new school.

5. Schedule of Meetings

1st Public Consultation – December 3, 2007

2nd Public Consultation – January 15, 2008

3rd Public Consultation – February 12, 2008

4th Public Consultation – April 8, 2008

Accommodation Review Committee meeting – April 15, 2008

5. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.