



REPORT

***Public Delegation to the Board
Modified Student Accommodation Review***

- Written Presentation – Karen Gannon

Committee of the Whole Meeting Presentation – June 19, 2017

I am a teacher at Atikokan High School and was our representative for the Accommodation Review Committee. As a conduit for the community to the Board, I have been listening and involved in discussions through personal feedback, the public consultation, and discussions during our 2 ARC meetings.

- 1) The community is very concerned with the need for a second gym. Condensing 2 schools with 3 gyms into 1 school with 1 gym would be a huge loss and blow to our kids & community. We are encouraged that the words gym and stage were added to the recommendation to the Board on June 2. However, we would feel more comfortable with “large flexible space” being removed, as a gym with a stage is, by definition, a large flexible space. We have not heard the rationale for the use of the language, “large flexible space.” A large flexible space could very likely not meet the physical education, athletic & community needs.
- 2) Importance of DQPE. Research clearly indicates that regular physical activity improves physical health, mental health, and academic achievement, while reducing obesity, health risks, and disease. Both the Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines and the Journal of Pediatrics advise that youth need at least 60 minutes a day of moderate to vigorous physical activity that is developmentally appropriate, enjoyable, and involves a variety of activities. The New 2015 Health & PE curriculum also supports the need for a wide variety of regular, vigorous physical activities. In our climate, we need 2 gyms for 14 grades of students.
- 3) Local Data
 - PE/Math – EQAO scores
 - Compass Survey – 5 years of data
- 4) Space Formula
 - A K-12 model is needed.
 - There are very few public K-12 schools in province.
 - 330 students in a K-12 school need a lot more space than 330 students in a K-6 or 7-12 school.
- 5) Business Case to Ministry – A K-12 school in Atikokan has a number of different requirements than a K-12 school elsewhere. We should stress our unique needs.
 - Importance of DQPE
 - Local data
 - 14 grades in one building
 - Geography – located where we are, children (& the community) have fairly limited recreational & sport opportunities. Our gyms are used a lot by students & the community.
 - Weather – living in NWO we have a very short outdoor school season. Therefore the need for a regulation sports field is very low, yet the need for a second gym is extremely high.
 - With the potential to save the tech wing, cafeteria & possibly the library, as well as no regulation sports field required, there could be tremendous savings put toward the second gym.