



**Atikokan Accommodation Review Committee Minutes
North Star Community School, Multi-Purpose Room
May 23, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Duquette, Staff Representative, North Star Community School; Mellisa Gallagher, School Council Chair, North Star Community School; Jody Labossiere, Principal, North Star Community School; Sylvia Parker, Community Representative, North Star Community School; Beth Fairfield, Principal, Atikokan High School; Darryl Gannon, School Council Representative, Atikokan High School; Karen Gannon, Staff Representative, Atikokan High School; Jeff Lehman, Community Representative, Atikokan High School; Heather Campbell, Director of Education

REGRETS: Chloe Machura, Student Representative, Atikokan High School

RESOURCE STAFF: Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business (teleconference); Travis Enge, Manager of Plant Operations & Maintenance; Lygia Dallip, Ameresco (teleconference); Sherri Belluz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Introductions were made. It was noted that the meeting was being streamed for viewing over the Internet.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to include a presentation on physical education by Karen Gannon under Item 4. It was moved by Jeff Lehman and seconded by Beth Fairfield that the agenda be approved as amended.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

a) May 11, 2017 ARC Orientation and Working Meeting

It was noted that the sentence under Item 6.4 Other Options should read, "Resource staff relayed that this may not be a viable option."

It was moved by Jody Labossiere and seconded by Mellisa Gallagher that the minutes of the May 11, 2017 ARC Orientation and Working Meeting be approved as amended.

b) May 18, 2017 Public Consultation

It was moved by Jeff Lehman and seconded by Mellisa Gallagher that the minutes of the May 18, 2017 Public Consultation be approved as distributed.

4. Review of Feedback from Public Meeting

Prior to discussing the feedback from the public meeting, the Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference Purpose and Mandate of the Committee as presented at the May 11th meeting.

The following general comments were received at the May 18, 2017 Public Consultation meeting:

- The design of the building and ensuring that programming (e.g., technological education classes) is not impacted was a concern.
- Parents want assurances that students will be safe at school.
- The gymnasiums are important for athletics. Another smaller gym was suggested to support programming.
- An area with a stage and good acoustics would be beneficial for the performing arts. This could be part of a second gym design. Arts programming needs to also be an important consideration in the design of the building.
- Municipality's after-school programming may be impacted if the gym is not regularly available.

Other feedback received from a total of 30 school community members (5 staff, 24 students, and 1 community partner) was received.

General Comments:

- Concerns regarding the 'rush'.
- Concern regarding the construction phase – timelines, relocation of students and staff.
- Need to ensure that scheduling takes into account the shared space and how this shared space is used by all (elementary and secondary student programming).
- Need to preserve the Outers facility.
- See this as an opportunity for a centralized community hub for the public school system in Atikokan.
- See this as a result of declining enrolment and a small population.
- Opportunity for student leadership.
- Separation of elementary and secondary programming.

Comments regarding school design:

- Challenges to schedule classes due to a reduction in the number of classrooms.
- Need for 2 gyms (e.g. Grayson Hall and 1 other gym).
- Need to provide space for the performing arts.
- Need to provide space for other programming (e.g. Foods Room, NRT/Science Greenhouse).
- Need to include a cafeteria.
- Need to include specialized space, including meeting room(s), Student Success space.
- Need to have a gender neutral washroom included.
- No need for a sports field.

Group Discussion

The Committee recapped the proposed options as presented at the May 11th meeting.

- Initial Staff Recommendation: New, consolidated Kindergarten to Grade 12 school on the Atikokan High School site.
- AHS Option 1: Create a combined K-12 school within the existing Atikokan High School building.

- AHS Option 2: Create a combined K-12 right-sized school at existing Atikokan High School building.
- NSCS Option 1: Create a combined K-12 school at North Star Community School site.
- NSCS Option 2: Partial consolidation of K-12 programs at North Star Community, retaining shop wing and Grayson Hall for secondary use.

Committee members were provided an opportunity to respond to the feedback received from the community members at the Public Meeting.

- It was felt that a lot of input was provided regarding the design of the facility with very little feedback received on the consolidation of Kindergarten to Grade 12 programming.
- The concern regarding safety can be addressed during the design phase.
- Tight timelines have been perceived as 'rushed'. An accommodation review was completed in Manitouwadge in 2013-14 which took a full year. In 2015, the Ministry of Education's Accommodation Review Guidelines were revised to include a shorter modified accommodation review process which enables school boards to have an involved community consultation. Under these revised guidelines, this planned consolidation recommendation does not qualify for an accommodation review as the schools are within the same attendance zone. The Board felt strongly that the community be given an opportunity to provide input, thus a modified process was approved.
- Further research has been provided with a suggestion that the separation between elementary and secondary programs be done through scheduling and processes versus building design.
- It was agreed that the retention of the Outers Building and Grayson Hall are very important.
- Scheduling could alleviate some of the pressures on the gym.
- A second, large, flexible space used for programming (arts/drama/music) and physical education could also alleviate the pressures on gym space.
- Some ARC members were concerned that not everyone in the community was aware of the Accommodation Review given the low number of community members in attendance at the Public Meeting.

Karen Gannon provided a handout titled, Need for Two Gyms – Healthy Active Living in support for a second gym. The presentation provided the Committee members information on Physical Education Class Use, Elementary Gym Class Times, Extra-Curricular Gym Use, Community Use, Benefits of Physical Activity, data from the Compass Survey, Poor Teaching & Learning Environment, Northwestern Ontario's Short Outdoor Season, Mental Health and Wellness Promotion, and a look towards the Future.

Review of the ARC Option

The option put forward by the ARC at the May 11th meeting, regarding moving the Grades 7 and 8 students to North Star Community School and building a smaller high school for Grades 9 to 12 students was put forward for further discussion.

Laura Mills, Superintendent of Business, reported that the preliminary financial analysis on this option would see Revenue remain at the consolidated K-12 school amount of \$3.9 million. Expenditures would remain the same as operating existing schools with a slight reduction in plant costs when the high school is right-sized with a smaller footprint. Expenditures are approximately \$4.2 million which results in an operating loss. The large renewal costs for the high school will continue as the core of the building is the oldest piece.

Potential Community Recommendation

As a result of the feedback received from the Committee, community partners, and public the following revised recommendation was put forward for discussion:

It is recommended that the Rainy River District School Board consolidate Atikokan High School and North Star Community School into a new Kindergarten to Grade 12 school on the Atikokan High School site while maintaining Grayson Hall and the Outers Building and constructing a large, flexible space for physical education and the arts.

And, it is recommended that the Rainy River District School Board continue with the North Star Community School site consolidation option if a viable community partner is not found.

Community partners were felt to be essential in the repurposing of North Star Community School building.

The recommendation was approved by consensus.

5. Next Steps

a) Final Staff Recommendation – June 2, 2017

The final staff report and recommendation will be posted on the Board's website on June 2, 2017. This report will build upon the initial staff report and will include a summary of the ARC meetings, public consultation, and feedback from the municipal/community partners meeting. The Committee will be notified when the report has been posted.

b) Delegations to the Board – June 19, 2017

The Board will meet as a Committee of the Whole to receive delegations on June 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will take place in Atikokan, with the location to be determined. All information will be posted on the Board's website.

As per Board Bylaw 8.2(k) all delegations are required to submit a formal request by 4:00 p.m. on June 12, 2017. The request must include a copy of the written presentation with the name of the spokesperson or presenter for the group. Presentations are to be no more than 10 minutes in lengths. Board members may ask questions for clarification, but there will be no discussion or decision made at the meeting.

There was concern that the meeting date would not be viable as the Outers teaching staff will not be available on June 19th. However, a spokesperson can be the presenter on behalf of the group. This concern will be brought to the Trustees for discussion.

6. Minutes of May 23, 2017 Meeting

As this is the last and final meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee meeting, the draft minutes will be sent via email to Committee members for approval. Comment are due back by 12:00 noon on May 26, 2017. When members are responding, they should respond to the entire Committee. No response will be considered as acceptance of the minutes.

Responses were received with two Committee members not agreeing to accept the minutes as the recommendation does not include reference to gym and stage. As consensus is not required, the minutes of May 23, 2017 are now considered approved and will be posted on the Board's website.

As this was the final meeting, the Accommodation Review Committee has now been dissolved.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.