

**Meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)  
Minutes of Working Meeting #6  
December 4, 2013**

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Due to severe weather conditions, the meeting was conducted via conference call.

**Prayer**

The ARC Chair opened the meeting with a prayer at 5:35 p.m.

**1. Welcome**

Committee Members:

Peter Adam	ARC CHAIR/Superintendent of Education
Mary Lynn Schauer	ARC Secretary/Superintendent of Business Services
Bobbie Jean Kuehl	Parent Representative – St. Andrew’s
Christina Brown	Principal Representative
Constance Bersan	Parent Representative – St. Mary’s
Father Mervin Coulas	Community Representative
Judy Hartwig	Parent Representative – St. Casimir’s
Randy Bissonnette	Principal Representative
Tracy Glofcheskie	Parent Representative – George Vanier
Tracey Pecarski	Teacher Representative
Tracy Murray	Parent Representative – St. John Bosco

Resource Members:

Lygia Dallip	Facilitator, Ameresco Asset Sustainability Group
Linda Arsenault	Recording Secretary

Members not present:

Ivan Johnson	Manager of Plant Services (regrets)
Sharon Yandernoll	Non-Teaching Representative

Members were asked to confirm their attendance on the conference call.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION #6.1**

**That the agenda for the ARC Working Meeting #6, December 4 2013, be approved as presented.**

**Moved by:** Tracy Glofcheskie, Parent Representative, George Vanier

**Seconded by:** Randy Bissonnette, Principal Representative

**...Carried**

**3. Approval of Minutes from Working Meeting #5, November 6, 2013**

**MOTION #6.2**

**That the minutes for the ARC Working Meeting #5, November 6, 2013, be approved as presented.**

**Moved by:** Bobbie Jean Kuehl, Parent Representative, St. Andrew's

**Seconded by:** Tracy Murray, Parent Representative, St. John Bosco

**...Carried**

The minutes will be posted on the ARC website.

**4. Approval of Minutes from Public Meeting #2 November 27, 2013**

**MOTION #6.3**

**That the minutes for the ARC Public Meeting #2, November 27, 2013, be approved as presented.**

**Moved by:** Christina Brown, Principal Representative

**Seconded by:** Judy Hartwig, Parent Representative, St. Casimir's

**...Carried**

The minutes will be posted on the ARC website.

**5. Review ARC Correspondence/Approval of Responses**

The ARC Chair provided the Committee with details of a November 22 2013 phone conversation with John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. Mr. Yakabuski said that his constituents had requested he attend the public meeting on November 27 2013, however he was in Toronto on that day. The MPP wanted the ARC Chair to know that he expressed concern about the possible school consolidation, and urged additional time to complete the process.

Five letters and one comment have been received from members of the community. The ARC Chair read the letters and draft responses for review and approval. The ARC reviewed the responses and made some revisions.

**MOTION #6.4**

**That the response letters be approved as amended and mailed out to the community members.**

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Moved by:</u>	<u>Seconded by:</u>
1	Bobbie Jean Kuehl, Parent Rep. St. Andrew's	Father Coulas, Community Rep.
2	Tracy Murray, Parent Rep. St. John Bosco	Tracy Glofcheskie, Parent Rep. George Vanier
3	Tracy Murray, Parent Rep. St. John Bosco	Judy Hartwig, Parent Rep. St. Casimir's
4	Christina Brown, Principal Rep.	Tracey Pecarski, Teacher Rep.
5	Randy Bissonnette, Principal Rep.	Constance Bersan, Parent Rep., St. Mary's

**...Carried**

The correspondence and approved response will be posted on the ARC website.

**6. ARC Member feedback from Public Meeting #2**

The ARC Chair requested that the Committee share any reaction from their local communities following Public Meeting #2.

An ARC member sought clarification on how surplus space is determined.

The ARC Secretary answered that the Ministry of Education determines space allocation at each school building. Each room at a school is rated, and the total rating determines how many students a building can hold. This is called the “On the Ground Capacity” or OTG. Classrooms are rated, but gymnasiums, and libraries have a rating of zero. The OTG at schools will not change unless there is an addition made to the building. Samples of building ratings will be shared at the next meeting.

An ARC member asked about the ride times and distance between George Vanier, St. John Bosco and Palmer Rapids.

The ARC Secretary indicated that the total daily ride time (a.m. and p.m.) for George Vanier students is currently 49.8 minutes. The daily ride time for George Vanier students should they be transported to St. John Bosco may increase to as high as 86.8 minutes. Out of interest, community members were discussing possible ride times from George Vanier to Palmer Rapids Public School.

An ARC member commented on the large attendance at the Public Meeting.

The member noted that some families are requesting that if a decision is made to close/consolidate a school, more time to consider options and adapt to the change would be appreciated. There were some parents that home school their children in the audience, plus some families attended a recent concert at George Vanier. This may indicate that some families may become more interested in George Vanier as an education option for their children. Another ARC member noted that a home-schooled student has just joined their school community.

An ARC member requested clarification be made regarding any payment for ARC Committee Members.

A comment had been made that ARC Members are being paid for being on the Committee. The ARC Chair stressed that no money is being paid to the ARC. The members are volunteers and not compensated for their attendance at meetings.

The ARC members discussed the correspondence received in which a community member suggested that a survey be undertaken.

One letter received in response to the Public Meeting suggested that a survey be sent out to small schools to ask the question “where parents would send their children to school in the event that their school closed”. After discussion, it was decided that the ARC is not at a stage to conduct a survey at this time, but may proceed with an informal survey later on in the recommendation process if the members believed it would provide additional information for the ARC’s consideration.

As a final note on the second Public Meeting, the ARC Chair noted that the audience displayed dignity and respect towards Committee Members, which showed to him the solid values of community members.

**7. Developing preferred Accommodation Options**

The Committee must prepare a “preferred option” to be presented at the next Public Meeting.

a) **Small Group Q & A**

At the next Working Meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Committee will be split in to small discussion groups of 3 or 4 people, each with a member facilitator. In consultation with their group, the members will review and discuss the options previously presented or other options that may be suggested as they work towards the development of a preferred option to best benefit students in the Madawaska Valley.

b) **Report back to ARC**

Each consultation group will report to the Committee as a whole, to develop a proposal the Committee is comfortable to present at the next Public Meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2013.

**8. Next Meeting**

Tools to aid in the group consultation process, such as a “placement” outlining key points from the “Terms of Reference” will be drawn up. Since the group decision is important, the meeting may run later than the usual two hours.

**9. Schedule for Working Meetings**

WORKING MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
7	Wednesday, December 11, 2013	5:30 PM	St. Mary’s Catholic School, Wilno
8	Wednesday, January 8, 2014	TO BE DETERMINED	
9	Wednesday, January 15, 2014	TO BE DETERMINED	
10	Wednesday, February 5, 2014	TO BE DETERMINED	

**10. Update of Public Meetings**

PUBLIC MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
3	Wednesday, December 18, 2013	7:00 PM	St. Andrew’s Catholic School, Killaloe
4	Wednesday, January 22, 2014	7:00 PM	St. Andrew’s Catholic School, Killaloe

**11. Questions**

There are no further questions at this time.

**MOTION #6.5**

**That the ARC Working Meeting #5 be adjourned at 7:01 p.m.**

**Moved by:** Father Coulas, Community Representative

**Seconded by:** Randy Bissonnette, Principal Representative

**...Carried**