

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW 2011:02

**Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School,
Warminster Elementary School**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.

A G E N D A

ROY EDWARDS ROOM

- A.** (1) Roll Call
(2) Approval of Agenda
(3) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

B. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Items for Decision

- (1) (a) Accommodation Review 2011:02 – Coldwater Public School,
Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School

C. FUTURE BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT

Business and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting – June 6, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. –
Georgian Room
Human Resources Standing Committee Meeting – June 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. –
Georgian Room
Program Standing Committee Meeting – June 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. – Georgian Room
Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting – June 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. –
Georgian Room
Regular Meeting of the Board – June 20, 2012 at 6:00 p.m., followed immediately by the
Committee of the Whole in Closed Session (Georgian Room), Public Session will
resume at 7:30 P.M (Roy Edwards Room)

SIMCOE COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW 2011:02 – COLDWATER PUBLIC SCHOOL, MOONSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WARMINSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PUBLIC SESSION

RECOMMENDED ACTION – WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2012

REPORT	FYI	Decision Req.	MOTION
			Call Meeting to order. Roll Call
		√	That the agenda be approved as printed.
			Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
B-1-a Accommodation Review 2011:02 – Coldwater P.S., Moonstone ES, Warminster ES		√	(1) That the Board approve the transfer of grades four, five and six students from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public School in September 2016, as set out in Report No. B-1-a, Accommodation Review 2011:02 – Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School, dated May 30, 2012.
		√	(2) That the Board approve the twinning of Coldwater Public School and Moonstone Elementary School, effective September 2016, as set out in Report No. B-1-a, Accommodation Review 2011:02 – Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School, dated May 30, 2012.
Future Business			
Adjournment		√	Motion to Adjourn

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Simcoe County District School Board

FROM: Associate Director

SUBJECT: **ACCOMMODATION REVIEW 2011:02 – COLDWATER PUBLIC SCHOOL,
MOONSTONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WARMINSTER ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

1. Background

The Board approved the 2010 Capital Plan as set out in Report No. BF-D-2, Capital Plan – 2010, dated November 10, 2010 and further approved that a pupil accommodation review be undertaken commencing in September 2011, to review Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School and Warminster Elementary School. An Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was established in September 2011.

The Ministry of Education issued revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines in June 2009. The guidelines provide direction to boards when they are undertaking accommodation reviews to make decisions with the involvement of communities based on a broad range of criteria which address the operation and maintenance of schools effectively and efficiently and to provide quality learning experiences for students.

Board Policy 2313, Pupil Accommodation Review was revised March 24, 2010. This policy recognizes the need to assess changes in demographics, enrolment, the environment, facility condition, partnerships and the Ministry's funding model, in order to provide quality learning environments to students in an efficient and effective manner. The policy's terms of reference guided the ARC and provided criteria that addressed a school's value to the student, community, the board and the local economy in the form of a School Information Profile (SIP). Terms of Reference and reference criteria are included as Appendix A to the policy, and Administrative Procedures Memorandum A5500, Pupil Accommodation Review, issued May 20, 2010.

2. Process

The Board approved initial membership for the ARC in August 2011 and as schools and municipalities continued recruitment for the ARC, additional members were approved in September and October 2011. On September 29, 2011 the ARC held its first of eight working sessions.

The ARC received a SIP that provided information for each school as a reference in the process. The ARC made some minor modifications to the SIPs to enrolment and facility data and community use. Further information and professional advice were presented by board departments: Property and Enrolment, Design, Construction and Maintenance, and Finance. The ARC also received a presentation from the Township of Oro-Medonte Planning Department.

The eight working sessions provided the venue for discussion and debate regarding potential accommodation options relating to the three elementary schools. Four public meetings were held with the first being on October 28, 2010. At these meetings the ARC process was outlined, the SIP was reviewed, the activities of the ARC were shared, and opportunities for questions and feedback were made available to the public.

The final ARC report was delivered to the Director of Education on March 1, 2012 and was subsequently presented to the Board at the Special Board Meeting of March 26, 2011 (Report No. B-1-a, Accommodation Review 2011:02 - Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School Accommodation Review Committee Report). Report No. B-2-a, Accommodation Review 2010:02 – Staff Report - Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School was received at this Special Board Meeting.

On April 17, 2012, a Special Board Meeting was held to receive a total of six delegations that represented a cross-section of interests.

The ARC process has been thorough, transparent and adheres to Board Policy No. 2313, Pupil Accommodation Review and Administrative Procedures Memorandum A5500, Pupil Accommodation Review. The ARC members, community, delegates, and students are thanked for their dedication, valuable input and overall involvement in the process.

3. Accommodation Review Committee Final Recommendations

Throughout the working sessions, the ARC examined numerous accommodation options. After discussion and further consideration, the committee presented nine preliminary options at the December 1, 2011, public meeting for feedback. At subsequent working sessions these options were further discussed and examined and formed the basis for a draft recommendation which was presented at the final public meeting on February 16, 2012. At a subsequent working session the preliminary recommendations were discussed and further refined. As set out in Report No. B-1-a, Accommodation Review 2011:02 – Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School Accommodation Review Committee Report the ARC final recommendations were as follows:

1. *Staff conduct an attendance area review commencing September 2014 involving Coldwater P.S., Hillsdale P.S., Marchmont P.S., Moonstone E.S., Warminster E.S., and Waubaushene E.S., and including the alignment of secondary school attendance areas involving Midland S.S., and Park Street C.I.*
2. *Transfer Moonstone E.S. Grade Six students to Coldwater P.S. commencing September 2016, pending results of the 2014 accommodation area review and subject to available space within Coldwater P.S. in consideration of the recommendation that no student be moved to a portable learning environment as a result of the transfer of students from Moonstone E.S. to Coldwater P.S..*

4. **Staff Recommendations**

At the beginning of the ARC process, staff presented an alternative accommodation option that was presented at the first public meeting on October 27, 2011. The option proposed the closure of Moonstone Elementary School in June 2015 and the transfer of students to neighbouring schools of Coldwater Public School and Warminster Elementary School. The recommendation was not made dependant on any capital projects, however it was indicated that business cases would be submitted for a five room addition at Coldwater Public School and a one room addition at Warminster Elementary School.

This option was re-evaluated, taking into account the findings of the ARC final report, input received by the community, and consideration of the following factors:

Enrolment and Accommodation
Facilities
Program delivery
Finance
Transportation
Partnerships
Demographics and Pupil Yields
Community use
Community input
Development

The staff recommendations as set out in Report No. B-2-a, Accommodation Review 2010:02 – Staff Report - Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School were as follows:

1. That the Board approve the transfer of grades four, five and six students from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public School in September 2016, as set out in Report No. B-2-a, Accommodation Review 2011:02 – Staff Report – Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School, dated March 26, 2012.
2. That the Board approve the twinning of Coldwater Public School and Moonstone Elementary School, effective September 2016, as set out in Report No. B-2-a, Accommodation Review 2011:02 – Staff Report – Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School, dated March 26, 2012.

5. **Conclusions**

The board endorses quality education throughout its jurisdiction while providing equity for all students in all its facilities. The student program, declining enrolment, unbalanced accommodation pressures of vacant accommodation and temporary portables being used as permanent space is and will continue to be a challenge at Coldwater Public School and Moonstone Elementary School.

Projected declining enrolment at Coldwater Public School will result in further program difficulties for students in the near future. The On The Ground (OTG) capacity of Moonstone Elementary School of 89.0 FTE will continue to require the use of portables as permanent space to accommodate the current grade distribution.

There is a combined community relationship between Coldwater Public School and Moonstone Elementary School. Moonstone Elementary School grade seven and eight students are accommodated at Coldwater Public School. The impact of “returning” the grade sevens and eights to Moonstone Elementary School would add portables to that site and leave empty classrooms at Coldwater Public School, compounding enrolment decline and vacant accommodation. The recommendations must “right size” the schools to have enrolment meet accommodation. The impact of the transfer of students from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public School was assessed by calculating flat line projections, adding grades sequentially to Coldwater Public School to determine the best combination of grades and timing for the transfer.

The proposed recommendations will meet the needs of this community by considering the use of all available schools and resources to secure and retain smaller schools. The recommendation does not meet the terms of reference that set a goal of optimal school sizes of 400 to 550. In order to meet this term of reference, two schools would have to be considered for closure, resulting in accommodation pressures with no secure funding available to provide supporting capital projects. This is not being recommended.

The alternative staff option was to close Moonstone Elementary School and transfer students to Coldwater Public School and Warminster Elementary School, with capital projects. It is now recommended that Moonstone Elementary School remain open, and that grades four, five and six students be transferred to Coldwater Public School in 2016. This will negate the need to close Moonstone Elementary School that would be “twinned” administratively with Coldwater Public School. The enrolments for both schools will have greater alignment with their OTG capacity, removing portables from Moonstone Elementary School’s site and filling up empty accommodation at Coldwater Public School.

Future residential development has been raised as a factor to be considered throughout the ARC process. There are no significant developments proposed in the Coldwater Public School and Moonstone Elementary School attendance areas. Future enrolment levels will rely on the rejuvenation of the communities and the influx of families with elementary school aged children to maintain enrolment. If this does not occur, declining enrolment will be further compounded at Coldwater Public School and it will impact Moonstone Elementary School’s smaller yet stable enrolment. This will have a greater impact on student program and unbalanced accommodation pressures.

From an accommodation perspective, the purpose for the transfer of grades four, five and six Moonstone Elementary School students to Coldwater Public School in 2016 is to alleviate Moonstone Elementary School of two temporary portables and to increase Coldwater Public School’s enrolment to meet capacity and fill empty classroom space.

From a program perspective, the purpose for the transfer of grades four, five and six Moonstone Elementary School students to Coldwater Public School in 2016 is to maintain a consistent alignment of divisions. Retaining one or more of the grades at Moonstone Elementary School would negatively impact program since one teacher in the junior division will have no internal support, challenging efforts to collaborate and that teacher would possibly be required to teach a class 'split' with the primary division. Class size would be impacted if a split is required with the primary classes that have smaller numbers of students. There are 16 grade fours projected at Moonstone Elementary School in 2016.

It has been raised that the transfer of students should only occur if permanent accommodation is available. Students in grades four, five and six have historically been accommodated in temporary portables at Moonstone Elementary School which has been supported by the community through the process. Accommodation at Coldwater Public School may require that students from both schools in any of grades four, five, six, seven or eight be accommodated in one portable on a short term basis due to declining enrolment. Class configuration will also determine the need for temporary portable accommodation.

It was also raised that the transfer of students should only occur if permanent accommodation is available, subject to the attendance area review, in 2014 recommended in Report No. B-2-a, Accommodation Review 2011:01 – Staff Report - Port McNicoll Public School, Victoria Harbour Elementary School, Waubaushene Elementary School, Waubaushene Pines Elementary School, dated March 26, 2012. The staff recommendation is subject to board approval and cannot be assumed to be approved. It also cannot be assumed that if passed, the attendance area review would recommend and be approved for any students in Accommodation Review 2011:01. If approved, the number of students and their impact cannot be assumed until implementation in 2015.

It is not prudent for the board at this time to consider the recommendations of this ARC that are dependant and/or conditional on recommendations related to meet the needs of the other ARC. The two ARCs are independent of each other and recommendations must address the immediate needs of each ARC, independently.

The recommendations are fiscally responsible by removing the need for a five classroom addition at Coldwater Public School and a one room addition at Warminster Elementary School.

The recommended transfer of students is for September 2016. A transition team will be established in January 2016 to facilitate the reorganization of students being transferred from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public School for the 2016/2017 school year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Board approve the transfer of grades four, five and six students from Moonstone Elementary School to Coldwater Public School in September 2016, as set out in Report No. B-1-a, Accommodation Review 2011:02 – Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School, dated May 30, 2012.
2. That the Board approve the twinning of Coldwater Public School and Moonstone Elementary School, effective September 2016, as set out in Report No. B-1-a, Accommodation Review 2011:02 – Coldwater Public School, Moonstone Elementary School, Warminster Elementary School, dated May 30, 2012.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janis Medysky
Associate Director

Approved for submission by:

Kathryn Wallace
Director of Education