

CENTRAL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 21, 2006

PRESENT: Corinne Miller, Heather Bozzer, Bert Schaffer, Tom Henderson, Charlotte Johnson, Linda Knight, Barry Peterson, Asima Vezina, Margaret Fleury

ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS:

- Barry Peterson distributed projected enrolments for the schools in Timmins, Schumacher, Porcupine and South Porcupine.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

- Construction at Bertha Shaw PS is expected to be completed by September 2006.
- There is concern about the number of programs at Schumacher PS. The student body fluctuates. When classes are full at WE Miller PS and Pinecrest PS, the overflow goes to Schumacher PS. There are 3 Developmental classes. The Ministry is considering housing a Best Start program at Schumacher PS.
- The Ministry is expected to announce that all primary classes must be hard-capped at 20.
- It is important that students be taught by specialists at the senior elementary level (music, technology, family studies).
- If current enrolment continues to grow at Schumacher PS, there will be no room to expand primary and junior classes.
- The Autism program at Golden Avenue PS is expected to expand in the fall.
- Possible expansion at the Porcupine Regional School is being investigated.
- Projected enrolments are down considerably at R Ross Beattie Senior PS and Golden Avenue PS.

POSSIBILITIES:

- With the addition to Bertha Shaw PS, there will now be room for Grade 6 French Immersion students to remain rather than attending Golden Avenue PS.
- Move the grades 7 and 8 students from Schumacher PS to their respective zoned schools: Golden Avenue and Ross Beattie. This would increase the opportunity for senior elementary students to experience the benefit of technology programs, music and family studies. This would relieve the pressures at Schumacher PS.
- Adjust the boundaries as new residents move into the Schumacher area.

NEXT STEPS:

- Hold public meetings at R Ross Beattie Senior PS and Golden Avenue PS. Invite the grades 7 and 8 students from Schumacher PS. This would give the students and parents an opportunity to tour the two schools to see first hand what the facilities hold. A public discussion would follow.
- Meet with the Bertha Shaw School Council to discuss the possibility of keeping Grade 6 Immersion students at Bertha Shaw PS.
- It is extremely costly and disruptive to have Developmental programs (primary, junior and intermediate) in each school. During IPRC meetings, appropriate placement for students must be decided upon. Once the school location is selected, this cannot be contested.