



Date of Meeting: 2020 October 13

Item #: 13.c

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| REPORT TO: | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Program and School Services Advisory Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy Working Committee | |
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| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> IN-CAMERA | |
| TITLE OF REPORT: | Interim Report of the Rural Education Task Force Committee | | |
| PRESENTED BY: | A. Morell, Committee Chair | | |
| PRESENTED FOR: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval | <input type="checkbox"/> Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Advice |
| Recommendation(s): | <p>1. That the Rural Education Task Force Committee be provided an extension to 2021 November 23.</p> <p>2. That the Board of Trustees advocate for the following and invite the Rural Education Task Force municipal members to advocate similarly:</p> <p>Maintaining and enhancing the Rural and Northern Education Fund (RNEF) funding model for rural and northern schools, with possible reallocation of Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) to support a net funding neutral increase in the RNEF.</p> <p>Maintaining the moratorium on school consolidations and closures for the schools that qualify/identified for the Rural and Northern Education Fund.</p> <p>Strengthening of integrated local planning at the community level and to promote local planning conversations among school boards, municipalities and other relevant local partners to ensure ongoing communication and notification regarding possible school consolidations, closures, additions or new builds.</p> <p>Provincial policies for capacity planning and pupil accommodation reviews that formally recognize the importance and value to the community of rural and single school community schools.</p> | | |
| Purpose: | To report on the activities and interim recommendations of the Bylaw Ad Hoc Committee. | | |
| Content: | <p>At the 2019 June 25 Board meeting Trustees approved the establishment of a Rural Education Task Force Committee with a report due to the Board no later than 2020 November. The Terms of Reference for the committee is provided in Appendix A.</p> <p>The current Board appointed membership on the committee is as follows: Trustees A. Morell, S. Hunt, P. Cuddy, B. Yeoman, M. Ruddock and B. Smith; S. McCullough (OSSTF); J. Brackenbury (OPC, Elementary); L. Grant (OPC, Secondary); D. Cripps (TVPIC); J. Nuyens (TVCHSA); A. Cornelissen (Middlesex County); S. Martyn (Elgin County); M. Ryan (Oxford County). The work of the committee is supported by Research and Assessment, Communications and Corporate Services. Superintendent R. Kuiper represents the Director on this committee.</p> <p>The Committee began meeting 2020 January and held 3 meetings before their work was put on pause due to COVID-19. In summary, the work of the committee included confirmation of the Terms of Reference, review of similar done in other provinces, design of a community consultation process and development of a survey.</p> | | |

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| | <p>The Committee reestablished meetings through electronic means 2020 September 28. While community consultations remain on pause the Committee will be moving forward with a survey in November.</p> <p>In consideration of the impacts of COVID-19 on the work of the committee and the anticipated continued impacts to planned consultation sessions, the Committee respectfully requests an extension to 2021 November 23.</p> <p>At their 2020 September 28 meeting the committee discussed rural schools as they relate to the Rural and Northern Education Fund, the moratorium on school closures, the importance of integrated local planning, and the need to recognize the importance and value to the community of rural/single community schools. From the discussion, a recommendation to advocate in these areas was moved and carried as reflected in the Recommendations of this report.</p> |
| Financial Implications: | n/a |
| Timeline: | n/a |
| Communications: | n/a |
| Appendices: | Appendix A: TVDSB Rural Education Task Force Terms of Reference |

Form Revised: January 2016

Relation to Commitments:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Putting students first. | <input type="checkbox"/> Actively engaging our students, staff, families and communities. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recognizing and encouraging leadership in all its forms. | <input type="checkbox"/> Being inclusive, fair, and equitable. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring safe, positive learning and working environments. | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspiring new ideas and promoting innovation. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Taking responsibility for the students and resources entrusted to our care. | |

TVDSB Rural Education Task Force Terms of Reference

MOTION: That Chairs Committee be directed to establish a Rural Education Task Force, with a final report due to the Board no later than November 2020.

Recognizing that schools in rural areas faced a variety of challenges, including student enrolment, school population growth and decline, and other factors.

- Listen to the ideas and concerns of rural communities
- Generate fresh perspectives related to rural schools and communities
- Develop innovative solutions for consideration for a TVDSB Rural Education Strategy
- Report findings and make recommendations to the Board regarding rural schools

Mandate

The task force would consult with students, parents, community, municipal leaders in TVDSB rural communities (as identified through RNEF), to identify the unique challenges and opportunities experienced by students, parents and municipalities; develop recommendations for consideration related to a TVDSB Rural Education Strategy.

Task force members to include but not limited to:

- Trustees
- Superintendents, learning coordinator (other)
- Principals and school staff
- Students (attending small rural high schools)
- Parents
- Community partners (childcare, public health)
- Municipal Leaders
- Others as identified

Scope (not limited to):

- Review the challenges and opportunities for rural schools, including funding
- Review current practices and evidence related to rural schools and communities (Re-Think Secondary)
- Examine the role e-learning plays in rural education, and other additional learning opportunities that enhance student learning
- Visit rural schools (elementary and secondary) to learn more about innovative practices as solutions
- Explore school configurations for example: Jk-12 or 7-12 models
- Develop recommendations to inform effectiveness and efficiencies within a rural education strategy
- Develop a final report of the task force to be presented to Trustees on or before November 2020

The following items were added to the scope of work at the 2020 January 13 meeting:

- Review the data used when making decisions impacting school closures/capital projects.
- Review the school level data shared at the Community Collaboration meetings.
- Review the effects of school closures on rural communities.
- Review funding mechanisms, such as the Rural Education Fund. There was a request to provide information on the criteria for funding.
- Review the provincial draft school closure guideline requirements related to an economic impact study for schools receiving RNEF funding