

SHEDDEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
NOTES OF SESSION WITH MR. ROBERT McEACHREN
April 26, 2007

PRESENT:	Ted Clague	President
	Jean Grenier	Vice-President
	Jocelyne Bishop	Secretary-Treasurer
	Rick Story	Director
	John Bois	Director
	Diane Boulrice	Director

EXCUSED:	Jeannette D. Lortie	Director
	John Raniowski	Director
	Pam Lortie	Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gary Bishop, Reeve
Bob McEachren, Algoma District School Board Trustee

The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed Mr. Bob McEachren to the meeting.

The President suggested that this meeting was to promote economic development and the effect that a school closure would have on a community.

- Mr. McEachren advised that the Algoma District School Board developed a 5 year plan.
- Mr. McEachren himself was not involved in the plan.
- Plan is a draft only (administrative only)
- Prohibit repair – not to close school
 - tear old portion of school down - rebuild according to # of students
- Next year – no junior kindergarten and 3 senior
- Adult education declining - population older, no new students
- new roof on school
- new playground (money set aside) should be completed by Sept. 2007
- government funding – remote area
- (+ 61,000 of 1-50 student) - \$61,000 fund for small school
- projection 59 students this fall
- lost over 2 million dollars this year (system)
- process to close school very slow (not in his term)
- once decision made may close within seven months
- there are three school boards in Spanish – may become 1 board (new government)
 - may solve some problems
- school board may not close school, but school may close on it's own
- board worried about cost of operation, not profit

Example – Iron Bridge Public School

- town is willing to help
- put library in school
- different organizations (8 different reports regarding plan)
- school board has final decision

Mr. McEachren advised that Mary should be getting all director's reports – please advise Bob if not receiving.

Recommendation:

- put together a plan
- capital development with the plan
- set meeting with administration (4 out of 11 will not sway)
- larger recreation centre
- happy to come back in 6 months with recommendation to present to board
- community use of school

Jean Grenier:

- administration problem – upper and lower
- school reputation needs to improve
- need to hire teacher from the community
- need school staff to work with town
- endorse a plan to market the school

John Bois

- accommodate students – prepare for college
- introduction to trade and technology (prep course)
- help stop drop out at college
- meeting with parents (discuss usage of school)

Effect of School Closure

- property values down
- trades people would relocate
- businesses, churches would close
- most students would go to Massey
- ripple effect on the town

The meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.