



**Bellmoore & New School on Summit Park Site
Temporary Accommodation Strategy
Advisory Panel Meeting #2
Tuesday February 5 2019
6:00 pm**

**Bellmoore Elementary School
35 Pumpkin Pass, Binbrook, ON**

Attendance: Superintendent Paul Denomme, Superintendent Jeff Gillies, Ellen Warling, Manager-Planning and Accommodation, Ian Hopkins Planner- Planning and Accommodation, Kevin Heer, Principal at Bellmoore, Julie Anderson, Principal- Janet Lee, , Jackie Boyer, Bellmoore School Council rep, , Nicole Jones, Janet Lee School Council Rep, Stacey Davis, Bellmoore School Council Rep (Alternate)

HWDSB Resource Staff: Manager Social Work Services/Mental Health Lead, Shawn McKillop
Manager of Communications and Community Engagement

Trustees: Board Chair Alex Johnstone Wards 11&12, Cam Galindo Wards 9 &10

Public: Approximately 25 community members

Executive Assistant Recording: Kathleen Hussey

Regrets: Gord Cook, Principal- Tapleytown, Scott Nguyen, Tapleytown School Council Rep, Richard Wouters, Bellmoore School Council Rep,

Welcoming remarks and Introductions were followed by a presentation by Staff outlining;

- Board Resolution
- Boundary Review Process
- Role of the Advisory Panel
- Rationale for Change
- Timelines
- Temporary Accommodation Options
- Protocol for Public Feedback Review

Staff highlighted that two additional Options resulted from the Public Consultation Process. A total of 9 Options were acknowledged and the new Options 1 and 2 were presented to the Panel. The remaining Options 3-9 were the original Options that existed through the Public Consultation process.

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Protocol was followed with a review of the Public Feedback Summary of each Option completed.

Option # 1 (NEW) – Increasing JK Cap, No New Students

Impact: Challenging for families to plan effectively for student transition to JK

Discussion:

- JK parents are beginning to ask and prepare now. Very challenging.
- No matter what Option is chosen there will be impact on families that is challenging. This is not a negative more than any other option.
- Can see that JK enrollment for first time students and families is stressful to start with. Understand why this concern is raised. Also believe that it is not horrible if students end up here or there.
- Positive -This option addresses the Accommodation needs
- Negative – The Random Process is not ideal
- Agree that this is challenging
- Agree with the statement. What does it look like and how do families plan?
- Challenging to effectively plan.
- This option makes for a lot of stress and anxiety. The Random process means families do not know year to year. Very unpredictable. When parents are registering their children for JK in February the support and transitioning should be starting. It cannot with this option.

Impact: This would separate new Binbrook families with students in JK and older grades.

Discussion:

- Yes this would separate however other options also separate others. The students it would separate however have never been to Bellmoore. Others already there have earned the space. Families knew this could be an option when they moved here.
- Not fair to separate families in any option.
- 2 way grandfathering needs to exist for both Bellmoore and the New School at Summit Park.
- All the scenarios have a variation of that impact
- It's a valid concern
- It does present a challenge
- Families have lived in the area for years and are established community members and yet they only now have school aged children. They are not new Binbrook families.

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Impact: This option would require an application, random selection and waitlist process for JK entry at Bellmoore for students without older siblings attending Bellmoore.

Discussion:

- The Michaelle Jean families would like to be part of the grandfathering for Transportation processes
- There are many challenges with Random Selection. It is in place with French Immersion and the feedback from parents in FI is that it is a very difficult to process.
- Operationally proposes a lot of challenges.
- Difficult to put into operation. Difficult for the community in terms of making daycare arrangements. Not predictable.
- Random Selection already exists in HWDSB but that is with Programs of Choice where families can make a decision to be part of that process.
- Operationally difficult.
- The Board has to make difficult choices. Any choice is difficult. New families here know the process. Random Selection is still used so it must not be as detrimental as people are saying. Option should still be considered. It would have been helpful if Board had been proactive vs reactive.

Impact: Increasing enrolment pressure at Summit

Discussion:

- This option results in a larger discrepancy between the two schools in terms of enrolment and portables on site
- This shifts the issue from Bellmoore to the New School at the Summit Park site. Inequality will result in terms of portables and there will be additional financial cost with this option.
- There will be added stress on the New School with utilization at 165% and 17 portables
- There will be stress on the facility and space will have to be utilized for purposes other than its intended purpose.
- Bellmoore has experienced the same pressures and agree that it is difficult
- Portables go up in all options. It is best to accommodate existing families vs new families.
- Would not want to see Binbrook students going to a school with this issue. Equity is not there. It is not fair for the Summit Park site. Something more balanced would be best.
- As a committee we have to remember that a good balance is needed for both schools down the road. In option 1 that balance is not there.



Option #2 (NEW) – South Urban Boundary Option

Staff provided clarification around Boundary projections.

Impact: All existing Students attend Bellmoore

Discussion:

- Like that existing students can still attend Bellmoore. Have an issue with cutting out a portion of the community. Does not sit well. Option 1 fixes the issue faster. Enrolment is still quite high and only gradually decreases.
- The community has asked for limited transitions. This option provides no transitions for existing students. The numbers are balanced and fair. Neither school will ever have low numbers given the community growth. The section of the community that moves will likely be walkable to the new school once it is built. Michaelle Jean families would like to be included in this option.
- This option answers a lot of the concerns that have been raised through the public feedback. It offers predictability and addresses the accommodation pressures over time. Satisfies the desire to stay together. Looking forward to 2023 there is a more balanced enrolment and portable count and it should offer a cleaner repatriation to the new school, once built. Past experience shows that it is good when entire classes move together. In terms of bussing this keeps students within the maximum 60 minute mark and allows for concentrated pickups which is easier to operationalize. This option answers a number of the questions raised by the public.
- This option provides the most balance between the two schools in the long term and stops either location from overflowing.
- This reduces numbers at Bellmoore by 300 in the long term and sees utilization at 93%
- This option keeps families together.

Impact: All existing and new students attend Bellmoore

Discussion:

- This helps repopulation of the school. Challenging to refill school if capping JK. Provides balance. This option arose from conversation at the end of the public meeting. It ticks many of the boxes and meets everyone's needs to the best of our ability. It addresses the accommodation pressures.
- Respects the families that have been in the area for generations including rural families. The new box likely reflects the future boundary of a new school.

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- It's a clear option. Based on geography.
- Honors rural students and transportation. Both very important.
- When will there be a new school? Is it 2023?
- Many families are fearful of boundaries as they fear separation of friends, especially in the rural community. This option keeps families and friends together, It decreases transition both now and when students come back together for the new school. Bussing is addressed and note that it is a small pocket for the bus to go through and this also serves to make it easier for the community to help each other out with late bussing issues etc. Strongly agree with this option.

Option #3: Capping JK and No New SK-8 Students Enroll at Bellmoore:

Impact: How do you prepare new JK students for their first school experience based on the lottery and not knowing where they will be going?

Discussion:

- Agree with the statement.
- Echoes prior comments about the challenges in preparing and transitioning students into JK with the limitations of Random Selection.
- It doesn't work.
- The impact is significant to the transition piece
- It's the unknown that is making people unsure. Lottery very scary. This makes Option # 2 more doable.
- A big piece of JK prep is prepping parents. This option does not make that an easy process. It does not allow for the necessary prep. It takes away the family ability to prepare properly.
- Random selection is difficult. This option does address public feedback about childcare, keeping families together but does it have the ability to be operationalized.

Facilitator noted that the discussion reflected no positive responses.

Consensus to put Option #3 aside.

Option #4: All Kindergarten Students Attend New School on the Summit Park Site

Consensus to put Option #4 aside.



Option #5: Grade 7 and 8 Students Attend New School on the Summit Park Site

Impact: There will be too many 7s and 8s at the new Summit Park School

Discussion:

- The school would be extremely top heavy. Changes the dynamic in the school. Poses Challenges. Large graduating class. Difficult to manage but is doable.
- Numbers do not work. Too top heavy. Half the student population would be in grades 7 and 8.
- Top heavy. Too many grads.
- Better than having the JK and SK however belief that older student transition better is a concern. These students have already moved once, why should they have to move again. They have earned the right to stay at Bellmoore. The Summit Park site would be too top heavy.
- Would like to know that there is Evidence Base to support this move. Understand that HWDSB is moving away from middle schools. Not in the best interest of any student. Would be creating a middle school with a few younger grades tagged on.
- There needs to be a focus on balance. This Option is not as balanced as Option #2 by 2023. The school would be top heavy. There are middle school is the Board and families with students in the middle schools have voiced that they are their preferred model. Board is looking to K-8 to provide a balanced school. Would be easy to operationalize however bussing would be a challenge.
- This is the option that created the need for community feedback.

Consensus was sought at 7:26 p.m. to remove Option #5 however Chair Johnstone indicated that at that point in the discussions she was not prepared to consent given she had heard from some members of the community that they were pro this option. Wished to complete the process for all Options prior.

Impact: Evidence shows transitioning students at this age impacts academic scores long-term* this is evidence based!!!

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Discussion:

- We would have to defer to staff. It is difficult to comment on this feedback without having the research sighted. Don't know this to be true. Have students at an Ancaster school who are transitioned at this age and they actually hold the highest EQAO scores.
- Not familiar with evidence that speaks to this.
- Would like to see the evidence this refers to so it can be reviewed and addressed
- Assuming given the wording that the impact is negative. Don't know what the evidence was. Parents think that there is a lot of change for these students. They already had the move from Mount Albion and now this move followed by a move to high school. Students are at a hormonal age and it can be tricky.
- Like the statement. It speaks to the fact that these students have more social issues on their plate. They are dealing with issues including physicality of their changing bodies. They are a group vulnerable to major transitions. Personal work experience notes that this is the age when you can see falling off of attendance as a piece to consider. If the Board has not researched evidence then request that they look into it.

Option #6 : North Boundary

Impact: Yes! Yes! Yes! This! Boundary review is the only fair, clear cut option. It does not need to be revisited each year.

Discussion:

- Totally agree. It's clear cut. Exactly what Janet Lee just went through and families were in agreement as it was clear.
- Agree. Clear boundary. Easy to operationalize.
- Clear cut option.
- This is an extremely short sighted boundary. The students will have to flip flop when the new school is built. Not clear cut as a result. This separates friendships and can be isolating given the impact on rural students.
- Clear but not fair. Really divides kids from their peers. It reallocates a portion of the town out. Families are together but this will be traumatic to the isolated students being reallocated. Panel has a responsibility to also look at 2023 and this option will make it very difficult to repatriate students. Do not support this option.
- It's not the only boundary option. At least it is a clear cut option. Other Boundary adjustments have nicer cuts to them. If had to prioritize the boundary options would select Option #8. Would not support this option.

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- Strongly believe in the process of Boundary Reviews. They provide the cleanest option. Believe the comment about not revisiting each year vs the caps that vary.

Impact: Families stay together!

Discussion:

- The number 1 piece heard from the community is that families stay together. This addresses that but does not address friendships.
- Addresses families but not friends.
- Of the 5 boundary options the choice would be #2
- Boundaries allow families to stay together
- It is not optimal but families do stay together

Impact: Separates friends and when the new school is built they'll have to go through another boundary review.

Discussion:

- Breaks up friendships.
- Not a fan of blanket statements. Have to keep the community makeup in context. For a rural community coming to school is sometimes only chance to see friends. Difficulty of maintaining friendships in rural communities is more severe. Considerations must be made when separating friends. There is a lot of upheaval with Option # 6 and feel it is not viable.
- Do not support this option.
- Concern with breaking up friendships.
- Do not like the option. There are major issues.

Consensus to put Option #6 aside.

Option #7: Rural Boundary

Consensus to put Option #7 aside.

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Option#8: Northwest Boundary

Impact: Boundary reviews are the fairest option for all families involved.

Discussion:

- Clean. Neighbors stay together. Not dividing families.
- Boundaries are the fairest. Do agree with the concept.
- As a generic comment, yes, boundary reviews are a fair option.
- Note the student comment that says this option will move their best friend.
- Concern with moving a portion of the students out. Other options where students are grandfathered exist. It does answer questions raised by public feedback.
- If three Options are selected this could be the third. There are both better and worse options.
- Offers good utilization of both buildings. Boundary reviews will always separate some friendships. It offers clear cut options and be reminded that schools will work on transition options together for affected students.

Impact: Not fair to current students.

Discussion:

- Do not like this option.
- Agree that this is not fair to current students. In the context of a rural school this is isolating someone. Must keep in mind that these are children we are talking about not just numbers.
- This removes students from their current school. Would like to see grandfathering.
- Do not see the unfairness. Janet Lee also a rural School.
- Separating friends does take a toll on students.

Impact: Boundary changes now. Boundary changes again in 4-7 years when new school opens. Not the best option for temporary accommodation.

Discussion:

- This cuts out a whole bunch of students who will be walkable to the new school. Not conducive to repatriation. Will result in a major transition in the future.
- Does work into transitioning within a couple years. Moving groups of kids together. Challenge that there is no grandfathering.
- Map does not work.

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- Brought up at the Janet Lee Boundary Review. The school will support through the transition.

Option#9: West Boundary

Consensus to put Option #9 aside.

Final Public Feedback Review

After following the Protocol for Public Feedback review 4 Options remained;

Option #1 (New) Increasing JK Cap, No New Students

Option #2 (New) South Urban Boundary

Option #5 Gr 7&8 to Summit

Option#8 Northwest Boundary

Option #1

No Consensus to set aside Option #1.

Additional Ideas/Opinions:

- Do not feel best option. Better than options 8 and 5. Not as good as 2. Preferable due to less transitions as it allows existing students to stay.
- Concerns around Random Selection. Difficulty in removing it as there is strong support from the community. Note that believe the community opinion was affected by the feeling there were no other options available. Looking at balance of enrolment and number fo portables appears the issues are being shifted to the Summit site. This option does not answer the questions around balance.
- Any support for Option #1 does not come from the Stoney Creek families.

Option #2

No Consensus to set aside Option #2

Additional Ideas/Opinions:

- Voicing support for this option. Believe that people were unaware of this option and were therefore choosing the best of all evils. Addresses concerns around families and friends.
- From a balanced point of view lean towards Option #2. This Option was born out of discussion with the community. Can learn from this exercise that the community can come up with creative solutions.

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Option # 5

Consensus to set aside Option #5.

Option #8

No Consensus to set aside Option #8.

Additional Idea/Opinions:

- Option does not meet Bellmoore needs. Does not support health and well-being. Does not support a move back once new school opens. Huge transition to undertake moving students back. Not conducive when the new school is built.
- Boundary reviews exist with every new school opening. A review will occur.
- Must consider the issues of bussing and cost, Predict that this survey would end up at the new school.
- Density and new builds will be considered along with walkability and many other considerations when a Boundary review is completed for a new school. Board will have to look at where students live in 5-7 years.
- Noted difference between Options 2 and 8. With Option #2 there is the opportunity to retain and grandfather siblings. If relocating in 4-7 years this will reduce the number of transitions. Leaning towards Option#2. New moves and new registrations fall in the boundary that will be bussed. This honors keeping families together.
- Option8 addressing bussing. It is clean cut. There is no back and forth. This eliminates overlapping bus rides.

Final Insights from Staff

Staff shared a caution when considering Option#2.

While this option allows all current students to stay and all siblings to attend there is no flexibility around the enrolment number of 1108.

If the school experiences an influx of JK Registrations there is no where to put a 50th class.

The Board is confident in the numbers provided.

The calculations do not include the grandfathering of Michaelle Jean siblings. That would present a challenge.



Next Steps

6 Options have been set aside by Consensus. 3 Options will be considered;

Option #1 (New) Increasing JK Cap, No New Students

Option #2 (New) South Urban Boundary

Option#8 Northwest Boundary

Staff concluded the meeting indicating that the Advisory Panel has provided Superintendent Denomme with sufficient information to prepare and present a Report to the Board of Trustees. The anticipated date for the Monitoring Report is February 25 2019. It is expected the report will be live February 21st.