

November 7, 2008



Dalewood Gifted Students are currently involved in a Secondary School Review Project with our board, lead by Superintendent Sharon Stephanian and direction provided by former HWDSB Superintendent Nora Campbell. It is an examination of secondary education for the 21st Century as opposed to Revitalization. We are discussing what schools should/or may look like in the future. We are giving the students a voice. Recently we had a class discussion around the following "modes" of program delivery; year round schools, technology in the classroom, school start and finish times, and attending a new school as apposed to an older building. Student responded with "Summer break marks the closure of the school year.", "Software and technology used in schools could also be allowed to be taken home or "signed out", so students could get more work done at home.", "Later school hours creates less time with family which is very important in children's lives, especially at a young age." and "We feel that old schools have history, and character, and can make a more welcoming learning environment".

We also had a visit from a city planner Andrea McDonald, MCIP, RPP Planner. The students were directed through a planning process; For example, how "rural" land becomes "urban" land, big picture planning documents that guide planners, and they worked on an exercise that had them design a concept plan for what they think a community would look like with criteria such as school locations. Lastly, early in December some of our gifted students will have the opportunity to attend a Student Technology Summit.

We look forward to continuing with this project throughout the year and will keep our Dalewood community updated as we proceed.

Ms. Coburn and Mr. Martindale