

King George Elementary Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Prince of Wales School

March 30, 2011

Minutes (Public Meeting #1)

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair –Pat Rocco

Voting Members –Lisa Cameron, Agnes Clarke, Jennifer Drahusz, Dianna Gillespie, Felicia Guarascia, Anna Macky, Brenda Reid, Crystal Provo, Brian Seamans

Non-Voting Members – Karen Bikinas, John Bradley, Laura Helt, Bernie Morelli, Susan Neville, Michelle Pickett, Tim Simmons, Janet VanDuzen

Regrets

Voting Members –

Non-Voting Members –Bernie Morelli, Linda Wilson

Resource Staff

Ellen Warling, Daniel Del Bianco, Michael Slee, Ron Gowland

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1. Welcome and Introductions

Superintendent Pat Rocco welcomed everyone, introduced himself and shared his role as Chair of the King George Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). He commenced the meeting by introducing the members of the Committee and each person stood as their names were read. The Board staff were then introduced which included Ellen Warling and Michael Slee from the Accommodation and Planning Department, Ron Gowland from the Facilities Department, Daniel Del Bianco acting as Support Staff to the ARC and Tracy McKillop, the Recording Secretary who was sitting in for Claire VanderBeek.

2. Purpose of Meeting

Superintendent Rocco began the meeting by providing a bit of background about the Accommodation Review Process. He stated that in February of this year, the Board of Trustees approved the terms of Reference for the King George ARC. There are four key reasons behind any accommodation review and they include:

- To ensure efficient use of available space to accommodate students appropriately as it relates to long term enrolment demands and facility utilization.
- To ensure the long term viability and sustainability of our school facilities.
- To continue the revitalization of our schools by reducing long term capital renewal requirements.
- To continue the implementation of the Board's evolving program strategy.

As an organization the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board must address these challenges so that funding can be directed to students and programming. Superintendent Rocco stated that the night's meeting will do three things:

- The first is to provide an overview of the Accommodation Review Process, share timelines and discuss the work of the Committee.
- The second is to offer a look at some of the information that the Committee will be working with.
- The third is to provide members of the Community the opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the process.

Superintendent Rocco spoke of the Public Meeting Norms which were listed on the back of the meeting Agenda. He shared the importance of having a robust dialogue about the matters before the Committee while adhering to the meeting norms.

3. Explanation of the ARC Process

The explanation of the ARC process was turned over to Mr. Daniel Del Bianco. He began by sharing that the presentation this evening would focus on explaining "what is an ARC process", "why did we start the ARC process" and "where do we go from here."

Why are we here tonight?

- To review the challenges facing the schools included in the King George review.
- To provide an overview of the ARC process.
- Address any question pertaining to the ARC process.

School included as part of the King George ARC are:

- King George
- Prince of Wales
- Memorial (City)

Mr. Del Bianco shared that the Board considers such things as enrolment, renewal needs and the programs being offered when making decisions. It is costly to renew older schools. He stated that the Ministry of

Education states that class size is loaded at 20 or 23 students depending on the grade. The utilization rate of the school refers to how full the school is and FCI – Facility Condition Index - is shown as a percentage and refers to how much it is going to cost to renovate a school relative to the replacement value of the facility. All of these were displayed on a slide showing the “current situation” of the three schools within the ARC.

Mr. Del Bianco spoke of enrolments and projections. He shared that projections are not an exact science. You take the best information that you have available to you - census information and live birth data – along with other data which supports you in making long term projections. You look at the trend and the consistency of the trend.

To reference this presentation please click on the following link: http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arcelementary/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/HWDSB_KingGeorgeARC_Public_Meeting1_March30_2011.pdf

He next looked at the Accommodation Review Process:

- The process follows Ministry of Education guidelines, the Board Policy and the Terms of Reference.
- There will be Committee working meeting and public meetings.
- All meetings are open to the public.
- The Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) provides advice to the Board of Trustees through a report that includes recommendation on facilities and program.

Mr. Del Bianco indicated that the Ministry of Education outlines in its policy that the Board must provide a recommendation during the ARC process. The Committee has been tasked with coming up with their own option(s). They can take the Board option and throw it away, they can keep it or they can tweak it. Once the process has been completed the Committee will give a report to the Board of Trustees who will make the final decision.

Mr. Del Bianco shared a timelines chart with the Committee to give them some idea of what the upcoming meetings will consist of. All of the information that is shared with the Committee will be posted on the web site after the meeting has taken place. To view the ARC web site please click on the following link: http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arcelementary/?page_id=5

4. **School Information Profile Overview**

Mr. Del Bianco also spoke of the School Information Profiles (SIPs). These profiles consider the value of schools to the student, the community, the Board and the local economy. An example was displayed on an overhead screen. A SIP consists of 21 sections and 182 items.

5. **Data Availability on the Web Site**

All of the information that is shared with the Committee will be posted on the web site after the meeting has taken place. To view the ARC web site please click on the following link: http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arcelementary/?page_id=5

6. Next Steps

He next spoke of “What will the ARC consider when developing their options?” Reference Criteria (as outlined in the Board policy)”:

- Facility Utilization
- Permanent and Non-Permanent Accommodation
- Program Offerings
- Quality of Teaching and Learning Environments
- Transportation
- Partnerships
- Equity

Mr. Del Bianco ended his presentation by sharing that tonight was the start of the process. He touched on the importance of keeping informed on the process which could be done by the Board’s web site. He stated that **ALL** meetings are open to the public.

Superintendent Rocco spoke briefly of Prince of Wales School, which has only been open for just over two years. The Chair stated that the Board has to build projections and look at how best they can serve the students from an educational perspective. The Board will be presenting their option at the next working group meeting.

7. Questions/Comments from the Public

- The first question raised was asking how long the process would take and how immediate would the decision be. The Chair stated that the process will go until the Spring of 2012. New boundaries would need to be established and students moved. Potentially a closure would happen in June of a designated year.
- Can you build a new school and use the same name “King George” was the next question raised. The Chair indicated that a business case would have to be presented to the Ministry and they look at a number of things such as: are all of the schools full and have we exhausted all of our space.
- The next question raised dealt with boundaries. Superintendent Rocco shared that the boundaries would have to be redrawn. Ms. Warling indicated that the Board considers the major roads, major parks and what are safe walking distances. It was further asked if this includes schools outside of the ARC review. Ms. Warling shared that could be part of the recommendation from the ARC – closer walking distances to schools outside of this ARC.
- There was concern that once a school sells they sit empty for quite some time. Superintendent Rocco stated the once the property has been sold the Board no longer has control over how long they sit empty. He stated that all properties are sold at fair market value.

The Chair ended the evening by thanking everyone for coming out. He stated that the next meeting will be held on March 20, 2011 at which time they will discuss rescheduling the May 11, 2011 Public Meeting (#2) date. There is a conflict with that date due to a “Parent Volunteer Recognition” meeting that is being held on the same night. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.