

Dear Mr. Prendergast;

Following our conversation the other night, I would like to request your assistance with a matter that would help us in bringing a proposal forward. A member of the central mountain community has recently brought a very detailed proposal to our attention that meets the Boards reference criteria, fulfills student enrollment, eliminates the majority of busing for the entire central mountain and should be supported by the majority of communities involved.

We respectfully request this community member be given the opportunity to present his proposal and officially address any questions the ARC members may have at the next ARC working meeting. His concern is that without his direct input certain aspects of the plan may be inadvertently overlooked.

Please confirm that this member of the community will have the opportunity to directly address the ARC members at the next Working Group Meeting on December 3rd. I have attached a file that shows precedence of public delegations presenting information directly to ARC Committees.

At the last meeting, we appreciated your encouragement to connect with the community members directly.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to hearing from you.

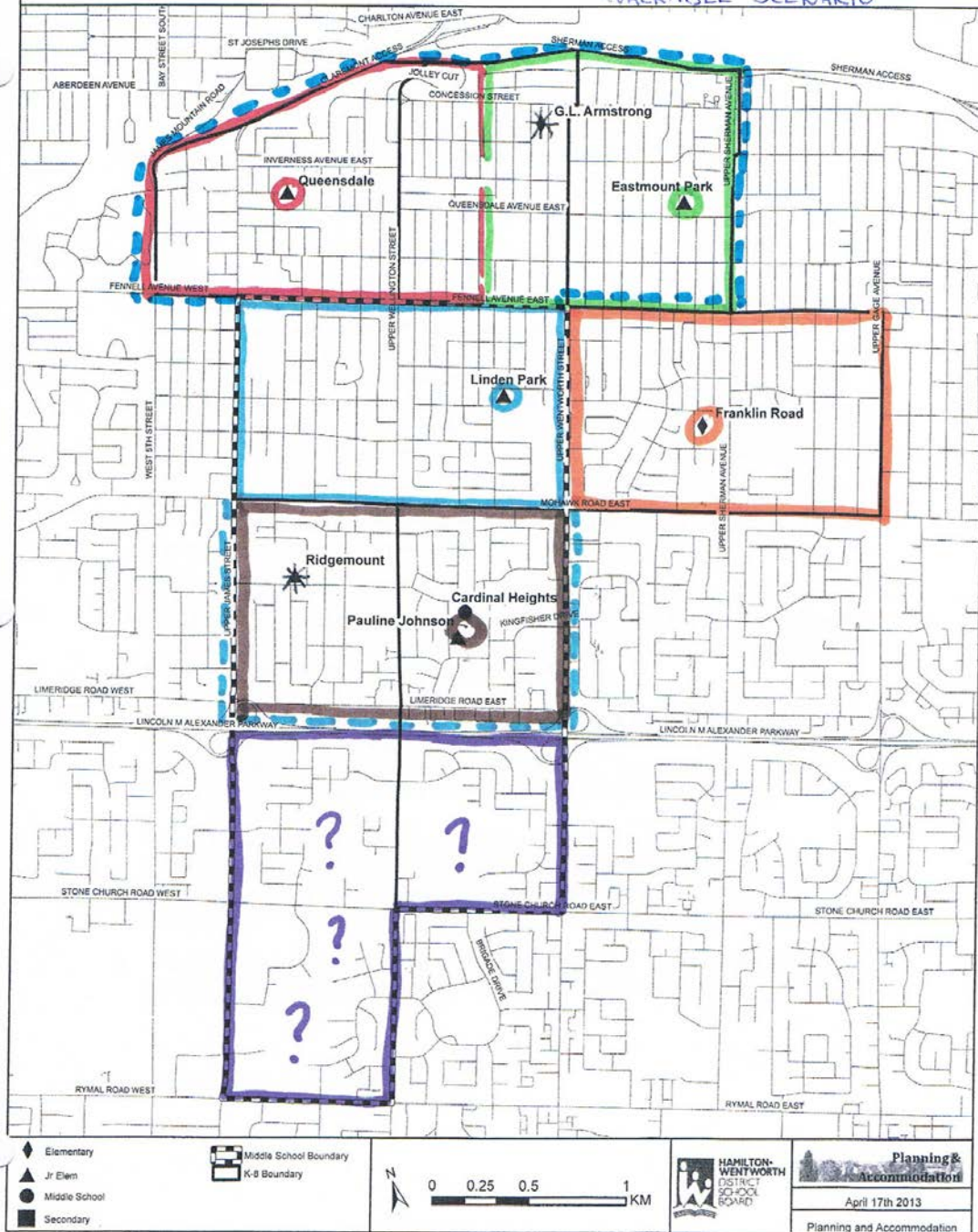
Sincerely,

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Shawna McNicol

Central Mountain Accommodation Review Current Boundaries

WALKABLE SCENARIO



Walkable Schools Scenario

Aim: to give every community a local walkable public school, while eliminating unnecessary empty pupil spaces to free up valuable surplus properties.

Action

1. Linden Park relocates to the adjacent Hill Park building. It will be a J.K. to Gr. 8 school of approximately 450 students. It will receive Gr. 7 & 8 graduates from Queensdale and Eastmount Park, current Gr. 7 & 8 students from G. L. Armstrong, and approximately 120 Gr. 6, 7, and 8 students from Cardinal Heights. One wing of Hill Park is to be removed to “right size” the school and provide a paved playground area. The majority of students in the new Linden Park area will be in walkable distance. IF the Hill Park building is deemed unsalvageable to use for this purpose, then the Hill Park building would be used as a “holding school” while Linden Park receives the necessary modifications to fit the K-8 model. (This could be in the form of an addition, or a new build on existing Linden Park site).
2. G. L. Armstrong is to close. Approximately 90 J.K. to Gr. 6 students will transfer to Queensdale, approximately 130 J.K. to Gr. 6 students will transfer to Eastmount Park, and approximately 120 Gr. 7 and 8 students will transfer to the new Linden Park in the Hill Park building.
3. Eastmount Park receives 130 J.K. to Gr. 6 students from G. L. Armstrong. This fills Eastmount Park to capacity and it remains J.K. to Gr. 6. The majority of students are within walkable distance. Eastmount grads will attend the new Linden Park in the Hill Park building for Gr. 7 and 8.
4. Queensdale receives approximately 90 J.K. to Gr. 6 students from G. L. Armstrong. This fills Queensdale to capacity and it remains J.K. to Gr. 6. The majority of students are within a walkable distance. Queensdale grads attend the new Linden Park in the Hill Park building for Gr. 7 and 8.
5. Franklin Road remains J.K. to Gr. 8 as it currently is. No changes are needed. The majority of students are within a walkable distance.

6. A new J.K. to Gr. 8 school is to be built in either the Jerome, Crerar or Ryckmans neighbourhood (current Ridgemount and Pauline Johnson area south of the Linc.) Ideally, this school would be on the Jerome site currently owned by HWDSB if/when it becomes available. Otherwise, this school would be built somewhere on one of the many undeveloped areas of land in these three adjacent neighbourhoods. It will receive all Ridgemount and Pauline Johnson students living south of the Linc, approximately 395 students. These neighbourhoods are still developing, so the school would be built to accommodate a future addition to handle the growing population. Almost all students will be within a walkable distance.
7. Ridgemount boundaries change. All students north of the Linc, approximately 130, attend Pauline Johnson. All students south of the Linc, approximately 130, attend new J.K. to Gr. 8 school to be built south of the Linc. Current Ridgemount school closes. This eliminates the need for most, if not ALL, busing for Ridgemount students. If funding for new school cannot be obtained now, then Ridgemount remains at current location as J.K. to Gr. 6 school until funding can be secured (and graduates would attend Linden Park in Hill Park building for Gr. 7 and 8).
8. Current Cardinal Heights Gr. 6, 7 and 8 students will be distributed as follows: Graduates of Pauline Johnson and Ridgemount living north of the Linc, and all graduates of Linden Park will move to the new Linden Park in the Hill Park building. Graduates of Pauline Johnson and Ridgemount living south of the Linc will attend the new J. K. to Gr. 8 school south of the Linc. The Cardinal Heights building, originally built as a K. to Gr. 8 school, will be the new home for Pauline Johnson J.K. to Gr. 5 students, with only minimal modifications. IF funding for the new school south of the Linc cannot be obtained now, then all Linden Park graduates and Gr. 7 and 8 graduates of Ridgemount and Pauline Johnson will attend the new Linden Park in Hill Park building until funding can be secured.
9. Pauline Johnson students are relocated to the adjacent Cardinal Heights building. Pauline Johnson boundaries change. Pauline Johnson receives J.K. to Gr. 5 students from Ridgemount who live north of the Linc, while all current Pauline Johnson students living south of the Linc attend the new school south of the Linc. Pauline Johnson remains J.K. to Gr. 5. This eliminates the need for busing for most, if not ALL, Pauline Johnson students currently bused. Pauline Johnson building closes. IF funding for new school cannot be obtained now, then Pauline Johnson moves to Cardinal Heights building, and remains a J.K. to Gr. 6 school until funding can be secured. (All graduates will attend Linden Park in Hill Park building for Gr. 7 and 8).

SUMMARY AND TIMING

No students are to be relocated before Sept. 2015 and not until any necessary construction/renovation is completed on their destination school.

No renovations are necessary in any schools while containing students.

School	OTG	Enrollment	Utilization Rate	Remaining Vacant Seats
Linden Park	450	414	92%	36
G. L. Armstrong	Closed	--	--	--
Eastmount Park	348	349	100%	0
Queensdale	279	279	100%	0
Franklin Road	463	351	76%	112
New South of Linc	425	394	93%	31
Ridgemount	Closed	--	--	--
Cardinal Heights	308	300	97%	8
Pauline Johnson	Closed	--	--	--
Total	2273	2087	--	187
Average	---	---	93%	--

Current OTG	2954
Proposed OTG	2273
Vacant pupil spaces eliminated	681

November 23rd, 2013

Mr. Prendergast and other ARC members:

I fully support this Arc Committee Members Proposals, as attached. I would, however add to this my support on any new construction of a new school to be built on the Armstrong site. As long as the students of GLA were able to attend either/and Eastmount and Queensdale schools during the construction of the new school to be completed approx. 2015-2016. This new school would then house all the students from Queensdale and Eastmount; both schools to be closed upon completion of the new school on the Armstrong site. This would maintain a school in the central mountain core as opposed to farming the students out to communities that cannot sustain the student body numbers now; Queensdale and Eastmount. I see that some proposals want to maintain these schools with the same boundaries and grades; I don't know how this would work as they cannot support the student numbers at this time. As it stands now we are seeing our schools being pushed south of our community and I would like to see one remain here and the one that makes the most sense is Armstrong, it already stands ready as a school to accommodate the needs of this community and others. Hill Park also was the rational best decision to remain open, yet it closed I don't not wish to see history repeat itself with the same thing happening to Armstrong.

Sincerely

Wayne Davey

Armstrong and community supporter.

SCHOOL PROPOSAL

It is important to me to remain within in the parameters of the task given to us at hand. That is a JK-8 school scenario. We have heard a lot of unsubstantiated claims and studies about smaller school scenarios and how they promote a better education for our youth, quite frankly I do not subscribe to theories without facts. The facts are that FDK-8 exists within our society. There are many successful examples of this within the public school system, the catholic school board, and the French immersion board. To date I have not seen any evidence of any student or parent under therapy as a direct result of attending a FDK-8 school. The fact is that the more students in a school the more opportunities for programs exist, where they may not have before. School trips can become less expensive for struggling family as the sheer number of students reduces the cost, thus giving the opportunity for a student to participate whereas they may not have been able to before. I am sure there are advantages on either side of the argument but what I see is more opportunity for a child to become more engaged in his/her school and community, producing a better outcome than if these opportunities were denied as a result of smaller schools. The notion that the provincial government will subsidize the building of a new school is just that, pure conjecture. In order to facilitate the properties at both Hill Park and Linden Park would require two demolitions and a re-build the very least. This is something that would be nice but not likely feasible. The trustees and the board want to see consolidation of schools. They currently have too many properties and not enough funding to sustain all the schools. They would like to see a school with FDK-Grade8 with approx. 500 students. This is a quite attainable target. My proposal is based on LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION, but also what best suites the community's needs. My proposal is as follows:

Armstrong to remain open with students from Queensdale and Eastmount now attending this school

Reasoning:

- Armstrong is an existing site that has proven it's ability in the past to accommodate not only the student population, but also the pedestrian and vehicular traffic-it has the means to do so in a pre-existing structure and the surrounding grounds
- Queendale and Eastmount already supply Armstrong now and in the past with students
- Armstrong is centrally located, 3 buses run routinely in front of the school, this allows students and parents great access to the school, (not every parent drives or owns a car), this bus allows students to take trips from just outside their doorway, they may travel in any direction, no need to arrange for outside transportation for short student outing's, this helps with congestion and air pollution, a public library is two blocks to the east, again it is easily assessable on foot. This again reduces the need for transportation and again congestion, pollution and costs. The students regularly make use of Inch Park Recreational Facilities. They use the skating facilities, tennis courts and the track they have available. This Rec center is one block south of the school and is again access is

gained through walking. Exercise at this school is not an issue at Armstrong as so many things are within walking distance, something the Queendale and Eastmount communities cannot compete with. The hospitals are in very good proximity. There is a community policing station one block east of the school. The escarpment, the paved walking trails, the Wentworth stairs and the gardens are again within walking distance and provide an enhanced learning environment.

- The school, student body and parents support a broad base of community services and commerce. Queensdale and Eastmount affect very little if any at all.
- The school itself is in average condition which is very good compared to others that have had extensive upgrades. What most people may not realize is the fact that ARMSTRONG has been locked into the ARC system for the last 5 years and all capital funding for projects was halted, with the exception of the absolute necessities being performed. Despite all this adversity the school, given its age still maintained an average rating. This is an impressive feat, and comparable to all other schools that did receive funding for projects. That being said funds for maintenance should be released once the ARC process is over so it may be restored to its former glory. The school is Wheelchair accessible on the main floor with the exception of one area that could be easily rectified with a ramp.
- The school has large classrooms, one with a stage, two gymnasiums, (the other two schools do not). It has many new upgrades as you can read in your information packages.
- There has been much talk of asbestos at Armstrong, it is public information to access the WHIMIS SHEETS and see that is in a very small capacity, in some flooring and ceiling tiles, no mention of anywhere else but all buildings built prior to 1980 contain or did contain asbestos at one point including your own homes. With today's technology it wouldn't be an issue of contention to rid the school of it if it were deemed necessary.
- The school grounds themselves provide more than adequate green space and shade for the number of students it has to accommodate. I believe Eastmount provides pavement. I don't include the city property that adjoins them into the equation. The city could theoretically sell it tomorrow if they pleased. Armstrong has plenty of teed lot frontage as well
- The infrastructure of the city streets that surround Armstrong have proven in the past to be more than adequate to accommodate vehicular and pedestrian traffic, if not the school has side lots that could be manipulated into drop off and pick up zones. Both Eastmount and Queensdale have narrow streets that would become easily congested and dangerous.
- No room for expansion at Eastmount. Any expansions at Queendale will tear into their green space.
- Neither of this two schools could ever be prepared or offer the same luxuries as Armstrong or take the capacity
- Armstrong a stop light signal on the north west corner of the property and a full time crossing guard at the north east corner of the property

- New dedicated bicycle lanes on Queensdale Ave from Upper Wentworth to Wellington could be utilized if desired
- Armstrong encompasses the phrasing of, "THE HUB OF A COMMUNITY". Just look at some of the examples given here and that will justify this statement.

It is for these reasons I suggest the closure of Queensdale Elementary School in 2015 not 2014 to allow for transition time and renovations and to allow upgrades to Armstrong to be well underway if not completed. Armstrong boundaries would extend to take over Queensdale boundaries. All necessary transportation would be provided by the board within the given scope of criteria. A crossing guard placed at a suitable location on Upper James, (as I believe there is one provided now and a light). A crossing guard should be placed on Upper Wellington in a suitable location with a light, (to be discussed with the city) and a possible crossing guard on Queensdale Ave between Upper Wentworth and Wellington.

I recommend the closure of Eastmount Elementary School in 2015. The extra time will also serve as a longer transition period of adjustment and provide extra time for the necessary work to be completed at Armstrong. Armstrong creates a new boundary to include the residents north of Queensdale Ave and west of Upper Sherman. The balance of these students to attend Franklin Road School whose boundary extend now to absorb the balance of the Eastmount students.

Franklin Road should remain open as a JK-8 school with its boundaries now reaching north to Queensdale Ave. to take the balance of students from Eastmount. Transportation to be provided as needed and a crossing guard put in place in an appropriate position on Fennell Ave.

Linden Park should close in 2015 to maintain a transition period for community members that are affected. Some students would be sent to Pauline Johnson and from there they would attend Cardinal Heights. The other students diverted Ridgemount. The divisions for Pauline Johnson and Cardinal Heights would now be expanded to include East of Upper Wellington to South of Fennell Ave. The new boundaries for Ridgemount would be West of Upper Wellington and South of Fennell Ave. All transportation will be provided by the board within the mandated criteria. Crossing Guards for both new affected areas to be provided on Mohawk Road with possibly new stop light. This would have to be coordinated with the city.

The new school enrollment numbers would be:

Armstrong at approx. +/- 600 students. Its capacity 633 therefore no addition is needed.
 Franklin Road at approx. +/- 440 students. Capacity 463 therefore no addition needed.
 Ridgemount at approx. +/- 330 students. Capacity 290 therefore some adjustments may have to be made.

Paulin Johnson and Cardinal Heights are both separate so the numbers are difficult to create; however averaging the numbers out the student numbers would come in close to maximum capacity at each school.

PROPSAL NUMBER TWO:

- Close Linden Park in 2015, this would give the community a transition period and also allow for the renovations to new school.
- Approximately half the students would attend Franklin Road, the new boundary for this being east of Upper James and North of Mohawk. Basically dividing the old Linden Park Boundary. Transportation would be provided as per the boards' criteria. A crossing guard should also be provided at the intersection of Franklin Road and Upper Wentworth; this would combine with existing light already present at this location. Therefore no expense to city or board. Franklin Roads would remain JK-8 and the new student number would be approx. 438 students. The school currently has an allowable capacity of 463 students and therefore no additions would be required. The balance of the students would then be diverted to Queensdale. This schools format could then change to JK-8. The boundaries for this new school would be basically the other half of the old Linden Park boundary. It would now be expanded to include the areas west of Upper James and north of Mohawk. The board would provide all necessary transportation to the community. A crossing guard and light already exist at the intersection of Clarendon and Fennell Ave. and therefore none would have to be provided at this particular point. The new Queensdale school student body numbers would be approx. 274 students. The maximum capacity at this school is 279 students and therefore little modifications would be needed.

Step Two of Proposal Number Two:

- Close Eastmount in 2015 to allowing for a community transition period and as well providing time for the new school to be prepared. All students of Eastmount would now be diverted to Armstrong. Armstrong would absorb the old Eastmount boundaries. Transportation would be provided to the community as per the criteria set out by the board. A crossing guard to be provided at appropriate locations on Upper Wentworth and Queendale Ave. There are existing stop lights at the intersections of Upper Wentworth and Queensdale and at Upper Wentworth and Concession Street. This would bring the total student body at Armstrong to 537 students. The school has a maximum capacity of 633 so therefore no addition would be needed.
- Rigemount, Pauline Johnson and Cardinal Heights Schools would remain at their current curriculum and Student body numbers.

I feel that option number two would be the best scenario as it makes the best use of existing building and the pre-existing city infrastructure it also keeps the students closer to their own communities. This also does not strain the capacity levels of any of the schools involved and this allows some breathing space in the event that the dynamics of

any community should change. I believe it meets, although not all, concerns of the communities and the board. Transportation will always be a point of contention and debate. It does however have its' merits. This reduces the number of parents driving their children to school. This effect reduces greenhouse emissions. It can also greatly reduce the number of students that may have to cross busy intersections on foot, stranger danger is greatly impacted and inclement weather.

If any clarification is needed please contact me.

Regards, Robert Nixon ARC parent representative