

**Central Mountain Accommodation Review Committee  
Working Group Meeting # 6  
Tuesday, December 03, 2013  
6:00 p.m.**

**Ridgemount Elementary School  
65 Hester Street, Hamilton, ON**

**Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

**Chair** - Michael Prendergast

**Voting Members** - Amber Bourque, Candice Campbell, Marney Campbell, Jenn Clarke, Philip Erwood, Leanne Friesen, Adam Hinks, Marj Howden, Barbara Jalsevac, Kathy Long, Denise McCafferty, Jamie McLean, Sharon Miller, Patricia Mousseau, Robert Nixon, Candice Romaker, Janeen Schaeffer, Margaret Toth, Lourie Vanderzyden, Laurie Walowina

**Non-Voting Members** - Linda Astle, Julie Beattie, Maria Carbone, Biljana Arsovic Filice, Colin Hazell, Lillian Orban, Jennifer Robertson-Heath, Nanci-Jane Simpson, Doug Trimble

**Regrets**

**Voting Members** - Diana Asrani, Dianna Gamble

**Non-Voting Members** - Nil

**Resource Staff**

Ian Hopkins, Ellen Warling

**Recording Secretary**

Kathy Forde

**Public** - 14 public attendees present - George L. Armstrong (1), Linden Park (2), Queensdale (10), No School Affiliation Identified (1)

**1. Call to Order**

Michael Prendergast called the meeting to order. It was noted that Jennifer Lockhart has stepped down. It will soon be determined if an alternate, who has expressed interest, can step in. For information, at the Board meeting last night, trustees voted to defer next year's ARC process (2013/14) for one year due to upcoming trustee elections in 2014. This decision will not impact the work or timelines related to the current ARCs underway. A tour of Cardinal Heights was available prior to the meeting. Ridgemount would be toured during a break.

## 2. Agenda

### 2.1 Additions/Deletions

A delegation has made a request to present an option, as submitted within the correspondence package provided starting on page one. No questions or concerns were raised. Members agreed to provide an opportunity for the delegation to be heard. The delegation was added as Item 4.1.

### 2.2 Approval of Agenda

Approved by consensus by a show of hands.

## 3. Minutes from Working Group Meeting # 5

### 3.1 Clarification

Regarding Item 3.1, further clarification was provided regarding the Jerome site. Since the site has been declared surplus and is not available, it cannot be reconsidered unless a Board motion was voted upon and passed in favour to reverse the decision.

In follow-up to Item 6.2 regarding security for Public Meeting # 3, Michael Prendergast noted this is being considered.

### 3.2 Approval of Minutes

Approved by consensus by a show of hands.

## 4. Correspondence

### 4.1 Delegation - New Option for Consideration (Mike Patchett)

Mike Patchett introduced himself as a local resident and business owner who has lived in area for 35 years, attended Linden Park, Cardinal Heights and Hill Park and has a big connection with schools involved in the Central Mountain ARC review. He bought a house in the area so that his kids could walk to school. His starting point for developing an option came from hearing numerous times from various parents that they do not want to bus their children to school. He believes his proposal meets the needs of the Board, students and community and wanted to ensure details were not overlooked. His work started with enlarging a map to trace walkability. He then created a spreadsheet with current enrolments and tested approximately 55 various options. Many ideas were eliminated due to the impact on boundaries and busing. However, the numbers that remained became obvious and fell into place to form his proposal. The proposal includes relocating Linden Park (JK-8) to one wing of Hill Park including grade 7 & 8 students from Queensdale, Eastmount Park and George L. Armstrong and grade 6, 7 and 8 students from Cardinal Heights. If Hill Park could not be transformed, it could be used as a holding school while Linden Park is modified to fit the K-8 model. George L. Armstrong (closes) with students transferring to Queensdale (JK-6), Eastmount Park (JK-6) or Linden Park. Franklin Road (JK-8) remains as is. A new (JK-8) school would be built south of the LINC to accommodate Ridgemount and Pauline Johnson students living south of the LINC and a growing population in this area. Ridgemount (closes) and students south of the LINC would attend the new school and students north of the LINC would go to Pauline Johnson. Students from Cardinal Heights would shift to Linden Park. Pauline Johnson (closes) and students shift to Cardinal Heights (JK-5) as new home for Pauline Johnson. The

shift of students and boundary changes would address capacity and walkability issues. Students would not move before September 2015 or before construction/renovations was completed.

### Questions / Comments

*Q. You said the new Hill Park is K-8 but would accept grade 7 and 8 students from three schools?*

A. Yes, middle school is good with three classes per grade. You would need some K-5 students to fill the Hill Park wing. You have flexibility to send a grade 6 class to Hill Park if needed.

*Q. What about kids from out-of-catchment from the central mountain district. Are current out-of-catchment kids included with your numbers? How do you include out-of-catchment students?*

A. I do not have exact numbers but there are options. If there is a big influx of kids, we would have a large school available. I have not seen a school at 100% capacity - we squeeze them in.

*Q. What makes this plan walkable? How does this eliminate busing?*

A. The plan is based on the 1.6 km guideline for grades 1 to 8 students. There would still be some busing.

*Q. Busing is expensive. You should compare busing costs versus new build costs.*

A. I agree.

*Q. How to you determine what kids go to what schools?*

A. You pick a boundary in the middle.

*Q. I do not see costs for renovations?*

A. At Hill Park we would need to demolish one wing before the kids are moved in or transfer them between Linden Park and Cardinal Heights while renovations are being done.

*Q. For the schools to be kept open, have you looked at repair and maintenance costs?*

A. No but Cardinal Heights is already setup for middle school and has a bigger gym. I do not have hard numbers to build a school.

*Q. Is there a timeline?*

A. Yes, nothing happens before 2015 and no kids move into a new school until renovations are complete. Kids can move temporarily into a holding school even into Hill Park.

- There is a lot of vacant land south of the LINC
- The area south of the LINC is developing quickly and one area alone is planning for 260 houses
- We need to consider kids making friends
- It costs money to build a school

This proposal is not currently in the format of an option but could be drafted as Option 21 for further review and comparison.

## 5. Accommodation Options

### 5.1 Open Discussion of New Accommodation Review Options 16-20

Members formed break out groups to review option 16-20.

### 5.2 Discussion and Development

Michael Prendergast recapped the work completed to date. Members have agreed on the guiding principles, have heard a lot of public opinion and voice and concurred that the 2014 timeline is not reasonable so would defer changes to September 2015 at the earliest. Binders have been used as an information resource. The current goal is to select the options that will be presented to the public on December 10. It will be important to advise the public that options are still being developed and are not yet final. Members formed breakout groups to continue discussions on the eight options selected from the original 15 and also reviewed Options 16-20. Corrected Option 9 was also provided. The intent is to narrow down the options to a reasonable number for presentation to the public. Members suggested and agreed to individually selecting their top five preferred options by vote which will then be narrowed to three following further discussion. One ballot was provided to each voting member to select their preferred five options. Ballots were collected and tallied as follows:

**Option 1 - 10 votes**

Option 3 - 0 votes

**Option 7 - 13 votes**

Option 9 votes - 0 votes

Option 2 - 0 votes

**Option 6 - 10 votes**

**Option 8 - 8 votes**

**Option 11 - 11 votes**

The five options with the greatest number of votes moved forward for further discussion:

#### Option 1 [10 votes]

- The schools south of Mohawk do not seem to have capacity issues so have not taken capacity concerns into consideration for a new school
- Need a back-up plan
- Does not consider everything the Board is asking for
- Stays status quo - OTG percentages are questionable
- Does not address issues of Eastmount or Queensdale

#### Option 6 [10 votes]

- Is similar to the Board option without the new build - do we really need to present this again
- Seems like the backup plan to the staff option
- The K-3 model was only a transition model in the staff option
- Is only slightly different than the staff option

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**Option 7** [13 votes]

- Did not like because capacity at Cardinal Heights is around 70%
- G.L. Armstrong capacity is too low
- Only closes two schools
- Queensdale numbers are still under 300 for a JK-8 school
- What does a middle school look like with a JK-8

**Option 8** [8 votes]

- Two schools are near capacity
- Four to five areas would need to switch
- Many renovations
- Not sure if Hill Park can be a transition site
- Would need a back-up plan if new school cannot be built

**Option 11** [11 votes]

- Seems like a lot of closures
- A lot of renovations
- Enrolment capacity issue a little better but may cost more
- Transition school not identified during a new build
- Close to escarpment
- Site would have to be evaluated for a new build
- Footprint of the new building would be on the greenspace

Members then selected their preferred three options by voting from the five options above. Results tallied as follows:

Option 1 - 10 votes

**Option 7 - 12 votes**

**Option 11 - 12 votes**

**Option 6 - 15 votes**

Option 8 - 7 votes

As determined by votes, Options 6, 7 and 11 will go forward for presentation to the public. Ian Hopkins will provide projected numbers to assist in determining feasibility. The options are not final. Further input can be added and adjustments made if needed.

## 6. Public Meeting # 3 Discussion - December 10

### 6.1 Presentation Format

The draft presentation was reviewed for information and input. Members speaking will announce themselves as public volunteers. Guidelines for discussion and the meeting format will be provided. Options will be presented verbally. Details will be provided during the carousel session. It will be



important to communicate that options are not final and proposals can still be submitted as work evolves. To ensure public attendees remain engaged, the meeting will open in the auditorium (6:00-6:30 pm), move to the cafeteria for the carousal session (6:30-7:45 pm) and end back in the auditorium for a Q&A session (7:45-9:00 pm). Feedback during the carousal session will be collected by facilitated group discussion, t-charts, sticky notes. Options will be posted. Hardcopies provided at each station. Comments should be gathered and listed as advantages and disadvantages for consistency between stations. Facilitators will be recruited to assist and are trained to ensure everyone has a voice. Committee members will spread themselves out to participate in discussions and to respond to any questions. Name tags will be provided. A speakers list will be created to provide structure, a timeline and to ensure speakers ask one question only to allow an opportunity for all who wish to speak. Members will respond as needed. Board staff will also be available to answer questions if needed. The microphone will be set up at the back of the auditorium. The meeting will end at 9:00 as scheduled. Staff will remain to respond to any further questions. Ian Hopkins will modify the presentation as discussed and circulate to members for review. Michael Prendergast will send a letter home with students.

## 6.2 Facilitators

Members volunteered to co-facilitate and present as follows:

- Slides 1-9 (Jamie McLean and Patricia Mousseau)
- Slide 10-15 (Marnie Campbell)
- Slide 16-19 (Adam Hinks)
- Slide 20 - Option 1, 2, 3 (Laurie Walowina and Marj Howden)
- Assist in guiding the Q&A session (Leanne Friesen)

## 6.3 Presenters

See volunteers listed above.

## 7. Next Steps

- **Next Public Meeting - Tuesday December 10, 2013 at Hill Park**
- **Next Working Group Meeting - Tuesday January 14, 2014 at Linden Park**

## 8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

## Handouts

- Agenda
- Presentation
- Draft Minutes - Working Group Meeting #5
- Option 9 Corrected
- Options 16-20
- Correspondence