

**East Hamilton City 1 Accommodation Review Committee  
Public Consultation Meeting # 4  
Tuesday, January 28, 2013  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**W.H. Ballard Elementary School  
801 Dunsmure Road, Hamilton, Ontario**

**Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Committee Members**

**Chair** - Peter Joshua

**Voting Members** - Abbie Boyko, Casey Eaton, Susan Fischer, Laurie Hazelton, Sandra Lindsay, Megan MacDonald, Brian McPhee, Barbara Mitchell, Brianna Okerstrom, Brandy Paul, Norma Rookwood, Carla Shewell, Jennifer Voth, Chris Weston, Shannon Weston, Tracie Wilson, Susan Pretula

**Non-Voting Members** - Lisa Barzetti, Joanna Crapsi-Cascioli, John Gris, Dan Ivankovic, Ray Mulholland, Tiz Penny, Sandra Constable

**Regrets**

**Voting Members** - Samantha Prosser

**Non-Voting Members** - Elaine Pilgrim-Susi, Todd White

**Resource Staff**

Rob Faulkner, Bob Fex, Peter Sovran

**Recording Secretary**

Colleen Pyke

**Public** - 72 public attendees were present - Parkdale (4); Rosedale (54); Viscount Montgomery (4); W.H. Ballard (4); Woodward (2); No School Affiliation Identified (4)

**1. Call to Order - Committee Member, Abbie Boyko**

The committee members were introduced. The speaker introduced the support staff including, the area Superintendents, Area Trustee, recording secretary, Senior Planner and facilitators. She then reviewed the schools involved in the East Hamilton City 1 Accommodation Review.

**2. Agenda**

**2.1 Additions/Deletions**

Nil

## 2.2 Approval of Agenda

Approved

### 3. Purpose of the Meeting - why we are here

Abbie Boyko reviewed the contents of the evening's agenda which include a review of the work completed by the ARC, outlining the key themes used to create Accommodation Review options, presentation of the ARC draft options and to receive community feedback.

### 4. Where the committee is in the process

Committee norms and the ARC mandate were briefly reviewed. Abbie Boyko explained that we are currently in the Community Review phase of the Accommodation Review process, which will be followed by the Board Review phase. She reviewed the work completed by the ARC since the last public meeting, including the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Working Group meetings, school tours (7 of 7 schools completed), a review of feedback from Public Meeting #3, and the creation and revision of a draft report. She noted that this will be the final public meeting. The Committee will review community input from this evening at the next Working Group meeting on Thursday January 30, 2014 at Hillcrest Elementary School. At that Working Group meeting, the ARC will finalize their report for submission to the Director.

### 5. Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Key Themes and Points for Considerations

Abbie Boyko reviewed the Accommodation Review's reference criteria. In addition, she explained how the Committee used information gathered from Public Meetings to identify key themes for consideration in creating the options for the ARC report. They include Transportation, Community & Community Partnerships, Accessibility, Operations, Class Sizes and School Size. The Committee used the community feedback to summarize key points to consider in their options which include effective date for implementation no sooner than June 2015, no portables added to any schools, walking distances and safety, facility condition, build new school on Viscount Montgomery property, review Parkdale boundaries, consideration of current (2013-2014) enrolment including full day kindergarten.

### 6. Committee Draft Report

Sandra Lindsay presented the draft table of contents for the East Hamilton City Accommodation Review report. Bob Fex noted that a draft report will be available to the public as it stands as of now, there are hard copies to view this evening and will be posted on the Board website. He stressed that this is a draft report, not the final report. The Committee will finalize their report on Thursday January 30<sup>th</sup> at Working Group Meeting #8, which will be held at Hillcrest.

### 7. Committee Draft Options

Sandra Lindsay presented the Committee's three options. She noted that there is a percentage listed beside each option, which represents the percentage of the Committee that supports the option.

**Option #1:**

- Parkdale closes, students assigned to W.H. Ballard, Hillcrest and Viscount Montgomery
- Roxborough Park closes, students assigned to Hillcrest and Viscount Montgomery
- Woodward closes and students assigned to Hillcrest
- Rosedale becomes JK-6 with a boundary change

Enrolment and utilization for this option were reviewed noting utilization would be at 85%.

**Option 2:**

- Parkdale closes, students assigned to W.H. and Hillcrest and Viscount Montgomery
- Roxborough Park closes, students assigned to Hillcrest and Viscount Montgomery
- Woodward becomes JK6 with a boundary change
- Rosedale becomes JK-6 with a boundary change

Enrolment and utilization for this option were reviewed noting utilization would be at 78%.

**Option 3:**

- Parkdale closes, students assigned to W.H. Ballard and Hillcrest
- Rosedale closes, students assigned to New School on Viscount Montgomery site (550 capacity)
- Roxborough Park closes, students assigned to Hillcrest and New School on Viscount Montgomery site
- Woodward closes and students assigned to Hillcrest

Enrolment and utilization for this option were reviewed noting utilization would be at 91%.

**8. Group Discussions of ARC options**

Peter Joshua had everyone split into seven smaller groups for facilitated discussion. He noted that the Committee members will not be involved in the conversations, but will be available for questions if needed. He also explained that this is the final Public Meeting, however once the ARC report has gone to the Director, there will be a period of public delegations.

**Questions & Answers**

Decision Making

*Q1. If Option 3 is what the Trustees ultimately choose, does this mean there will be no movement in any of the JK-5 schools until the opening of the New School on the Viscount property?*

A1. Yes, the recommendation is that all movement will occur after the school is built.

*Q2. How much does the ARC's recommendation count?*

A2. The Committee has a very important influence on the Trustees' final decision. Historically, we've found that this process is of great value, and is absolutely considered in the final decision.

*Q3. If trustees say 'no' to your options, are we back at square one?*

A3. The Trustees will make a final decision. In addition, when the Committee puts its option forward, there is a considerable amount of time for the community to make a delegation at a Board meeting.

*Q4. How will the Committee's voting be conducted for the next meeting (final report)?*

A4. The Committee encourages the community to come to the next and final Working Group meeting on Thursday at 6 p.m. The ARC will decide how the voting will be conducted at this meeting. A large portion of the time will be spent on the group coming to consensus. There is a formal voting process, as stated in the Terms of Reference. We follow the same process as the other Accommodation Reviews that are being conducted across HWDSB.

#### Funding

*Q5. What happens if the New School doesn't get built? Since there is no guarantee that the Ministry will fund this, what happens then?*

A5. Peter Joshua explained that there must be a decision made on how to fund a new school. It isn't always dependent on funding from the Ministry. There could be savings from closures, proceeds of disposition, or other funding available in the Board. A Committee member added that there are no guarantees for anything. The ARC is making a recommendation but it is up to the Trustees at the end of the day.

#### Projections & Enrolment

*Q6. How long is it going to be before we have to look at this area again, when kids are in portables and the schools are over capacity?*

A6. Bob Fex explained that in Option 3, we are projected for 82% utilization in 2022, which under capacity.

*Q7. Where do you get these numbers? There are number of young couples moving into the area and elderly couples moving out.*

A.7 Bob Fex explained that the projection breakdown was in a previous Public Meeting, which gives the demographics for the area (available at [www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca) under Elementary Accommodation Reviews). The Planning Department looks at historic trends grade by grade, as well as retention rates. This is accurate enough for us able to predict the enrolment. We do the projections every year, grade by grade, all across the Board. In addition, birth rates have declined over the years. It is all captured in these projections.

*Q8. Was the new subdivision in the Rosedale area taken into consideration?*

A8. Bob Fex noted that it takes four single family homes in a new subdivision to generate one student as per the overall Board yield. It takes hundreds of newly constructed homes to affect the utilization of a school.

### Grade Structure & Programming

*Q9. I chose Rosedale Elementary School for my child because I wanted a small JK-5 school. I have found that it's a successful model for students to thrive in. In this process we're headed for big box schools and troubled students will slip through the cracks. The feeling of community will be lost.*

A9. A Committee member explained that the Committee is made up of parents and staff from this community. Many Committee members have children in these schools. She explained that they are trying their best to take what they are given and to make a decision that they feel is the best possible one for the kids and the community. She stressed that the Committee is trying very hard to do what is best for everyone. She urged everyone to understand that it very hard for them to make these decisions, as it affects their children as well.

*Q10. For people that don't know the other schools in this cluster, what are the strengths of these schools?*

A10. As previously noted, the Committee is reprised of representatives from every school in this review area. Programming and strengths of each school have been discussed in the Working Group meetings. In addition, every school has had an opportunity to host a meeting, so the Committee could have an opportunity to tour each school.

*Q.11. The K-6 model has proven beneficial for academic achievement, how does the K-8 have a positive impact on students and help them reach their full potential?*

A.11. There is research that supports a number of different models, including both K-6 and K-8. Essentially, it all comes down to the types of programs and supports within the schools. A committee member added, she is a Ballard mom and feels there is a sense of community here too. She noted that grade 8 students help the younger kids. It might be a bigger school, but has the same sense of community. It was also noted that when you do have a bigger school you have more teacher and student resources, school trips, clubs, etc. There are certainly pros to having a large school.

*Q12. The Committee should consider keeping Roxborough Park open because it is the only school that has the special needs program. (The parent outlined a potential option that would include keeping Roxborough Park open)*

A12. The Committee has considered program offerings currently available at all schools involved.

### Transportation

*Q13. How many kids are bussed into W.H. Ballard?*

A13. Currently, only the students from the gifted program and comp-ed are bussed in.

*Q14. Kids that take the bus aren't going to be able take part in any clubs because they have to catch the bus home.*

A14. The Committee noted that this was discussed. They've considered adding a recommendation to the Trustees that an after school bus be available for students in this situation.



### Childcare

Q15. *Is there going to be childcare facilities? What about the people that rely on grandparents to walk to pick up their kids?*

A15. This group has discussed the importance of childcare. It was also noted that Viscount Montgomery currently has an afterschool program.

### **Comments**

- Bob Fex reiterated that the committee will come up with an option (or multiple), and Board staff will create an option, and they are both presented to the Trustees. The Trustees will hear public delegations. Trustees can choose one option or the other, or create a hybrid of the options. The Trustees understand that there is an issue with underutilization in this area. He noted that the original Staff Option can be adjusted to reflect the public information and ARC findings.  
*\*\*Reminder of the Original Staff Option: JK to 5 schools will amalgamate with their grade 6 feeder schools, with no boundary changes*
- Your recommendations should be based on facts, and Option 3 (building a new school) is not a fact.
- A Committee member noted that when there is conflict with children in a small school, the students are stuck in the same class, whereas in a big school they can be separated, due to multiple classes of each grade. She also noted that there is still a sense of community in a big school.
- A member of the public thanked the Committee and noted they appear to have worked very hard to do the best for everyone's children.

## **9. Next Steps**

### **Working Group Meeting #8 - Thursday January 30, 2014, Hillcrest Elementary School**

- Final Working Group meeting - Committee will finalize their option(s) and discuss what to complete on the report to submit to the Director
- Once report is delivered to the Director, there is a period of public delegations (approximately March or April 2014)
- Following delegations, Trustees will make the final decision (approximately between 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May and the end of June 2014)

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please address them to [arcinfo@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:arcinfo@hwdsb.on.ca)

Committee member Chris Weston thanked everyone for coming and giving feedback to the committee. He urged the community to stay engaged in the process, as Trustees do want to hear their feedback.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.