CLOSING PARKDALE – STUDENTS going to Wh Ballard and Hillcrest CLOSING ROXBOROUGH – students go to Hillcrest and Viscount CLOSING WOODWORD -

BENEFITS:

- Most like this option
- No bussing necessary don't' think 3 year old should ride on a school bus
- Gaining an extra year for Rosedale students
- An unique community; close knit community
- Small school; students don't fall through the cracks due to smaller ratio of students to teachers
- Impressed that all teachers know all the students whether they teach them or not
- Has a park attached to it
- Out of catchment families want to come to Rosedale
- Parkdale and Woodward are old and on busy streets
- Closing Roxborough does not incurring bussing costs
- Parkdale is not wheelchair accessible
- Rosedale has new windows, WIFI, new doors, new boiler, new toilets
- Woodward needs a lot of repairs
- Roxborough needs repairs
- Woodward unsafe- students have to walk through parking lot to go into the school

CHALLENGES:

• More JK-8 schools should stay open

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS OPTION WITH A NEW VISCOUNT SCHOOL:

- They won't be over capacity later
- Our children will go there at some point

CLOSED PARKDALE CLOSE ROXBOROUGH WOODWORD becomes JK-6 ROSEDALE becomes JK-6

Benefits:

- Most like this option
- No bussing necessary don't' think 3 year old should ride on a school bus
- Gaining an extra year for Rosedale students
- An unique community; close knit community
- Small school; students don't fall through the cracks due to smaller ratio of students to teachers
- Impressed that all teachers know all the students whether they teach them or not
- Has a park attached to it
- Out of catchment families want to come to Rosedale
- Rosedale has new windows, WIFI, new doors, new boiler, new toilets
- Parkdale does not have wheelchair accessibility
- Multiple generation families; continue the tradition
- School will be vacant and may become vandalized

Challenges:

• Do not close schools that are K-8 schools

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS OPTION WITH A NEW VISCOUNT SCHOOL:

- They won't be over capacity later
- Our children will go there at some point

OPTION #3 Staff option

Benefits:

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Challenges:

- School would be over-capacitated; more portables with present Viscount school
- Bussing expenses
- Why are you using 2012 don't think that is acceptable
- 2014 is unrealistic for closures/changes
- Why do you want MEGA schools; US concept
- Construction of schools never end on time
- •

Facilitator/Note Taker's Name: Shari Imbrogno___Name of school hosting consult: Rosedale Date: December 5, 2013

Question 1:What do you see as the benefits and/or challenges of OPTION #1 (D)?

Benefits:

- because of small school able to pilot board projectslike Empower , ipads, PALs from which the board benefits system wide
- staff works together to make programs work
- most children will be able to walk to school
- closes fewer schools than the staff option
- less staff will be displaced
- time is a benefit (2015)...allows for transition

Option #1 with a new school on Viscount site

- up to date technology
- lots of land and the location lots of space

Challenges:

- what happens to these programs if school closes
- larger staff harder to get consensus on new programming
- where does the staff of the closed school go
- special needs students can get lost in a larger school
- easier to service high needs students in smaller school
- easier to monitor behaviour in a smaller school
- sending high needs kids to another high needs school ...can we effectively service these students?
- Who will be responsible to make sure these specialty programs get implemented?

- Will there be a full time social worker?
- Will there be a transition plan for volatile students all under one roof?
- What are they modelling...there will be fewer role models possibly
- Cost of transportation for Rosedale kids

Benefits

- Less children being transitioned
- Children will go to schools closer to their homes
- Cut down on transportation cost
- Parkdale kids could walk to school

Challenges:

- Cost of transportation for Woodward kids
- Cost to upgrade or renovate Woodward
- What would be the cost to build a new school on the Viscount site?
- What happens with resources?

Staff Options:

Benefits: kids will not be put in portables Challenges:

- timelines are too short
- physical plant may not be ready
- Has cap size of classes been taken into consideration.....20 cap for primary, FDK 30 which means the need for more rooms
- Cost of bussing for Woodward kids
- Cost of bussing for Rosedale kids
- Cost of bussing for Parkdale kids to Ballard

- Make it bigger, than more resources, ie sports, LRTs -
- Rosedale stays open -
- Rosedale community stays together
- Smaller community school is a big benefit -
- Helps property values -
- Rosedale stays under capacity
- Kids can walk to school
- With a smaller school, all teachers know all the kids; and all kids know all kids
- If you build a new school (Viscount), it will hopefully accommodate more students, new technology, new playground, promote positive feelings about their own school

Challenges

- Overcrowding at Hillcrest
- Cost of rebuilding Viscount
- Closing Parkdale, Roxborough, or Woodward loses house values, no community school, business value, ratio of students to teacher
- No new families will move into the areas of Parkdale, Roxborough and Woodward therefore, there would be no new growth

- Bussing will cause students not be allowed to join clubs, sports teams, etc.
- Cost of bussing
- Not promoting healthy lifestyle, by bussing/driving, not walking
- Loses community partnership, by closing community schools
- While Viscount is being built, they lose their playground, and increase safety

Identified Themes for decision making: Transportation, Community & Community Partnerships, Accessibility, Operations, Class sizes, School size

Question 2: What do you see as the benefits and/or challenges of OPTION #2 (F)?

Benefits

- Exactly at Option 1, except better because there would be 2 k 5/6 schools
- Waiting until 2015
- Like that the schools will go to k-6, not k-5

Challenges

- Same as Option 1
- With Woodward staying open, more parents will start applying for out of catchment

- Forced into changing schools
- Lose students to the separate board
- How long will it actually take to get everything up and running as smoothly as it is running now
- We have already put a lot of money into some of these schools that are going to be closed
- Closing k-5 schools, we will lose a lot of green space, and students will go to schools with no green space

Staff Options

Benefits

- Utilizing your buildings to the best of their ability
- Save money on staff
- There are no other benefits

Challenges

- Over population at Hillcrest
- Cost of rebuilding Viscount
- Closing Parkdale, Roxborough, Rosedale and Woodward loses house values, no community school, decrease in business value, ratio of students to teacher
- No new families will move into the areas of Parkdale, Rosedale, Roxborough and Woodward therefore, there would be no new growth
- Bussing will cause students not be allowed to join clubs, sports teams, etc.
- Cost of bussing
- Not promoting healthy lifestyle, by bussing/driving, not walking
- Loses community partnership, by closing community schools
 While Viscount is being built, they lose their playground, and decrease safety
- More anxiety/mental Health

- Losing students to separate boards, and home schooling
- Losing resource room, ie computer labs, LRT room, etc., therefore the quality of education goes down
- Not enough time to transition students/parents/teachers
- With more bussing, it creates a longer day, and hence shorter time at home with family
- This is the worst option for the kids

Comments

- Can we consolidate Roxborough and Parkdale, at Parkdale?
- What is going to happen to the property of the schools that are vacated?

Parkdale closes and students assigned to Ballard and Hillcrest Rox to close and students to Hillcrest and Viscount Woodward closes and students to Hillcrest Rosedale becomes a jk-6 with boundary change.

- Seemed that Hillcrest is at capacity and over soon what if the projections are wrong? 2015 population should be on the rise potential for very ٠ young children coming in. Is this taken into consideration? How do we know that predictions are right? Problems with demographics over the last 20 years.
- Taking schools out of the older areas hurts due to families needing lower housing prices "Binbrook is not an option for everyone" ٠
- Feel and atmosphere of older area is preferable ٠
- Advantages of this option -•
- Funding comes from a per pupil basis school size impacts funding of schools. Ministry of Ed. Funding an issue that leads to these "painful ٠ decisions" - different funding model would eliminate these types of problems
- What will the new boundary changes mean for the communities? ٠
- Projections for schools portables at Hillcrest why is this an option when that is something that we were trying to avoid •
- Walkability worries for Woodward area due to the highway •
- Empty rooms are they really expensive? Or is it funding formula are the rooms actually used or are they left empty are these counted into ٠ the funding formula? They are used – not just empty – dependant on the building apparently

New school on the Viscount Montgomery Site?

- Bigger is not better -٠
- Wanted to close Viscount while building happened keep things the same schools open until it is built and able to be used.
- Viscount is a good location and area -
- Do we need a new school of 700 in the area could it be small 500?

Question about school trustees representing an area that they do not live in? Is this a conflict of interest? Is this right?

Parkdale to Ballard and Hillcrest

Roxborough to Hillcrest and Viscount

Woodward to be k-6 - boundary change

Rosedale k-6 – boundary change

New school on the Viscount Site -

- Discuss the boundaries for the whole area to be sure that they are fair and logical so that kids are going to the school closest to them
- This is the preferred option of the two options of the group
- Rather see Woodward stay open a long bus trip for the kids to get to school
- Parkdale and Roxborough are close together how will this impact the community? A big loss
- They are in the smallest area but still a concern
- Asking about the benefits of a new school staff were able to share some of the benefits technology integrated from the start
- What kinds of supports are in place for communities that will suffer the losses? How is this handled?
- Busing is unusual for the neighbourhood how will this be publicised? Information?

Staff Recommendation – East Hamilton City 1

- Clarification about what staff means HWDSB idea
- Understanding how staff will move when the building changes discussed and clarified by the staff present
- Moving staff with the students is ideal to maintain community
- Like the idea of waiting to 2015 to allow time for the change

Final thoughts

- BE sure that themes are weighed so those that are discussed the most are given the most consideration
- We do like the idea of the change- but if the decision is going to be made in May 2014 waiting until 2015 for the changes to take please seems logical and fair
- As oppsed to a September 2014 that would be too hasty time is needed.

Benefits:

Challenges:

-hillcresct would be over capacity 2014 – 2016, challenges when schools are at capacity, worried about children being in protables -concerns around what that means for concerns for children in terms of special needs: does not go down to 90% until 2022 (social work, speech pathologist, learning resource, EAs)

-concerned about the differing social demographic and combining those populations – differing needs.

-when a school is at capacity and the services are spread thin – concerned about quality of care due to high caseloads (spread thin), worried about stress load on teachers

- concerned that disciplines would be stretched very thin, needs of children may not be adequately met

- speech paths is based on the number of students

-in a smaller school students who are not formally identified students would have more access to learning resource support where in a larger school formally identifies students will have priority

-smaller population is better for helping students with special needs and health concerns due to be a smaller, calmer, environment

-worried that class sizes would be larger as well, but were n

-don't want to have to drive to a school, worried about safe transportation if kids have to cross railroad tracks

-moved to the Woodward area to have a smaller, community school

-brand new park built at Woodward

-crazy to be tearing down schools that service existing communities

-mega schools where a great deal of money spent on bussing

What if a new school was built on the Vicount Montgomery site?

- it doesn't change the situation for Woodward, Parkdale, Roxborough

- its not the building that matters but the people and relationships that are available.

Better than option #1. It preserves the social climate at Woodward which is unique. This also applies to Rosedale. For Woodward, it is all they have and the community needs the school in order to continue to flourish and have a meeting place. The population is more evenly distributed without any school being at or over capacity, which stresses resources to the limit. It's a smaller change in the boundaries, but it gives some parents the option that they need dif they want to choose a smaller school not only for children's learning but also for their safety.

Option 2 also preserves the community groups working out of the school at Woodward, Kiwanas every day after school and the YWCA Girls Space for approx 50 kids. These are free programs available to students in the community. Rosedale collaborates with a local church and do a lot of fundraising for the school together.

This option is more reasonable and makes sense. Not great to close any school but understand the need to accommodate population changes. Very concerned that the school is able to have a better handle on behaviours in a smaller environment. The police are frequently at some of the larger schools like Hillcrest and Roxbourough Park due to the more transient population.

Question 3: Staff Option

Again overcapacity for Hillcrest, and problem when schools are maxed out. See Option #1 for the same issues concerning support services at maximum capacity. Not taking into account the needs of the students and the community. Are we a board that makes decisions solely onrthe basis on money or based on what is good for students and communities? Children are more than just a number.

There are safety issues at recess time when there are a large number of students out at recess, because the some of city schools have limited space out for children. It would be tragic to lose access to green space around Woodward, Rosedale – there is room to grow in both.

Concern is that it allows a lot of bussing and that takes away from students being able to walked to school.

New Viscount:

No – it will be a monster school, and there is not sense of community at those bigger schools. Would rather have a smaller school that doesn't have all of the bells and whistles.

***Very worried about gutting the schools from the city and what it will do to property values.

Question:

What is past practice with ARC committee? Are any of the schools on the ARC allowed to stay open?

- Challenge is that it closes 3 schools...not good for those who go to that school
- Good for those who are in a school that stays open
- Leary about boundary change...more kids driving to school, not walking. Congestion of cars out front.
- Going up to grade 6 at Rosedale is a great option
- Just k-6 is good because we don't need to become a middle school and worry about rotary...still an elementary school
- I think it's a good option but it keeps our school open
- Worried about selling the board on this option
- One school is over capacity...Hillcrest will be over capacity with this option.
- Cunningham has 8 portables...it seems like we could take some of those kids.
- We just bought our home a year ago and we bought it to be close to school...want kids to keep friends in neighbourhood. Playing with neighbourhood friends is important. I want that for my kids.
- Is building a new VM an option?
- Happy to see a new school on the table...people in new neighbourhoods get new schools...nice that people in older areas might get a new school
- I would rather have my daughter go to a small community school...not a huge school
- Everyone seems passionate in Rosedale...everyone wants to help out. The resources are here...a smartboard in every room. I like the culture at this school
- We are all happy with this because it keeps our school open.
- I don't know about the boundary changes...what if a kid is closer to a school but needs to go to another school
- How many grade 6s are already in this area?
- The second option is good too.
- How many students is it when we say a school is at 104% of its capacity? How big will the classes be? How many portables will there be? What would happen to the class sizes? What does it do to the actual education in the classroom?
- What happens if the data is wrong and it's actually 120% capacity?
- Building new at VM would be a good option...it's nice that it's not a catholic school getting all the new stuff _
- With a new school, our kids would have access to all the new facility and tech?
- Where does the funding come from for a new school? Will it be in our property taxes? Is it true that there would be money for building new but not renovating?
- What happens if a school stays open? Will there be another review? When would that be? Projections were just to 2022... What happens after that...will it go back into review?

- I don't know enough about the other schools to make an informed decision...I'm just happy that both option 1 and 2 keep Rosedale open.
- This option does not utilize the schools to the same extent as option 1.
- We don't see how the enrolment is going to go down? Don't know where the data is coming from?
- FDK is a draw...sometimes people leave in order to get FDK
- Some people have not sent their kids to Rosedale because we don't have FDK yet.
- What is full capacity? Rosedale doesn't seem to be under capacity.
- This seems like a better option but it has lower percentages than the first one...it only closes 2 schools.
- Closing 2 schools doesn't really change the numbers too much
- Either option does not affect the Rosedale capacity.
- What is the margin of error for the capacity estimates?
- Best option because no one is going over capacity and it only closes 2 schools
- 2014 is way too fast...it is ridiculous
- One piece of data that I would like to see is: "how many kids who currently walk to school are now going to be bussed?"
- How many kids will be taking the bus at VM

Question 3: What do you see as the benefits and/or challenges of the Staff Option?

- Sucks!!
- It would eventually happen anyway because the kids are going to go to these schools.
- 2014 is impossible...its way too soon.
- Future expansion of Rosedale area? Huge amount of area by the golf course...don't know about green space issues. Only place below escarpment that is expandable.
- VM needs more renovations and is older than Rosedale...in much rougher shape
- Why is VM selected to be a new school? Why not Ballard? Because it needs the most repair?
- Does this option mean a new school?
- That's a lot of kids that need to be bussed? All Rosedale kids need to be bussed?
- What about parents that don't drive or have access to a car and the school is so far away...it would be a nightmare.
- Many kids will be at unrest during the transition time. How would the kids feel with all this change?
- Does not give parents much time to find alternate arrangements too. 2014 is too soon.
- When would they start building a new school? Kids dealing with transition and then a construction site.
- Why add more kids and then do construction
- Over capacity issue for Hillcrest is a concern...all these empty spots and then overfilling the school makes not sense
- What if the data is wrong?
- Schools will be over capacity...how will you fit Rosedale in old VM before new school is built
- You can't lump 7 schools into 3 and not expect over capacity
- If you sell off Rosedale, more houses will be built here and then there will be more kids in the area...doesn't make sense
- Newer families will move in as older people move out.
- If schools are closed, the board needs to compensate with transportation. There are families without cars to drive kids to school.
- What is the zoning on a closed school? What could be built here? Does the school board own the property until its sold.
- What would be the cost of bussing? (this question should be answered for all options)
- Why close a school like Rosedale which is in good condition to move kids to a school in bad repair.

Identified Themes for decision making: Transportation, Community & Community Partnerships, Accessibility, Operations, Class sizes, School size

General Question:

- What would be the result of closing 50% of elementary schools and only 27% of secondary schools? What would be the result? How do the numbers work? Why are the high schools not facing the same scenario? It's a recycling population.

This option helps to look at walking boundaries so that how they assign the closing of schools the kids can walk.

As long as Rosedale goes up to grade 6 I'm happy because my brother opened the school. He was the first Kindergarten class. You don't want to put your kids in a portable. I have been to every school

Another mom says that she's third generation Rosedale –wants her kids there.

I think it's a challenge because it will affect the organization in the community such as the baseball club in the community, the splash pads, the pool, the church. There are so many organizations in this area that will become close to obsolete if Rosedale closes.

Others wanted to know if it's the school or the community that's affected

If Rosedale closes it will adversely affect the community, so this is a good option.

Note that there are young families moving in...lots of new babies. If parents know that that their kids would be bused then they won't want to move into the area.

"Im on the committee for the Rosedale baseball committee organization and we focus our marketing into the schools and if the school closes it will make hockey and baseball decline because we won't have advertisement. If you don't' have this school open then it will mean we will have to find other ways to get kids inot the community programs, therefore this is a good option...Rosedale stays open.

I don't want to put my 4 yr old child on a bus! Therefore this is as good option.

I moved into this survey because of the school, therefore this is a good option.

Others say that they have lived here for generations, therefore this is a good option.

It's the community atmosphere that is important.

Does this option include a new school for Viscount? Does that happen in addition to this option? We need clarity about that.

This is a good idea to keep Rosedale open because we just spent money to upgrade it..all brand new windows, doors, boiler and bathrooms. Closing Rosedale would be a waste of money.

We would like to see this school expanded to Gr 8 (but a committee member noted that it won't happen)

The part with Woodward closing means that we are not taking into mind that there would be an area of the ARC that is unrepresented....in the north. There would be no school representing those students.

If would be nice for this school to go back to Gr 6 – this keeps the students at this school for a little longer.

In relation to getting a new school @ Viscount Montgomery....

It would be good to keep Rosedale open even if there's a new Viscount.

To do all of this and leave Viscount in its current condition....it needs to be upgraded. They can't fit / merge schools into Viscount unless the school it upgraded.

I wouldn't be opposed to them building a new school as long as Rosedale stays open – note that there are several schools that could feed into viscount.

We are OK with not having new and shiny...our kids will eventually go to Viscount and we'd like it to be new and shiny

I don't want my kids walking along busy streets....so keep Rosedale open.

As far as equity...yes, some students will have to be bussed. But Roxborough Park is close to Hillcrest so it makes sense for the kids to go there.

Roxdale, Parkdale and Ballard are close to each other, therefore it makes sense to merge them...because those kids won't have a traumatic change of boundaries. If Rosedale kids had to move it would be more traumatic

We are a little enclave here at Rosedale and we like it that way.

I think Woodward kids would have the biggest impact because they would all have to be bussed...it's a long way north.

This option closes three schools, option 2 closes two schools.

We would NOT want our younger kids to go to Viscount, even if it were a big k-8 school....unless you have children with disabilities

Identified Themes for decision making: Transportation, Community & Community Partnerships, Accessibility, Operations, Class sizes, School size

Question 2: What do you see as the benefits and/or challenges of OPTION #2 (F)?

East Hamilton ARC

What are the costs of this option? It looks like Viscount HAS to be rebuilt if any of the first two options are to be considered.

Many of the same ideas as above (from a Rosedale perspective).

We can't move the Roxborough and other kids into Viscount unless there's a big rebuild. Without that, there would be portables and that wouldn't be good for kids.

We need to make sure Viscount is big enough for Rosedale kids to go there in 7 & 8. This will require an upgrade.

This is closing two schools compared to threebut we've heard that we need to close at least three schools

If you make schools too big then the kids don't know anyone....we don't want them to go to a school that looks like a high school. We don't' want the schools to be too big.

Question....do they take into consideration the repairs that have already been done to schools? For example, what about Rosedale where there are significant upgrades done recently.

Question...what happens to all the stuff we just paid for like Smartboards, the new playground etc?

Committee member answered that all the stuff would be moved.

My son would not have done as well as he has because he's in a small school and his autism can be managed well. He's comfy here and would flounder in a bigger school. I would love for him to stay here....but I know that's not possible. I would love it if he could stay until at least Gr 6

Not sure where the actual programs would go....for instance, autism? Where will EAs go?

The economic impact of having a community school is very important – and to keep Rosedale open maintains that economic hub.

Will our kids need to take a bus to Viscount? Yes. So, we have to calculate the cost of that if they were ever to be moved. We'll have to look at these costs anyway for Gr 7 & 8.

Question 3: What do you see as the benefits and/or challenges of **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**?

We don't like this one because....Rosedale is a community hub. (see above for reasons why it's better to not close Rosedale) I don't understand how there can be minimum costs for renos and construction. This part doesn't' make sense to us. We recognize that older schools (*i.e. Ballard) are harder to maintain. We don't see any benefits to this plan....say Rosedale people. Note....the participants wanted to know the opening dates of each school. Parkdale – 1946 Rosedale – 1953 Viscount – 1951 Woodward – 1951 Ballard – 1922 – additions in 1978 Hillcrest – 2006 Roxborough - 1960 What's positive about this plan? Long long silence..... They are suspsicious about the costs of renovations and wonder about transportation. "Isn't this ultimately what THEY, the BOARD, wants – they want to close four schools and merge into three" WE don't like this plan! You certainly couldn't do this option by next year anyway...that would be ridiculous. If they do this option they close four schools and the accommodation numbers are more aligned, but we don't see that as a positive. "The numbers should not be the bottom line – it should be about the kids. "

"Yea but, it's always about the bottom line."

There is no walking for any of the younger grades...they would all need to be bussed.

There are some big roads that would be too big and busy for younger kids to cross. We wouldn't want Woodward kids to have to walk that far.

The Parkdale kids could maybe walk to Ballard...but depending on where they live there are still some very busy roads.

This is a bad option because more students would need bussing than compared to the other two options.

We haven't seen Ballard in years....we would assume that it's in OK shape. It's a big school...it's a two level school. Do they have an elevator one person asks? Nope...don't think so. So that would be a new cost.

Note...Rosedale is a one-level school, so are Woodward and Roxborough and those are the ones they want to close. Note the Roxborough has grass but not Ballard. To move lots of kids to Ballard wouldn't be very good. It's not a benefit if you want to do sports like track, soccer etc.

"It all comes down to them wanting to build a new school." Ballard, Roxborough and Viscount are close...and then you could leave Woodward alone to service the north end and then leave Rosedale alone because it services the south end. We could move boundaries and increase the size of Woodward to make that a bigger school.

"they want a super school - let them build a super school"

"The sad fact is that you're going to lose something in a bigger school...you don't get good childhood friends, bigger chance for bullying etc."

"When you go to thousands of kids you don't' get little classrooms.:"

'Oh, I don't know about that!"

This model is most closely aligned to ministry numbers. "Psstt...Phew!! Who cares!" said one person.

The sad part is that if you were to close a school like Rosedale then you've lost all the benefit of the beautiful new splash pad that was recently put in. The splash pad is run by the city....and they are putting in a deeper pool. If they close this school, Rosedale, they would consider moving and going to a different location. If you close Rosedale you'll not get many new families coming to the neighbourhood.

If the young families move out, even the church (Associated Gospel church – it's a great little church to start out in – Faith Gospel) and the day care and the play group would close because there would not be as many kids. It's very much a family/kid oriented church. A number of the kids who go to the church also go to Rosedale.

House prices would depreciate if the school goes. At present it's hard to get a house here because it's a popular place to live. The neighbourhood feel is very impt here because there's no bad traffic, everyone knows everyone, people are close. And it's still available for transit. Don't close the school. This is a bad option. Keep Rosedale open.s