

West Glanbrook Accommodation Review Committee

Working Group Meeting # 5

Wednesday, December 11th, 2013

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Mount Hope Elementary School
9149 Airport Road, Mount Hope, ON**

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair – Sue Dunlop

Voting Members – Amie Vandevrie, Theresa Weylie, Steve Paul, Janet Lewis, Alyson Brave, Melanie Holjak

Non-Voting Members – Rob Maudsley

Regrets

Voting Members – Karen Stewart, Trisha Woehrle

Non-Voting Members - Alex Johnstone

Resource Staff

Ian Hopkins

Recording Secretary

Colleen Pyke

Public - 0 public attendees present

1. Call to Order – Chair

2. Agenda

2.1 Additions/Deletions

None

2.2 Approval of Agenda

Approved by consensus

3. Minutes from Working Group Meeting #4

3.1 Clarification

There was a question from the Committee regarding the timing of the naming/renaming process. Sue Dunlop noted that a representative from Corporate Communications reviewed the timing for renaming in regards to a

Next Working Group Meeting – January 15th, 2014 at Bell-Stone

All Accommodation Review Committee Meetings are open to the public

potential June 2014 closure. Since there wouldn't be the appropriate amount of time for the process to be completed, it would likely begin in September.

A Committee member inquired whether or not there are grants for schools becoming energy efficient, similar to the ones for homes. Rob Maudsley noted that certain things have already been done at Mount Hope such as replacing the light bulbs and toilet flushers. Ian Hopkins explained that there was an Energy Efficient Schools grant recently and many of our schools including Mount Hope received a boiler upgrade. This money has since run out. He will look into further possibilities for energy efficient grants.

3.2 Approval of minutes

Approved by consensus

4. Minutes from Public Meeting #3

4.1 Clarification

None

4.2 Approval of minutes

Approved by consensus

5. Public Meeting #3 – December 4th 2013

5.1 Community Feedback Discussion

The Committee reviewed the notes from Public Meeting #3. It was pointed out that some of the cons listed such as the concerns about over capacity and the airport noise pollution are general concerns about Bell-Stone students moving to Mount Hope, not specifically the options presented. Sue Dunlop pointed out that right now these are the 2 options we have; the only major differences are the timing and the secondary boundary review. She explained that the Committee is able to create a totally new option if they wish, or could look at the feedback from the public meeting and decide on one of the options presented. She noted that there are no guarantees that renovations would be done for 2015 either, if that is the option the Committee chooses. However, Ian Hopkins explained that from a Facilities Management standpoint, since this is the first round of many Accommodation Reviews to come for HWDSB, the public needs to see results. The community could be making a very difficult decision to close a school, they need to see results. A Committee member questioned whether or not there is any possibility of the washrooms being completed over this summer, if they recommend a 2014 closure. Sue Dunlop noted that there is definitely a possibility.

There was a suggestion that if the Committee proceeds with the closure recommendation, that the schools begin to have movie nights and other social events despite no formal decision by Trustees. The thought is that this would provide the opportunity for the parents to get together as well. Sue Dunlop noted that there are many transition activities and also transition funds the school could apply for.

A Committee member noted that there is a high likelihood that some students from Bell-Stone may choose to enroll at Mount Hope in September 2014 since the closure would be inevitable, should the board choose the 2015 closure option. Sue Dunlop noted that Bell-Stone is already staffed over what is necessary and if enrolment drops further there could be a possibility of 3 grade split classes. Ian Hopkins explained that there have been on average only 5 or 6 JK students annually over the last 3 years in the Bell-Stone catchment.

A Committee member brought up concerns of adding approximately 50 students to Mount Hope whilst undergoing renovations that could interrupt class time. Sue Dunlop explained that there are many ways to have renovations completed with little or no disruption; such as temporarily shuffling older kids into portables and the younger grades into the older students' classrooms and the construction crew would put up fences around any construction areas outside, among other things. In her personal experience it has not been very noisy or messy. The construction teams do their absolute best to keep the students safe, because that is our number one priority. She also noted that adding spaces to the parking lot and updating the playground would not be considered as urgent as the washrooms and FDK addition. Also, increasing the size of the gym would not likely be able to be completed over the summer. There are also no guarantees that they would be done by September 2015. A member of the Committee wondered whether a list would be provided to the ARC as to which renovations had been approved by Trustees. Ian Hopkins noted that they would give a condensed list. The approved renovations would go on the capital list. Sue Dunlop reminded the Committee that there is an opportunity for public delegations, and she recommended the community come and make it known that these items are what they feel are very important. She believes it is important to give a face to the report. The Board recognizes that it is going to be difficult for people that Bell-Stone could be closing. There will be a Transition Committee in place. Staff also recognizes that there are concerns around timeline for renovations. An FDK addition doesn't necessarily mean that the addition will be the kindergarten room, classrooms by the current kindergarten rooms could be renovated and additional classrooms could be built on the back of the school.

The Committee discussed the feedback regarding transition from the public. Sue Dunlop explained that LLI is in every school in the district, as is special education support.

The following are questions that were provided by the public. Support staff reviewed the answers with the Committee.

Q1. What is the reality of Bell-Stone teachers coming over to Mount Hope?

A1. We don't know the reality of teachers from Bell-Stone coming to Mount Hope. In April, the Board gets projections for how many students are going to be at the schools. From there, the Board has to figure out how many staff will be needed. If there are vacancies at Mount Hope, Bell-Stone teachers would be considered first in the process. Seniority does play a part, but only applies from the Bell-Stone teachers. A Committee member inquired as to whether or not Mount Hope would get tentative projections assuming Bell-Stone closes? Sue Dunlop explained that that is something that Planning and Accommodation would have to figure that out. Staffing is not done until June.

Q2. Does the public have any input on teaching staff coming over?

A2. No, the public does not have input on staff coming over due to their collective agreement

Q3. Why can't Bell-Stone be a holding school for a new Binbrook school? Bellmoore has portables.

A3. Bell-stone cannot be a holding school for Binbrook for a number of reasons, discussed in past meetings.

Q4. What will happen to Bell-Stone's property?

A4. We don't know what will happen to Bell-Stone's property at this point. The Board will have to declare it surplus first. It will then go out to preferred agents and if they all pass on it, it will then go out to the open market and will be sold for fair market value. This entire process takes about a year to a year and half. The Committee asked if the sale money goes to capital projects. Ian Hopkins explained that it could. It is something the Committee could work into a business plan for this Accommodation Review. The Board is currently having real estate appraisals done on all our properties.

6. Accommodation Recommendation

6.1 Development and Discussion

The Committee discussed the possibility of creating a new option, which would combine the 2 options presented at the Public Meeting. It would be as follows: Close Bell-Stone in June 2014, amalgamate into Mount Hope September 2014. Washroom renovation to be completed by September 2014. FDK addition aiming for September 2015, and urgent needs include black top resurfacing, parking lot and gym addition. Included would be a recommendation to review secondary school boundaries. It was noted that retrofitting old schools with air conditioning is not really something that is typically done, likely due to cost.

The Committee discussed another potential option; recommendation to start the process over again and include Bellmoore in the Accommodation Review. Sue Dunlop pointed out that Trustees voted to postpone future Accommodation Reviews for next year, due to upcoming elections. She also noted that the closest comparable Accommodation Review to this recommendation was Prince Philip, recommending the schools be left as status quo. The Trustees did not vote in favour of that option.

There was some discussion around the possibility of submitting more than 1 option to the Trustees. A Committee member wondered whether this would diminish the strength of one or the other option. Sue Dunlop explained that it would not, because they are two totally different options. Ian pointed out that we need to keep in mind that including Bellmoore students into our analysis is violating our terms of reference. If the Committee chooses to make the recommendation to begin the process over with Bellmoore included, simply making the statement and having an explanation is their best bet.

The Committee agreed by consensus that 2 recommendations will be presented to the Trustees:

- 1) Bell-Stone to close in June 2014 with renovations to Mount Hope. Students amalgamate into Mount Hope in September 2014, including a recommendation to review secondary boundaries.
- 2) Restart the West Glanbrook Accommodation Review with Bellmoore included in the process.

Rob Maudsley pointed out that the communities involved have to be able to accept all the scenarios the Committee presents in their report.

7. Accommodation Review Committee Report

7.1 Structure

Ian Hopkins reviewed a draft table of contents for the final report. He explained that at the next Working Group Meeting he will have a draft report written up for the group to review. He noted that he will send out a

copy to the group either the Thursday or the Friday before the meeting. The group will edit the draft report together in preparation for the final Public Meeting on January 22nd.

7.2 Schedule

Ian handed out a revised calendar that shows the earliest possible date for Trustee decision. He explained that the report cannot be handed in prior to 90 days after first public meeting. To ensure the most amount of time between decision and potential closure the Committee would have to conduct a dual Public/Working Group meeting on January 22nd to finalize the report. Following that, there are 30 days for Board staff to write their report and then a 60 day period for public delegations. The 60 day period would end May 2nd making Monday May 5th the first possible day the Trustees could make their decision. If the Committee decides to hold the final Working Group meeting on January 29th (as scheduled), the first possible date for decision would be pushed back to May 12th.

Sue Dunlop mentioned that she will find out about more regarding transition activities.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.