

Date: December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Option #6 Notes:

Notes:

- Is there an option for Linden Park students to transfer together instead of all being sent to different schools? In all three options presented, students are being split apart.
- Is there an option to keep Linden open?
- Why isn't Linden park being considered as the location for a new school to be built?
- Armstrong should be sold as a site for commercial property to generate more \$\$\$ and the new school should be built at Linden with its beautiful property, and it is also central to all schools, and it currently has the recreation centre.
- If Eastmount Park closes, and the students going to Franklin road need to go to Franklin. Will the students who need to cross Fennel Ave. have access to bussing if below the policy requirements?
- If Eastmount Park closes, is there a reason why some students who live south of Queensdale are being forced to go to Franklin? Why can't this group have the option to attend either Franklin or Armstrong with their friends? Plus, it's dangerous crossing Fennell Ave.
- Disadvantage of Option #6: Students from Eastmount getting split between Franklin and Armstrong.....Although we don't want Eastmount to close, if it does, we would like them to have some options to possibly stay together.
- Disadvantage of #6: Currently, Eastmount has Today's Family Daycare which allow for seamless care of students before and after....Will the other schools have this as an option? We don't want our children needing to travel from school to daycare.
- We are concerned that there is a "Halfway House" across the street from Armstrong...people are asking for money at the Shoppers Drug Mart across the street.
- We are concerned about all of the traffic around Armstrong including Tim Hortons and Shoppers Drug Mart.
- They shouldn't split children up and send them to different schools in this process away from their friends.
- Suggestion: They should consider building a new school on the Hill Park/Linden Park site because of the many acres of land, soccer & football fields, and a recreation centre, a daycare, early years, and Today's Family.....Community relationships have also been established. Transportation to this site is very accessible. With this site, transportation for students would be minimal which would result in cost savings. Since Rec Centre and Daycare are here, they could use Hill Park as a holding school while other builds/renovations occur.
- We are concerned that when schools are so close to capacity, we will end up with portables on the sites down the road.
- Option 6 currently has Linden Park closing in 2015. This means that FDK will need to be accommodated for the 2014 school year which will mean expenses incurred for closing in one year. For this reason, I see this not as a viable option.

- Option 6 concern....All 3 options include Linden Park closing. The Linden site is already so established that it should be considered as an optimal site. The feeling is that Linden has not been given an option in this process!!
- With all 3 options, Linden Park students will be divided between multiple schools. New relationships will need to be built at schools.
- Where we live in the new Ridgemount catchment, we live on the north tip, in 2 options we are being told that our community exists much further south than the area where we actually live. This is not our community.
- Option 6 is the only option without a new build which will result in all schools running at capacity which leaves no wiggle room for growth.
- Option 6 Advantage: There are too many schools currently so it is a good idea to consolidate the schools. It also makes sense to get students into Armstrong sooner as they will eventually leave their k-5 schools and end up there anyway.
- In option 6, the rec centre at Hill Park is not being utilized at all.....To not have a school on this property with a pool & rec ctr, doesn't make any sense!
- In option 6, Franklin is too far east for many...Linden is much more central for a location.
- Could the Eastmount catchment be expanded further East to allow for more students to walk to school.
- Linden Park to be transferred to one school not 2 or 3, is that an option that has been considered?
  - Can they travel together?
- Is Linden Park able to stay open? All 3 presented options have LP closing
- LP has great green space to house a new school
- Armstrong could be sold for more money (commercial property). LP could be the home of the new school
- LP property is centred to all these schools, and it has a rec centre
- Rec centre has free after school program, that would be great for a new school at LP
- GL Armstrong – concession street will become traffic jammed with the students and buses
- LP is an aging community, it will revive with young families which will boost school population
- Closing a school is stressful enough but splitting the kids between schools is very stressful
- Would like the option of which school to attend if my school is closing
- Day care at Eastmount where will it move to? Will it be on site?
- Halfway house across the street from GL Armstrong problematic. People asking for money etc.
- Tim Horton's – tons of traffic – safety issue
- Splitting up student bodies between schools is not great idea. Have them move as one unit
- Sackville Hill green space is a treasure, its centrally located. Consider building a new school here – rec centre, soccer field, day care, early years centre, today's family, all here. Community relationships already exist here
- LP is easy to drive to. Very accessible

- Use Hill Park to temporarily house all the kids that would be attending the new build school. Sell off other elementary school for money use HP to temporarily house the students. Discard HP when new elementary school is ready
- School projections so close to capacity is concerning, potential for portables
- South of Linc – why is there no school there? All those kids should not be bussed to Ridgemount. Give them their own community school
- All 3 options include closing LP. It doesn't seem LP has an option. It is centrally located, well established community partners exist
- Not only change school but change relationships and friends when you divide a current student body, not ideal
- Living in the north area of Ridgemount catchment means that all the way extending to Rymal is my neighbourhood. It is not
- Friends that my child will make in school could be very far away, across the Linc and my kids won't be able to just go out and play with their friends
- No ne build in this option
- In the new catchment area of option 6 it is goof to reduce the number of schools. There are 3 Queensdale, Armstrong and Eastmount Park. 2 schools should be closed.
- Kids from Queensdale and LP go to Armstrong eventually so what difference does a few years earlier really make?

#### **Option 6 Advantages**

- Armstrong is somewhat central to the mountain
- If Linden Park closes all students should be kept together
- Kids won't have to walk to school
- Allows rollout of FDK at Queensdale for one year

#### **Option 6 Disadvantages**

- What is the plan to transition the Queensdale hearing impaired classes?
- Armstrong still not reaching target utilization
- No renovation listed or costs for Armstrong
- Very similar to originally proposed staff model
- Acknowledges impossibility of 2014 timelines
- No new school on the Mountain
- Splits students from two schools
- Eastmount children will be split
- It looks like a lot of bussing will have to happen of this option, large region for Ridgemount and Armstrong – probably expensive transportation costs?
- Too many schools being closed
- Too much disruption to students

- New build at Linden Park would work
- Seems to increase buses to Armstrong – what is the drop off location plan. There is not much space on East 18/19 for this. Concession is quite busy with buses (HSR), traffic, rush-hour
- Need school south of Linc to make Ridgemount easier and better boundary – not so long
- Linden Park community split
- Build K-8 on Linden Park/Hill Park this school has room and room for extra daycare, before and after – this is not your personal equity to dispose
- Armstrong is old- think about wifi etc
- Armstrong is not wheelchair accessible on all levels – not feasible to retrofit either without another addition for elevator
- Students south of Linc still not serviced with community school
- Just the boards option without a new building
- 40 block catchment area for Ridgemount
- Don't split the kids at least move them together as new unit to the new location
- Cost? 10 classrooms, 3 gyms
- Busing – safety, not environmentally safe
- Loss of sense of community
- Busy street – student safety
- Bus kids to busy arterial road – commercial area – high pollution
- Reno costs for GLA? For wheelchairs, hard of hearing students
- Linden Park students need to move together as a group
- Linden has a rec centre
- Linden is a perfect spot for a new K-8 school
- After school/daycare would be needed – local daycare already full for school ages
- There is more land on the Sackville Hill property than any of these schools
  - Central location for new school
  - Recreation centre for a new school
  - Day care and early years already there
  - Lots of soccer and football fields
  - This greenspace is a treasure
- Why not build on Linden Park? Great greenspace and location
- Linden Park is central to mountain
- Can use Hill Park as a temporary building to house the schools slated for closure while you build a new school on Sackville Hill Property
- Armstrong has a semi-circle of walkability which goes off the escarpment – why keep it open

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Option #7 Notes:

'Im looking for a consistent school Jk – 8 – don't want an option where my daughter has to start in one place and switch to another. My daughter would normally go to Linden Park and I want to know if I can send her to Franklin Road right away. I don't want to her have to switch. Or can she go Cardinal Heights in Option 11? How will I know how I can get her to one school for her entire elementary years? Distance to school is not as much an issue as consistency over the 8+ years. I don't intend on moving and she could ride her bike to school.

"My concern is the amount of congestion in traffic that we'll have at Cardinal Heights and Pauline Johnson because they are so close to the new Board of education. It will be a lot of traffic!

"This option keeps more community schools open and I think that's very important. There is a problem with capacity, yes, but the smaller schools are better.

"I think they have bigger land at Linden Park school...a new school should go there. If they tear it down then it could be rebuilt for a new school.

I have a question...if Queensdale closes, where will full day Kindergarten go. It will start in the current schools, right? Won't they already have to accommodate for FDK? If so, then why would it be an issue. In the school with the day care they already have the space, don't they? Before the school closes they are expected to have FDK anyway, right? So, if they have it, then why would it be a concern to even think about FDK in relation to school closures. . I wonder about the potential renovations at Queensdale?

Also....when you say that a school is closing in 2015, does that mean June 2015? OR something else?

I have a question...my concern is with the terms of reference. There were a lot of items that reference **quality of education** as criteria. But all the data we are seeing here is **UTILIZATION!** It seems that this is the only criteria being considered. I would like to see some form of a presentation surrounding the **QUALITY** of education as it pertains to each option with some evidence to back it up. At this point it seems that quality of education is not being considered...we cannot see it or evaluate it.

Some people wondered what schools were represented by the area outside and to the east of Eastmount Park Elementary.

I'd like to add that it would be truly a shame to lose the HP / Sackville Hill land since it's the only green space around. It has a lot of fields, daycares, recreation centre, and lots of community relationships. This is a real shame. Cardinal Heights is not that far away...why couldn't they build there. And the other thing is that I don't like that the Linden Park kids have to get split up...they are already losing their school and that's hard, but at least if they could stay as one block then that would be better. Could we keep Hill Park and put lots of kids here instead. They are going to keep the gyms open anyway, right? For the rec centre? Once the rebuild is done we could move there after having spent some time at Hill Park.

With the overpopulated schools.....I don't agree with that. There are too many kids in one place and I need my kids closer to my house....I'm closest to Linden Park and I NEED it because my child has special needs...I have to run when my child has problems and I need to be close. Also, there would be too much traffic...it's not going to help at all if we lose Linden Park. I can just go to the Catholic School if they close Linden Park...I don't want to have to go far. The Catholic is very close...it's called ST Peter and Paul and it's right close at Upper James and it's walking distance. It would save time consuming. I come from Toronto and have learned that no one wants to be stuck in traffic in stead of creating more problems. Have the schools closer to the homes. A lot of parents are leaving their other schools so they can go to schools closer to home. I have to run for my child...and my kids will NOT go to an over-populated school and they want to stay at Linden Park...I don't want them to suffer and I do want them to be scared at a big school. It's fear. My students are age 4 and 6 and they have a long time of elementary school ahead of them. It's most important to me that they have a school close by. Upper Gage is too far. Why don't they just tear down Linden Park and rebuild there. WE don't want to close Linden Park. Save it!

ALL the options listed have Linden Park closing!!! We don't have an option like the other people. Every single plan has us closing and we have the largest area/acreage and we have a community established already with the park, the church, daycare etc and the early years centre. Our solution was presented and it was to combine Lindan Park and Franklin Rd into Hill Park...make one bigger school in the community. We could close down one wing. Our First value is schools close to the community.

If the school gets too big our kids won't get extra help. It's not good for kids. Even in the secondary school review process Hill Park was listed at the best of the secondary schools....so it's still a great place to be.

It doesn't make sense to close an old school, linden Park, and then move us into another old school. It would be the same bad routine. It's not fair to push our kids from one side to the next.

The other issues with all the options having Linden Park closing is that they would be dividing our boundaries...and this would separate friendship groups...and this leads to fear. They are comfy with their friends now. Note, however, that Queensdale would still be all that bad since there would only be 315 kids, but the real issue is separating our community. If our kids don't get to stay with their friends then they will cry. They love their school. Already, my daughter has said that she doesn't want to move...in fact, she doesn't want to go to school at all if she has to move.

The other concern with this option is that it has Linden Park closing in 2015 BUT where with the FDK go? Will they equip us for just one year? I don't think so! This is not a complete option.

IT IS IMPORTANT FO R THE KIDS TO HAVE A SAY. You are ripping the school apart.

My daughter wants to talk tonight....she's only in Gr 1.

Who is Mrs Beattie? Oh, she's the principal? I heard she doesn't like the idea either.

I have looked at the options but it looks like some of the schools would be overfilled.

If the school closes our real estate prices will go down. I live near Queensdale and that's why I want to have that school stay open. I've been there for 60 years. I love it when I look out my door and see the kids playing. It's such a community school....we do all sorts of things together. My church is there, Olivet, and we had a spaghetti supper at the school and we had a program for something else at the school.

The day care has a summer camp and it's available all summer from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. and it's hosted Linden Park (Today's Family) – it's a different thing but it's attached. They give the kids beautiful meals and the hours are excellent. If the school closes then the daycare will be lost. This is the best daycare. They take trips and they support you and the kids feel comfortable and they enjoy going. They do one step – drop them off at the steps and then the day care people take the kids to the school day classes when school starts. They also do March Break and PD days and other things. I've talked with lots of mothers and they want the daycare to stay. Today's Family is #1....this is really the best because it's right in the school. It's a beautiful place....they have more than one teacher there. My question is: now, how many kids will be in one class.

GL Armstrong is prime commercial property and is of greater value if it's sold.

One other thing is that if they could house the closing schools here at Hill Park then it would be great to house us here and maybe build a new school right here at the Sackville site. Using Hill Park is a good idea because it could house several schools, and it's all walking distance – no transportation costs.

Disadvantage – adds 30 students to Queensdale which may not be enough to create a proper Middle school population

- Need a school south of the link because they have to 30 blocks to school under current proposal and cross the Link.
- Why would we run so close to the limit – this may lead to portables in the near future. Costs of portables and experience of being in the portable is a concern.
- No French immersion option presented in any of the options, would prefer a JK to 8 French school in the options.
- Linden Park students are split up to go to different schools. Could there be some consideration in keeping them altogether?
- Is there an option to keep Linden open? Linden is in a residential area with lots of park space whereas GL Armstrong is in a commercial area. Linden has a pool, soccer fields, playgrounds, and rec. centre nearby. Also a Early Years Centre. Could a new school be built on the Linden site?
- G.L. Armstrong is not a central location to serve all the other schools. Also the traffic is congested on Commercial Street and would cause bus issues and the school may be better off sold as a commercial property. Linden Park is central to all the schools. The Rec. Centre offers a free after school program. We wouldn't want lose it. Linden Park also has a MID class – it is already accessible and up and running. Worried about separating the MID students from that class into separate school locations.
- Schools need to be attached to the recreation centres

- Considered using new board site to build on? (example of Durham)
- Concerns about the rec centre near Linden not being utilized by any of the schools
- Concern about dividing the students at Linden into separate schools. They will lose friends.
- New idea: a school should be built south of the Link because that is where a lot of the development is happening
- New idea: keep Hill Park open because it has a central location and has access to community pool, etc.
- Queensdale – why K-8? The location is in the corner of the map and it would limit the number of students who would be able to walk there.
- Eastmount has a lot of park space – wouldn't want to lose it
- Location at Cardinal is close to commercial district
- New idea: Build a new school on the Linden site to serve as a centralized location for Eastmount, G.L. Armstrong, Queensdale, and Franklin Rd. or is there another school that the Queensdale students could attend? Or the Eastmount students to attend? (in the event of overflow at Linden) This might allow Linden to become the centralized site. Linden has all the community services – pool, rec. centre. Westmount is the example to follow.
- Linden Park has a very good partnership with Hill Park – reading buddies, Linden students can be extras in Hill Park plays, Hill Park have brought plays to Linden. It is a shame to lose this partnership.
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### **Option 7 Advantages**

- 2 rather than 4 schools close (closing a school is traumatic for various parties)
- Better % of filled seats in each school (capacity)
- If Linden Park closes, keep all students together
- Keep all Linden Park students together – move together to Queensdale so they can keep their sense of community
- Most realistic option
- Queensdale safe playground for community with lots of green space
- Queensdale stays open!!!
- Student population per school – good sizes, not too big
- There is improved utilization for 4 schools – Queensdale would be increased in numbers
- Cost effective in terms of retrofits (though maintenance of older buildings not included in given data)
- Projected capacities are high, but allow room for future growth if needed
- School that has already been renovated 5 years ago remains open. FDK will already be rolled out and accommodated

### **Option 7 Disadvantages**



- Why are kids still having to cross the line – where is the school there? A new high school is being put there; why not an elementary school?
- Loss of huge developed green space great for middle school sporting function/events (Linden/Hill Park land)
- Keep Linden Park students together – school closure is difficult enough
- Sackville Hill is a beautiful, large green space that we are lucky to have at the moment
  - o Build here – lots of soccer and football fields, recreation centre and daycare
  - o Already established community of relationships
  - o Early years as well
  - o Don't agree with bigger populations in schools
  - o Can use Hill Park to house students while building a new school on Hill Park/Linden Park site
- Loss of Hill Park/Linden Park land
- Why more rooms and renos to GLA and it is still only 50% full?
- Why keep 3 schools within 800m?
- Why do kids in Jerome, Crerar, and Rickman's areas still have to be bussed? Lots of new housing in these areas – where is the school for the future?
- Linden Park community is split
- If this option happens, move all Linden students together as a group to Queensdale
- Linden Park has great space. Why not build on it? Central location!
- Huge number of students for Linden would be expected to fit Queensdale – no explanation beyond “possible classrooms” – seems more of a definite
- Cardinal Heights will have lower utilization rates
- For all options → not seeing any reference to most of the criteria in any option. Quality? Transportation? Community partners?
- Has the facts that G.L. Armstrong was built in 1930 and the popularity of asbestos in construction of that age been taken into consideration?
- Like the schools with smaller numbers rather than a school with over 600 students
- My daughter has a feeding tube and I need to be 2 min away from the school! She goes to Linden Park
- As a student I like Queensdale as a small school where the principal knows you by name (not a JK-8)



Date: December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

#### Option #11 Notes:

Greatest concern is that the boundaries of the Linden Park school are being split, so students will not stay together with their friends and teachers and community. Would like an option where the Linden Park kids stay together.

Instead of using the Cardinal Heights area for new build, suggest the Sackville Hill area. It has lots of acreage, soccer fields, rec. centre, early years and daycare. The community supports exist in this area.

New Ridgemount catchment is not an existing community. It splinters the communities that currently exist.

Disadvantage\_ Ridgemount to become K-8 so 2 K-8 schools located very close together. Why not use Linden/Hillpark property for K-8 school. Either utilize existing building or demolish and rebuild new school.

Build a new school on Linden Park site. There is more land, central location close to recreation centre.

New build at Linden site could accommodate Ridgemount Pauline Johnson, Cardinal Heights and Franklin Road.

A school population of 700 is too big. Mentioned 2 times.

One of the biggest disadvantages of option 11 is the high cost. Most schools closing and highest related costs. It is based on a funding commitment from the ministry so there are no guarantees.

Option 11 looks like it involves a holding school after 2014.

One advantage is that Armstrong is an historical building, there may be objection to tearing it down.

Concern that the neighbourhood is ready for a turnover i.e. neighbourhood is filled with elderly who will be leaving and selling their homes to young families. Values of homes will decrease if there is no school in the area. Suggest one big school on Hill Park land because there is so much infrastructure already. It is also a good site because students do not have to cross major roads.

Keep Queensdale open. Close Eastmount, G.L. Armstrong and Linden. Build a new facility on Linden Park site.

House the closing school students in Hill Park while building a new school on site.

All three options tonight have Linden Park closing. So there is no option for the Linden Park community in what is presented tonight.

My daughter is a special needs student, I need to be close to my daughter. She has a feeding tube and I am the only one that knows how to work with the tube. This is a critical issue!! Also do not want the

daycare closed it is a necessary support for parents. If Linden Park closes, I will take my children to St. Peter and Paul which is close to my house. It does not make sense to go from an old school to another old school. What is the rush to close the schools.

-Armstrong does not need a new school however Linden Park area should get a new school and students would be able to merge with Franklin road students

-The students would be able to walk to school and this would eliminate the need to add students to Ridgemount

-If students were to go K-8 at Linden Park then the students would be closer to recreational facilities in the area

-If Franklin Road closed and Linden expanded (or a new facility built on that property) there would be less disruption to the Ridgemount community

- Linden offers far more "green space" for students and also safer for the student

-concern about GL Armstrong being a more "commercial area"

-every option presented this evening shows Linden Park students being "split up"

-If Ridgemount and Cardinal Heights are both K-8 then we have 2 k-8 schools close together when Linden could be the new k-8 facility

-some questions around a population shift in the area and then the potential need to add portables to so many schools

-Ridgemount and Cardinal Heights are too close together to justify both being k-8

-We don't like the fact that we are losing the "community school" feel

-why are we not thinking of adding a newer school south of the Linc

-some question around another option to be made available where Linden students could be kept together, parental concern around the "small community feel" being lost in the shuffle

-concern about funding for this option and whether the ministry will actually provide the funding needed

-there is an aging population in the neighbourhood however eventually those properties will be sold and younger families will not be interested in purchasing these homes because there are no schools within walking distance

-fear that property values will depreciate and that people will not be drawn to the neighbourhood

-people will be drawn to the neighbourhood if there are schools within walking distance

-if Linden park is the site for the new school it is the most central location for most students and it is within walking distance from most homes

-students will be safer not having to cross busy streets

-another option is to house the closing schools at Hillpark while building a new school , this option will allow for students to walk to school and still access the daycare and the recreational facilities

-students are very concerned about larger populations in their school

-this option is “ludicrous” as we are not given enough information about where the students will be “in holding”

### **Advantages**

-Kids don't have to walk

-We get a new school

### **Disadvantages**

-Not as walkable = more buses

- Build new school on land Linden Park side

-Having too much traffic & too much pollution

-Linden Park/Hill Park:

-a lot of green space available for rebuilding (Cardinal Heights is a smaller property)

-has a recreation centre

-has day care and “early years”

-lots of acreage

-has soccer/football fields already developed

-save city \$ with keeping rec centre with less renos needed

-keep Linden Park students together- bad enough that they have to close at least keep the children together

-40 block catchment area

-New build on Armstrong site, plan shows school built at the back of property, leaving only space for a playground is too close to a busy street

-Can put closing schools- locate at Hill Park- until new school is built- hopefully build on the green space here at Hill Park/Linden Park

-Why would we close 4 schools, unsettling so many communities (unnecessary)

-Build on the Hill Park spot K-8- the numbers you have are wrong and houses are being sold and bought by new families

-Linden Park- keep students together

-Build new school on Linden Park property instead to accommodate Linden, Cardinal and Pauline OR Linden, Armstrong, Eastmount & Queensdale

-Eastmount has today's family for daycare before & after

- Mountain kids club and Eastmount softball league which the children have access to
- City takes care of maintenance of the field, no cost to the board
- Keep Linden Park kids together
- Not fair to split up the school population
- There is a halfway house across from Armstrong
- High costs and lots of transitions for students
- If you're going to build a new school, why not on Hill Park site
- Where do Pauline Johnson or Cardinal students go while building is being retrofit?
- Huge costs associated with this plan- lots of new classrooms, new school
- 17 new classrooms + 3 gyms + 1 new school- \$\$\$-& still have to bus hundreds of students who can now stay in their own neighbourhood and walk- much healthier than more bus pollution
- Wipes out huge portion of Central Mountain
- Busing
  - Safety (bullying)
  - Pollution
- Closing 4 schools traumatic to kids
- Loss of sense of community
- Students south of Linc not serviced in community school- no change
- Could we keep the Linden Park students together? In all options they are split up
- Where do closed school students go in 2014 before new school is built?
- New build at Linden site could accommodate Ridgemount, Pauline Johnson, Cardinal Heights and Franklin Rd
- Keep Queensdale open, Close Eastmount, G.L. Armstrong and Linden. Build a new facility of Linden Park site
- We like the walkable school scenario! The three options presented are not walkable. Could we please learn more?
- Build a new school on Linden Park site- more land, central location, close to recreation centre
- They are saying that 4 schools are being closed in June, and that they are going to magically build a new school in the time or June to September. When the school takes 2 years to build. Where are the kids going to go?
- Timelines for renovations/rebuild of Armstrong?
- School population of 700? Too big
- The schools are too big
- Ridgemount to become K-8, Pauline or Cardinal to become K-8- 2 K-8 schools located in close proximity, so why not use Linden/Hill Park property for K-8 school? Either utilize existing building(s) or demolish and rebuild a new school