



**East Hamilton City 2 Accommodation Review
Public Meeting #2
April 14, 2016 - 6:00 pm
Glendale Secondary School, 145 Rainbow Drive, Hamilton, ON (Library)**

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members - Tamara Cummings, Lisa Hardie, Drazena Hidalgo, Sasha Kajganic, Judy Kloosterman, Laura NeubrandTerri Trimble, Meagan Walker

Committee Member Regrets - Cherie Evans, Suzie Spelic, Marissa Turner

HWDSB Resource Staff - John Bradley, Bob Fex, Sarah Goodman, Sherry Halla, Susan Jackson Bosher, Rhonda Moules, Mark Tadeson, Mark Taylor, Curtis Tye, Ellen Warling

Trustees - Jeff Beattie, Ray Mulholland

Public/Media - 7 public attendees present - Elizabeth Bagshaw (1); Glen Echo (1); Hamilton Community News (1); Neighbours (4)

Recording Secretary - Kathy Forde

1. Welcome and Introductions

On behalf of Jeff Beattie, Ellen Warling welcomed everyone and provided opening remarks. Introductions followed.

On behalf of Trustee Todd White, Trustee Jeff Beattie also provided opening remarks and extended thanks to committee members and staff for their commitment and efforts. The meeting provides an opportunity to review the work that has been done. Participants were encouraged to share their thoughts and to be honest with comments.

2. Overview

Accommodation Review Process

The accommodation review is the process used by school boards to examine a grouping of schools in order to recommend solutions to address excess capacity due to low enrolment, enrolment pressures, school facility condition issues or facility needs. Information continues to be posted regularly on the Board website at www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews. The role of the Advisory Committee and timelines were reviewed. The Initial Report went to Trustees in December 2015. Advisory Committee meetings and public meetings were scheduled from January to April 2016. The Final Report and Public Delegations occur over April and May 2016. The final proposal for the Ministry and applicable funding will be determined by June 2016.

Funds are available through School Consolidation Capital funding. Currently, \$750M has been allocated province-wide over four years for new schools, retrofits and additions that support school consolidation. Currently, 11 Accommodation Reviews are underway throughout the province and two are occurring at HWDSB. In Year 1, HWDSB received approximately \$19M. Separately, School Renewal funding is available for school maintenance and repairs but funds are limited. In 2015, HWDSB received approximately \$19.5M to address renewal for all schools in HWDSB.



Advisory Committee Progress

To provide a starting point, staff prepared an initial report that included school information profiles, key criteria, mapping, enrolment projections and cost comparisons.

The Initial Report Recommended Option

- Build a new JK-8 school on Glen Brae site - anticipated occupancy Sep 2019
 - New school to accommodate programs from Glen Brae, Glen Echo, and approximately 27% students from Sir Isaac Brock
- Additions to Lake Avenue and Sir Wilfred Laurier - anticipated occupancy Sep 2019
- Close Elizabeth Bagshaw, existing Glen Brae, Glen Echo, Sir Isaac Brock - anticipated Jun 2019
- New Construction - 650 pupil place dual tract JK-8 school on Glen Brae site - anticipated opening Sep 2019
- Addition - 8 classroom addition at Lake Avenue - anticipated opening Sep 2019
- Addition - 6 classroom, 2 FDK, 2 resource rooms at Sir Wilfred Laurier - anticipated opening Sep 2019

Boundaries, enrolment projections and estimated costing were reviewed. Conceptually, a new school is proposed on the Glen site. Total estimated cost is \$31.2M.

The Advisory Committee has worked through numerous Working Group Meetings to review various options and gather input. One joint meeting was also held with the Lower Stoney Creek Advisory Committee.

At the first Public Meeting, key themes that emerged focused on the importance of a community 'feel', utilization of outdoor fields and play areas, high school student involvement as resource for elementary students, opportunity for improved parking and travel, and support for a new school.

As work progressed, three additional options were generated and at this point two options for interim recommendations remain options of interest to the committee and staff, which include a three-school model and a four-school model.

Three School Model Option

Close Elizabeth Bagshaw, Glen Echo, Glen Brae and Sir Isaac Brock

Estimated construction required:

- New build - 800 pupil place JK-8 school on Glen 'campus'
- Renovation/Addition - Lake Avenue site (516 + 184 = 700 OTG)
 - 8 classroom addition (184)
- Renovation/Addition - Sir Wilfrid Laurier site (709 + 96 = 805 OTG)
 - 1 FDK room addition (26)
 - 2 classroom addition (46)
 - Resource spaces (24)

Mapping, enrolment projections, costing and committee support/concerns were reviewed. Support and concerns for this model varied among committee members. Enrolment numbers in this scenario are generally higher per school. The cost estimate for this model is \$31.4M including one new build. Full details are provided in the presentation.



Four School Model Option

Close Elizabeth Bagshaw, Glen Brae and Glen Echo

Estimated construction required:

- New build - 550 pupil place JK-8 Eng/FI school on Glen Brae 'campus'
- Renovation/Addition - Sir Isaac Brock site Eng JK-8 (268 + 115 + 26 + 24 + = 433 OTG)
 - 5 classroom addition (115)
 - 1 FDK room addition (26)
 - 2 Resource spaces (24)
 - 1 Music room (0)
- Renovation/Addition - Sir Wilfrid Laurier site Eng JK-8 (709 + 96 + = 805 OTG)
 - 1 FDK room addition (26)
 - 2 classroom addition (46)
 - 2 Resource spaces (24)
- Lake Avenue - Status Quo Eng JK-8

Mapping, enrolment projections, costing and committee support/concerns were reviewed. Support and concerns for this model also varied among committee members. Projected enrolment numbers in this option are lower at 3 of the 4 proposed locations compared to the 3 school model. The cost estimate for this model is \$27M including one new build. Conceptually, a lower number of students in each school means fewer opportunities for programming and extra-curricular activities. Full details are provided in the presentation.

Public attendees were invited to view the three school model and four school model and provide comments. Public comments as provided are attached for information.

At the final Working Group Meeting, the Advisory Committee will determine if both options are put forward to trustees along with any advice in terms of points to consider. Staff will also have an opportunity to provide a final recommendation to trustees and are receptive towards the three school model. The public and advisory committee members will have an opportunity during delegations to express any final comments or concerns.

Final Report

The Final Report will contain an executive summary, a section on community consultation, the recommended option and a conclusion. The Advisory Committee will have an opportunity to review the community consultation section of the report. The final decision rests with trustees.

Next Steps

- Working Group Meeting #7 - April 21, 2016 at Elizabeth Bagshaw (public welcomed as observers)
- Submit final report to trustees - late April 2016
- Public Delegations - May 16, 2016 at Education Centre (information will be posted to the Board website, in local newspapers and in letters home with students)
- Trustees final proposal for Ministry - June 2016



3. Accommodation Options - Discussions

An opportunity was provide for questions and answers.

Q. How was the broader community advised of this meeting?

A. Information was posted on the Board website, articles have been published in local newspapers and information has gone home through the students. Advisory Committee members also speak to the school communities.

Q. Very few residents are aware of what is happening. I do not think it is communicated that well especially for families who do not have students in the elementary schools. Why were no letters sent to the homes of residents?

A. Information goes home through a large population of students so you would think that word travels throughout the community. Members of the Advisory Committee are also a conduit to the public and play a role in communications. HWDSB is invested initially with the elementary community. From past experience, there is always someone who feels ill informed. However, comments are noted and can be raised in conversations at the Board for future consideration and perhaps through a broadcast letter. Elected Councillors were also aware of the process.

Q. Why are so few people here at the public meeting? Surprised there are not more people here.

A. Every child attending an impacted JK-8 school would have received a flyer to take home. Information was also posted to school website and newspaper ads placed to reach a broad audience. Synervoice messages were also sent to students' homes. The Board has reached out to school communities as the primary audience. Culture is a hard thing to change. Staff often hear that people believe the Board will do whatever it wants but there is a collaborative and transparent process in place. Some principals indicated that no significant concerns had been expressed within their school communities. Many families heard that a new school was an option and liked the idea so did not feel the need to come out. Many people are busy so go with the flow if an idea looks good.

Ellen Warling reassured public attendees that comments will be noted. The challenge is communicating with the wider audience. Feedback regarding communication will be taken to the Board for discussion on lessons learned to ensure improvements continue as the process moves forward.

Attendees were reminded that another opportunity for public input is available through delegations May 16, 2016 at the Education Centre. Once all feedback is heard, Trustees can then make an informed decision on the proposal that will go forward to the Ministry. The delegation process will be clearly outlined on the Board website.

Appreciation was extended to everyone for coming out to the meeting and for sharing their voice.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



East Hamilton City 2 Accommodation Review - Public Meeting #2 - Public Feedback

Three School Model Option

Concerns

- Could lose Sir Isaac Brock community to St. David's/Catholic Board if no school in Sir Isaac Brock area

Additional Comments or Feedback

- There is a great need to maintain a "Glen" neighbourhood K-8 school - this is a fantastic neighbourhood built around the three schools located in it - more young people moving here to raise their children when the "old folks" leave
- Need to resolve issues related to bussing
- Walkability is very important
- Neighbourhood schools are very important
- Cost of busing very expensive - need to keep to a minimum
- What are the busing costs related to each scenario
- Would like a school to remain on Glen Brae and Glen Echo site
- As a resident and a realtor, feel closing both would result in housing prices to fall and concerned for young families who have moved here because of the schools
- Community does not know - get information out
- School sizes very large (too large)
- Lake Avenue currently has lots of ESL and low-income families - increasing the number of low income at lake Avenue (from Kenora) not best choice - rather have two schools have lower number of priority kids
- Close to 1000 students too big for an elementary school

Four School Model

Support

- Bonus for the Glen site is less students
- I believe it is best to have the four school model - keeps the communities intact and smaller schools may be better for students
- Like this model best
- Have they taken into consideration the possible enrolment increases with the new house construction in the area above King Street and Greenhill and Centennial area - also with the possible increase in Syrian refugees
- School size better in this four school model (450-750)

Concerns

- Proximity of high school students to public school students in "Glen" neighbourhood is fear-mongering! As a resident across from Glendale whose three children attended and graduated from these schools, this is not a major concern
- Proximity to high school is a wash – there are pros and cons with proximity now and this will not change just because you have a new building
- Less opportunity at smaller schools not necessarily true - bigger is not always better
- Will there be enough teachers