



**East Hamilton City 2 Accommodation Review
Working Group Meeting #2
January 28 2016 - 6:00 pm
Glendale Secondary School, 145 Rainbow Drive, Hamilton, ON**

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members - Lisa Corsini, Tamara Cummings, Jeff Gillies (Chair), Lisa Hardie, Drazena Hidalgo, Sasha Kajganic, Judy Kloosterman, Laura Neubrand, Suzie Spelic, Terri Trimble, Marissa Turner, Meagan Walker

Committee Member Regrets - Cherie Evans

HWDSB Resource Staff - Bob Fex, Pam Reinholdt, Mark Taylor, Ellen Warling

Trustees - Ray Mulholland

Public - Nil

Recording Secretary - Kathy Forde

1. Welcome

Jeff Gillies welcomed everyone and provided opening remarks. It is recognized that members are committed to their school communities and participation is appreciated. The work ahead is not an easy task but through collaboration, data review, resource support and shared voice a recommended option will go forward to the trustees. Open dialogue will allow members to share ideas and build an understanding for a vision. Advice from members to guide development of the option that goes forward to trustees will be essential.

2. Review and Approve Minutes

Draft minutes from Working Group Meeting #1 January 21, 2016 were provided for review. No changes suggested. Members can connect with Kathy Forde should any revisions be required.

3. Binder - Continued from WG #1 / Review Section 9 & Capital Funding

Bob Fex reviewed the initial Recommended Option and Alternative Option including boundary maps, enrolment projections and timelines as a continuation from the last meeting. A cost comparison between options followed. In 2014-15, the Ministry introduced the School Board Efficiencies and Modernization Strategy to provide incentives and supports for Boards to make more efficient use of school space. Support is available through grants, capital funding and school renewal funding. Typically a couple of avenues are explored. Under School Consolidation Capital Funding, \$750M has been earmarked over four years province-wide to support new schools, retrofits and additions that support school consolidations. Last year, HWDSB received approximately \$19M. Under School Renewal Funding, the Board received approximately \$19.5M this year to address operations, maintenance and repairs among all HWDSB schools. However, renewal needs are extensive and funds are limited. Health and safety items are the top priority.

Section 9 of the binder was also reviewed. Details focus on mapping to illustrate French Immersion student distribution and walking distances. Transportation data in terms of eligible riders and percentages was also covered.

Questions/Comments

Q. Is there funding for a new build?



A. With school consolidation we would have access to various capital funds - renewal funding is for fix-ups - it can take up to 15 years to get through a list of renewal needs.

Q. If the recommendation submitted is denied what happens?

A. It is important to provide the best business case possible as HWDSB is vying amongst all school boards in Ontario. Hamilton has done well in the past with strong business cases. From nine of the previous reviews completed, the Board has received \$90M in funding.

Q. If it is decided that a school would close, do the priority renewal needs still get done?

A. Yes, with some exceptions depending on the renewal need and ensuring needs related to health and safety are addressed as a priority.

4. Accommodation Option - Discussion

Members formed breakout groups to view the options and provide comments on the pros and cons. Members then regrouped for open dialogue. A variety of comments provides a diverse voice and perspective. Discussion points are noted below. Member feedback is attached.

Status Quo

- Funding to support students with high needs - funding used to support a Spec Ed student follows the student (anywhere in Ontario)
- Property sales - through Ministry regulation, the process offers surplus lands first to preferred agents then to the open market - all proceeds of disposition remain in the Board and are allocated towards school renewal
- High renewal costs - noted, especially at Elizabeth Bagshaw

Recommended Option

- Vulnerable students - some students have already moved from one community to another due to boundary changes - another move to a new school community will be a concern
- Proximity to high school - new school considered too close to high school - concern around student interaction - different bell times would reduce opportunities for interaction
- Student function - how do you ensure students are able to function during a new build - students are moved only when the new facility is complete - footprint of lands intended to be non-disruptive
- Spec Ed classes - trying to develop pathways and create balance
- French Immersion - some work is underway to address equitable access
- Better drop off zones - walkability and safe drop off zones were discussed at a recent partner meeting
- Portables - not likely
- City parks - not directly affected
- Umbrella childcare - impact at Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Elizabeth Bagshaw - conceptually space is there to accommodate everyone but location shifts - ideally primary and junior stay together - when a school is closed we work with the organization and school to see if any modifications are needed - there is funding to support childcare moves so needs for childcare are always determined
- Expansion - when an addition is designed, benchmark items are considered and dialogue occurs with architects and academic side to determine space and details needed
- Building design - through the tender process and ministry benchmarks, design components are very prescribed - no opportunity to modify floor plans or space - classroom standards are prescribed in terms of square footage - green space is also a consideration



- French Immersion - transportation and student population are considered - program is well established and will remain in the area regardless of boundaries - numbers from another school cannot be merged if that school is not part of the review study area - review is underway in attempt to balance distance as some students travel great distances and could drop the program due to lengthy travel times
- Many positive comments around the idea of a new school on the Glen Brae site but some concern on proximity to the secondary school
- Some concern around disruption to students in the Lake Avenue area
- Some concern on Elizabeth Bagshaw merging with Sir Wilfrid Laurier and high numbers
- Some interest in the concept of building on the Sir Isaac Brock site
- A preliminary K-8 alternative option will be created through Bob Fex in response to concerns and interests above and using data already captured

Alternative Option

- Review boundaries - can we cross over to Green Acres in the other review - thoughts can be explored but secondary boundaries will need to be taken into consideration because they will be effected
- Lake Avenue - why included in this review - these students go to Glendale so it seems like a logical break
- Lake Avenue - kids and families very transient and no strong roots in community - need to be carefully considered
- Riverdale - families in this area stay for approximately five to six years only
- Boundaries - can boundaries be changed - would have to be carefully considered due the impact to Orchard Park - many community partners have had input to defining good boundaries - the ideal size for a secondary school is 1200 students (good programming, diversity, more robust) - it is also important to keep balance within the secondary schools
- Large school - when schools merge some people can be timid of a big school but large schools provide more opportunities - a visit to Gatestone can be considered to view classrooms, gyms and technology if members want to see comparable
- Bishop Ryan land - looking at developing a recreation centre
- Partnerships - reciprocal agreements exist between the Board and City for use of space allowing us to offer swimming and skating classes - good working relationships have been developed with municipal partners

5. Public Meeting #1 - Planning

The purpose of the first public meeting is to provide an overview of the process and collect public feedback on the options presented. Format will be similar to the working group meeting. Public viewpoints will be important to hear and consider. Interpreters will be arranged based on the top two languages identified through each principal. Child minding and bus tickets will be available upon 48-hour advance notice. Public feedback will be reviewed at the next working group meeting. Members concurred.

In terms of comments on the process, members indicated they liked the feedback process and use of sticky notes to collect comments.

6. Future Meeting Locations

An updated meeting schedule was provided.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



East Hamilton City 2 Working Group Meeting #2 Accommodation Review Initial Options - Committee Feedback

Status Quo

- No changes

Pros

- School culture, parent engagement, neighbourhood ties remain intact
- Personal contact with families
- Low numbers
- Lake Avenue students do not cross major road (Centennial)

Cons

- High renewal costs - Elizabeth Bagshaw old school
- Renewal will take too long to complete with high renewal costs
- Wasted resources at low capacity schools
- Lacking equitable conditions

Additional Comments

- How much time does a principal spend dealing with accommodation and facilities issues?
- What happens to sale of surplus land?
- Can unused space/schools be rented out to bring in more funds (e.g. St. Helen's)?
- Funding for mixed demographics

Recommended Option

- Build a new JK-8 school on Glen Brae site - anticipated occupancy September 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 Wilfrid Laurier - anticipated occupancy September 2019
- Close Elizabeth Bagshaw, existing Glen Brae, Glen Echo, Sir Isaac Brock - anticipated June 2019
- New Construction - 650 pupil place dual tract JK-8 school on Glen Brae site
- Addition - 8 classroom addition at Lake Avenue
- Addition - 6 classroom, 2 FDK, 2 resource rooms at Sir Wilfrid Laurier

Pros

- Larger staff community
- More equitable with resources
- A larger school has the opportunity for more extra-curriculars
- A new school means everything is up to standard
- A new school means new opportunities i.e. advanced technology options, layout, etc.
- Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Elizabeth Bagshaw merge
- A new K-8 school has huge potential to strengthen the community involvement with kids and parents alike



Cons

- Traffic
- Too close to the high school
- K-8 school next to a high school
- Too many K-8 children close to the high school
- Sir Wilfrid Laurier enrolment high - loss of personal relationships possible
- Too far walking distance (safety) for parents (meet the teacher, open house, parent interviews)
- Too many low income families at Lake Avenue
- Lake Avenue becomes extreme high-end needs with poverty and special needs with housing economics, etc.
- Boundaries for Kenora - another changed school area for vulnerable students
- Vulnerable families merging to a new school district - community involvement
- Boundaries for Kenora have already changed once - continuing this will cause a drop in enrolment for students who already have low attendance
- Lake Avenue becomes a huge low-income school - too homogenous

Additional Comments

- What will the impact of a new build have on current students at Glen Echo/Glen Brae, if any?
- What happens with French Immersion - will there be reallocation of program?
- With a new build will the Board look into better drop-off zones?
- Will new builds have portables or will there be enough actual space?
- Widen Sir Isaac Brock boundaries to take more students from Sir Wilfrid Laurier
- Umbrella?
- There is a park (city park I believe) right beside Glen Echo - will this be affected by Glen Echo's closure or will it remain as is or will a new one be built by the new school?
- How is special class program across east-end (both groups) impacted/considered school community?

Alternative Option

- Rebuild Glen Brae - anticipated occupancy September 2019
- Repatriate Elizabeth Bagshaw students from Sir Wilfrid Laurier back to Elizabeth Bagshaw - anticipated occupancy September 2019
 - Approximately 18% of students that reside in Elizabeth Bagshaw's attendance boundary attend Sir Wilfrid Laurier (based on 3 year average)
- New Construction - 800 pupil place dual tract JK-8 school on Glen Brae site anticipated opening September 2019

Pros

- K-8 siblings walking together
- K-8 larger parent involvement - extra activities
- Avoids a complete low income school
- This avoids a complete low income school (Lake Avenue and Kenora area of Sir Isaac Brock)
- K-8 school offers greater potential for extra-curriculars
- New school will meet all standards



Cons

- Wasted resources at Sir Wilfrid Laurier
- Small amount of land
- Too close to high school
- Too many K-8 children close to the high school

Additional Comments

- Could Lake Avenue consolidate with Green Acres?
- Why can't Elizabeth Bagshaw and Sir Wilfrid Laurier consolidate?
- Widen Sir Isaac Brock boundaries and make Sir Wilfrid Laurier/Elizabeth Bagshaw's numbers lower
- How does the +35 over capacity fit in the school? Will there be enough room? How will class sizes be affected?
- What about building the new school on the Sir Isaac Brock site and expanding the boundary to relieve Sir Wilfrid Laurier size?
- Build on Sir Isaac Brock site - space everyone out
- Build on Sir Isaac Brock site and expand the boundary to relieve Sir Wilfrid Laurier
- Bishop Ryan property - understanding not community housing
- Sir Wilfrid Laurier/Elizabeth Bagshaw combo and demo categories around allocation of resources?