



**Lower Stoney Creek Accommodation Review
Working Group Meeting #3
February 17, 2016 - 6:00 pm
R.L. Hyslop Elementary School, 20 Lake Avenue, Stoney Creek ON - Library**

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members - Kim Adam, Heather Archibald, Candice Babbey, Patrick Coulter, Jeff Gillies (Chair), Ljuba Lush, Monique Moore, Marilyn Murray, Joelle Narancic, Mubina Panju, Dave Quinn, Denise Rainford, Sarah Solter, Christine VanEgmond, Linda Wallace

Committee Member Regrets - Patrick Coulter, Irina Omari

HWDSB Resource Staff - Lisa Barzetti, Tara Gasparik, Ian Hopkins, Ian Pellizzari, Jackie Penman, Brian Playfair, Pam Reinholdt, Sandie Rowell, Jenny Seto-Vanderlip,

Trustees - Jeff Beattie, Ray Mulholland

Public - Nil

Recording Secretary - Kathy Forde

1. Welcome

Jeff Gillies welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided opening remarks.

2. Review & Approve Minutes

- **Working Group Meeting #2** - Minutes accepted without any changes. Members concurred.
- **Public Meeting #1** - Minutes accepted with revision to typo on page 7 / 1st bullet / Eastgate to "Eastdale". Members concurred.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence was reviewed. In response to an inquiry regarding inclusion of a cafeteria within a new build for Collegiate, it was noted that Ministry benchmarks for elementary schools do not include cafeterias however, a kitchen would be permitted. In response to an inquiry on Green Millen Shores residential development, it was noted that enrolment projections have been taken into account.

4. Data Requests

- **Energy Efficiency at New Schools** - New schools run more efficiently with newer construction and newer heating, cooling and ventilation systems. On average, the energy intensity ranking for new schools is 100-140 kilowatts per square metre compared to current schools running at 130-300 kilowatts per square metre.
- **Child Care Enrolment** - There are a fair number of students enrolled. Between Collegiate, Green Acres, Memorial and Mountain View the average daily range for before school care is 8 to 16 students and for after school care is 7 to 33. At Green Acres, it was noted there are two programs running (permitted versus licensed) - one child care program (paid) and one Kiwanis activity program, with approximately 15 students. Ian Hopkins will verify numbers for the after school care program at Green Acres. It was also noted that the Board is interested in maintaining partnerships already established should school locations change.



- **Comparing 450, 500, 550 OTG Facilities** - Room sizes were reviewed. Square footage is established based on Ministry benchmarks. Details for each school are captured under Section 7 in the binders.

5. Public Meeting #1 - Discussion

Feedback from the Public Meeting was reviewed. Comments and further dialogue are noted below:

- **Status Quo (Cons)** - Members thought public concern expressed around split shift teachers meant that essentially when one teacher works a half day (morning) at one school and a half day (afternoon) at another, there could be two different teachers in one classroom. In smaller schools it was noted that up to three teachers sometimes share one classroom.
- **Recommended Option (Pros)** - In regards to specialized teachers, with larger schools, with more teachers you have more specialized staff to draw from and more options for creative timetabling - most schools that have the ability to do this will do this.

Key Emerging Issues

- **Walkability** - Not much change between walking and busing among options - concern seems to come from parents not from children - should be conscientious of any difficulties encountered for kids walking to school or from extra-curricular activities should change occur
- **Safety for Walking Students (crosswalks, traffic calming, crossing busy intersections)** - Some issues are beyond the scope of work in terms of drivers and poor driving habits however, safety will be essential for pedestrian traffic - residential neighbourhoods with soft shoulders is a concern - when members asked about commitment from the City to provide safe sidewalks, it was noted that bylaws stipulate only one side of the street requires sidewalks - perhaps concern for having sidewalks on both sides of Collegiate Avenue should be raised with the Councillors - need to ensure it is safe for kids walking to school (Collegiate) - a kiss and ride section should also be considered for increased safety - it will be important to maintain conversation and work proactively with the City during the planning stage - larger sites do provide more space for ample parking and drop-off areas
- **Size of schools** - No comment
- **Budget** - This seems to be the one piece that people still do not fully understand -people do not realize the Status Quo option has limited funding and that revamping takes place over 10 years - it is misunderstanding - some simply look at total dollars without thorough understanding on how the funds are sourced - will have to ensure the public realizes that funding come from different sources - should provide some visuals at the next public meeting
- **Transition (out of catchment students)** - Some public wondering if out-of-catchment students stay with their existing schools
- **French Immersion** - The future of the French Immersion program is a concern but will not be resolved through this process
- **Boundary Alteration** - Concern expressed around some Eastdale students moving to Memorial if there are only very few - does not make much sense when only 10-12 students - in response it was noted that a shift of students was likely intended to address walkability



Narrowing Focus

Discussions were intended as an exercise for gathering advice for trustees not for making decisions. Trustees will want advice from their communities so dialogue is important. An approach for taking one option off the table may provide more focus for moving forward. Members shared thoughts on narrowing focus. Comments are noted below:

- **Status Quo Option** - Presents financial risk in terms of the unknown such as how much longer each school will last and how much money will be available - this option is riskier and more of a challenge financially - there is risk with the public not being satisfied because much of the school renewal work is “behind the walls” and cannot be seen - the public will not see visually how the money is spent - there is no visual gratification - because nothing gets done with this option, it helps members to eliminate this option and move forward - time would be better spent looking at the other two options
- **Alternative Option** - If R.L. Hyslop is being closed, it seems that parents at this school would prefer going to a new school rather than going to another old school so R.L. Hyslop families either want a new school or to stay put
- **Recommended Option** - The benefit of a new build is an immediate result

The Advisory Committee indicated that the Status Quo Option and Alternative Option were not preferred. Members concurred through a nod of heads.

Next Steps

- The intent of the work ahead is to ensure a transparent process and open dialogue - the committee can reconvene to look at the preferred option, the Recommended Option - members are not making a decision but rather providing a recommendation and advice moving forward
- Committee members can begin to build some rationale for the public meeting around the Recommended Option, highlighting that money is available from an existing pot and not from increased taxes
- Staff can begin to develop a summary around the Recommended Option that includes committee and public voice
- Members would like to see items of historical or sentimental value such as cornerstones incorporated into the new builds or archived - it was suggested that this item of interest become part of discussions with the transition committee, Facilities Management and the architect.
- A committee member wondered what would happen to Mountain View School if it were to close and if it was recognized with any historical significance - in response, it was noted that the property would likely be sold, first offered to preferred agents and then to the open market - the school has no historical designation at this time - that would be a conversation with the City - Ian Hopkins will verify status and suggested that perhaps the cornerstone or specific artifacts be carried forward to a new build if the school closes
- Following the public meeting, a report that goes to the Board of Trustees, a solid recommendation with rationale, will need to be developed - the Advisory Committee will have an opportunity to review the draft before it goes forward

Preparing for the Next Public Meeting

- The intent at the next public meeting is to bring forward the work that has evolved, share the rationale and collect further feedback - the report and rationale can then be edited
- It will be important to reiterate that money needs to be spent in the best way possible
- With the Status Quo Option the outcome of money spent needs to be clearly understood - only \$9M is saved by fixing old schools rather than rebuilding



- Public comments on pros and cons are an indication of public thinking - comments from the first public meeting should perhaps be captured as a draft with input from the committee and presented - it should be noted that many of the public comments were made before the question and answer session, which provided some clarity - since work has evolved committee members have a clearer understanding of the process and their input on pros and cons now would change - similarly, with better public understanding public comments would likely change
- Concern around larger class sizes should be clarified since having a bigger school does not mean bigger classes
- A new build is obvious in terms of a visual - it may be helpful to provide a breakdown of the standards that would be met with a new build - a new build has accessibility incorporated
- Stress the preferred option is only a recommendation and that the decision rests with trustees - the recommendation is not a done deal
- Stress that as an Advisory Committee, the name alone implies that the work is to provide advice - trustees need input from the communities and thinking from the Advisory Committee
- When sharing information with the public it will be important to help them understand the Advisory Committee's thinking to support the Recommended Option
- Clarification of any concerns will be important - misconceptions should also be addressed

Meeting with the East Hamilton City 2 Advisory Committee to Share Thinking

- Desire to meet with the East Hamilton City 2 Advisory Committee was discussed. The East Hamilton review is unique with different challenges. Members thought that perhaps the East Hamilton group might have considered something this committee may have missed or could perhaps reaffirm that work is going in the right direction. It was suggested that the East Hamilton Advisory Committee be invited to the March 23rd meeting at Gatestone. Members concurred. Boundaries between the two study areas could perhaps be reviewed. Options for the East Hamilton review are posted on the website for viewing.

6. Adjournment

The session adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

- Working Group Meeting #4 - Wednesday, March 02, 2016
5:30 pm - tour (Mountain View) / 6:00 pm - tour (Eastdale) / 6:30 pm - meeting (Eastdale)