



**Lower Stoney Creek Accommodation Review
Working Group Meeting #5
March 23, 2016 - 6:30 pm
Gatestone Elementary School, 127 Gatestone Drive, Hamilton ON - Library**

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members - Kim Adam, , Candice Babbey, Patrick Coulter, Ljuba Lush, Monique Moore, Marilyn Murray, Dave Quinn, Denise Rainford, Sarah Solter, Christine VanEgmond, Linda Wallace

Committee Member Regrets - Heather Archibald, Jeff Gillies (Chair), Joelle Narancic, Mubina Panju, Irina Omari,

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

Trustees - Jeff Beattie

Guests - East Hamilton City 2 Committee Members - Drazena Hidalgo, Sasha Kajganic

Public - 1 public attendee present - Councillor Doug Conley (1)

Recording Secretary - Kathy Forde

1. Welcome

On behalf of Jeff Gillies, Pam Reinholdt welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided opening remarks. Members toured Green Acres Elementary School before arriving at Gatestone.

2. Tour of Facility

A tour of Gatestone Elementary School was also offered to provide an opportunity for viewing the layout of a newer elementary facility. An open invitation was extended to members of the East Hamilton City 2 Advisory Committee to attend the tour and joint discussions. Overall, members were impressed with the facility. Interest was expressed in the work pods, Snoezelen room (a sensory space designed to provide a calming environment for students with autism and other developmental disabilities) and staff work space. It was noted that pods are not incorporated as a standard space within new builds, Snoezelen rooms are associated only with certain class locations and extra space for staff work rooms is practical but difficult to generate within a new build.

3. Group Discussion - East Hamilton

Appreciation was expressed to East Hamilton and Lower Stoney Creek committee members for coming together.

An overview on the preferred scenario for Lower Stoney Creek, the Recommended Option, and on committee progress were presented. The Advisory Committee has worked through challenges and will strive for three new schools hoping it is a model the Ministry will favour and fund. Each school will accommodate a JK-8 enrolment with approximately 450-550 students. Walkability was a key interest. Items of concern still need to be refined and will be highlighted in advice to trustees. Regarding transition, it is anticipated the new builds would occur on the largest properties allowing the kids to remain on site during construction. Pending architectural input, temporary classrooms/portables can be utilized in other locations if needed.



The East Hamilton Advisory Committee continues to examine options. School communities in the study area are diverse and members are attached to their existing communities. Discussions have focused on boundaries, walkability, transportation, site location for a new build, proximity of elementary and secondary students within one large “Glen” site, school size, high numbers at Sir Wilfrid Laurier and transition. In addition to the initial options, a middle school scenario was considered and a new scenario for four JK-8 schools will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Comments

- It is recognized that different challenges exist between the two Advisory Groups.
- Lower Stoney Creek is a much more walkable community.
- Numbers at Lake Avenue are expected to increase with a shift of students from the Kenora neighbourhood.
- Parent engagement is a challenge in the Riverdale community. Most parents in this community only attend parent-teacher interviews.
- Families on Gainsborough Road attend Green Acres but can see Lake Avenue Elementary from their homes and often use the Riverdale Community Centre. Under the new plan for Lower Stoney Creek, these families would go to Collegiate. Students attending Green Acres from this area use courtesy busing and would continue to be bused if switched to Collegiate. It was suggested that this item seek further thought and discussion from both Advisory Committees.
- JK-8 schools are the preferred model but the Ministry is open to community input. HWDSB has had greater success with the JK-8 model in terms of funding. Research indicates that fewer transitions result in greater academic success.
- Regarding media, the press normally attends both Working Group and Public Meetings and will be introduced to ensure members are aware of media presence.

4. Review & Approve Minutes

- **Working Group Meeting #3** - Minutes accepted without any changes. Members concurred.

5. Recommended Option - Discussion

The pros and cons from committee members and from the public on the Lower Stoney Creek Recommended Option were reviewed. An opportunity was provided to add to the listing of pros and cons.

Comments

- It was suggested that any new builds be considered as “greener” buildings in terms of design (i.e. solar panels, energy efficiency, minimum environmental footprint, less waste, improvements for human health, green walls, better air quality). Perhaps new “greener” builds can become a model for future builds.
- New builds should be designed with purposeful classrooms.
- When schools were constructed long ago, optimal lifetime usage was intended but now these buildings are difficult and costly to renovate. New schools are more modular and designed to be renovated if needed.
- Class size is regulated by the Ministry, however slight adjustments can sometimes occur within parameters.

6. Public Meeting #2 - Discussion

The proposed outline for the public meeting was reviewed. The format will include an overview of the process and work completed, rationale for moving away from Alternative and Status Quo Options, review of the Recommended Option, review of funding for Recommended Option versus repairs and maintenance, review of concerns versus



realities, review of the draft report to Trustees and an outline of the next steps (report submission, public delegations, trustee proposals). Members concurred with the format proposed. Details can be reviewed at the next working group meeting. Rationale for moving away from the Alternative Option and Status Quo Option was reviewed. No further comments provided. Members believe the Recommended Option allows all students to benefit from new builds and learn in new facilities. Members feel the proposal of three new buildings will be the quickest way to secure funding for the business case that goes forward.

Public concerns were discussed. Members suggested the additional key points be addressed at the public meeting:

- student transition - another committee will guide this process (provide opportunity for public input if possible)
- partnerships - to be maintained in the best interest of the school, staff, Board and community
- timelines - clarity on the timeline and steps to move through the process to new school openings
- feasibility - for all three new builds happening simultaneously
- funding - the ideal situation is to get funding for all three new builds at once but if funding does not come through for all schools explain how is it determined which school is first to receive funding (usually the Ministry will indicate the first step/new build based on what makes the most sense)
- monitoring - post updates (major milestones) of the progress on the website to keep people informed

For additional information, Trustee Beattie advised that walkability is a key interest at the Board level. An initiative funded by the provincial government across the region is underway aimed at School Councils to encourage kids to walk to school and build healthy active habits. Through the process, funding will be available to eligible schools for bike racks. The importance of walkability can be mentioned in the advice that goes forward from the Advisory Committee to trustees and can also be included in the Ministry report.

7. Final Report - Discussion

The final report will include an overview of the accommodation review process to date and a community consultation section that contains all feedback from the advisory committee and public meetings for trustee consideration. The committee will have an opportunity to review the final report before it goes forward.

8. Next Meeting

It was proposed that the Working Group Meeting cancelled March 02 be rescheduled for April 20 6:00p at Eastdale. Purpose of the meeting will be to review the final report that will be submitted to trustees. Members concurred.

- Next Meeting - Working Group Meeting #6 - Wednesday, April 06, 2016 (Memorial Stoney Creek)

9. Adjournment

The session adjourned at 8:40 p.m.