

1. Executive Summary

At the December 7, 2015 Board meeting, Trustees approved a recommendation to initiate the Lower Stoney Creek Accommodation Review which included Collegiate Avenue, Eastdale, Green Acres, Memorial (SC), Mountain View and R.L. Hyslop elementary schools. The mandate of the accommodation review Advisory Committee is to act in an advisory role that will provide comments and feedback on accommodation option(s) for the Board of Trustees' consideration. The Lower Stoney Creek Advisory Committee comprised of parents, teachers and non-teaching staff began its work on January 13, 2016.

Over the course of an orientation meeting, six working group meetings, two public meetings, school tours and community input the Advisory Committee came to consensus that the recommended option from the Initial Accommodation Review Report is the most viable and equitable option for Lower Stoney Creek. All participants in the process were committed to the objective of ensuring quality and equitable learning environments for all students in Lower Stoney Creek.

The following report outlines the community consultation portion of the Lower Stoney Creek Accommodation Review and the Recommended Option which has not changed from the Initial Report. Included are comments and suggestions from the Advisory Committee regarding the recommended options and an overview of the key themes from the public meetings, both, for Trustee consideration prior to the final proposal to the Ministry of Education.

2. Community Consultation

Community consultation is an important component of an accommodation review. There were 3 channels of consultation conducted for the Lower Stoney Creek Accommodation review which included working group meetings, public meetings and consultation with community partners.

Following the initiation of an accommodation review, an Advisory Committee was formed to act as conduit for information between the community and school board. The Advisory Committee, over 6 working group meetings, was tasked with discussing, analyzing and commenting on the initial report and recommendations. The group worked diligently to better understand the initial report including the work completed prior to an accommodation review, background data and rationale behind the recommended and alternative options. Throughout the working group meetings the Advisory Committee members expressed a number of concerns, ideas and recommendations for Trustee consideration that will be reviewed in section 2.2.

Public meetings were held to allow for an opportunity for parents, community members and stakeholders to acquire more information regarding the accommodation review process, ask questions and express their ideas/concerns. Public meetings were advertised in local newspapers, Board website, through automated phone calls and letters home with students. Section 2.3 is an overview of both public meetings and highlights the key themes.

Consultation with community partners was offered through invitation to all existing community partners within the Lower Stoney Creek area. A meeting was held on January 22, 2016 which outlined the accommodation review process and allowed partners to ask any questions regarding the effect on their organization. Meeting minutes are in [Appendix-A](#).

2.1. Timelines

The following chart outlines the Lower Stoney Creek timelines of the community consultation portion of the accommodation review process. For complete summaries of the meetings please see the minutes of each meeting in [Appendix-B](#).

Meeting	Date	Summary
Orientation Session	January 13, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed purpose of accommodation reviews Reviewed accommodation review policy Reviewed key documents Overview of roles & responsibilities of Advisory Committee and staff Review of timelines and meetings
Working Group Meeting #1	January 20, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the accommodation review binder and all background data Reviewed recommended and alternative options
Working Group Meeting #2	January 27, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members gathered into three groups to view the initial options and provided input on the pros and cons of each. Open dialogue provided an opportunity for members to share thoughts, express concerns and discuss advantages
Public Meeting #1	February 3, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed Advisory Committee orientation session Reviewed the accommodation options with opportunity to provide feedback in small groups Question and answer period
Working Group Meeting #3	February 17, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed data request from previous working group meetings Reviewed Public Meeting #1 and identifying key emerging issues Committee narrowed focus to recommended option
Working Group Meeting #4	March 2, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancelled due to inclement weather.
Working Group Meeting #5	March 23, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour of Gatestone school – understand new school construction Recommended option – further discussion Reviewed the outline for public meeting #2 Discussed the final accommodation review report
Working Group Meeting #6	April 6, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned for Public Meeting #2
Public Meeting #2	April 12, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed accommodation review progress Reviewed Advisory Committee rationale for moving away from alternative and status quo options Reviewed funding for different scenarios Shared draft report outline Described next steps in accommodation review process Question and answer period
Working Group Meeting #7	April 20, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalized the report to Trustees Reviewed community consultation section of report

2.2. Advisory Committee

The purpose of an Advisory Committee is to act as a conduit for information between the community and the school board. Throughout the accommodation review process Advisory Committee members were asked to comment and provide input on the Initial Accommodation Review Report to ensure Trustee's receive meaningful feedback. The Lower Stoney Creek Advisory Committee consisted of 9 parent, 6 staff representatives with Principal and HWDSB central staff as resources. Through discussions, data requests and analysis the committee came to consensus that the Recommended Option presented in the Initial Report was the most viable accommodation strategy for Lower Stoney Creek.

Although the group agreed that the recommended option was the most viable, the following outlines the Advisory Committee's recommendations for Trustee's consideration.

- **Equity of Access for Students**

The Advisory Committee is in agreement that the recommended option is the most viable option due to the equity of access for all Lower Stoney Creek students to new facilities and the associated programming/activity opportunities. The recommended option proposes 3 new schools to replace the existing 6 schools. In new facilities students will have access to specialty spaces such as a music room, art room and science room. Larger enrolments allow for staffing of specialty teachers to teach the aforementioned subjects. A larger teaching staff leads to more varied staff interests which can lead to a wide variety of extra-curricular activities.

The Advisory Committee recommends retaining all existing school partnerships and ensuring they find a place within the new schools. Of particular importance is before and after childcare which many parents rely on. The new facilities will be better able to accommodate spectators in the gym for athletic events or student productions and be better able host community meetings such as parent council.

The alternative recommendation suggested closing one school, R.L. Hyslop. The boundaries result in the R.L. Hyslop community being separated into three schools. Each of the 5 remaining facilities would require some capital upgrades and accessibility upgrades but the majority of the work required is on major components of the facility such as architectural, mechanical and electrical systems. Committee members commented that these improvements will not positively affect the students learning environments in the same way as new facilities.

The committee members suggested that Status Quo option does not resolve issues for the school facilities immediately and the proposed improvements will take too long to implement. Much like the alternative option the proposed improvements to the facilities will not improve student learning environments but only improve the condition of the building.

- **Funding Opportunity and Condition of Schools**

The Advisory Committee recognized the window of opportunity for funding and the current condition of schools and therefore support the recommended option.

The School Consolidation Capital program is a Ministry of Education initiative which supports projects that results in a reduction of excess capacity and long term renewal needs. The program, announced in 2014-2015 is a \$750 million funding strategy available over a 4 year period to all school boards across Ontario. The Advisory Committee suggests that with funding available it is best to pursue the construction of 3 new JK-8 facilities to ensure that current and future students' needs are met in Lower Stoney Creek.

The 6 schools under review were constructed between 1949 and 1965 and have served the Lower Stoney Creek area well over the generations. As the schools have continued to age, the condition and lack of modern teaching and common spaces are evident in most schools. Each school in Lower Stoney Creek lacks one or multiple spaces such as gym space, resource space, specialized teaching spaces (science, music, and art), change rooms or office space.

- **Transition Planning**

The Advisory Committee recommends that a transition committee be established once funding has been received. The purpose of the transition committee is to consult with parent/guardian and staff regarding transition activities, temporary accommodation and ensure that information is being shared with the community.

- **Interim Accommodation – Public Meeting**

The Advisory Committee recommends that HWDSB hosts a public meeting regarding the interim accommodation of students while construction occurs. Many committee members felt that the concern for most parents is where students would attend school during the construction phase of the project. This meeting would allow stakeholders to make suggestions and voice their concerns regarding the interim accommodation of students during construction.

- **Communication plan**

The Advisory Committee recommends that HWDSB continue to communicate through the accommodation review webpage and letters home regarding project milestones. Suggestions include:

- Final Trustees proposals
- Funding applications to Ministry submission and Ministry response
- Transition committee formation
- Design and project development
- Construction

- **Green Schools**

The Advisory Committee recommends that when designing and constructing three new facilities HWDSB and Trustees make an effort to create a greener and more environmentally friendly school. Ensuring that the facility is as efficient as possible through energy efficient building systems and through the use of renewable energy sources. Also recommended, incorporating more greens spaces into architecture such as green walls, live walls, green roofs or any form of building integrated agriculture. The Advisory Committee would like the Board to use this opportunity to create flagship schools in environmental sustainability.

- **Retaining historically significant artifacts**

The Advisory Committee recommends that when schools are closed, historically significant pieces of each school are incorporated into the new buildings. Artifacts from each school should be relocated and used in the new buildings as a reminder of Stoney Creek's historically significant schools that served the community for generations. Names from the closing schools should also be incorporated into the naming of new buildings, building wings or rooms to commemorate the schools that have served the community.

2.3. Public Consultation

As per HWDSB's Pupil Accommodation Review Policy two public meetings were held for the Lower Stoney Creek Accommodation Review. The first public meeting was held on February 3, 2016 at Orchard Park Secondary School and had 22 public attendees. The meeting began with welcome and introduction which transitioned into a presentation from HWDSB staff which reviewed the accommodation review process, initial staff report, accommodation options and school information profiles. After the presentation attendees broke into groups to examine the recommended option, alternative option and status quo option. In different areas of the cafeteria were poster sized descriptions and details for each of accommodation options. Attendees were encouraged to ask staff questions and write questions or comments on the associated poster.

At the conclusion of the accommodation option review, attendees gathered together for a question and answer period with staff. Through the question and answer period and comments written by attendees the most common themes from public meeting #1 were:

- Transportation, walkability & student safety
- Perception of larger class sizes
- Project budget – ensuring that projects stay on budget
- Funding and timing of new builds
- Transition for students

Public Meeting #2 was held on April 12, 2016 at Orchard Park Secondary School and had 10 public attendees. The meeting began with welcome and introduction which transitioned into a presentation from HWDSB staff which provided an update on the accommodation review process, reviewed the recommended option (supported by Advisory Committee), rationale for Advisory Committee supporting the recommended option and responding to key concerns from public meeting #1.

At the conclusion of the presentation staff opened the floor to questions from attendees. Through the question and answer period the most common themes from public meeting #2 were:

- Interim accommodation and transition of students during construction
- Scenarios with no funding or partial funding

For complete recaps of the public meetings please see the minutes in [Appendix-B](#).