



**West Hamilton-City Accommodation Review
Working Group Meeting #7
March 22 2017- 6:00 pm
Dr. Davey
Minutes**

Attendance

Committee Members: Joanna Gibson, Rob Fiedler, Tracy Upham, Barbara Stares, Matt Allen, Tanya Ritchie, David Heska, Janine Durajlija, Melissa Crawford, Nadine Bernacki, Shelly Turk, Teri Lantagne, Khantavy Sayavon, Sue Caven, Nicole Poyton, Katherine Graham, Eleni Jalbout, Jennifer Walsom, Katherine Graham, Alison Savage, Helen Demczuk

Committee Member Regrets:

HWDSB Resource Staff: – Superintendent/Chair Sue Dunlop, Estella Jones, Steve Johnstone, Tannis Hamill, Karen Koop, Bob Fex, Gerry Smith, Dan Ivankovic, Sue Pasian

Trustees: Jeff Beattie, Christine Bingham, Todd White, Larry Pattison

Public: Hess (2), Cathy Wever (1)

Recording Secretary: Sue Phillips

1. Housekeeping Items – Sue Dunlop

Minutes from WG#5, WG#6, PM#2

WG#5 – approved

WG#6 - approved

PM#2 – approved with amendments

Correspondence

Committee reviewed the correspondence

Advisory committee mandate

Sue Dunlop reviewed the committee mandate and referred to the role of the advisory committee as we come to the end of our work.

Additional meeting

David Heska requested another meeting due to time, amount of work and the need to hear from everyone on the committee today.

The committee voted to hold another meeting, Working Group Meeting #8, Thursday, March 30th. 6:00 – 8:30 (at latest). Request to hold the meeting at Strathcona School.

2. Public Meeting #2 Debrief

Data gathered. Summary of consultation findings included with package.

Committee discussed the Public Meeting feedback.

Question to committee – does the committee want to achieve consensus on one or two options? Or do you want something different to happen?

Committee agreed to present individual preference through round table discussion.

Preferences:

- need to know feasibility of all the options before I go further
- agree
- 2 pieces – I would like us to go through all options and see if they are feasible. We need to narrow things down. We could hold an additional public meeting – only if we came up with something completely brand new



- coming up with guidelines.
- agree with others – regarding feasibility. Need to come to consensus as a group.
- Feasibility
- Need neighbourhood schools. Don't need to go with "hubs". If there is a school there – it becomes a hub. We need the family feeling. Walkability. There is an issue of maintenance in schools. we aren't getting enough money to maintain our schools. We need a cushion to accommodate future enrolment. Feasibility is definitely something we need to have. Need consensus.
- Neighbourhood and walkability is important to me. We are providing advice to trustees. We do not need to achieve consensus. Let the trustees decide from there.
- Feasibility still an issue – would have been good to know things as we went along. If the trustees had let us know whether something could work or not
- Undecided – am sitting on the fence. Queen Victoria has a complete lack of green space which is a big concern. More students coming in would create stress. Idea C was the most viable option to me. Combine Hess/Strathcona. French Immersion at Bennetto.
- Strathcona parents find the initial option is not acceptable. It is unfair to close Hess. Keep the important connections. Preferred Option B. Need a playground at Strathcona because students can no longer go to Queen Victoria Park
- All options are important to people in the room. Want to know feasibility. A list of five feasible options would be good – ranked by importance and pass on to trustees.
- Rank the options on the table – the data will shake itself out and it will honour all the options. I don't want to take the job from the trustees – it is their job – a grueling job- but not our job. They do have the flexibility to come up with something new.
- In creating my proposal there were some very important points. Outdoor play space and buildings in good repair are really important to me. I tried to create an option that gave something needed to every school. Feasibility is something we need to know. I would like to know if my ideas make sense
- I don't think consensus is possible. We need to provide detailed options with feasibility being very important. It is a responsibility that we have as a committee – we have heard from the public. This committee needs to be as unemotional as possible and come up with our best thinking.
- Filling in for an absent committee member so have not been at all meetings. Have been staff at Hess for 28 years so emotions are attached. The community has a huge barrier due to language – they have been loud and clear and united in their strong belief that they don't want the school to close. I am still unclear on staff Initial Option still being out there. The community feels it is unfair to not know where they would go if Hess closes. I would be more likely to go with idea A.
- Need a list of every option and go through them with feasibility lens. Whatever is left goes with a ranking. We do owe it to the trustees to provide as much data as we can but most important is the students. I think the merging of Strathcona and Hess is essentially closing two schools instead of one. Until we know where a combined school would be how can we do that?
- Ranked vote – better idea with feasibility.
- Correspondence from Bennetto parents states opposition to closing schools unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Our purpose is to serve our students well. The first job of the school is education. I don't think we need consensus on an option. Suggest a certain opportunity to express to the trustees some well designed suggestions. Express and put on paper the commonalities. We can make delegations to the trustees.
- My thoughts are included in the correspondence of the agenda package. This process has brought our school community together. In principle, I like A & B the best but it is not financially where this process is going. If I was to rank the options B would be first with C 2nd best with location being stated. I think we could narrow things down to B, C & D. I think we have consensus that FI at Bennetto is agreed. We should talk about what size of school we want – do we want 4,5 600 or as big as Dr. Davey. We need to put more thought into boundaries. Hess wants a walkable school and no asphalt playground.



Sue – thanked the group for the thoughtfulness and passion around the table. We have heard from most speakers that we want to know the feasibility of what is on the table

.Ellen Warling provided information based on experience with business cases presented to the Ministry.

1. Idea E – from a staff perspective - where would we find the land for this? It is harder in the downtown core. Asking for three brand new builds is very challenging and not feasible.
2. Idea D – concern might be – Jk-5 vs Jk-8 model. Our guiding principals prefer JK-8 but sending grade 6s to Ryerson would be overcrowding. Perhaps less feasible.
3. Idea C – FI at Bennetto is not an issue at the Ministry. Jk-8 is an interesting challenge. There are pupil places at Dr. Davey and Bennetto but we could ask for it. The challenge becomes why didn't you leave Strathcona as is? Possible.
4. Idea B – works – under school renewal grant. Doesn't have to go. Feasible.
5. Idea A – nothing for ministry. Feasible. School renewal and condition grants.
6. Idea H – do the initial option and submit the students to Dr. Davey can fit. Bennetto FI works. Could work/maybe.
7. Idea F – boundary rejigging, Hess/Strathcona.

Staff initial option. (G) feasible in terms of business case.

We need to do more thinking – come to the table at next meeting with what we have in common. We don't have to come up with one option. What is important is further discussion of actual option. We can look at final report – bring back feedback.

3. Interim Final Report - tabled

- a. Contents of the report
- b. How does the committee envision capturing the work they've completed?
 - i. Preferred ideas?
 - ii. Executive summary of committee/public requests?

4. Minutes for this working group meeting - tabled

Adjourned: 8:40

Next Working Group meeting #8 – Thursday March 30, 2017, 6:00 p.m. Strathcona School