





## Ancaster Accommodation Review Working Group Meeting #6 Tuesday March 21, 2017 6:00 pm

## Ancaster Senior 295 Nakoma Road Ancaster, Ontario

## <u>Agenda</u>

1.	Standing Items	
	a. Confirmation of Working Group Meeting #5 Minutes	10 mins
	<ul> <li>b. Confirmation of Public Meeting #2 Minutes</li> </ul>	10 111113
	c. Correspondence	
2.	Discussion of Public Meeting #2 Feedback	20 mins
3.	Review of Community Consultation portion of Interim Report	80 mins
4.	Next Steps	10 mins

5. Working Group #6 Minutes

### 2016-2017 Ancaster Accommodation Review Summary of Consultation Findings

As part of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's (HWDSB) Policy Accommodation Review process, the public is invited to provide feedback on staff recommendations. On March 9, 2017, the Ancaster community was invited to a community meeting held at Ancaster High School in order to provide feedback about three options presented. Attendees were asked to provide HWDSB with feedback through participation in discussion groups where three questions were asked for each presented option:

- What are the strengths for this option?
- What are your concerns about this option?
- What questions do you have with this option?

Facilitators supported the discussions at each table and recorded the conversations. Facilitator notes were shared with E-BEST, HWDSB's research department. E-BEST transcribed the notes from each table, and conducted a thematic analysis of the conversations. In total, 141 community members signed in as participants in the consultation. Trustees, committee members, and HWDSB staff also attended to support the consultation.

The following is a high level summary of these conversations, highlighting common themes. Please refer to the verbatim notes for further information.

#### Summary of Findings Organized by Option:

### **OPTION 1**

#### Themes around Strengths:

- o Like the JK-8
- Queen's Rangers won't have to bus further
- Keep a community feeling
- CH Bray stays in town allows for future realignment flexibility in relation to Beverley school
- Like the outdoor education option
- Schools stay smallish (under 500)
- Queen's Rangers is a historical site
- Cost effective
- o Boundaries remain the same
- Keeps Taylor road closed dangerous if it is open to traffic
- Fewer disruptions
- o Seems like a win-win option as all schools are improved or updated.
- Early Years centre
- o Community partnerships with the Lions Club

#### **Themes around Concerns:**

- Higher cost per student to keep QR open
- $\circ$   $\;$  Uncertain whether new outdoor education program at QR would be utilized
- $\circ$  The outcome of the Fessenden property
- No sidewalks would make it dangerous for the students to walk to school if Taylor is opened up (also the road is narrow)
- Sufficient FI resources to support schools there is already a lack of resources, loss of quality in FI. What is the transition plan for FI students?

- Want to keep Taylor closed (property value/noise)
- $\circ$   $\,$  No plan to address what happens after the site closes



- o New building will save money over time
- o New buildings provide bigger, better spaces (e.g., gym) as opposed to renovations
- Renovating an already unused building (air quality, asbestos, etc) does not makes sense not a long term solution. Not best health and safety option to renovate old building. Fessenden renovation costs would be a waste
- Loss of green space for all three schools (Fessenden, CH Bray and QR)
- Traffic concerns at CH Bray especially around Taylor Road.
- Financial and demographic reasons for Queens Rangers to close
- o Rousseau needs a relocation and addition
- Utilization questions at Rousseau Does this mean portables?

#### Additional Comments or Feedback:

- What is the transition plan for students changing schools?
- o Are there other boards who have the outdoor education to see successes?
- How will the outdoor education program be utilized?
- Does closing one school jeopardize funding?
- Is there an outdoor education center at HWDSB already?
- Copetown supports this option
- Can urban setting kids opt into the rural setting schools?
- Can we consider a rebuild a Rousseau considering the age of the school?
- o ASPS have great green space to take advantage of

#### **OPTION 2**

#### **Themes around Strengths:**

- JK 8: One new school to accommodate all students
- Only option where all students get to attend a new school
- Closing QR is a good idea for funds and demographic reasons
- Like CH Bray getting a new school as it's old
- Saves money on demo of Bray then rebuild on same site
- Investing into a AHS as new school property will feed into AHS
- Utilize all 3 buildings OTG numbers
- A lot of these buildings are not good air quality so new buildings are good for asbestos and health issues.
- o Rebuild Rousseau would take up less green space, cheaper in the long term
- o New opportunity long term for rebuild of new schools

#### **Themes around Concerns:**

- $\circ$   $\;$  Worried about loss of green space and soccer fields, and clubs
- o Loss of property of CH Bray land
- o Concerned the Ministry won't pay for 3 schools
- What is the time frame to build 3 schools?
- Are there transitional schools?
- Loss of "small school feel," too many students in one school, loss of a rural feel, and community.
- o QR students travelling too far to new school length of bus rides, especially Flamborough and Lover's Lane
- $\circ$   $\;$  Walking students open two way traffic is a concern/safety
- Maintaining green space 2000 kids use the land

#### 2016-2017 Ancaster Accommodation Review Summary of Consultation Findings

- Issues around street safety such as: city laws get in the way of kids playing street sports, bike lane needed, do
  not open barricade at Taylor Road, the Spring Valley barricade and the volume of traffic at Ancaster High during
  bell times
- \$14 million more than other options budget for this option is too high
- Concern of QR kids being separated
- Property values go down
- o Moving all schools out of the Ancaster core
- Closing QR closing historical site
- Uncertainty of boundary review for QR
- Look at Binbrook issue of overcapacity
- Dividing FI shortage of quality of resources and teachers, disconnecting the FI students.
- o Most disruptive to kids
- Will lose space for AHS community with this
- $\circ$  By 2020 these affected schools will be close to over capacity
- Will the buildings be repurposed?
- Proximity or closeness to between JK-8/secondary school (social dynamic of elementary and secondary sites)
- Spring Valley will be opposed to any access to a sit from Taylor Road
- Keeping CH Bray K-6 no K-8 separate junior and middle school

### Additional Comments or Feedback:

- If Fessenden closes does the land go to development? Same with CH Bray? Is the Ministry of Education going to fund \$37 mil/3 new school model?
- Where do kids go during closures and rebuilds?
- Is there talk about new development of Wilson/52?
- Why does Taylor Road need to be re-opened? And will this require sidewalks/sewers and construction?
- Would taxes go up due to this?
- How will length of time on the buses be addressed?
- Are there plans for demo and sale of school lands? (CHB/Fessenden)

### OPTION 3

#### Themes around Strengths:

- QR Stays open and historical significance of QR is preserved
- Reliable childcare
- Minimal disruptions to current students
- Actual renovations being done
- Limited time on bus for students
- CH Bray needed upgrade
- Preserves K-6 character that has been successful in Ancaster, preserving small school, community and rural feel.
   Smaller ration of students/teachers at QR allows for personalized programs, and specialty programs done with
   7-8 areas = more self-contained, dedicated administration
- Cost effective
- Catchment areas stay similar
- Retain option to keep review open in the future
- Mentorship opportunity with senior secondary students with elementary on site
- Potential for saving elementary specialty programs (music/science)
- QR space could be used for outdoor education or community hub (with senior) if early years isn't an option



- Open boundary for grades 7-8 between Rousseau/ASP provides consistency to complete elementary
- Keeps Bray school open in the core
- Enhances supports community partner programs

#### **Themes around Concerns:**

- How would 7-8 be integrated safely and meaningfully? Programming? Dynamics? Plan?
   Higher costs to keep older buildings open
- No single track FI keep K-6 English senior
- Would renos to Ancaster High involve a loss of green space? What about Fessenden's green space?
- Access on Taylor Road to additional site could be hazardous to adjacent neighbourhood and property values require sidewalks, and could be further unsafe with snow removal.
- Ancaster High requires upgrades
- Bussing concerns at Ancaster senior sit with all FI students at one site.
- Where will CH Bray kids be housed during construction?
- No current plan for Fessenden site (impact on funding lost for recent upgrades)
- JK-8 schools preferred
- English track teachers currently also teach FI students for specialty courses
- Will FI students be losing out because the Gr 8 students will have subject specialist and at senior, they may have subject specialists?
- Not increased parking, even though teacher and students are increasing (cars, buses) safety concerns
- Separate building for Grade 7/8 English students?
- Population projections not realistic based on increasing housing construction and in shifting demographics i.e., young families
- No concrete plan to address FI beyond Grade 8
- What happens to dual track students being split between Ancaster Senior grade 8 English students to Ancaster High?
- Ancaster schools should be rebuilt they are old, and outdated
- 7 -12 school what is the admin breakdown/support? Gym space is already a problem
- Timelines? East wing of Ancaster High is falling apart how/when to address this?
- What will happen to Fessenden property?
- What would the high school addition look like? Portables?

#### Additional Comments or Feedback:

- Keep the Taylor Road barrier up, concerns around traffic congestion
- Plan needed to discuss what will happen to Fessenden land or QR property when school closes
- Frustrated in moving to area recently for purpose of attending QR and now its closing
- Lion's club partnership is important to continue
- Has a connection been made to a child care centre?
- What would the CH Bray new build involve? Single/double story?
- What would changes to Ancaster High site involve to accommodate the 7/8 students?
- Could 7-8 program be a new build on the Ancaster High property?
- What is the final choice option based on? Cost?
- At what point are we stuck with what the province decides?
- If Fessenden closes, will the new school be built before it closes? Where do students go during construction?
- Is the funding for the new plan still feasible/available if only one school closes?
- Does total cost change with models change?
- Will options 1,2,3 affect boundaries for FI students going to Dundana from QR's?



- Does "addition" mean a build or a portable? What is impact on numbers at AHS? What's the cost to build?
- JK-6 elementary schools in general are ideal for student development
- Parking spaces?
- How are we keeping our students safe-environmental?
- What are the timelines?
- Will the 7/8 students be separated from the 9 12?
- Loss of green space

This report was prepared by the Evidence-Based Education and Services Team (E-BEST).

March 9, 2017

#### **RE:** Ancaster PAR Review

As a parent in the current Ancaster elementary school system I feel compelled to respectfully submit some thoughts for review and consideration after attending tonight's public consolation.

I have been at both public consolations and have listened to the discussion from parents and community members like myself that have taken the time to become engaged in the PAR process. As the figurative net widens and more options are presented we see and will see more people coming to the table to have their voice heard. As I listened tonight there were certainly themes that ran through all the groups but, I am concerned that we are being given so many options that we have begun to stop looking at the big picture and started thinking about what suits our personal preferences. In most cases, the more options people are given, the harder the decision becomes and the more people struggle to determine what to buy into.

I believe we can all agree that our schools are in dire need of replacement, be it through re-builds or improvements to bring them up to standard. As such we should be coming together as a community to look at how we can build **the best business case that meets the needs of the most people**. Our children deserve to have schools that are in good repair, offer opportunity for enrichment, and the best learning environment we can provide.

Our schools have served us well for 50+ years in most cases and now is the time to look forward at plan what will serve our community for the next generation. If we don't present a strong business plan and as a result do not get funding then we all lose.

Since there are stipulations around the funding that we hope to get, I would suggest that the options currently on the table are weighted based on each criteria for funding. Those that meet the requirements could then vetted against the best interests of the community as a whole taking into account the information brought forth via the PAR process. If an option does not meet the funding criteria then I would remove it from the table.

I would also like to ask if public delegations on May 8<sup>th</sup> will be specific to a number of options, such as the current 10 on the table or if it will only be the preferred option to go forward to the Board of Trustees.

Thank you

Linda Cvetanovic

CH Bray Parent

Rural School Advisory Committee excerpt;

- 1. Here is the motion from the last Rural Schools Advisory Committee. This motion will likely come to Board on March 27th:
- 2. A. SHSM Programming Rural Schools
  - The committee discussed SHSM Programming as it relates to Rural Schools. The committee agreed that both an Agricultural Program as well as a Horticultural Program would support the Board's seven Strategic Directions as well as being in alignment with the Province in advocating for special programming in rural schools. It is expected that Community partners will encourage collaboration and assist in providing learning opportunities to students in the area.

The City of Hamilton is home to a large rural community and expanding agricultural based economy. There are four HWDSB secondary schools which service rural Hamilton students; and the Ministry of Education is encouraging Ontario School Boards to expand their Specialized High Skills Major course offerings.

It was moved by *Jessica Zylstra (Millgrove), that Rural Schools Community Advisory Committee* RECOMMEND: That staff explore the feasibility of:

a) Introducing an Agriculture Specialized High Skills Major in HWDSB and;

b) Expanding the current Horticulture Specialized High Skills Major to second location within the district.

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/morestudentsuccess/SHSM.html

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/morestudentsuccess/SHSMcomplete.html

https://www.uoguelph.ca/oac/about-oac

Good morning Manorun Farm, Weirs Lane Lavender Farm, Jerry's Berries/LotsaHostas and Joe Loewith and Sons Ltd.

As you may or may not be aware the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board is currently completing a review of the elementary schools in the Ancaster area. This review includes Queen's Rangers Elementary School located in Copetown. The initial option the board has presented is to close Queen's Rangers school and have rural children attend schools within the city limits of Ancaster. As a community we are desperately trying to save our school and salvage one of the only rural schools left.

A proposal has been presented to the school board during this review which would keep Queen's Rangers School open and create an Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre (OEEC) in underutilised space in the school. The proposed OEEC would provide an opportunity for all students of the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board to visit local farms and the Dundas Valley Conservation area. This option provides an opportunity for children that currently do not benefit from experiences in rural settings to do so and provides a hands on learning outdoor environment. I am writing to you all today to see if you would be willing to write a letter in support of the Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre. Please understand that this is just at a proposal stage and has not been approved by the board. What we are trying to say to board is if you approve this option there are farms willing to participate.

The Hamilton Wentworth School Board already supports this type of learning and has several programs with the Dundas Valley Conservation area already in place. <u>http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/outdoor-education/environmental-outdoor-education-programs/</u> <u>http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/outdoor-education/environmental-outdoor-education-programs/</u> <u>programs/elementary-programs/</u>

The Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre being housed at Queen's Rangers would provide a classroom that is close in proximity to farms and the Dundas Valley Conservation area. Students would visit the conservation area or local farms and then return to the school to complete assignments, reflect on learning as well as provide the practical solutions of lunch and bathroom spaces for visiting children.



## WEIRS LANE LAVENDER

## CONTACT

223 Weirs Lane Dundas ON L9H5E1 weirslanelavender@gmail.com

## **RECIPIENT NAME**

March 7 2017

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the initiative regarding Queens Ranger School and the Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre. Weirs Lane Lavender regularly hosts school groups eager to learn about agriculture, pollinators and pollination. These groups come away with an appreciation of the sensitivity of the environment and the importance of agriculture in today's world.

Sincerely, Kevin Beagle

Weirs Lane Lavender







in

EMAIL TWITTER HANDLE Correspondence - WG #6 - March 21 2017 **TELEPHONE** 

Ancaster

LINKEDIN URL

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to show my support for an Outdoor and Environmental Education Center to be housed at Queen's Ranger Elementary School. The need for education on how to grow food sustainably and the importance of local food should not be underestimated. Over the past 10 years ManoRun Farm has offered on farm education tours for student groups. Our program is called "The Cycle of the Farm". We have had many classes learn about how a small sustainable farm grows food that is good for people's diets and also for the environment. The lack of knowledge that students and teachers show during these tours is telling. We are currently <u>not</u> educating people to make good decisions when buying food. We are also <u>not</u> promoting agriculture as a potential vocation.

Recently a provincially funded program run through Taste Buds - Hamilton's Student Nutrition program - was cancelled. This means less children getting to farms for learning opportunities. I believe that the funding may still be available - but there is no organization to offer the program.

I would strongly support Queens Rangers staying open as a way to support local communities that are still actively participating and living rurally. But also as a way to educate those living in urban centers about the importance of local food, farm land preservation and farming as a vocation.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Krucker

ManoRun Farm



The Ancaster Agricultural Society

ORGANIZED - 1850 630 TRINITY ROAD, R.R. #1, JERSEYVILLE, ONTARIO LOR 1R0 TELEPHONE: (905) 648-6198 FAX: (905) 648-2300

Friday, March 10, 2017

Committee Members,

The Ancaster Agricultural Society strives to promote agriculture within our community. Our mission reads; The AAS, through dedicated volunteer and staff efforts, endeavours to enrich agriculture and community life in Ancaster and surrounding areas.

We achieve this mission through Education Days in the spring focusing on the Grade 3 curriculum, Summer Camp, and our Fair in September.

Ancaster Agricultural Society has found a strong partner in the community through Queen's Rangers School as well as Theatre Ancaster.

An event, Touch a Truck, has been held the last weekend of May for the past 6 years. The Queen's Rangers staff and parent community have helped make this event a growing success providing volunteers, corn box play area, and logistics planning assistance.

It is upsetting to our organization to hear a consideration of closing this school. The impact to the community would be profound.

Ancaster Agricultural Society is a viable outreach venue for education to a program such as the proposed Agriculture Specialized High Skills Major.

With other options having been put forward we hope that consideration to community will be heeded.

With kind regards,

Tammy Quinn Manager Ancaster Agricultural Society

Outdoor & Environmental Education Centre (OEEC) Commitments received verbally; Loewith Farms, Lynden Myers Orchard, Copetown Ancaster Agricultural Society, Ancaster Maplebrae Farms, Jerseyville

#### **Dustin Rouse**

Feedback (concerns) regarding closing Fessenden

Here are a few comments that I had with respect to Fessenden. I am glad to see that there is still the option of keeping this school open.

I saw all of the expenses that have been put into maintaining Fessenden over the years. They are significant! This is a reason for keeping the school open.

The children would also lose a lot of green space as mentioned in the meeting last night if Fessenden closed.

One other consideration is that it is a bad idea putting Kindergarten students in the same school as Grade 8s. Grade 8s may bully the younger students, or interact with them in a way that is detrimental to their normal development. I can say this being a former educator, and well educated member of the public.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message, and I hope that you find it to be helpful. Maybe you have already heard these concerns, but I thought that I would give it a shot!

#### To Whom it May Concern;

My husband Todd and I wanted to pass this email along regarding the review. We have written to our Councillor Lloyd Ferguson and also wanted to make sure that we reached out to you as you are the rep speaking on our behalf.

We have asked that the city consider taking this property on (if the first option goes through) as we as a community would like to see this area remain and improve on its green space and park land. It has come to our attention from the community that they believe this land is part of a protected park area? Being part of the greenbelt we would ask if you and the team would please explore this.

We gave suggestions of picnic areas, shaded space, skate park area, proper parking lot, splash pad, improved safer climber structure to name a few. This is the only green space in this subdivision and it gets used multiple times daily, weekends, after school, holidays and breaks. If this area was not here it really would be a travesty for our neighbourhood.

We have also been told that on this side of Ancaster there is a law that states there can be no "high density housing" areas. So town homes would not be allowed? Another thing we ask you and the team to explore as we DO NOT want that.

Having houses go up behind us would be the worst outcome and the neighbours both new and old are so afraid after all these years to not have their small community and have it possibly replaced with??? Huron Ave would become a not thru street as there are homes on the other side (Cumming Court) and the other park and school. So the traffic for these existing home owners would become overwhelming and just not fair...they keep telling us they are doing what is best for the kids. So if that is really true, then taking their green play space of this small community away is NOT what is best for them.

So Todd and I would ask that you take all this to the next team meeting and look into all that we have explained. It is our home, not just a place (like for some) that they go everyday. This affects us seriously and we would ask that you take it as such. This is more than just a place that our kids go to school. Please keep this in mind as you share this with the team.

Thank you for your help and for being the voice of this community,

Todd and Shannon Shedden

To: Hamilton Wentworth District School Board

From: Andre Simons

#### SUBJECT: REOPENING OF TAYLOR ROAD TO ANCASTER HIGH

To whom it may concern:

Due to looking after my 3 children yesterday I was not able to attend the Ancaster Accommodation Review yesterday.

This review was to share concerns about Reopening Taylor Road for School buses going to Ancaster High School.

I strongly oppose this proposal on health and safety ground:

- It is a quiet residential neighbourhood with lots of kids playing.
- There are no sidewalks so kids don't walk on a perfect line at the side. Buses are large and it wil endanger kids.
- Kids get off school and walk and bike home on these narrow streets. Buses going by will put them in danger
- Only having one car parked on the street will require the bus to travel all the way onto the oncoming traffic.
- During winter time when snow is down there will be no room for kids to move or families with prams dogs etc. to go when a bus and other car is coming.

In summary: reopening Taylor road to the high school will place children and families in unnecessary danger as the road structure is not set up for such traffic.

I hope that this proposal is struck from the list and not considered any further. If you wish to contact me please feel free to call my cell:

Regards,

Andre Simons

We continue to follow the discussions for the elementary school situation and stress that the Spring Valley Association will not support the new school being built on the Ancaster greenspace. It is a vital part of the community and would be short minded to not see the benefit that those lands have to the entire community. Once sold it is gone forever. Hamilton rebuilt the Our lady of the Annunziation on its own property and CA Bray can do the same and we can continue to use these lands for the betterment of all. In addition, the opening up of Taylor Road for a bus route along the Spring Valley streets would not be supported. These roads would not be able to sustain the traffic and the reason the dead end was implemented was due to injury due to buses. The roads can barely handle two way traffic, they do not have sidewalks and would put pedestrians and children at play at risk.

You are reminded that children are not to play hockey on city streets, not tobbogan on hills, basket ball nets on drive ways are not permitted and now you are choosing to sell off lands that are used by thousands of children playing soccer. Taking away what little activity chldren have will lead to a future of poor lifestyles and put strain on health care. Your decision is critial. If it requires relocating current children at CABray while the new school is built, then that is a short term inconvenience that would enable the community to thrive in years to come.

Do now give away the lands.

We intended to be present at the March 9 meeting to voice our concern.

Received March 20, 2017

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

As residents of Valleyview Drive in Ancaster, our family of five is appealing to you - a city Councillor representing our ward, and voicing our strong opposition to proposed HWDSB plans to erect new school(s) on current Ancaster High School site.

As you are well aware, once small town Ancaster is already overdeveloped with <u>suffocating population density and traffic congestion, and green space quickly disappearing</u>. Ancaster High site offers exactly that: a small green space for children, families and individuals to walk, run, play soccer, or do kite flying.

But the worst part is that HWDSB in its myopic vision will add more problems to Spring Valley area and Ancaster in general: <u>huge traffic congestion issues during day and evening hours</u>, since current infrastructure (narrow streets, no sidewalks) just won't support it. With significantly increased numbers of school buses and private vehicles, the **safety of Spring Valley residents will be compromised**. Unfortunately, Taylor Avenue has a tragic history, as you know, of children being killed or injured by speeding vehicles.

Mr. Ferguson, please support our opposition to HWDSB proposal.

Regards,

Mr. Vlad Bartchouk

P.S. It was unfortunate that HWDSB offered information about upcoming community consultation meeting **only two days** prior to its proposed date. I have heard from many of my neighbours that they were not able to attend this meeting due to a very short notice.

In any event, please find the results of my survey below. 42 total responses were received. Many are from the volunteers that help out at this school every week. The responses do not reflect my own personal view (as I did not complete the survey); but are a collection of comments from those who received and completed the survey.

Thank you, Mike Bell Fessenden Parent Representative

Q1. Are you satisfied with the HWDSB Initial Option? (Complete details available in the staff report posted on the Ancaster Accommodation Review website)

15/42 (35%) - YES 27/42 (65%) - NO

Q2. What is your primary concern(s) with the HWDSB Initial Option plan? Max. 3 selections.

17/32 (53%) - I am concerned with the Board's future intentions for the closed school properties.
16/32 (50%) - I am concerned that the population growth of Ancaster has not been properly considered.
13/32 (40%) - I am concerned about the positioning of the new school catchment boundaries.
8/32 (25%) - Ancaster schools are fine the way they are, I don't want them to close.
8/32 (25%) - Other

(1) I am concerned about the ability to deliver a full program in French at Ancaster Senior when some are pulled out to Rousseau

(2) I am concerned about French resources being split between two schools

(3) I would like to see 1 French immersion school in Ancaster in order to keep staff, students and more importantly French resources together.

(4) Massive, Irrational spending without planning for High school (Grade 9 and beyond in Ancaster or West Hamilton). There is currently a wait & see approach for future, but we are making huge changes now. Also, no traffic studies have been done to ensure school zones will not impact overall traffic flow on already congested parts of Ancaster. Lack of Planning and Consult before presenting options is never a good way to do things.

(5) I am concerned that my children will have to move to another school - leave their friends etc. I would be ok with Fessenden closing if my kids got "grand-fathered into" the new school on the Fessenden site

(6) Doesn't serve rural community and not best use of resources

(7) Not in favor of mega schools, smaller school sizes have negative implications

(8) I want Fessenden to close - but the area should be allocated for PARKS/GREEN SPACE.

Q3. If you do NOT want Fessenden school to close, please indicate your primary reason(s). Max 3 selections.

18/31 (58%) - I am concerned that two French Immersion (FI) schools in Ancaster will have difficulty in providing proper resources that are currently in limited supply (FI music, math, science, resource teachers & classroom resources).

16/31 (51%) - I like the close-knit community of Fessenden, and feel that a larger school does not provide that.

13/31 (41%) - The Board may designate the property as surplus, enabling the sale of the building/land.

10/31 (32%) - The green space could be lost to another school board, leading to barriers or loss of use. 4/31 (13%) - Other

(1) I'm okay with Fessenden closing if ch bray has French immersion

(2) I am fine with the school closing, but fearful the property will go to surplus. The city has already dealt with surplus lands (Maple Lane and Grange), both of which have largely turned property over to private development(3) the environmental advancements will be lost

(4) Changing schools for at the end of elementary school is not in the best interest of my children

Q4. Why are you concerned about the proposed changes to school catchment boundaries? Max. 2 selections.

18/28 (64%) – The change in continuity to student experience
9/28 (32%) - The current (or lack of) out-of-catchment options for desired school attendance.
6/28 (21%) - The current (or lack of) eligibility requirements for yellow school bus transportation.
4/28 (14%) – Other

(1) Lack of continuity for Ancaster students to attend school beyond grade 8 in the community in which they live. This hurts community building and hurts long time relationships for those that cannot attend a long distance school for French Immersion.

(2) Would like to keep the FI children together -friendships etc. Also would like to keep communication with FI parents to encourage FI secondary school as an option at Ancaster high.

(3) Country kids deserve to stay in the country. They live different types of lives and that is ok. They shouldn't be made to come into the city.

(4) N/A

Q5. Based on the school catchment boundaries outlined in the HWDSB Initial Option (p19 English / p20 French); what school would your children attend? Please assume NO out-of-catchment exceptions would be made.

19/33 (57%) - Fessenden 13/33 (40%) - Rousseau 1/33 (3%) – Other School 0/33 (0%) - I have no children

Q6. If you are satisfied with the HWDSB Initial Plan, please indicate why. Max. 3 selections.

14/21 (67%) - Ancaster needs another FI school

12/21 (57%) - Fessenden does not have the capacity to handle the current number of students.

10/21 (47%) – I like the JK-8 school model

7/21 (33%) - It will solve the problem of having too many school buses at the Fessenden / Ancaster Senior Public school location.

6/21 (28%) - Many schools have had inadequate facilities and equipment for some time. This option provides an opportunity for school renewal to occur so that schools will last another 20-30 years.

1/21 (5%) - As a result of new school boundaries, students will have more classmates living closer to school. 3/21 (15%) – Other

(1) I am great with the proposal as long as the HWDSB is responsible with what it does with the land. I know I sound NIMBY however, I really do not want a meadowlands style subdivision in my backyard. Would rather they do larger lots with bigger houses at a higher price.

(2) All plans are 100% wasted without a concrete plan for beyond Grade 8 (as a local option) for Ancaster students. Do not put a shovel in the ground until there is a plan for LONG term solutions (Think 20 and 30 years and beyond), not just the next round of elections for School Board positions. (3) FI high school

## Proposal: Combination of Initial Option & Committee Option 2

## Concept:

- Fessenden and Queen's Rangers close.
- ASPS gets an addition and renovations. K-8, dual track school.
- $\blacktriangleright$  Rousseau gets an addition and renovations. K-8, dual track school.
- Bray gets a new building.

## Conditions:

- A boundary review would be required to have the following effects:
  - O Cap Rousseau at around 400 students and send extra students to ASPS where there is more space to accommodate the students.
  - O Allow QR families to attend the school that is nearest to them to reduce travel time on buses. These schools could include Beverly Central, CH Bray, Sir William Osler, or Greensville.
  - O Allow many, but not all, of the QR families to continue attending a rural school (BC or Greensville).
- There needs to be discussion around the location of a new Bray building. Please see attached notes.
- The school board and trustees needs to consider whether or not asking for \$37 million to build 3 new schools would save money in the long-term, or weaken the business plan being put forward because of the high price tag associated with it. ASPS and Rousseau each have an FCI over 65%. What will happen to those schools in the next 5-10 years as they near closer to expiry, but have a recent renovation and addition on them?

## Rationale:

- Of all of them, it is the option that is most closely tied to the <u>guiding principles</u>, which was the goal.
- $\succ$  No school is operating below capacity, so there is <u>financial responsibility</u> in this plan.
- There is <u>significant consolidation</u>, so it would make a good business case for the grant.
- Every school involved makes <u>some compromises and some gains</u>.
  - O Bray gets a new building. Some will be happy with the location, others will not be.
  - O Rousseau will get capped around 400. They gain an FI program and facility improvements, but lose some green space.
  - O Many QR students will go to a brand new school, close to home (BC or Bray). Some will get to stay in a rural school, some won't.
  - O Fessenden gets an improved facility on the same lot, but some FI resources will be reallocated.
  - O ASPS gets some renos and an addition. Students will go back to their feeder schools.

## Framing Question: Should it be a priority to keep Queen's Rangers open?

Throughout this process, the major point of contention has been whether or not to keep QR school open. Although it would be nice for them to do so, there are some major concerns with this as a priority.

## **Equity:**

At working meeting #2, we had it clarified that we are applying for a consolidation grant, and that the strength of the business plan put forth relies on the idea of consolidating schools. Where is the equity in a business plan that would save a school of 128 students, but risk grant money for 1400 other students in Ancaster who need improved facilities and learning conditions? We need to be thinking about the whole community, and not what is best for our individual schools.

## **Diversity:**

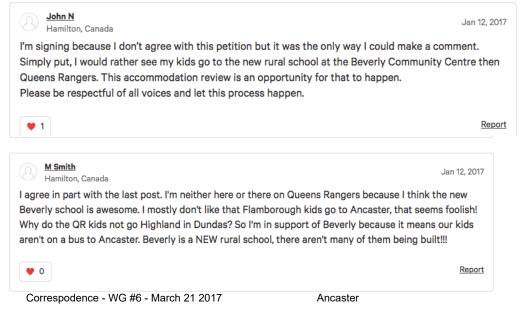
At working meeting #3, it was stated that Queen's Rangers does not want to "mix city kids with urban kids" because of the differences in culture. HWDSB supports an equitable and inclusive learning environment (Policy 1.2), with an intended outcome of "supporting positive learning environments that are respectful and welcoming to all". This is counter-intuitive to the idea of preserving the rural culture. Our school board encourages diversity, and having rural students learn together with those of a more urban lifestyle would promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. It should also be considered that the Grade 7 and 8 students from QR are already attending school in Ancaster, and that many of the rural families come in to Ancaster for extracurricular activities and community events.

## **Financial Responsibility:**

In times when finances need to be at the forefront of every decision, there needs to be discussion around the idea of annually paying large sums of money for administrators and caretakers for a student body of only 128 students. Additionally, the cost of operating a building at 50% capacity needs to be considered into the equation. This is an incredibly large sum of money to spend every year on a very small number of students.

## Support for the Concept:

Not all of the Queen's Rangers families want their school saved. Some of the families are looking forward to a boundary review that would place them at a new rural school (Beverly Central), or another school that might be closer to them. We knew this to be true when there was resistance to presenting a boundary review at the public meeting, as it would divide the support received for keeping the school open. Here are some screen shots of families who voiced their concerns in the online petition to save Queen's Rangers, which were not included in the copies that were distributed to the committee.



## Framing Question: <u>If</u> CH Bray gets a new build, would Ancaster High or Dunham Road be the better location?

Here are the 9 points of consideration that have been brought forward by the CH Bray community:

## Transition:

If we build on the current site, students will go through an awkward transition, during the demolition and construction. This might include a) filling rooms at ASPS/QR and using portables or b) taking over Fessenden after all other renovations/additions have been made to the other schools. However, if construction takes place on the high school site, we would remain in our current building, and then move over when construction is complete. It would be a much smoother process for the children, and much less taxing on them. Favours: Ancaster High

## Timing:

If we build on the high school site, we would be able to move into a new building much sooner. The high and urgent needs of our building demands that. If we build on the existing site, we may have to wait until all the other schools get their renos, and then our students could move into Fessenden while demo and construction is being done on a new Bray. This could take as long as 7-10 years. This amount of time in our current building is <u>unacceptable</u>. **Favours: Ancaster High** 

- Our school has been in a desperate state for <u>many</u> years. Bray needs to be the absolute top priority if funding is rolled out in phases, as we have high and urgent renewal needs.
- Is it possible to push the grant application through faster due to the poor condition of the building?

## **Traffic Flow**:

There are strong traffic flow concerns at both sites. On the current site, Dunham Dr. is already very busy around bell times. When Wilson St. is backed up as a result of morning highway congestion, it is nearly impossible to get in to the school, as there are no alternative roads that provide access. It would worsen with an additional 150 kids, and extra busses. Additionally, some of our green space would need to be used for a kiss-n-go, for additional parking, and for a larger bus turnaround area, in order to make a new building work at the current site. Snow removal and emergency vehicle turnarounds would be required as well. If we build at the high school site, we don't know where traffic would be routed. This is a concern because a traffic study wouldn't be done until after the grant money is secured. Possible options include Jerseyville or Meadowbrook.

• If the Trustees decide to build at the high school, we will reinforce that opening up Taylor Road to traffic is absolutely not an option.

## Walkability:

One of the school board's guiding principles in making these decisions is encouraging walkable communities. Based on the scatter plot, moving to the Ancaster High site would increase the number of families that are within a walkable distance to the school. It could also shorten the bus time for potential QR students coming in. **Favours: Ancaster High** 

## **Green Space**:

Putting a new school on the high school site, would mean the elimination of green space in two parts of the community. The large, open field at the high school would drastically reduce in size. It is also possible that the Dunham Dr. property would be sold. Additionally, the trees on this location provide shade for students in the hotter months of school. The Ancaster High location does not offer that.

### Favours: Dunham Dr.

- Could we request that any monies procured from the sale of the Dunham Dr. property be put toward renovations and upgrades to Ancaster High School – another school that has high needs?
- Could we request that the Dunham Dr. land be sold to the city, and kept as green space, with soccer fields and a play structure?

## Design:

Building on the current space may limit design options for the new building. Designing a school for 500 kids would likely mean a 3-storey school in order to preserve green space. This will have an impact on the surrounding properties, as well as the type of space that students will be housed in, and the ability for teachers to supervise lunch periods etc. Building on the high school site would leave more flexibility for a building that captures natural lighting and provides a layout that works better for student transitions between classes, and supervision. **Favours: Ancaster High** 

## Influence:

There is concern that having our little ones so close to the high school could lead to them being influenced by foul language, smoking, and inappropriate behaviour. There have been several upsetting incidents on the Bray path that justify this worry. On the flip side, building a feeder school adjacent to a high school promotes partnerships between the schools. Bray students could benefit from more co-op students in the classrooms and more volunteers to coach extra-curricular activities.

 If the Trustees decide on the high school site, we would request that the bell times of the two schools maintain their 35-minute difference, and we could request that the elementary play area be fenced in (this may already be required).

## **Recreation**:

Opening a new Bray on the high school site, would give the students access to the swimming pool for field trips, swim team practice, and the grade 3 swim program funded by the board. It would also provide access to a track. It would, however, affect the whole community by eliminating some of the soccer fields that are regularly used in the summer months. Is it possible to relocate the soccer fields to the ASPS property?

## **Property Values and Neighbours**:

Regardless of where a new Bray may be built, there will be neighbours who will not be pleased. The neighbours that back on to Bray and who live on Dunham will not be happy with a potential 3 storey building and increased traffic on the road. The neighbours that back on the high school, and who live at Taylor and Valleyview would be negatively impacted by a new school nearer to them. Additionally, the families that live on Meadowbrook would see increased traffic flow during bell times if that is where the entrance to the school may be.

Hi, Barb Lawler has sent the message below.

#### Comments

I am concerned that your plans contemplate closing Fessenden School. Between senior public school and Fessenden there is a lot of property owned by the school board. A new school could be built there without closing a school when it's being built. I am totally against school board property that a new school or extension could be built on.

## 1. Executive Summary

At the November 14, 2016 Board meeting, Trustees approved a recommendation to initiate the Ancaster Accommodation Review which included Ancaster Senior, CH Bray, Fessenden, Queen's Rangers and Rousseau 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 Ancaster advisory committee comprised of parents and teaching staff began its work on November 29, 2016.

The following report outlines the community consultation portion of the Ancaster Accommodation Review

## 2. Community Consultation

Community consultation is an important component of an accommodation review. There were two channels of consultation conducted for the Ancaster Accommodation review which included working group meetings and public meetings.

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 six working group meetings, was tasked with discussing, analyzing and commenting on the initial report and accommodation options. 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 concerns, ideas, options and recommendations for Trustee consideration that will be reviewed in section 3.

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 4 is an overview of both public meetings and highlights the key themes.

### 2.1. Timelines

The following table outlines the Ancaster Pupil Accommodation Review 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 working group meetings and Appendix-C public meetings.

Meeting	Date	Summary
Orientation Session	November 29, 2016	<ul> <li>Reviewed purpose of accommodation reviews</li> <li>Reviewed accommodation review policy</li> <li>Reviewed key documents</li> <li>Overview of roles &amp; responsibilities of advisory committee and staff</li> <li>Review of timelines and meetings</li> </ul>
Working Group Meeting #1	December 8, 2016	<ul><li>Reviewed the accommodation review binder and all background data</li><li>Reviewed initial option</li></ul>
Public Meeting #1	January 12, 2017	<ul> <li>Reviewed advisory committee orientation session</li> <li>Public reviewed the initial and alternative options with opportunity to provide feedback through facilitated small group feedback</li> <li>Top concerns were voiced by each table.</li> </ul>
Working Group Meeting #2	January 18, 2017	<ul> <li>Open dialogue provided an opportunity for members to share thoughts, express concerns and discuss public meeting and the feedback from the public.</li> <li>Members reviewed the initial and alternative options and provided pros and cons.</li> </ul>
Working Group Meeting #3	February 2, 2017	<ul> <li>Reviewed data request from previous working group meetings</li> <li>Reviewed Public Meeting #1 and identifying key emerging issues</li> <li>Committee narrowed focus on a set of general guiding principles created from public meeting feedback.</li> </ul>
Working Group Meeting #4	February 15, 2017	<ul> <li>Broke into groups and to brain storm and create accommodation strategies for the Ancaster planning area.</li> <li>Two options were discussed with the group.</li> </ul>
Tiffany Hills School Tour	February 21, 2017	Tour of Tiffany Hills school – understand new school construction
Working Group Meeting #5	March 2, 2017	<ul> <li>Reviewed two options created in previous working group meeting</li> <li>Discussed an additional option to present to the public in public meeting #2.</li> <li>Discussed the potential agenda and structure of public meeting #2</li> </ul>
Public Meeting #2	March 9, 2017	<ul> <li>Reviewed accommodation review progress</li> <li>Described next steps in accommodation review process</li> <li>Facilitated feedback on advisory committee created options.</li> <li>Question and answer period</li> </ul>
Working Group Meeting #6	March 21, 2017	<ul><li>Finalized the report to Trustees</li><li>Reviewed community consultation section of report</li></ul>

Table 1: Meeting Descriptions and Timelines

## 3. Advisory Committee

The purpose of an advisory committee is to act as a conduit for information between the community and the school board. The Ancaster advisory committee consisted of five parent representatives, five school staff representatives and one community representative. Principals and HWDSB staff acted as resources to the advisory committee.

At working group meeting #2 on January 18, 2017 the advisory committee was directed to complete an activity to give feedback on the initial and alternative options that were presented in the Initial Report. The following outlines the feedback on the two options. For a complete listing of feeding back please see the minutes from working group meeting #2 in appendix-A.

#### Feedback on Initial Option

Rebuild CH Bray as a 564-pupil place JK-8 school. Addition to Rousseau to create a 495-pupil place JK-8 dual track school. Addition to Ancaster Senior to create a 465-pupil place JK-8 dual track school. Closure of Fessenden and Queen's Rangers upon the completion of new school and additions.

Initial Option							
Pros	Cons						
Balance of enrolment and utilization	Does not take all communities into						
2 sites to accommodate French Immersion	consideration						
Removes portables from schools	<ul> <li>Increases transportation</li> </ul>						
New facilities create improved learning	Creates larger schools and more traffic						
conditions	congestion						
More opportunities at larger schools	Loss of rural school						
<ul> <li>Taking advantage of Ministry of Education</li> </ul>	Loss of small community schools						
funding opportunity	<ul> <li>Loss of school properties and green space</li> </ul>						
• JK-8 model	Concerns with renovations over new						
	buildings						

#### Feedback on Alternative Option

All schools remain open. Boundary change for all schools to balance students in existing schools. Fessenden moves from JK-6 to JK-5 and only grade 6 students from Fessenden are accommodated at Ancaster Senior. CH Bray, Queen's Rangers and Rousseau remain JK-6.

Alternative Option							
Pros	Cons						
Preserves schools in all communities	Does not address needs at all schools						
Overall the least expensive	Schools still in poor condition						
<ul> <li>No additional transportation issues</li> </ul>	Schools remain over and under capacity						
Specialty programs still available at Ancaster	<ul> <li>Does not allow for access to Ministry of</li> </ul>						
Senior (art, music, fitness)	Education SCC funding						
No change for community	Learning environments are not improved						



#### Key Concerns

#### **School Condition and Funding Opportunity**

The advisory committee recognized the window of opportunity for funding and the current condition of schools. The School Consolidation Capital program is a Ministry of Education initiative which supports projects that results in a reduction of excess capacity, long term operation/renewal costs and improved learning environments. 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/renovation of the Ancaster facilities due to their age, condition and lack of modern teaching and common spaces.

#### **Traffic and Student Safety**

Throughout the accommodation review process a key concern of both the advisory committee and public has been the safety of students due to traffic congestion around schools during drop off and pick up. The advisory committee has suggested that traffic and parking issues are taken into consideration for any new or renovated school. Many of the school sites do not have enough parking or sufficient space for bus pickup and drop off.

#### **Maintaining Community Schools**

Maintaining schools in all communities was an important factor discussed by the advisory committee and public throughout the accommodation review. One of the most prominent concerns was the loss of a sense of community if small schools were to close. The potential loss of school property also created concerns regarding the valuable green space within communities.

To address this the committee discussed two options in the following section which kept four of the five schools open which ensures each community retains a school.

Through discussions, data requests, analysis and consideration of public concerns the committee created three options for Trustee consideration. The options discussed by the advisory committee are list below and are not in order of preference.

### 3.1 Option #1

Rebuild CH Bray, addition to Rousseau and Ancaster Senior. Repurpose two classrooms at Queen's Rangers for system wide outdoor education program. Closure of Fessenden upon the completion of new school and additions. Please see the capital investment below for more detail on prosed new schools, additions and renovations.

#### • Ancaster Senior: Addition to create JK-8 Eng/FI school

- Fessenden English students directed to Ancaster Senior (82% of students)
- Ancaster Senior English students remain at Ancaster Senior (29% of students)
- Fessenden FI students directed to Ancaster Senior (65% of students)
- Ancaster Senior FI students remain at Ancaster Senior (64% of students)
- CH Bray: New Construction to create 495 pupil place JK-8 school
  - CH Bray students directed to new school on CH Bray site (100% of students)
  - Fessenden English students directed to new school on CH Bray site (18% of students)
  - Ancaster Senior English students directed to school on CH Bray Site (37% of students)
- Queen's Rangers: Repurpose two classrooms to create system wide Outdoor Education Program
  - Queen's Rangers students remain at Queen's Ranger (100% of students)
  - Ancaster Senior English students directed to Queen's Rangers (12% of students)
- Rousseau: Addition to create 395 pupil place JK-8 Eng/FI school
  - Rousseau students remain at Rousseau school (100% of students)
  - Ancaster Senior English students directed to Rousseau (23% of students)
  - Fessenden FI students directed to Rousseau (35% of students)
  - Ancaster Senior FI students directed to Rousseau (36% of students)

#### Ancaster Senior/Rousseau Grade 7/8 Boundary

Proposal includes an open boundary between Ancaster Senior and Rousseau for grades 7 & 8. This is to address several committee and community concerns such as: reducing population at Rousseau, taking advantage of space at Ancaster Senior and it makes better use of existing infrastructure at Ancaster Senior (science lab, art, music room)

The timelines for all new builds are subject to the receipt of Ministry of Education funding and all regulatory approvals.



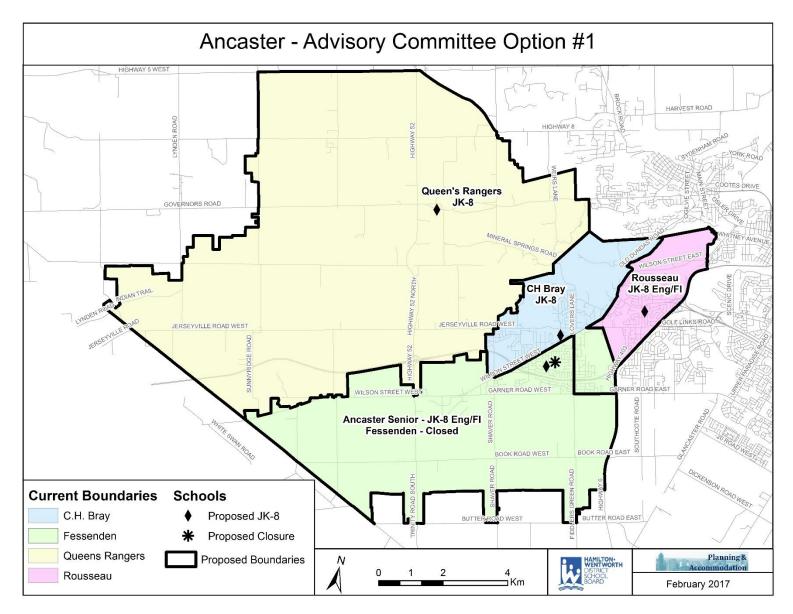


Figure 1: Option #1 Map

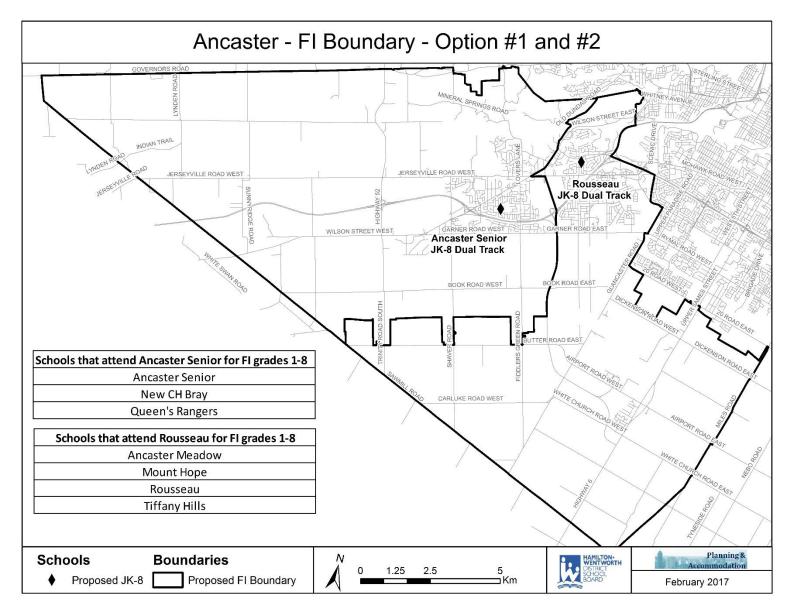


Figure 2: Option #2 FI Map

### Projected Enrolment

See Table 3 below which illustrates the projected enrolment at each facility. The following enrolment projections display a scenario where proposed construction is completed for the 2020/2021 school year. Based on funding application and building timelines this is realistically the earliest all projects could be completed.

Option #1	Current OTG	Proposed OTG	Program	Current	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	387	488	Eng (JK-8)	293	260	255	260	259	258	257	259
American Consign			FI (1-8)	42	234	233	238	240	234	236	236
Ancaster Senior			Total	335	494	488	498	499	492	492	495
			Utilization	87%	101%	100%	102%	102%	101%	101%	101%
		495	Eng (JK-8)	312	450	437	444	445	448	444	444
	100		FI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CH Bray	199		Total	312	450	437	444	445	448	444	444
			Utilization	157%	91%	88%	90%	90%	91%	90%	90%
	383	Closed	Eng	265	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Faccardan			FI	256	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fessenden			Total	521	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Utilization	136%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	222	176	Eng (JK-8)	128	144	147	140	135	135	138	138
Queen's			FI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rangers			Total	128	144	147	140	135	135	138	138
			Utilization	58%	82%	83%	80%	77%	77%	79%	79%
	291	395	Eng (JK-8)	258	271	266	268	262	265	262	264
Boursoou			FI (1-8)	0	138	135	145	146	139	141	141
Rousseau			Total	258	409	401	413	408	405	403	405
			Utilization	89%	103%	102%	105%	103%	102%	102%	103%
	1482	1554	Eng	1256	1125	1105	1112	1101	1106	1101	1104
Total			FI	298	372	368	383	386	373	376	378
TOLAI			Total	1554	1498	1474	1496	1488	1488	1478	1483
			Utilization	105%	96%	95%	96%	96%	95%	95%	95%

Table 3: Option #1 Enrolment Projection

#### **Capital Investment**

The capital investment required for option #1 is shown in Table 4 below. Option #1 proposes new 495 pupil place JK-8 school on the C.H. Bray site, costs include demolition and site preparation. Ancaster Senior proposed renovations include three FDK classroom addition and increased resource space for students. Proposed renovation at Queen's include accessibility, benchmark and renewal as stated in feasibility report. In this scenario, Queen's Rangers would not require any classroom addition as stated in the feasibility report and therefore this cost was removed from this analysis.

Proposed renovations to Rousseau include a five-classroom addition, reconfigure staff/office space, conversion of existing gym to library and addition of new gym space as described in the feasibility report. To address items in this scenario, it is estimated to cost \$24.9 million. The funding available to address these costs would be from School Renewal Grant (SRG), School Condition Improvement (SCI) and capital priority grants. All additions and new school construction due to school consolidation would be eligible for SCC funding. Accessibility, benchmark and renewal would be funded through SRG and SCI. For a complete breakdown of accessibility, benchmark and renewal please see the feasibility study in Appendix-C.

Advisory Committee Option #1	Ancaster Senior	CH Bray	Queen's Rangers	Rousseau	Cost
Accessibility Costs	\$161,156	\$0	\$194,063	\$58,219	\$413,438
Benchmark Costs	\$2,160,000	\$0	\$1,266,891	\$5,049,844	\$8,476,735
High and Urgent Renewal Costs	\$1,431,513	\$0	\$990,505	\$1,392,049	\$3,814,067
New School Construction\Site Prep	-	\$12,295,122	\$0	\$0	\$12,295,122
Total	\$3,752,669	\$12,295,122	\$2,451,459	\$6,500,112	\$24,999,362

Table 4: Option #1 Capital Investment

#### **Option Rationale**

- All school communities retain a school
- Removes portables from CH Bray and Fessenden
- Replacement of CH Bray facility which is in poor condition
- Renovations to schools in poor condition
- JK-8 model for all schools
- Two schools near 500 OTG
- Two dual track FI schools
- The open boundary between Ancaster Senior and Rousseau:
  - Allows for larger enrolment at Ancaster Senior
  - Hallways at Ancaster Senior better suited to larger enrolment
  - o More space at Ancaster Senior in terms of facility and property
  - o Reducing the proposed enrolment at Rousseau may mitigate traffic and congestion
  - Makes better use of existing purpose built infrastructure at Ancaster Senior such as the music, science and art rooms.
- Queen's Rangers with an outdoor education centre would:
  - Help meet goal of community oriented schools
  - Take advantage of school's rural location
  - Engage local community
  - Create access to potential grants

#### 3.2 Option #2

Rebuild Ancaster Senior and Rousseau as JK-8 schools. New JK-8 elementary school on Ancaster High school site. Closure of CH Bray, Queen's Rangers and Fessenden. Please see the capital investment section below for more detail on prosed new schools, additions and renovations.

- Ancaster Senior/Fessenden Site: New construction to create 518 pupil place JK-8 Eng/FI school
  - Fessenden English students directed to Ancaster Senior (100% of students)
  - Ancaster Senior English students remain at Ancaster Senior (37% of students)
  - Fessenden FI students directed to Ancaster Senior (65% of students)
  - Ancaster Senior FI students remain at Ancaster Senior (64% of students)
- Ancaster High Site: New construction to create 541 pupil place JK-8 school
  - CH Bray students directed to new school on Ancaster High site (100% of students)
  - Queen's Rangers students directed to new school on Ancaster High site (100% of students)
  - Ancaster Senior English students directed to new school on Ancaster High site (41% of student)
- Rousseau: New construction to create 423 pupil place JK-8 Eng/FI school
  - Rousseau students remain at Rousseau (100% of students)
  - Ancaster Senior English students directed to Rousseau (22% of students)
  - Fessenden FI students directed to Rousseau (35% of students)
  - Ancaster Senior FI students directed to Rousseau (36% of students)

Proposed boundary review after the accommodation review for Queen's Rangers and surrounding school communities.

The timelines for all new builds are subject to the receipt of Ministry of Education funding and all regulatory approvals.



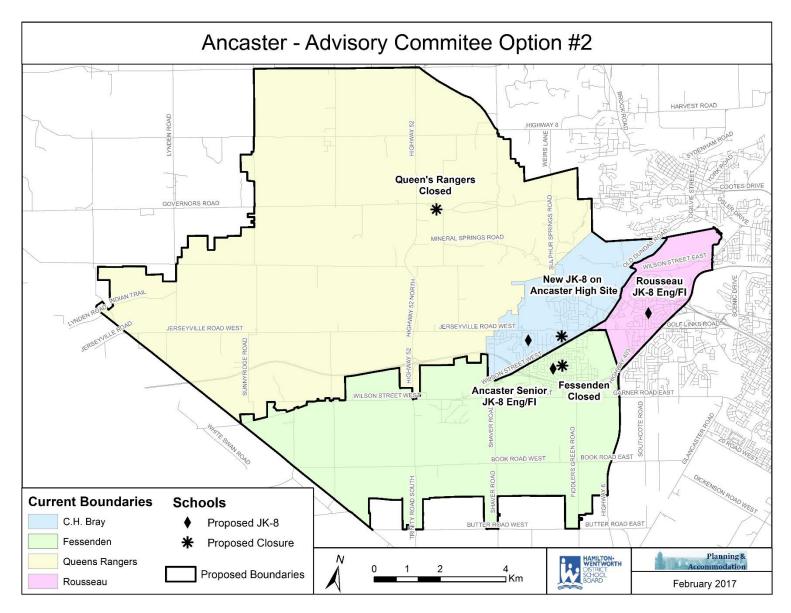


Figure 3: Option #3 Map

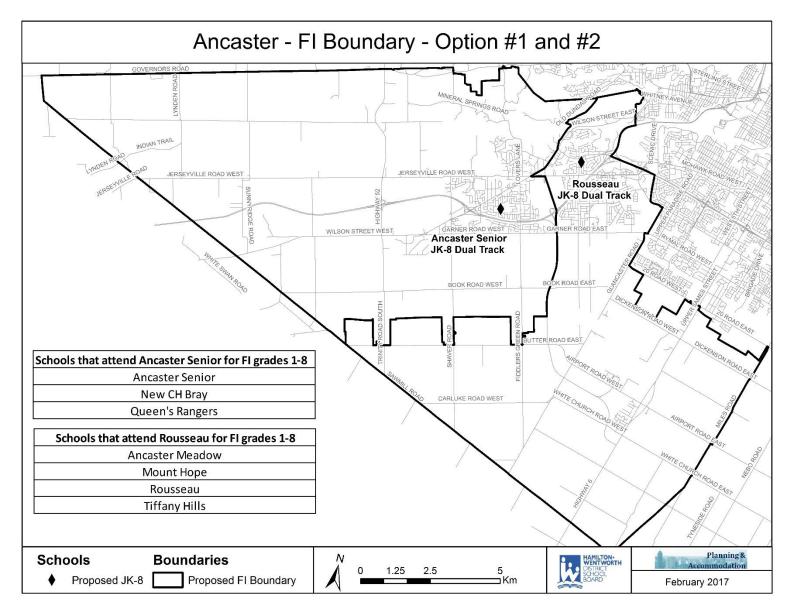


Figure 4: Option #2 FI Map

#### **Projected Enrolment**

See Table 5 below which illustrates the projected enrolment at each facility. The following enrolment projections display a scenario where proposed construction is completed for the 2020/2021 school year. Based on funding application and building timelines this is realistically the earliest all projects could be completed.

Option #2	Current OTG	Proposed OTG	Program	Current	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	8 School on		Eng (JK-8)	-	543	535	534	531	534	532	532
JK-8 School on		541	FI	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ancaster High	-	541	Total	-	543	535	534	531	534	532	532
			Utilization	-	100%	99%	99%	98%	99%	98%	98%
			Eng (JK-8)	293	284	275	283	282	281	283	283
Ancaster Senior	387	518	FI (1-8)	42	248	246	255	257	249	251	252
Ancaster Semon	507	210	Total	335	532	521	538	540	530	534	535
			Utilization	87%	103%	101%	104%	104%	102%	103%	103%
		Eng (JK-8)	312	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CH Brow	199	Closed	FI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cribidy	<b>CH Bray</b> 199	Closed	Total	312	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Utilization	157%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
			Eng	265	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fessenden 383	202	Closed	FI	256	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	202		Total	521	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Utilization	136%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
		22 Closed	Eng	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Queen's	222		FI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rangers	222		Total	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			Utilization	58%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
			Eng (JK-8)	258	298	295	296	289	293	287	290
Poussoau	291	423	FI (1-8)	0	124	123	128	129	124	125	126
Rousseau 291	291	423	Total	258	422	418	424	418	417	412	416
		Ē	Utilization	89%	100%	99%	100%	99%	99%	97%	98%
			Eng	1256	1126	1106	1113	1102	1107	1102	1105
Total	1482	1/07	FI	298	372	368	383	386	373	376	378
Total	1482	1482	Total	1554	1498	1474	1496	1488	1488	1478	1483
			Utilization	105%	101%	99%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 5: Option #2 Enrolment Projection

#### **Capital Investment**

The capital investment required for option #2 is shown in Table 6 below. Option #2 proposes a new 541 pupil place JK-8 school on the Ancaster High site, 518 pupil place JK-8 school on Ancaster Senior/Fessenden site and 423 pupil place JK-8 school on the Rousseau site. This option depicts three new builds which removes consideration of addressing accessibility, benchmark items and renewal needs at existing schools. The table also depicts the demolition, site prep and construction costs for the proposed new schools.

To address items in this scenario, it is estimated to cost \$37.4 million. The funding available to address these costs would be through SCC and capital priority grants.

Advisory Committee Option #2		Ancaster Senior	JK-8 School on Ancaster High Site	Rousseau	Cost
New School Construction\Site Prep		\$15,218,211	\$11,340,257	\$10,848,729	\$37,407,197
	Total	\$15,218,211	\$11,340,257	\$10,848,729	\$37,407,197

Table 6: Option #2 Capital Investment

#### **Option Rationale**

- Three new schools in Ancaster to replace aging facilities in poor condition
- Removes portables from CH Bray and Fessenden
- JK-8 model for all schools
- All school at 100% utilization
- Two schools 500-600 OTG
- Two dual track FI schools
- Consolidation of schools, reduction of operating/renewal costs and improved program/accessibility meets the criteria for School Consolidation Funding.

#### 3.3 Option #3

Rebuild CH Bray. Addition to Ancaster Senior to accommodate JK-6 English and grades 1-8 French Immersion. Queen's Rangers and Rousseau remains JK-6 schools. Closure of Fessenden upon the completion of new school and additions. Please see the capital investment section below for more detail on prosed new schools, additions and renovations.

- Ancaster High: 200 pupil place addition to create 7/8 wing on Ancaster High School
  - Ancaster Senior English students directed to Ancaster High (100% of students)
- Ancaster Senior: Addition to create 550 pupil place JK-6 Eng and grade 1-8 FI school
  - Fessenden English students directed to Ancaster Senior (100% of students)
  - Fessenden FI students directed to Ancaster Senior (100% of students)
  - Ancaster Senior FI students remain at Ancaster Senior (100% of students)
- CH Bray: New Construction to create 328 pupil place JK-6 school
  - CH Bray students directed to new school on CH Bray site (100% of students)
- Queen's Rangers: 153 pupil place JK-6 school Repurpose three classrooms to early years/childcare partnership
  - Queen's Rangers students remain at Queen's Rangers (100% of students)
- Rousseau: School remain 291 pupil place JK-6 school
  - Rousseau students remain at Rousseau school (100% of students)

The timelines for all new builds are subject to the receipt of Ministry of Education funding and all regulatory approvals.



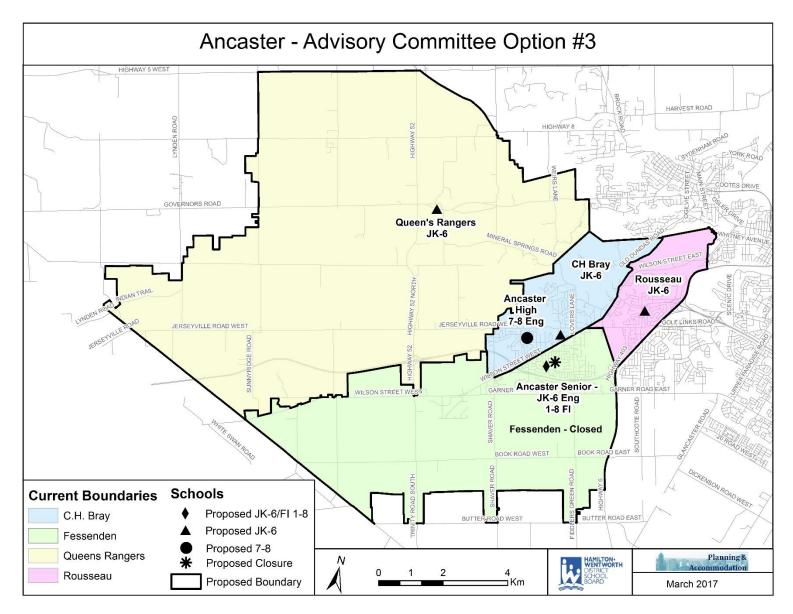


Figure 5: Option #3 Map

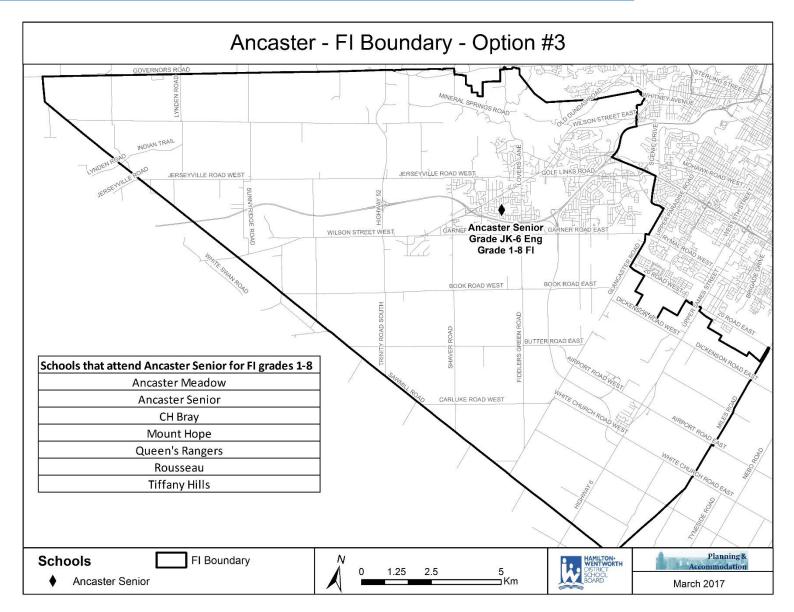


Figure 6: Option #3 FI Map

#### **Projected Enrolment**

See Table 7 below which illustrates the projected enrolment at each facility. The following enrolment projections display a scenario where proposed construction is completed for the 2020/2021 school year. Based on funding application and building timelines this is realistically the earliest all projects could be completed.

Option #3	Current OTG	Proposed OTG	Program	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
			Eng (JK-6)	228	224	226	232	233	233	233
Ancaster 207	550	FI (1-8)	372	368	383	386	373	376	378	
Senior	Senior 387	550	Total	600	592	609	618	606	609	610
			Utilization	109%	108%	111%	112%	110%	111%	111%
			Eng (JK-6)	315	317	321	316	316	316	316
CH Bray	199	328	FI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Сп Бгау	199	520	Total	315	317	321	316	316	316	316
			Utilization	96%	97%	98%	96%	96%	96%	96%
	Forcendary 202	Closed	Eng (JK-6)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fessenden			FI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fessenden 383	Closed	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Utilization	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Queen's Rangers			Eng (JK-6)	113	108	108	112	112	112	112
	153	FI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Total	113	108	108	112	112	112	112	
			Utilization	74%	71%	71%	73%	73%	73%	73%
		291	Eng (JK-6)	244	237	241	234	238	237	237
Rousseau	291		FI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nousseau	251		Total	244	237	241	234	238	237	237
			Utilization	84%	81%	83%	80%	82%	82%	82%
		200	Eng (7-8)	224	219	217	207	208	203	207
Ancaster	0		FI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
High	0	200	Total	224	219	217	207	208	203	207
			Utilization	112%	109%	109%	104%	104%	102%	103%
			Eng	1125	1105	1112	1101	1106	1101	1104
Total	1482	1522	FI	372	368	383	386	373	376	378
iotai	1402		Total	1498	1474	1496	1488	1488	1478	1483
			Utilization	98%	97%	98%	98%	97%	97%	97%

Table 7: Option #3 Enrolment Projection

#### Capital Investment

The capital investment required for option #3 is shown in Table 8 below. Option #3 includes a proposed new 328 pupil place JK-6 school on the C.H. Bray site, costs include demolition and site preparation. Ancaster Senior proposed renovations include, three FDK room and 5 classroom addition. Proposed renovations at Queen's Rangers include accessibility, benchmark and renewal as stated in feasibility report. In this scenario, Queen's Rangers would not require any classroom addition as stated in the feasibility report and therefore this cost was removed from this analysis. Proposed renovations to Rousseau include addressing accessibility, benchmark and renewal as stated in feasibility report. This option also calls for an addition Ancaster High to accommodate grade 7 and 8 English students. In this scenario that would include an estimated 9 classroom addition to the current facility.

To address items in this scenario, it is estimated to cost \$20.3 million. The funding available to address these costs would be from School Renewal Grant (SRG), School Condition Improvement (SCI) and capital priority grants. All additions and new school construction due to school consolidation would be eligible for SCC funding. Accessibility and renewal would be funded through SRG and SCI. For a complete breakdown of accessibility, benchmark and renewal please see the feasibility student in Appendix-C.

Advisory Committee Option #3	Ancaster High	Ancaster Senior	CH Bray	Queen's Rangers	Rousseau	Cost
Accessibility Costs	\$0	\$161,156	\$0	\$194,063	\$58,219	\$413,438
Benchmark Costs	\$0	\$3,204,575	\$0	\$1,266,891	\$406,688	\$4,878,154
High and Urgent Renewal Costs	\$0	\$1,431,513	\$0	\$990,505	\$1,392,049	\$3,814,067
New School Construction\Site Prep	\$1,900,000	\$0	\$9,375,660	\$0	\$0	\$11,275,660
Total	\$1,900,000	\$4,797,244	\$9,375,660	\$2,451,459	\$1,856,956	\$20,381,319

Table 8: Option #3 Capital Investment

#### **Option Rationale**

- All school communities remain intact
- Removes portables from CH Bray and Fessenden
- Replacement of CH Bray facility which is in poor condition
- Childcare or early years centre for Queen's Rangers community

#### Programming

The three options discuss a variety of programming options. Option #1 and #2 propose programming changes to all schools, converting to JK-8 models which will reduce the number of transitions for students. Both options #1 and #2 create a second French Immersion program at Rousseau school to create more equitable access to this programming. Option #3 proposes to retain the current K-6 model at four elementary schools while creating a 7-12 campus on the current Ancaster High School site. This option also proposing to keep FI grades 1-8 at Ancaster Senior. In all options the current special education classes Ancaster Senior and Rousseau are proposed to remain in the same locations.

#### **Timelines**

All options follow the same basic timelines as the initial option. Timelines are dependent on project scope, funding, site plan approval, demolition/building permits and other regulatory approvals. Funding applications are completed on a bi-annual basis and the proposed projects may require multiple applications which would affect the proposed timelines.

Phases	Timelines
Phase 1: Accommodation review	6 months
Phase 2: SCC Funding Application Process	9-12 months
Phase 3: Pre-Construction - Regulatory Approvals, Consultation Process and Project Planning	12 -18 months
Phase 4: Construction – Abatement, Demolition, Site Remediation and Construction of Facility	18 months
Phase 5: Occupancy	-

Table 2: Proposed Timelines

### 4. Public Meetings

As per HWDSB's Pupil Accommodation Review Policy two public meetings were held for the Ancaster Review. The first public meeting was held on January 12, 2017 at Ancaster High and had 71 public attendees. The meeting began with a welcome and introductions which transitioned into a presentation from HWDSB staff. The presentation reviewed the accommodation review process, initial staff report, initial option and school information profiles.

After the presentation, attendees were engaged in facilitated feedback on the initial option. Seated at tables of 10-15 people, a facilitator led groups through 3 guiding questions regarding the initial option. The purpose of the small group conversation and facilitation were to ensure each community member's voice is heard. Feedback was recorded by the facilitator and at the end of the evening the facilitator shared the top 3 points the table group discussed.

Below is a high-level summary of the pros and cons of the initial option.

Initial Option						
Pros	Cons					
A strong sense of community	Large student population					
New or renewed facilities	Loss of community					
<ul> <li>JK-8 in one building</li> </ul>	Transitions for students					
Schools are still walkable	Loss of green space					
Cost savings	• Increased traffic (cars and busses) at schools					
Offers diverse programs and resources	Loss of school community					
	Students may be separated					
	Impact on student learning					
	School distance is too far for some families					

The public meeting feedback was recorded and then review by the Evidence-Based Education and Services Team to determine key themes. Additional factors the public suggested the advisory committee consider include the following:

- The safety, mental health, and well-being of students
- Impact of increased school populations
- Impact on school properties
- Impact on transportation
- Facility considerations
- Alternative options
- The rural perspective
- Impact on school community
- Impact on staff
- Public consultation

For complete recaps of the public meetings please see the minutes in Appendix-C.

Public Meeting #2 was held on March 9, 2017 at Ancaster High and had 141 public attendees. The meeting began with a welcome and introductions which transitioned into a presentation from HWDSB staff to provide an update on the accommodation review process and review three advisory committee created accommodation options.

After the presentation, attendees broke into groups to examined three advisory committee options. There were three stations within the cafeteria which displayed poster sized descriptions and details of accommodation option. Attendees were encouraged to discuss the strengths and challenges of each option with a facilitator.

At the end of the evening staff reviewed the next steps in the accommodation review process which includes the interim report, delegation night and final Trustee proposals. There was a question and answer session with community members to close out the evening.

Below is a high-level summary of the strengths and concerns of the three advisory committee options.

Advisory Committee Option #1					
Strengths	Concerns				
<ul> <li>Benefits all HWDSB communities in the Ancaster Area</li> <li>Maintain the integrity of rural schools</li> <li>All schools are JK-8 – fewer transitions</li> <li>Access to outdoor program</li> <li>Supports community partnership initiative</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Concerns around renovations vs new schools</li> <li>Transition of students</li> <li>Fl program at two schools</li> <li>Loss of Fessenden property (loss of green space)</li> </ul>				

Advisory Committee Option #2					
Strengths	Concerns				
Three new facilities for all communities	Loss of sense of community				
All schools at capacity	<ul> <li>Loss of green space</li> </ul>				
Rebuilding our schools is positive thing and	Most expensive option				
sustainable long term.	<ul> <li>Transportation of students due to larger</li> </ul>				
	boundaries				
	<ul> <li>Can funding be secured for three new</li> </ul>				
	buildings				
	Transition an issue for students				

Advisory Committee Option #3					
Strengths	Concerns				
Fewer transitions for students	Is 7-12 programming feasible on Ancaster				
Maintain the integrity of rural schools	High site due to building condition				
<ul> <li>Benefits all HWDSB communities in the</li> </ul>	Concerns for safety of grade 7/8 students				
Ancaster Area	Loss of Fessenden property				
Support JK-6 schools	Transition planning for students				
Supports community partnership initiative	• How will 7/8 share space at a high school				
<ul> <li>Keeps all Fi students together</li> </ul>	with an existing large enrolment				
	FI at two schools				

For complete recaps of the public meetings please see the minutes in Appendix-C.