



Ancaster Accommodation Review Public Meeting #2 March 9th, 2017- 6:00 pm Ancaster High School Minutes

Attendance 141=Public; 16=Advisory Committee, HWDSB=6, 4=Trustees

Committee Members: Max Brett, Sarah Hopen, Sandy Bovair-Young, Jennifer Kershaw, Mike Bell, Elizabeth Crawford, Henry Kolodziej, Stephen Obermeyer, Gint Murphy, Sheri Mainprize

HWDSB Resource Staff: Superintendent Bill Torrens/Chair, Director Manny Figueiredo, Ellen Warling, Ian Hopkins, Dave Anderson, Jackie Penman, Bob Avery, Jenny Seto-Vanderlip, Laura Subonovich, John Gris, Tammy McLaughlin, Kelly Sweeting

Trustees: Ward Trustees Wes Hicks, Dawn Danko, Greg Van Geffen, Alex Johnstone

Public: Media, Richard Leitner

Recording Secretary: Michele Lambie

6:06 Start

Welcome everyone to the meeting.

Introductions: Director Manny Figueiredo, Wes Hicks, Dawn Danko, Greg Van Geffen, Alex Johnstone, Ian Hopkins, Dave Anderson, Jackie Penman, Bob Avery, Principals and Vice Principals, PAR Committee. Thanks to our advisory committee for their dedication and hard work.

Why we are here

- To review our (5) Ancaster schools, take advantage of Ministry of Education funding opportunities, to create modern learning environments in new schools that will serve the needs of our present and future communities.
- Transparency is crucial, and therefore it's important to understand that neither the initial option, nor the ideas presented tonight are final.
- Purpose of this meeting is to lend your voice and collect your feedback on the (3) Big Ideas introduced to help guide this accommodation process.
- Feedback and questions on the advisory committee options from parents, staff and other stakeholders, that will be reviewed by the advisory committee, and will be shared with the Board of Trustees to assist in making an informed decision.
- Accommodation information can be viewed on website: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews/>
- Brief slide presentation and review of Options #1 – 3.
- Group Work tables: Facilitators to record and capture key questions/concerns, and share their (3) Big Questions.
- Sharing period of each table Option with entire group, posing key questions to be answered.
- HWDSB Resource Staff will endeavour to answer these questions; however, if unable to provide an answer they will take queries back for further investigation, for an accurate response.
- Question and Answer period – 25 minutes.

Role of the Advisory Committee

- Share information about the community to Trustees.
- Ask questions of HWDSB staff.
- Review possible options.
- Share the work they have been doing with the community.



Review of Timelines

- One more working group meeting on March 2, 2017.
- Interim Report will be received by Trustees on April 10, 2017.
- Trustees will review and vote on an proposal by June 5, 2017.

Review of the (3) Big Ideas:

- *Agendas and maps on public chairs and Facilitator tables.*
- *There are two guiding questions for each option: (1) What are the strengths of the option; (2) What are the concerns with the option?*
- **Option #1 - Closure of Fessenden:** Ancaster Senior (JK-8 Eng, FI, Spec Ed); CH Bray (JK-8) *New Build*; Queens Rangers (JK-8 Eng) *Reno*; Rousseau (JK-8 Eng, FI, Spec Ed) *Addition*.
Proposal includes: an open boundary between Ancaster Senior and Rousseau for grades 7&8, to reduce population at Rousseau, taking advantage of space at Ancaster Senior; makes better use of existing infrastructure at Ancaster Senior (science lab, art, music room).
Excess space in school repurposed for a system wide program such as outdoor education.
- **Option #2 – Closure of Fessenden & Queens Rangers:** Ancaster Senior (JK-8 Eng, FI, Spec Ed) *New Build*; CH Bray (JK-8 Eng) *New Build on Ancaster High site*; Rousseau (JK-8 Eng, FI, Spec Ed) *New Build*.
Proposed boundary review after the accommodation review for Queen’s Rangers and surrounding school communities.
- **Option #3 – Closure of Fessenden - Ancaster High (7-12):** *Addition*; Ancaster Senior (JK-6 Eng, 1-8 FI, Spec Ed) *Addition*; CH Bray (JK-6 Eng) *New Build*; Queens Rangers (JK-6) *Reno*; Rousseau (JK-6 Eng, Spec Ed) *Reno*.
Excess space repurposed for possible early years/child care partnership.
- **FI boundary – Option #1 and #2:** Schools that attend *Ancaster Senior* for FI grades 1 (Ancaster Senior, New CH Bray, Queen’s Rangers). Schools that attend *Rousseau* for FI grades 1-8 (Ancaster Meadow, Mount Hope, Rousseau, Tiffany Hills).
- **FI Boundary – Option #3:** Schools that attend *Ancaster Senior* for FI grades 1-8 (Ancaster Meadow, Ancaster Senior, CH Bray, Mount Hope, Queen’s Rangers, Rousseau, Tiffany Hills).

Option #1 – Big Ideas

- *All schools are JK-8, therefore fewer transitions.*
- *All HWDSB students have access to outdoor education facilities*
- *Value added from outdoor education programs (other schools can come in; rural communities are willing to support).*
- *Enhances/supports community partner programs.*
- *Maintain integrity of rural schools that support rural values and lifestyles*
- *Benefits all HWDSB communities that are incorporated in the review.*
- *Benefits students more than other options (less transitions, stay within community, shorter bus routes)*
- *Concerns around renovations vs. new builds: newer; have better facilities (e.g. gym); are healthier and safer.*

Q1. What is the plan to ensure safety, traffic control, and property value along Taylor Road/Valley view?

A1. In regards to the barricade, it is too early to say if removing barriers because we don't have a site plan. Therefore, we are looking for community feedback and concerns, to capture at tonight's meeting, in order to plan ahead of time if this option is being considered.



Q2. Is there sufficient demand to warrant 2 FI schools in Ancaster?

A2. The purpose of FI at Rousseau is to increase enrolment, to meet the HWDSB guidelines. Historically, FI programs start small and then grow. For example, Fessenden had a few FI classes, but it has since grown to a full FI compliment to meet the demands of the community.

Q3. What will happen to the land if Fessenden closes?

A3. The Trustees will determine if the land is deemed surplus and sold through Ontario Regulation 444/98 or if the land will be kept in HWDSBs inventory.

Q4. Was a rebuild at Rousseau considered?

A4. Option #2 considers rebuilding Rousseau

Q5. What is the transition plan for students changing schools?

A5. Transition Committee is struck prior to students changing schools. This committee is composed of staff, parents, and community members, whose purpose is to formulate a plan at the school level to ease transitions (e.g. events; field trips that incorporate each school). Educators are aware that transitions can be challenging, and therefore prepare students through programming to ease any concerns and ensure it is beneficial for all.

Q6. Do we need FI at 2 schools and will resources be split?

A6. If we are to have dual tracks at two sites, the splitting of resources will be dependent upon the enrolment. In which case, there may be reallocation, but no significant impact on how we do programming.

Q7. What will the outdoor education program look like - are there examples from other boards?

A7. The details of the concept of having an outdoor education programs have not been worked through. Therefore we are seeking your voice if this option goes further in this process, at which point we will work on those specific details.

Option #2 – Big Ideas:

- *Nice to have 3 new builds that will be at capacity*
- *Disruptive to kids and community (i.e. Taylor Road issue)*
- *Make Ancaster High FI as well*
- *There are no strengths in Option #2 – loss of sense of community and green space.*
- *Rebuilding our schools is positive thing and sustainable long term.*
- *Option #2 is the most expensive compared to the other groups.*
- *We do not want a new build on the Ancaster High site as this would remove green space used by children.*
- *Loss of green space in Ancaster.*
- *We do not want Queen's Ranger to close as this means loss of cultural identity.*

Q8. Is there money to support 3 new builds with a cost of \$37 million (plus)?

A8. The Ministry would review the business case to replace the 5 schools with 3 new buildings. Once a final decision has been made in June, the Board will make a case to the Ministry through funding sources, and create a business proposal requesting funding by the Ministry.

Q9. Where is the funding – will this increase our taxes and will the government pay for this?

A9. The funding is from School Consolidated Capital program. The program, announced in 2014-2015 is a \$750 million funding strategy available over a 4-year period to all school boards across Ontario.

Q10. Are there plans for demolition and sale of school lands? CH Bray/Fessenden?

A10. The Trustees will determine if the land is deemed surplus and sold through Ontario Regulation 444/98 or if the land will be kept in HWDSBs inventory.



Q11. What will happen with our green space/soccer fields?

A11. Until this option is approved, this is a “footprint” and therefore we do not have specs or drawings produced to determine the reduction of field space on Ancaster High.

Q12. Will the city put in sidewalks and sewers in particular Taylor Road, Valley view, Central Road?

A12. That decision is up to the City of Hamilton.

Q13. How will the length of time on a bus be addressed?

A13. The length of bus times will continue to follow Board Policy, where scheduled routes are not to exceed 60 minutes. Consequently, the Transportation department will create optimal routes to stay within these guidelines. However, unforeseen accidents or inclement weather conditions are factors that can lead to over the limit bus length times. Parents are well informed by transportation letters that are sent to their homes in mid to late August.

Q14. If we pick this option is it realistic to expect the ministry to give us \$37 million?

A14. The funding is from School Consolidated Capital program. The program, announced in 2014-2015 is a \$750 million funding strategy available over a 4-year period to all school boards across Ontario.

Q15. What happens to the school property when a school is torn down?

A16. When a school board disposes of a facility it must follow strict ministry regulations. It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to make this decision, on whether to put the facility up for sale. There is a specific process, including looking for preferred agents” (i.e. other school boards), rather than relinquishing facilities to Ministry hands.

Option #3 – Big Ideas:

- *Current catchments will not undergo too many changes – fewer transitions for students.*
- *Having Queen’s Rangers remaining open allows for a rural school setting; shorter bus rides; and potential for rural early years or outdoor education option (or community hub).*
- *JK-6 elementary schools in general are ideal for student development.*
- *Rural schools = community.*
- *Operational costs.*
- *7/8 at Ancaster High is concerning.*
- *Keep Queen’s Rangers open.*
- *Continuity of rural community.*
- *Need grades 7 and 8 to split resources and facilities.*
- *Concerns of social implications; transition plan for students.*
- *Green space safety concerns: part road, other part environmental.*
- *Only one FI school, keeping all FI students together.*

Q16. Need more information on having grades 7-12 at Ancaster High.

A16. We are looking for community feedback and concerns on this concept, to capture at tonight’s meeting, in order to plan ahead of time if this option is being considered.

Q17. Need more information about programming and resources on a grade 7-12 site: co-ordinated services; specialized programming?

A17. The option speaks to an addition, but if approved there would be some shared space, such as the gym. This is not a model we have at HWDSB, therefore this option would require in depth research and planning, should this idea go forward.

Q18. What will happen to Fessenden property, in regards to daycare?

A18. Any childcare program would be moved to the schools that remain open to ensure this services remains available for the community.



Q19. Capacity projections: what will over capacity look like? Portables?

A19. No initial plans for portables at Ancaster High, although there may be a need for portables in the future. Presently, Ancaster High is under capacity. Enrolment projections are based on two major components. Grade by grade and program to program analysis is completed to develop historic enrolment trends. These trends capture the current demographics and neighbourhood regeneration. The second component is estimating the number of students from new housing developments. HWDSB collect housing information through the city of Hamilton and create housing forecasts. Using the current trends and housing forecasts the projections are created.

Q20. What are the timelines?

A20. 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.

Additional Questions:

Q21. What happens to FI students graduating into FI high school? Will there be FI transportation?

A21. Currently FI students go to Sherwood Secondary. As per Transportation policy there will be community group stops for FI students.

Q22. Are there specific budgets to work around these options?

A22. No, at this point we are only consulting with the community. Once a final decision has been made, the budget will be addressed.

Q23. With the number of options on the table, how does the Board determine what has the best criteria to make a business case to the Ministry?

A23. Ultimately, it is the Board of Trustees responsibility to select an option. Some of the factors will include Facilities' master building plans; preferred models are K-8 schools; with limited number of students being bussed to their home schools.

Q24. How do operational costs factor into the decision process? Is there a criteria funding formula?

A24. The school consolidated capital funding that these projects may qualify for include a list of criteria the Ministry of Education reference. These include: reducing unused space within schools, reduction of renewal and operating costs and improved programming and accessibility.

Q25. What are the kinds of traffic studies being used? With Ancaster communities growing, most of these proposals will significantly impact traffic?

A25. At the site plan approval phase with the City of Hamilton, the design must ensure that it addresses parking and vehicle access issues. These issues would be mitigated through traffic calming devices, appropriate parking lot lay out, turning lanes, entrances/exits and school safety zones.

Q26. Clarification and rationale for Spec Ed. and inclusion, for all of these options?

A26. These options identify current spec ed program location and propose they both stay at the same location.

Q27. Clarification of the terms "renovations" and "additions"? Does this mean portables?

A27. No, this means brick and mortar.

Q28. Have you factored in older residents moving out and new families moving in?

A28. Calculations are performed on an annual basis, to factor in population trends and neighbourhood regenerations. Historically speaking, neighbourhood regenerations do not attract as many young families, as new housing developments.

Q29. Ancaster High has already gone through the amalgamation, PAR, and renovation process, so why are we not tearing it down a building that is already experiencing technical issues? Is adding a new facility to this site being shortsighted?

A29. We can share this other option as part of the feedback, to be taken back and reflected upon.



8:35

Next Steps

Working Group Meeting #6 – Tuesday, March 21st, 2017 at Ancaster Senior (6:00 pm.)

Interim Report

- Update Trustees and summarize the last 3 months of work by the Advisory Committee.
- Summarize the options suggested by the advisory committee and feedback from public meetings.
- Contain a staff recommendation to Trustees to consider as well.

Delegation Night- Monday, May 8th, 2017 at the Education Centre

- Opportunity for stakeholders to speak directly with the Board of Trustees.
- More information will be available on the Board website, advertised in local newspaper, letters home with student in April.

Final proposal to Ministry as decided by Trustees – June 2017.