

Rousseau School Council Meeting – Accommodation Review
Tuesday December 20, 2016
6:09pm – 8:00 pm

Rousseau Accommodation Review Committee Representatives: Stephen Obermeyer (Teacher Representative); Gint Murphy (Parent Representative)

School Council Attendees: Kim Strecker (Chair); Helene Monzon (Secretary); Mr. John Gris (Principal)

School Community Attendees: Honor Hughes; Melissa Jeffreys; Alison Fleet; Charlie Coull; Anthony Nicholl; Nigel Hearay; Cate Banfield; Katrin Conen; Heidi Burrows; Maeve Grady

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**\*\*Parents – please remember to subscribe for email updates at:**  
<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/rousseau/subscribe/>

December 20, 2016 Meeting was a special meeting called to provide an update on the HWDSB Accommodation Review impacting Ancaster area schools and specifically the Initial Report and impacts to Rousseau. Please refer to the following links for documents referenced in the meeting as well as for further information.

**Accommodation Review Information Links:**

1. HWDSB Accommodation Review Main: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews/>
2. Initial Report: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews/ancaster/initial-report/> (Initial Report, and also includes all of the following appendices including School Information Profiles for all of the schools in the PAR, the feasibility study, the alternative benchmarks and the identified benchmark items by school)

*Questions?* Please direct questions to our Committee Representatives OR Accommodation Review Contact form: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews/contact/>

**Key Future Dates:**

| # | Meeting Type                          | Date & Time                         | Location            |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Public Meeting                        | Thursday January 12, 2017<br>@6pm   | Ancaster High       |
| 2 | Committee Working<br>Group Session #2 | Wednesday January 18,<br>2017 @ 6pm | Rousseau Elementary |
| 3 | Public Meeting                        | Thursday March 9, 2017              | TBD                 |
| 4 | Proposal Date                         | Tuesday March 21, 2017              | --                  |

**\*All dates can be found at the following location:**

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews/files/2016/11/Timeline-Ancaster.pdf>

The Rousseau Accommodation Review representatives, Stephen Obermeyer and Gint Murphy, presented information that they have gathered in attending the Orientation Session (Nov.29, 2016) and Working Group Meeting 1 (Dec.8, 2016).

- **ALL Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the Public Meeting schedules for Thursday January 12, 2017; where one can ask questions, voice concerns, etc.**
- All parents/community members are also welcome to **observe** committee working group sessions (observe, but not participate or comment during Working group sessions)

### **Discussion Summary**

- Hard copy (binders) of the documents posted to the links above are also available in the school (Steven or John have copies available for use in the Office)
- Key note is that the Initial Report is a “starting point” for discussion; it is based on the initial assessment and proposal
- Discussion on:
  - a.** Rejuvenation of the Status Quo
    - i.** K-6
    - ii.** Address on more accessibility parking space
    - iii.** Some entry and exit doors require ramps
    - iv.** Stage-lift in gym (barrier-free)
    - v.** Barrier-free stalls are required in boy’s and girl’s washrooms
    - vi.** Library, general office and resource are below benchmark
    - vii.** No dedicated change-rooms
    - viii.** Capacity 291, current enrolment 239 (82%)
  - b.** Initial Option
    - i.** Rebuild CH Bray
    - ii.** Add to Ancaster Sr. and Rousseau
    - iii.** Close Fessenden and Queen’s Ranger

iv. Ancaster Sr. Eng students directed to Rousseau

v. Fessenden FI students directed to Rousseau

vi. Ancaster Sr. FI students directed to Rousseau

c. Rousseau

i. K-8

ii. 495 pupil place

iii. Allow for 19 regular classrooms (10 currently)

iv. Meet all accessibility and benchmark items from Option A

v. NEW BUILD: gym, music room, 8 classrooms, 3 Full Day Kindergarten classrooms

- New proposal to build new space onto Rousseau AND modify current building; the current proposal does not include retrofit of the existing building/facility (e.g. does not include adding air conditioning to existing facility)
- Limited areas in Rousseau have Asbestos today – if build impacts these areas, proper abatement techniques would apply. **ACTION** for January Rousseau School Council Meeting – **John Gris** to provide Rousseau Asbestos Inventory at next meeting
- Current French and Performing Arts room would be used for classroom space
- Parking would not be increased, and potentially there would be a loss of spots to accommodate better flow for buses and drop off (Gint indicates by law we are only required to have 18, currently we have 38).
- Accommodation Review is expected to conclude in Spring 2017 (6 month process), Board must apply for funding to the Ministry of Education (9-12 month process), Pre-construction (12-18 month process), Construction (18 month process)
- 5 Schools impacted: Rousseau, CH Bray, Fessenden, Queen’s Ranger, Ancaster Sr.
- Boundary Review is not part of this review (e.g. whether Queen’s Ranger would be moved under Dundas), Ancaster Meadow nor Tiffany Hills are considered in the current Ancaster boundary being reviewed
- The Committee has been asked to review the Initial Review (proposal) along with 6 other proposals; they are then asked to come to a consensus on a proposal that will then be presented to the Trustees by March 21, 2017. Currently, there is no process defined should the committee be unable to come to a consensus.

- Steven has spoken to Rousseau staff to make them aware and asked that they consider “What do they need in a facility in order to best support the ability to teach?” Teachers have been asked to provide feedback back to Steven and Gint.
- Concerns of whether we decrease physical education time if we double the size of the school – depends on size of new gym being proposed. Question of whether we can use adjacent city park – answer is yes, however “trip” forms need to be signed by parents – would also need to consider supervision/sight lines (e.g would we need to cut some of the current trees down)
- OTG (term used in Initial Review) – means “On The Ground” which represents enrolment numbers BUT only specific to brick & mortar (does not include portables)
- Question on whether we would have better access to Learning resource and specialist teachers if we doubled in capacity – Steven has posed this question and is waiting on a response.
- It is expected that the new structure will have new bathrooms and separate heating/cooling.
- Cost breakdown is included in Initial Review; funding of this initiative is from the Ministry of Education once proposal is approved
- Question of current Rousseau structure and building life expectancy (reaching max expectancy within the next 5 years) – HWDSB has a Long Term Facilities Master Plan (pls. refer to About Us under Facilities Master Plans on HWDSB site) – details on the projected 5-year Renewal Needs for Rousseau

The School Council meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Helene Monzon. Next meeting to take place on Tuesday January 17, 2017 at 6:30 pm.