

North Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Board Room – Education Centre

April 12, 2011

Working Meeting #4

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair – Vicki Corcoran

Voting Members – Jayne Bentley, Sandra Binns, Anna Busse, Michele Cameron, Michael Chalupka, Lisa Deys, Jane Henry, Prema Rao, Joyce Schneider, Dawn Spencer, Grant Thomas, Barb Wachner, Jane Withers

Non-Voting Members – Robert Barlow, Marco Barzetti, Danielle Bawden, Paul Beattie, Judith Bishop, Marilyn Bratkovich, Glenn Cooke, Geoff Coombs, Mark Currie, Rich Gelder, Jim Holubeshen, Peter Joshua, Ray Mulholland, Jamie Nunn, Maria Pearson, , Pam Reinholdt, Pat Rocco, Michael Root, Tim Simmons, Todd White

Regrets

Voting Members – Annie Fu, Marie Jackson, Rick Kunc

Non-Voting Members – Scott Barr, Chad Collins, Susan Corrigan, Jason Farr, Bernie Morelli, Sam Merulla, Bob Pratt, Don Pente

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Jim Wibberley, Kevin Morton, Ellen Warling

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1. Call to Order

Superintendent Vicki Corcoran welcomed everyone to the fourth working group meeting. She indicated that they had a busy agenda ahead and the minutes from the previous meeting were moved to the end of the night so that the Committee could get right to work. She spoke of the follow-up information

from the previous meetings that had been included in the handouts and reminded the Committee that microphones were available for their use so that everyone could be clearly heard.

2. Agenda

2.1 Additions and Deletions – There were no additions or deletions.

2.2 Approval or the Agenda – The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Meeting Planning

Superintendent Corcoran explained that there were two presentations on the Agenda. For this reason and because the program plan presentation would take some time the Chair indicated that it made sense to delay the discussion of the accommodation options until the next working group meeting. She also shared that some discussion could take place regarding the working group and public meeting times and content. Mr. Del Bianco spoke to the Committee and asked for their opinion on flipping the next public meeting with the next working group meeting # 5. There was some concern that the public meeting had already been advertised and the Committee felt that the change would need to be advertised. Consensus was given to make the change and to advertise the changed dates. The next working group meeting will now be May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. and the next public meeting will be held at Glendale on May 24th at 6:30-9:30 p.m.

4. Presentation – Community Planning Team

The presentation was made by David Derbyshire on behalf of the Community Planning Team. Mr. Derbyshire shared that the Community Planning Team has eight communities across the City of Hamilton. He shared that he was here to speak of three of the eight communities – McQuesten, Crown Point and South Sherman. Mr. Derbyshire used one of the Communities “McQuesten Community Planning Team” as an example of a planning team. To see the eight communities and the handout please click on the following link: http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Community_Planning_Team_Presentation_Apr12_2011.pdf

He shared that the key of the planning team is the community (resident, places of worship, service providers, institutions, etc) who want to make the neighbourhood a better place. The teams meet on a monthly basis.

The Mission of the team is: “To improve the quality of life for those of us living in the McQuesten Neighbourhood.”

The Vision: “To create an active and responsive link between the residents and those involved in the McQuesten community.”

Five Core Value:

- Respect
- Inclusiveness
- Stewardship
- Caring
- Asset based on strengths of this community

Mr. Derbyshire felt that it was important for the ARC Committee to listen to these residents and to hear the impact that their recommendation could potentially have on the residents of these three communities.

The Committee asked Mr. Derbyshire if the community has expressed concern that Delta is a part of these communities. He shared that the schools are a real focal point of these communities.

Mr. Derbyshire was then asked what he saw happening to the communities if Delta closed. He indicated that the community would like to see revitalization, an LRT System and housing revitalization. The concern was that if people want to move back into the area there will be no Secondary School available to these residents. He felt that people would be moving out because they want their children closer to schools, and there would be others who would not want to move into the area if no Secondary Schools exist. He also felt that this would have a negative impact on businesses in the neighbourhood.

A Committee member asked what affect it would have on the programs, like the Girls and Boys Club, which are offered in the Area. Mr. Derbyshire stated that he does not see it closing because Kiwanis has been in the neighbourhood for a number of years. He stated that these programs will still be offered.

Another member shared that it is the ARCs mandate to close a school. He wondered what would be the recommendation from these community teams. Mr. Derbyshire asked if there was a creative way to fill the space in the schools, for example twinning schools (Parkview and Delta). Some other ideas that he shared were:

- Two Boards coming together to fill the existing school or can you offer a program like you have at Westmount in the core of the City.
- Make the school reflect the community – e.g. Sir John A Macdonald becomes an art school.
- Can the school be partnered and mentored by businesses in the area.

Mr. Derbyshire indicated that some schools may be closed but why does it have to be the schools in the core. He feels that students from the outside could come into the core. He also asked about transportation for the students who are currently enrolled in these schools. Would they get on a bus and go to a new school or would they go to a school that is further away? His concern is that these students would be at risk and they would not go outside of their natural migration pattern. Mrs. Bawden shared that some of the students at Delta need to leave immediately after school to pick up siblings or if the parent has to go to work the students often get called out from school to look after their siblings. She also shared that they are at an age where they have difficulty getting up in the morning however if they wake up late and the school is around the corner they will often make the effort to get to school. Mr. Derbyshire also shared that the parents are involved in the school that are in the neighbourhood however he stated that they will not go to schools that are outside of their immediate area.

The Chair thanked Mr. Derbyshire for taking the time to come out and speak to the Committee.

5. Presentation – Program Plan

Superintendent Corcoran shared that the Board wanted to present more detailed information on the Program Plan. She asked the Committee to note that this plan will be adapted to reflect the final decisions of the Board about which schools are closed. While the plan may reflect the recommendations of Senior Administration they are very clear that the plan must reflect the final

decisions of the Board. She also stated that this ARC may make program recommendations that may be adopted by the Board.

Mr. Peter Joshua spoke of “Why a Program Strategy”. He shared that this is about “Learning for All” and it is about rethinking the way that programs are offered so that Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board best meets the needs of each of the students. They want students to have choice, support and directions as they benefit from the knowledge and skills they acquire from their educational program. Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board is restructuring what they offer, where they offer it and how they can support all students to achieve their full potential in their schools. Everything they do, from the placement of programs, supports and facilities, will make strategic sense and ensure students feel safe, welcome, energized and included as they work to achieve their goals.

“What is Changing?” – This represents a shift in thinking and touches many themes including:

- All Students Learning - This is about equal learning for every student
- Personalized Learning - Students choosing how they learn
- All Pathways in All Schools – wanting every school to meet every major student destination (apprenticeship, college, community, university, work)
- Schools with Specializations – where you live should not determine what you can study.
- Board, Cluster and Community Supports – adjusting the type and intensity of our supports to fit the needs of each student.

“What is Vocational Education?” Vocational education consists of programs that:

- Focus on workplace preparation with a strong emphasis on the development of literacy, numeracy, personal life management and employment skills.
- Experiential learning through job shadowing, work experience and co-operative education.
- Deliver safe, nurturing and inclusive environments.
- Student achievement improves when students learn alongside peers of mixed abilities.

Superintendent Joshua stated that an important piece is that Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board is delivering this program in a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment in a local school.

Superintendent Joshua shared that Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board already has many of these programs throughout the Board, in the Specialist High Skills Majors and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs. Through the vocational programs, the students will have the same choices, variety and flexibility in their course options, while Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board will continue to offer support in the areas that are needed.

Tier 1 – School and class-wide learning

This tier has four pathways which all students in the system will choose a pathway to follow.

One such pathway is apprenticeship. College is another pathway that students may choose. The third option is a University pathway and the last pathway is work. The key to this approach is to have the student’s achievement at the centre. They must feel good about being in school and reaching their goals.

Tier 2 – Selected Interventions

Support for Tier 2 - include programming for at-risk students. A student in Tier 2 could receive support while also being in a Special High Skills Major program.

Tier 3 – Targeted Interventions

In Tier 3 programming is delivered for identified students. These students could have support with math, reading and writing for the morning and then they could take classes in the afternoon like cooking, music, drama, arts, etc. Programming like this is about making sure that that staff are on hand if the student needs help understanding his/her work, while also helping them to become more independent.

What are the benefits?

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board will respond to the unique needs of each student with a mix of programs and supports.

Other benefits include:

- Continuity – giving the students a smooth transition from elementary to secondary schools.
- Direction – giving students option so they can focus on programs that fit their interests.
- Engagement – using a Board-wide view to place specialized programs throughout the system.
- Equity – locating programs so all students can access them.
- Inclusion – educating students with higher needs with peers, with supports at every school.

Fundamental beliefs

- Serve each student
- Engage each student with programs to improve achievement
- Provide access to programs that meet each student’s needs.

Questions:

Q. What will happen to compensatory classes? Will students currently enrolled be implemented into regular classes or will they stay in the classes they are in now?

A. Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board is not getting rid of the compensatory classes however some students may want to integrate into the new program strategy.

Q. Do you have a profile of Tier 3 students?

A. There are a variety of profiles in the document “HWDSB Program Strategy”

http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/staff/strategic_directions/learning-for-all/documents/Program-Strategy.pdf

(that was handed out). In the document it looks at a number of student needs and closely matches a variety of current students.

Q. Is it possible to have the Parkview program as a program of choice?

A. Superintendent Joshua shared that the question would need to be taken away for further discussion. He did however share that Parkview and Mountain Secondary School do offer programs like the Wilson program and Hamilton-Wentworth School Board would like to have that opportunity in all of the schools. Superintendent Rocco shared that these students exist in all of the schools, not just Parkview and Mountain Secondary School. His experience is that students who were in compensatory classes as well as regular classes did well and we need to be able to create that transition program for all of these students.

Q. Parkview/Delta receives compensatory funding. What will happen to that funding?

A. Superintendent Rocco shared that the funding is on a per pupil basis. If a student moves the funding is based on student need so the funding reflects that. Superintendent Joshua also shared that part of the Program Strategy is equitable distribution of funding and the funding will be distributed where the needs are.

6. Minutes of the meeting of March 22, 2011

6.1 Errors or Omissions – None

6.2 Approval of the Minutes – Consensus was given on the approval of the minutes.

6.3 Business Arising from the Minutes –

- 6.3.1 Information Requested – information was handed out. Jim Holubeshen shared with Mr. Del Bianco that the map is incorrect and the spelling of Macdonald is incorrect as well.

7. Correspondence

A copy of a letter was distributed to the Committee.

8. Other Business – None

9. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.