

West Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Education Centre Board Room

April 14, 2011

Working Meeting #4

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair –Superintendent Sharon Stephanian

Voting Members – Christopher Austin, Deborah Beedie, Rosemary Bellefeuille, Phyllis Chasty, Lawrie Cook, Lori King, Deborah Knoll, Heather MacDonald, Sharon Ricci, Judy Shen, Boris Williams,

Non-Voting Members – Gudrun Anderson, Paul Barwinski, Judith Bishop, Jessica Brennan, Krys Croxall, Em Del Sordo, Michelle DesRochers, Rick Hart, Alex Johnstone, Judy Langsner, John Laverty, Brian Lenart, Maria Rikic-McCarthy, Laurie Swackhammer, Dan Thomson, Anne Waldie

Regrets

Voting Members - Allyssa Horning, Bea Howell

Non-Voting Members –Lloyd Ferguson, Brian McHattie, Russ Powers

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Don Hall, Jim Wibberley, Ellen Warling

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1.0 Call to Order

Superintendent Stephanian 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.

Superintendent Stephanian gave an explanation of the Agenda. Knowing that the Program Plan presentation was to take place and that time would be needed for discussion they decided to limit the number of items on the agenda. Mr. Del Bianco's presentation on demographics was moved to the next working group meeting as well as the discussion of the SIP's that the Committee had requested. The Chair stated that the Committee made it very clear that they wanted to hear and consider the Program Plan before moving along much farther with the consideration of accommodation options.

2.0 Agenda

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

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

There was some disappointment that the Committee would not be hearing the demographic presentation however they received the handout two weeks prior and if time allowed then Mr. Del Bianco agreed to make the presentation. It was on the previous Agenda however the Committee ran out of time.

3.0 Meeting Planning

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. Ms. Langsner was concerned that Ancaster High may already be booked and this needed to be verified. There was some concern that the public meeting had already been advertised and the Committee felt that the change would need to be published with an explanation. Ms. Penman, Manager of Corporate Communications, shared that only the initial date had been published. The letters had not been sent out to the Elementary cluster schools. Trustee Brennan asked if it was within the Terms of Reference to change the date. Mr. Wibberley shared that the Committee could make changes to the meeting dates. Consensus was given to make the change and to advertise the changed dates. The next working group meeting will now be May 10th at 6:00 p.m. and the next public meeting will be held at Ancaster High on May 31, 2011 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

4.0 Presentation – Program Plan

Superintendent Stephanian 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.

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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. If a specialized program is being offered in another school have you looked at transportation with working parents.

A. Superintendent Joshua stated that the programs will be offered within a cluster.

Q. What about the physical limitation needs – can they still be involved in programs in other schools.

A. Yes – we have a responsibility to address the needs of the students.

Q. Are the programs coming from schools that have closed or are they just coming as new initiatives.

A. This is not about losing programs that are currently being offered – you will find them moved. There are new programs being offered as well. Distribution across the cluster is important as well as ensuring that there are a variety of programs at each to the schools.

Q. What amount of change can the Committee make – is this set in stone?

A. This is based on the Senior Administration's recommendation. The Committee can change it or add programs that they would like to see offered or take programs away that they feel should not be there.

Heather MacDonald spoke of the advanced placement (enhanced courses) and the application process. She shared that if you Google: Advanced Placement the courses will be shown.

Superintendent Joshua stated that he will collate the information that come out of the meeting with the three groups and this would be shared at the next working group meeting.

5.0 Minutes of the meeting of March 29, 2011

5.1 Errors or Omissions – changes were made to 4.3.2

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

5.3 Business Arising from the Minutes –

- 5.3.1 Information Requested – Mr. Del Bianco has included information that has been requested from the past meetings. The Committee was asked to look through the information and if they had any questions please contact Tracy McKillop and the questions will be forwarded to him.
- He also stated that he correlated the questions and comments that came out of the working groups from the last meeting and these will be distributed at the next working group meeting.

6.0 Correspondence

Phyllis Chasty stated that she is receiving correspondence from the public and asked how this should be handled. Mr. Wibberley stated that she could request their permission to have it distributed to the Committee and then, if agreed, forward it on to Tracy McKillop or himself for distribution.

Deborah Knoll was concerned that the delegation information is being distributed as widely as possible. Mr. Wibberley stated that we will be letting the elementary schools know, we will be advertising it and it is also on the website. Ms. Knoll felt that it should be posted in the Flamborough newspaper as well as the Dundas newspaper, and distributed to all of the middle and smaller schools as well.

Heather MacDonald wanted to know where the correspondence “Heart of Dundas” came from. Deborah Beedie informed her that this came from a Dundas parent.

7.0 Other Business

Mr. Del Bianco shared that if there is surplus space in a school then the Board is mandated that they have to advertise it to see if there are any community partners who would be interested in occupying the surplus space. You may notice in the newspaper that the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board is looking for community partners.

Rick Hart has given out an example of some of the equipment that they will receive from the Future Shop Grant – this will be copied into a .pdf and it will be available for the Committee at the next meeting.

Judy Shen shared that she received the go ahead from her Principal to carry through with the proposal from the last meeting. Judy and Allyssa Horning will work toward having a report put together by the middle of May.

Sharon Ricci would like to receive all of the binder updates digitally for the I-pad and the I-pod. She felt that we should have a digital option. The Chair stated that we will take that back and speak to the IT department.

An amendment was made to the minutes of March 1, 2011 for Kathryn Kohler. Consensus was given to amend the minutes as requested.

Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.