

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

South Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Education Centre Board Room

January 11, 2012

Minutes

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

*Chair - Scott Sincerbox*

*Voting Members - Bill Barrett, Beverly Bressette, Jackie Brown, Ken Durkacz, Margaret Eagle, Alexandra Ewing, Kim General, Al Pierce, Anne Pollard, Cheryl Poot, Susan Pretula, John Whitwell*

*Non-Voting Members - Wanda Bielak, Donna Clappison, Patrick Elliott, Angela Ferguson, Manny Figueiredo, Randy Gallant, Mag Gardner, Brian Greig, Wes Hicks, Peter Joshua, Deb Jukes, Renee Majic, Joanna Maull, John Miholics, Lillian Orban, Kevin Robinson,*

**Regrets**

*Voting Members - Alexandra Butty, Derek Hambly,*

*Non-Voting Members - Gary Deveau, Scott Duvall, Tom Jackson, Laura Peddle, Paul Vukosa, Terry Whitehead*

**Resource Staff**

*Daniel Del Bianco, Jim Wibberley, Ian Hopkins*

**Recording Secretary**

*Tracy McKillop*

**1.0 Call to Order** – Scott Sincerbox

Superintendent Scott Sincerbox welcomed everyone to the sixteenth working group meeting.

**2.0 Agenda** - <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/South-ARC-Agenda-January-11th-.pdf>

**2.1 Additions/Deletions** –

*Al Pierce asked to have a reconsideration vote for Option “D” added under section 4.1 of the Agenda. There was not consensus and this was seconded by Ken Durkacz. This was discussed by the Committee*

*members. There was some concern regarding timelines by the Committee. A vote was called – 9 in favour and 3 opposed so the motion carried.*

**2.2 Approval of the Agenda** – The amended Agenda was approved by consensus.

### **3.0 Minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2011**

**3.1 Errors or Omissions** – There were no changes made to the minutes.

**3.2 Approval of the Minutes** – The minutes were approved by consensus.

**3.3. Business Arising from the Minutes** - None were noted.

There was consensus to move off item #3.

### **4.0 Committee Recommendations**

#### **4.1 Review of the Committee's Accommodation Recommendations**

The Chair reviewed the approved options with the Committee and indicated that at the end of the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting the Committee finished-up with three recommendations that will be submitted to the Board of Trustees.

**The first recommended the closure of Sherwood and Sir Allan MacNab. The self-paced program would move to Hill Park and Westmount would become a regular composite secondary school. Mountain would remain open with appropriate Alt Ed programs moved to that location. A new school would be built south of the LINC.**

**The second recommended the closure of Hill Park, Sherwood, Mountain and the construction of a new school south of the LINC with the Mountain students going to the new school.**

**The third recommendation was to close Sherwood, Sir Allan MacNab and Mountain and a new school south-east of the LINC would be constructed. The new school would include the Mountain program. In addition, the self-paced program would move Hill Park and Westmount would house a regular composite school program.**

**The committee also decided not to prioritize these recommendations.**

**In addition, the committee will be recommending that all school remain open until the new school is ready for occupancy in 2015.**

Mr. Del Bianco shared Option "D" with the Committee.

**Barton and Sir Allan MacNab will close, a self-paced program at Hill Park, Mountain and additional programs at Mountain, realign the boundaries of Sherwood, Westmount would become a composite school and a new school would be built south east of the Linc.**

The floor was opened for the Committee members to discuss the options. The Committee members shared their visions and their perspectives regarding option “D” which includes keeping Sherwood open. Some members felt that it did not matter if you have three or four options while others felt that they believe that they should have fewer options that create a strong business case.

Mr. Wibberley shared that currently there are three options going forward that have been approved by the Committee. The Committee chose not to prioritize these options.

***Al Pierce put forth a motion on the floor to keep Option D for consideration by the Board of Trustees. There was not consensus. It was seconded by Beverley Bressette. There was discussion by the Committee. A vote was taken – 9 in favour and two against and one abstention so the motion carried.***

Kevin Robinson shared the idea of not eliminating the four options; however, since they do not have a site location for the new school essentially could they bring one option forward saying that two of the big schools would close, either Barton or Sherwood on the East, and either Hill Park or Sir Allan MacNab on the West and a new school south of the Linc.

**There was not consensus to discuss Kevin’s idea.**

Q. Are we charged to present a recommendation to the Board of Trustees or just options?

A. Mr. Wibberley shared that “yes” they are; however, the form of how that is constructed is up to the Committee. Nothing dictates that it has to be just one.

Anne Pollard asked if this meant that the recommendation would not include keeping Mountain as a stand alone school. Kevin Robinson stated that “No” it did not mean that.

**Consensus was given to move off of 4.1.**

#### **4.2 Program Placement**

The Chair shared that there were program charts distributed to each of the Committee members indicating program placement for each of the options. These were only recommendations based on the options.

Superintendent Joshua spoke to each of the program charts and how they were developed. The Board began with what currently existed in the school, e.g. SHSMs, and they also considered some of the input that they received. The intent was to ensure that SHSMs are distributed as equitably as possible across the cluster. This is dependent on student voice and student interest. These are only recommendations at this point in time. Some programs would require a process to be followed in order to include them as a new program.

Kevin Robinson shared that he would like to see sports programs offered at every school.

Superintendent Joshua stated that they have only listed the programs of choice or specialized programs on the charts.

Ken Durkacz felt that the French Immersion (FI) program should be placed in Sherwood instead of the new school under option 4.

The Committee shared their perspectives of the program placement.

Superintendent Joshua shared that this is just a starting point for the Committee's discussion. FI is dependent on student interest. The Board wants to ensure that there is enough student interest to run a viable program (300-400 students) and they would not want to compromise the existing program.

Q. What is the rationale of giving the sports academy to Westmount instead of a mainstream composite school?

A. Superintendent Joshua shared that it already exists at Westmount.

Q. How did it end up their originally?

A. The Chair shared that at the time of the program placement it was felt that the athletes would benefit from a self paced program. This was due to the amount of travelling that was required by the athletes and this proved to be beneficial.

**Bill Barrett requested that since the Committee has so many options they ask that once a decision has been made there be an equitable distribution of sports, AP programs and SHSMs across the cluster of schools. There was consensus on this.**

Joanna Maull shared that the Board is considering eliminating FI in the SK level. This could have a huge impact in the future if students are being bussed to the country and other schools.

Jackie Brown felt that it was important to put a sports academy in every school and move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with this type of programming.

Kevin Robinson felt that it was important to have the FI program on the most central location for easy access by all students (East and West).

Q. Is the sports Academy just for the elite athletes?

A. No it is not just restricted to the elite athletes.

Mr. Del Bianco clarified the options and program numbers since there was some confusion.

How much is the all day learning affecting the FI Program?

Superintendent Joshua shared that it definitely impacts the FI Program.

Mr. Del Bianco stated that with four options it would be difficult for people to follow the distribution of programming so he suggested keeping the wording broad as in equitable distribution of SHSMs across the cluster.

Jackie changed the sports academy wording to fitness and wellness program.

Do we have the NYA: WEH program? Superintendent Joshua shared that it is based on student interest but perhaps it should be under the relocated programs and not under new program.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that it would be confusing to have four program placement charts and it would be advantageous to say “a certain program evenly distributed across the cluster.”

Cheryl Poot felt that it was important to note that some SHSMs require other programs in conjunction with the SHSM.

***Bill Barrett made a motion to have equitable distribution of athletic programs (health and wellness), of AP programs, programs of choice and SHSMs across the cluster. There was consensus.***

***Bill Barrett made a motion to support an FI program in the South ARC cluster. There was consensus.***

***Bill Barrett made a motion to place the Secondary programs in close proximity to the existing elementary programs. There was not consensus. It was seconded by Cheryl Poot. A vote – 2 in favour and 8 opposed – motion failed.***

***Kevin Robinson amended the motion to have the Secondary FI program be centrally located within the South ARC cluster. There was consensus on this.***

There was group discussion on the FI program.

Superintendent Joshua spoke about dual track schools versus single track school. He shared that there is no intention of eliminating dual track schools and there has been discussion with parents around both of these types of schools. The Board would like to see both types of schools.

Superintendent Joshua shared that there is FI information on the web site.

***Cheryl Poot made a motion to place appropriate Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions programs within the South ARC cluster to adequately service the number of students that would require them. There was consensus on this motion.***

Margaret Eagle shared her perspective regarding the ART Smart program. She felt that it drew students to that particular school for grade 9. She would like to see that begin in grade 11 and leave the grade 9 and 10's in their home school. Make the schools equal across the Board so that there is no competition created.

Angela Ferguson shared that this is a grade 11 program and they have not had grade 9 students enrol in that program. Hill Park does have a grade 9 and 10 art program.

Superintendent Joshua shared that the Board does not create programs with the intention of drawing students from one school over another.

**There was consensus to remove grade 9 and 10 from the Art Smart program.**

Al Pierce asked that in the report to the Trustees, if Sir Allan MacNab remains open, can they request some additional programs be placed at Sir Allan MacNab in order for it to be able to compete with the Westmount programming.

Kim spoke to the placement of the NYA: WEH and suggested it be offered where there is a native population.

**There was consensus to move off of item #4.2**

#### **4.3 Transportation**

Mr. Del Bianco reviewed the transportation information that was distributed to the Committee.

The floor was opened for discussion and the Committee had the opportunity to have their questions clarified.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that the Committee needs to have some information in the report to address transportation.

Q. Can these maps go forward to the Board of Trustees?

A. Yes they can.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that there is a transportation policy in place. The maps are made strictly as a visual aid to see the impact of the transportation needs under these options. Mr. Del Bianco shared that there are many variables that could affect the costs of transportation.

Q. There was a request for a have a Sherwood map?

A. Yes they will be created for the next working group meeting.

**Cheryl Poot requested an addition to the report - if the Board is offering programs of choice Board wide and across the cluster then they need to provide transportation equitably to all students.**

**There was consensus to move off of 4.3**

#### **4.4 Capital Improvements**

Mr. Del Bianco shared examples of capital improvements and how the North ARC created their report.

The Committee spoke about allowing the Facilities Management (FM) team to speak to each of the schools to determine the capital needs of the school. Some members felt that equal footing and equitable distribution be allocated to the schools within the South ARC.

***Al Pierce put a motion forward to have the Facilities Management Department consult with the principal and specialists to ensure that the existing facilities meet the program strategy and address the renewal needs as outlined by this ARC Committee. They would like to have an equitable distribution of funding for all of the remaining schools.***

***There was consensus on this motion.***

There was discussion among the Committee members regarding computers, wiring within the schools and upgrades required by schools and whether the Committee should create a “wish list” to be presented to the Board of Trustees.

**There was consensus to move off of 4.4.**

#### **4.5 Other**

Implementation timelines - Mr. Del Bianco shared that the earliest that a new school could be built according to the FM team would be September 2015 and the Committee voted earlier to have the students move en masse once the new school has been built.

**There was consensus to move off of 4.5**

#### **5.0 South ARC Final Report**

Mr. Del Bianco gave an overview of the Report and what will be included in the Report.

#### **5.1 Format Approval**

Trustee Orban asked if the recommendations were approved by consensus only. Mr. Del Bianco shared that all of the recommendations were approved by a vote.

Mr. Wibberley shared that since the Committee chose not to prioritize that they all are of equal importance and they are in no particular order.

**Al Pierce asked if in the report they could include the fact that they did not prioritize because they do not have a location of the new school.**

Mr. Del Bianco shared that he will word the report in a way to clarify this and he will look to the Committee for help in noting this.

**There was a motion to approve the format of the Report. Consensus was given to approve the format as shown.**

#### **5.2 Final Report Content**

Mr. Del Bianco shared that the Committee will go through the report section by section for approval at the last working group meeting.

Q. Are we able to indicate in the report a date when the Committee would like to see a site purchased?

A. I am not sure that we can do that due to the time required for the approval by both the Trustees and the Ministry of Education.

Joanna Maull requested to have the Mountain pros and cons list she created included in the report.

**There was a motion to move off of 5.2. There was not consensus. It was seconded by Bill Barrett. There was a vote that resulted in a unanimous vote to move off of 5.2**

Q. Can we amend the Report?

A. Yes you can make amendments at the next working group meeting.

**6.0 Correspondence** – there was no correspondence.

#### **7.0 Other**

### **7.1 Planning for the Public Meeting**

Mr. Del Bianco outlined what will be presented at the final public meeting. Jackie Brown and Al Pierce volunteered to present with Mr. Del Bianco. Susan Pretula volunteered to Chair the meeting.

**There was consensus to move off of 7.1.**

**8.0 Adjournment** – the meeting adjourned at 9:01 by consensus.