

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

West Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Education Centre Board Room

January 12, 2011

Working Meeting #12

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair –Jim Wibberley

Voting Members –Christopher Austin, Deborah Beedie, Rosemary Bellefeuille, Phyllis Chasty, Em Del Sordo, Allyssa Horning, Bea Howell, Lori King, Deborah Knoll, Heather MacDonald, Judy Shen, Boris Williams

Non-Voting Members – Gudrun Anderson, Paul Barwinski, Judith Bishop, Jessica Brennan, Michelle DesRochers, Rick Hart, Alex Johnstone, Judy Langsner, Brian Lenart, Maria Rikic-McCarthy, Virginia McCulloch, Laurie Swackhammer, Dan Thomson , Anne Waldie

Regrets

Voting Members – Sharon Ricci

Non-Voting Members – Krys Croxall, Lloyd Ferguson, John Laverty, Brian McHattie, Russ Powers,

Superintendent Sharon Stephanian

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Don Hall, Jim Wibberley

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1.0 Call to Order

Mr. Jim Wibberley, who was the Chair for the evening welcomed everyone to the twelfth working group meeting. He reminded the committee that the Chair is absent because of a previous commitment.

2.0 Agenda <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/West-ARC-Agenda-January-12th.pdf>

2.1 Additions and Deletions – There were one change - to note that Mr. Wibberley was sitting in as Chair for Superintendent Sharon Stephanian for the evening.

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

3.0 ARC Updates

3.1 North ARC

A RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE THREE SCHOOLS, MOUNTAIN, SIR JOHN A MACDONALD AND DELTA AND BUILD A NEW SCHOOL IN A CENTRALLY LOCATED SITE WITH THE PARKVIEW PROGRAM ACCOMMODATED WITHIN THE NEW FACILITY.

The North ARC concluded their work on Tuesday night of this week. The final report outlining their recommendation went to the Director today. The Final Report has been posted to the Board's web site.

Q. is there a site location identified in the report.

A. Once the final decision has been made by the Board of Trustees then the Facilities Management (FM) team will commence searching for a site.

Q. Why did the North ARC Committee feel that Sir John A Macdonald was not an adequate school and they closed it?

Mr. Del Bianco stated that when the Committee considered the three schools that are being designated to close they felt that these facilities required the most renewal dollars. The school boundaries would also have been skewed resulting in quite a distance between the remaining schools. Sir John A Macdonald is a large school, under capacity and would require a lot of money for maintenance. The long term renewal needs exceed 20 million dollars.

Q. How old is Sir John A Macdonald and how far would students have to travel? The Board has a walking distance which is 3.2 km and the distance between Sir John A Macdonald and Sir Winston Churchill is quite far. It was built in the 1970.

No final decision can be made prior to May 2012 by the Board of Trustees. There is a minimum of 60 days before they can make a decision once the report has been presented to them.

3.2 South ARC

The South ARC has 4 recommendations which the Chair shared with the Committee.

The **first** recommended the closure of Sherwood and 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, MacNab and Mountain would close 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 **fourth** recommendation includes the closure of Barton, MacNab and Mountain with a new school being built south of the LINC. In addition, it is recommended that the programs at Hill Park and Westmount switch.

It is important to note that the Committee debated and decided to not prioritise their options. They would like all the schools to remain open until the new school has been built in September 2015. Westmount has been discussed a great deal. The Resource Staff have informed the Committee, on numerous occasions that the Westmount program is outside of the Terms of Reference; however, they have chosen to go ahead with this.

Q. Do teachers move with the programs?

A. Not necessarily; however, this would have to be negotiated with the union.

Q. It is outside of the Terms of Reference to switch a system school; however, can it go to another school other than Hill Park.

A. We believe that they are acting outside of the Terms of Reference. A system program has no catchment area so it could be moved without having an ARC.

Q. What happens if it is outside the Terms of Reference?

Mr. Del Bianco stated that the relocation of the program will be under their other considerations. Since Westmount has not had representation it can not be changed under the ARC. It would need to change outside of the ARC.

C. We understood that moving 50% of the population would mean that an ARC is required.

A system program has a catchment area of the entire jurisdiction of HWDSB so technically they can move the program.

There was some discussion on moving the Westmount program and Mr. Del Bianco read information from the Ministry of Education policy.

4.0 Minutes of the Meeting of December 13, 2011

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

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

4.3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was some concern that the size of the school is not recorded in the minutes. The committee was running out of time so that was never decided so perhaps that is something that could be discussed.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that 1000 pupil place is a rough estimate of size. There was some discussion of what the appropriate size should be for a new school size in Ancaster. Mr. Del Bianco shared that 1000 pupil place is what was used in the past presentation and for the financials. The Chair asked if the Committee would like to recommend a size.

The Committee decided to deal with this recommendation under section 5.1 of the Agenda.

5.0 West ARC Final Report

5.1 Review of Recommendations

The Chair took a moment to summarize the decisions of this committee regarding recommendations to be submitted to the Board of Trustees:

- The closure of both Parkside and Highland and the construction of a new school on the Highland site.
- A recommendation outlining the components of a new school in Dundas
- The construction of a new school of an appropriate size on the Ancaster High School Site.
- The program chart as revised was approved as a recommendation.
- A recommendation that the existing schools identified for closure will remain open until new schools have been built.

The Chair made note of the second recommendation. He shared that it refers only to a new school in Dundas. This is because this motion was approved prior to the approval of the recommendation about a new school for Ancaster. Mr. Wibberley asked the committee if they would like a recommendation regarding school components to apply to both Dundas and Ancaster.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that 1000 pupil places were used for both the Ancaster and the Dundas recommendations.

Q. Would you build a school less than 1000?

The Ministry of Education has a template and when you input the programs, classrooms, equipment, etc. it will give you the size of the school required. I would not recommend a 900 pupil place school. We could put 1000 pupil place subject to change due to program needs. It can be flexible based on need. The Ministry of Education will ask the Board to develop a rationale to determine the pupil place required.

There was consensus to add to the two recommendations that the new schools will have no less than 1000 pupil places.

5.2 Program Placement Options

At the December 13th meeting the Committee approved a revised program placement chart. An updated copy of the changes was distributed to the Committee.

Q. There was a question about Navy Seals being included on this chart?

A. It was determined that it does not fall under specialized programming on this chart.

Mr. Del Bianco reminded the Committee that the programs identified under New Program are still open to change due to the Board of Trustees final decision, student interest, etc.

5.3 Recommended School Components

Mr. Del Bianco shared that if there are items that the Committee would like under additional considerations for e.g. an auditorium this needs to be added to the Report. The North ARC put forth a pretty broad statement in their report, which the South ARC also adopted, to cover any items that may be required.

Q. Where does an artificial track, lighted track fit into the report?

Mr. Del Bianco shared that this is something that you need to add into the report.

Q. Where do community partnerships come into this?

Mr. Del Bianco stated that we have sent out invitations to the community looking for engaging community partners and they have not had a lot of success. He shared a statement the North ARC had put in their report.

Trustee Brennan asked about some programs that she did not see listed in the chart and wondered where programs would be located if it was located in the new schools.

Don Hall shared that the new school would be built with new programming in mind. If it was automotive then the new school would be built with automotive needs in mind and similarly with programs like manufacturing or tech classes.

If it exists currently then it would move to the new school and construction would take place to accommodate that.

Q. Would this include Westdale?

A. Yes it would – when you are right sizing the inventory then you have more renewal dollars available to be spread among the remaining schools.

There was further discussion of renewal needs, programming and the motherhood statement and what could be included in this statement. None of the other two ARCs have prioritized these additional items.

Mr. Wibberley shared that where you have sufficient student interest for specialized programming you may have this in every school. If you have a program that requires expensive, specialized equipment that could possibly be offered in one location only. Another consideration is the number of staff available to oversee the equipment and programs.

Rick Hart shared that there are a number of specialized programming currently available at Highland and he would like to see these programs offered at the New Highland as well.

Deb Knoll made a motion that the existing programs and the appropriate space in the current schools be retained if moved to any new or modified school subject to consultation with the Community and schools. There was consensus on this motion.

Don Hall shared that the programs in the schools is a collaborative process between the FM team and the Principals of the schools.

The Committee was interested in including some partnership language in their Report.

Q. What about partnerships for energy? Can that be included in the language as well?

Don Hall shared that the Board is in the process of developing programs where solar panels will be added to the facilities.

Rick Hart shared that both Ancaster and Dundas would like to have a theatre in their schools to be shared with the Community.

Mr. Del Bianco shared a statement regarding community partnership. I read as follows:

“That any new school will include space for community partnerships where interest and support is evident.”

The Committee was in agreement with the statement and gave consensus on the wording.

Q. How many gyms are included in the 1000 pupil place school?

Mr. Del Bianco shared that a 1250 pupil place school would require three gyms. He will check this for a 1000 pupil place school.

Q. What other components would you like to see in the report?

Mr. Del Bianco shared that the Committee could include in the report a statement that recommends an auditorium/performing arts facility. A 700 seat auditorium was determined by half the school size plus 10%.

Q. Will all the new schools be air conditioned?

Don Hall shared that the majority of new facilities are air conditioned.

Rick Hart made a motion to include a theatre style auditorium on each school site and if necessary shared spaces with a music and or theatre focus. There was consensus on this motion.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Trustee Bishop shared that Waterdown has a 500 seat auditorium for a school population of 1700.

Heather Macdonald shared that Theatre Ancaster might be interested in partnering with the Board for use of the auditorium. This came through as correspondence in today's handouts.

Q. Is there any other language that we could use instead of saying “auditorium” could we say education space and look to the Ministry of Education for funding?

Don Hall shared that the gym at Waterdown has telescopic seating so it will look more like a theatre when the seats are extended. Mr. Wibberley also shared another method that was used in Grand Erie where something very similar was done. There are options that will work when it is used as shared space e.g. classroom for dance, gym and an auditorium.

Heather MacDonald would like to see three gyms at the schools.

Mr. Del Bianco read a statement - That the FM department will consult with the Principals and Specialists to ensure that the remaining facilities are upgraded to meet the program strategy and address the renewal needs as outlined by the West ARC included but not limited to the following There was consensus of this.

Boris read some items that he would like to see if new construction did not take place e.g. updated library, computer labs, science rooms, cafeteria, gymnasiums, etc.

The table will include:

Dundas

Cafeteria space, library facilities, computer labs, 7 science labs, enhanced music practice/ facilities, provision for the technology programs, significant upgrades to outdoor track and field, fitness facilities, drama facilities in Dundas, a room designated for student council, and a staff room in Dundas.

Ancaster

Significant upgrades to science labs, library facilities, ceilings, windows, upgraded HVAC, workroom space.

Q. Can this be left up to the FM team to determine this so that one community is not pitted against another?

Mr. Del Bianco shared that they FM team will work in conjunction with the Principals to look at the needs of both schools.

Deborah Beedie shared her concern about Dundas having only one gym and moving two schools into one with only 4 million dollars allocated for upgrades.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that the program strategy implementation will be a priority for upgrades first and foremost and then the other items will be addressed.

Q. What is the official allocation of student parking?

There is no discernment that I am aware of. We need to meet the bylaws but the allocation is left up to the Board.

Bea asked to have a few things added for Westdale – the parking lot is very inadequate, no proper drop off area, the sports fields need work, lockers are falling apart and the walls behind the lockers are in need of repair. There was consensus to add this to the table.

5.4 Draft Final Report

Mr. Del Bianco spoke to the Committee about the outline format of the Report.

Q. Would the boundary changes be added under additional consideration?

A. The boundaries would not change other than the two Dundas schools amalgamating into one. I will make sure that the wording in the report is structured that there will be no boundary changes.

Q. Would it be possible to look at the new school in Ancaster to include the MacNab population as an additional consideration?

A. We can add additional considerations; however, there has been no appetite to explore that option from either the South or the West ARC.

There was some concern about adding into the report something about the combining of both Parkside and Highland. Some members felt that that was an operational issue.

There was consensus on the format of the Report

There was consensus to extend the meeting until 9:15 p.m.

6.0 Correspondence

There was correspondence sent in from Ancaster Theatre as well as a community member. There was also a link to a Harvard document emailed out to the Committee members. Tracy will print this if requested to do so.

7.0 Other Business

Business arising - Can we share the statement that Mr. Del Bianco read earlier in the evening? Mr. Del Bianco was not sure which statement Deb Knoll was referencing so he will check with Deb after the meeting for clarification.

7.1 Planning for the Public Meeting

Mr. Del Bianco shared the format for the upcoming public meeting. Deb Knolls will chair the question and answer period. Heather MacDonald will assist Mr. Del Bianco with the presentation.

There was a request to have the majority of the evening dedicated to a question and answer period.

Q. Can we allow first time people to speak first?

A. I think it would be difficult to manage that.

Heather MacDonald shared that they had a meeting with the associate schools last night and there were more than 200 people who attended.

Q. Are there any programs that the Catholic Board or other Board provide or lack that are very popular that we can bring into our schools to attract students?

A Committee member shared another possibility that was raised at the meeting involving the associate schools. Could the Ancaster site be a school unto itself hosting alternative education? Could we use that facility as a stand alone school, a hub, for this cluster?

There was discussion whether to add this as an additional recommendation or additional consideration. Mr. Del Bianco shared that this could be put under additional consideration.

Mr. Del Bianco clarified that if there are changes to the recommendation then an additional public meeting would be required.

8.0 Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.