

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

North Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Sir John A Macdonald

December 6, 2011

Public Meeting #4

Minutes

Attendance:

Committee Members

Chair – Vicki Corcoran

Voting Members – Sandra Binns, Anna Busse, Michael Chalupka, Lisa Deys, Annie Fu, Laura Gill, Jane Henry, Rick Kunc, Dawn Spencer, Grant Thomas, Jane Withers

Non-Voting Members – Robert Barlow, Scott Barr, Marco Barzetti, Danielle Bawden, Judith Bishop, Marilyn Bratkovich, Lawrie Cook, Glenn Cooke, Geoff Coombs, Peter Joshua, Jim Holubeshen, Nancy Leach, Ray Mulholland, Maria Pearson, Don Pente, Bob Pratt, Pam Reinholdt, Pat Rocco, Michael Root, Carol Town, Todd White

Regrets

Voting Members – Michele Cameron, Marie Jackson, Mohamud Mohamed, Prema Rao, Joyce Schneider, Barb Wachner,

Non-Voting Members – Paul Beattie, Chad Collins, Mark Currie, Jason Farr, Bernie Morelli, Sam Merulla, Tim Simmons

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Jim Wibberley, Kevin Morton

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1.0 Welcome and Introductions – Vicki Corcoran

Superintendent Vicki Corcoran welcomed everyone to the fourth North ARC public meeting and thanked them for their interest in the process and the contribution that they will make to the accommodation review. She also shared that she will be working with a co-chair appointed by the Committee. Mr. Grant Thomas is a member of the North ARC as a community representative. Superintendent Corcoran

introduced each of the Committee members as well as the Resource Staff, Jim Wibberley and Daniel Del Bianco and Mr. Kevin Morton from the Facilities Department.

2.0 Opening Remarks – Vicki Corcoran

The Chair gave thanks to Don Pente and Jim Holubeshen for hosting and supporting the North Public Meeting. She shared that Scott Barr and Michael Root are assisting Daniel Del Bianco with the presentation this evening. Superintendent Corcoran stated that at tonight's meeting we will do four things:

The first is to provide an overview of the accommodation review process and work of the committee.

The second is to offer a look at the work completed by the North ARC at its meetings. If you are interested, all the information the committee has received and approved minutes are available to the public on the Board's website.

Thirdly we will share the accommodation recommendations developed by the North ARC and what our next steps will be.

And the fourth piece is to provide members of the community the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

3.0 Presentations - Daniel Del Bianco, Michael Root and Scott Barr

3.1 Brief Overview of the Accommodation Review Process – Daniel Del Bianco

To view the presentation please click on the following link: http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/NorthARC_Public_Meeting4_Dec6_2011-Final.pdf

Mr. Del Bianco reviewed "Why we are here tonight" as well as the ARC process. Mr. Del Bianco explained the Terms of Reference <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Secondary-North-TOR1.pdf> as well as the difference between the working group meetings and the public meetings. He shared that the ARC works hard to achieve a recommendation and upon completion this report will go to the Board of Trustees (BOT) where they have a minimum of 60 days to make a final decision. Mr. Del Bianco shared the ACR timelines and stated that all of this information is on the Board web site http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/?page_id=8

Why we are here tonight?

- Provide an overview of the Accommodation Review Process
- Review the work completed by the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)
- Review of "Concept Options" created by the ARC
- Next Steps of the ARC
- Receive input from the community on the ARC process and concept options

The Accommodation Review Process

- The process follows Ministry of Education guidelines, Board Policy and the Terms of Reference
- There are Committee working meetings and public meetings
- All meetings are open to the public
- The Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) is tasked with developing an accommodation solution that will address the long-term requirements of the community

ARC Recommendations

- The ARC will prepare a report that will be presented to the Board of Trustees
- This report will include the ARC's recommendations
- The Trustees will also receive a report from Senior Administration with their recommendations to the Board of Trustees
- The Board of Trustees will make the final decisions

ARC Timelines:

- 10 Working Group Meetings
- 4 Public Meetings
- ARC work scheduled to conclude in January 2012
- After receipt of final report Trustees have to wait a minimum of 60 prior to voting on a final decision

Review of the final ARC report?

- **The ARC will review the final report at their next Working Group Meeting #10**
- **Reference Criteria (as outlined in the Board policy):**

a) Accommodation: Develop recommendations to maximize the utilization of Board facilities in the review area with a target of 100% utilization for a future ten-year period

b) Facility Condition: Develop recommendations for capital improvements (i.e. repairs, renovations or major capital projects such as new construction) into existing facilities and sites along with a funding strategy to pay for those improvements.

c) Program: Develop recommendations around the strategic locations of Secondary School programs.

d) Transportation: Develop recommendations that address the implications of other recommendations on pupil transportation.

e) Funding: Develop a funding strategy to address any capital works that are contemplated in the recommendations above.

f) Implementation

g) Scope: Delta – Glendale – Orchard Park - Parkview - Sir John A. Macdonald – Sir Winston Churchill

h) Timeline: Final ARC Report Due on January 12, 2012

Initial Information Presented to the North ARC:

- School Information Profiles (SIP)
- Accommodation recommendation prepared by senior administration
 - Close Delta and Parkview (June 2013)
 - Relocate students to existing facilities (September 2013)
- Correspondence from the community

The Committee have looked at the School Information Profiles (SIP) which are profiles of all the schools involved in this ARC and contain 181 items.

Mr. Del Bianco shared the Staff Recommendation. He explained that the Board is mandated to come up with a recommendation by the Ministry. Mr. Del Bianco indicated that the Board decided to put their recommendation out early in the process to initiate discussion. The Program Strategy has been shared with the Committee as well as the correspondence that has been received to date.

Mr. Del Bianco ended by encouraging everyone to view the web site or feel free to attend the meetings.

3.2 Work Completed by the North ARC – Michael Root

Michael Root thanked the people for coming. Mr. Root commented on how congenial the meetings have been and how the Resource Staff has been very supportive during the process. Mr. Root extended thanks to Kenneth Bain, the Associate Director, for providing the jumping off point early in the process which has supported the North ARC with a starting point.

Mr. Root shared with the group the capacity vs. enrolment in the current situation with the schools within the North ARC. Mr. Root shared the work completed by the ARC to date. He touched briefly on the meeting with the South ARC and the fact that they actually stepped outside of the normal mandate to make this consideration and the school tours. He spoke of the public meetings and how supportive they were to hear the concerns of the public and communities.

Mr. Root reviewed the Staff Recommendation which was to close Delta and Parkview and distribute those students amongst the remaining schools. He shared how in the group meetings everyone was welcome and supported by speaking from the heart.

Work Completed by the ARC:

- 9-Working Group Meetings
- 3-Public Meetings
- 1-Joint meeting with the South ARC
- 1-School Tour
- 3-presentations from community groups
- Developed a final ARC accommodation strategy
- Developed a recommended program strategy

Working Group Meetings:

- 9-Working Group Meetings, beginning in January 2011
- All open to the public as observers
- Opportunity for the ARC to do their work
 - Review community input
 - Review requested data
 - Develop accommodation options
 - Understand the needs of all of the schools located within the ARC and their communities
 - Presentations from Board staff
- Enrolment and Demographic
- Program Strategy
- Facilities Management Department

Public Meetings:

- **Public Meeting #1**
 - February 22, 2011 (Sir John A. Macdonald)
 - Review of ARC process and staff recommendation
- **Public Meeting #2**
 - May 24, 2011 (Glendale)
 - Presentation of “Concept Option” developed by the ARC
- **Public Meeting #3**
 - October 25, 2011 (Sir Winston Churchill)
 - Presentation of ARC recommended option

Joint Meeting with the South ARC:

- September 15, 2011
- Review vocational school programming and other common areas of interest

Presentations from Community Groups:

- David Derbyshire, Community Planning Team
- Terry Cooke, Hamilton Community Foundation
- Paul Johnson: Director of Neighbourhood Development Strategies, City of Hamilton

Developing final ARC recommendation and Program Strategy:

- Develop concept options in break-out groups
- ARC developed 4 concept options and directed resource staff to further explore them over the course of the summer
- Large group discussion and review of concept options
- Proposed Boundaries
- Financial Impact
- ARC eliminates 1 of the 4 concept options and the staff recommendation
- Large group discussion and review of 3 remaining concept options
- ARC eliminates 2 concept options and votes to proceed to *Public Meeting #3* with Option #3

3.3 Accommodation Option Create by the North ARC - Scott Barr

Mr. Scott Barr shared the North ARC Final Recommendation which is:

*Closure of Delta, Parkview and Sir John A. Macdonald
Construction of a new school on a centrally located site*

New HWDSB Secondary School

- Proposed construction of a new 1,250 pupil place school
- Centrally located in the downtown core
- Boundary to include all of the existing Sir John A. Macdonald catchment area and the majority of the Delta catchment area
- Target opening date: September 2015

Optimal size would be 1250 pupil place school.

Scott shared the program strategy. The slide shows that all of the courses within the chart are in addition to what is currently being offered.

Scott shared the support levels in the tiered programming.

Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School

- Closure of the facility in June 2015
- The existing catchment area will become part of the new school

Delta Secondary School

- Closure of the facility in June 2015
- The majority of the existing catchment area will become part of the new school
- Queen Mary will become an associate school of Sir Winston Churchill

Parkview Secondary School

- Closure of the facility in June 2015
- The entire Parkview program will be accommodated in the new school

ARC Recommendation:

To create a committee post ARC comprised of school council members, students, parents, staff, community members to inform direction around the transition, program, facilities, and supports necessary for the success of the Parkview students.

Mr. Barr shared that we have heard the concern for the Parkview students. We heard the concern and passion for the students; however, not for the building. He thanked everyone for their courage in standing in front of the group to share their emotions and concerns.

Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School

- Boundary realignment to include the Queen Mary associate school (formally aligned with Delta)

Glendale Secondary School

- No change to existing boundary

Orchard Park Secondary School

- No change to existing boundary

Rationale for ARC Recommended Option:

- Fulfills Mandate of the Committee
 - Opportunity for enhanced programming at new facility
 - Improves facility utilization
 - Increased long-term enrolments at the remaining facilities
 - Results in a positive impact on the long-term maintenance, operational and renewal costs of the Board – unfunded liability
- Even distribution throughout the North cluster of schools
 - Minimize travel times/ distances for students
- Consistent with what we have heard at our public meetings and delegations at our working group meetings
- Reviewed presence in the downtown core

Additional ARC Recommendations:

- To create a committee post ARC comprised of school council members, students, parents, staff, community members to inform direction around the transition, program, facilities, and supports necessary for the success of the Parkview students
- All schools remain open until such time as the new facility is ready to open in September 2015 and the students will move on mass to the new school
- That Facilities Management consult with the principal and teacher specialists to ensure that the existing facilities meet the program strategy and address the renewal needs as outlined by this ARC Committee

3.4 Next Steps – Scott Barr

Mr. Barr shared the next steps for the North ARC.

• **Working Group Meeting #10** (January 10, 2012)

- Review community input from Public Meeting #4
- Review and finalize ARC report

• **Final ARC report is due January 12, 2012**

The Chair shared the meeting norms with the group and the floor was opened for questions.

4.0 Questions – Grant Thomas

Grant Thomas reminded the audience that these are only recommendations.

Grandmother of the Parkview student shared that she is looking forward to a brand new school for the Parkview students. She shared her concern regarding the bullying in school and the size of the school which might be overwhelming for these students.

Grant shared that is why they would like to have a sub committee.

A gentleman spoke of the possibility of putting solar panels on the roof and shared some ideas around building the school.

Kevin Morton shared that solar panels have been installed on Waterdown High and that they will be considering this in the future. They will be considering this going forward as well as wind mills or any energy initiative in the future.

Steve Calverley thanked the ARC Committee for their work and thanked them for listening to the experts in the Community. He gave his sincere thanks for being heard and complimented them on a great job.

Allison Bailey read a statement that she had written. She spoke of what Sharon Stephanian had stated regarding 21st Century learner. She is not seeing the new model for the 21st Century. She is not seeing collaboration she still sees the classroom with the teacher at the front of the room. If we close the schools how long will they sit and be derelict. We need a new way to measure the schools and utilization. She spoke of capacity and the need to solve problems without closing schools. We need people to come up with 21st Century solutions. She feels that we need to come up with other ideas.

Lyla Miklos spoke about the Parkview students and they may have indicated that they were not married to the building; however, Lyla stated that she did hear that they wanted their own facility.

Grant shared that they will have a sub committee to support the transition of students to the new school.

There was a question if it would be possible to move the French Immersion program into the North Cluster of schools.

Superintendent Joshua spoke about the program and the interest of the students and the desire to have programs within all clusters. They do not want to add French Immersion into this cluster if it will sabotage French Immersion in another school. If there is a desire for this program then it will certainly be taken into consideration.

Q. Was there any consultation or was this it just decided to close Sir John A Macdonald?

Mr. Barr stated that there were originally nine options brought forward during the nine working group meetings and this information was shared with the public over the past three public meetings and this is the one that the Committee felt was the most viable.

Q. What communication process was used to notify the public of this meeting because of the low attendance?

A. The same process was used for all of the meetings. The meeting was advertised in the newspaper, on the web site and through community newsletters.

King George was built to be used as a hospital during the war time. If the Board is tearing down the King George School will there be a plaque to honour the soldiers who died for our freedom and will it be addressed.

Trustee Laura Peddle addressed the Committee and stated that she is struggling to understand the rationale behind the Committee's decision and the criteria that was used. She feels that this needs to be provided in the report.

Mr. Del Bianco stated that we are now in the fourth public meeting and we have had nine working group meetings and three public meetings. The ARC Committee does have the rationale and the criteria that were used. If we were to share that we would have needed to commence the meeting at noon today. This public meeting has been built off of all of the previous meetings.

A woman expressed that it is too difficult to try and interpret the information when you are looking at it on the web site.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that there is rationale. He spoke of the 115 schools within the Board, and the excess 1600 pupil places, the costs to run the schools, and that funding is based on the number of students enrolled not what the operating costs are. He spoke of "for every \$18 dollars of need we only have \$1.00 to throw at it." Program needs need to be taken into consideration and do we have the facilities to provide the program needs. We want easy access for the students. HWDSB has the oldest Secondary Schools in the Province. He shared the issues with the boundaries if Sir John A Macdonald is kept open. The other component is that we have to follow the Ministry of Education guidelines; however, we are not going to get the funding to do that. We have explored the idea and advertised sharing space with Community Partners. When you are conducting a business case for a new school how are you addressing the excess pupil places? This is not a Hamilton process you are one of 72 school Boards so how do you get those funds – you need to have a strong business case.

Committee member Geoff Coombs addressed why Sir Winston Churchill was not chosen – it is over capacity. Orchard Park is way out there and Glendale has something happening with co- terminus board.

Delta and Sir John A Macdonald are under utilized and over time they will be less utilized – so combine them in one and this addresses the utilization needs.

Committee member Danielle Bawden shared that when students decline how can we provide the courses if we don't have the teachers, students or programs and that is what we are faced with at Delta. We would love to have those programs and the facility is not updated. It has nothing to do with the building but it has to do with the future.

Committee member Sandra Binns stated with a new school in a new location the students will not have to jump from school to school to school. We are recommending a building in a new location so no students need to move prior the completion of the school. We don't want to move students to a school that is no better than they have right now.

C. I asked that last time about the transportation piece. That is a huge area and you have no high school.

Scott Barr shared that one piece that they asked for was where do the students come from. If the new school is in the middle it is the same distance for Sir John A Macdonald and the Delta area to the new facility. The difference is the downtown core and where you believe the downtown is located.

Superintendent Pat Rocco spoke about the transportation policy. He understands the limitation of the HSR. The transportation policy will be in place and we will have to consider and address the transportation needs. This will be a major part of our consideration and your point is well taken.

Q. Is there going to be some kind of Committee or continued support to determine programming at the new school?

Superintendent Joshua shared that we are paying attention to the transition process and we listen to student voice. So there will be a number of opportunities to hear the parent voice.

Transportation is a serious concern and high school students come up with ideas to avoid going to school e.g. they do not want to walk to school in a heat waves or mucky weather. She raised the bullying issue once again. Three kilometres is too far to walk in awful weather conditions.

Superintendent Pat Rocco shared the importance of working together. There is a Ministry policy and well as a Board courtesy consideration. We want your child in our schools so we need to work together.

Superintendent Pat Rocco shared that this is only a recommendation and if this is chosen then the need to apply for the funding and the people who are looking for a site will take all of this into consideration.

A grandmother shared that we need to have this in writing and someone needs to advocate for these special students and they have a right to safe transportation.

Grant Thomas shared that there is a misconception about downtown. He stated that the recommendation is to have a centrally located site.

John Withers shared that you can not share the location because developers will go after the land to make a quick dollar and the land costs will escalate and jeopardize this option. What happens five years down the road? This is the start of the process and unfortunately we all have to change. The Catholic Board has begun to replace and build new schools and HWDSB needs to do the same.