

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

West Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Education Centre Board Room

November 22, 2011

Working Meeting #9

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair –Superintendent Sharon Stephanian

Voting Members –Christopher Austin, Deborah Beedie, Phyllis Chasty, Em Del Sordo, Bea Howell, Lori King, Heather MacDonald, Sharon Ricci, Judy Shen, Boris Williams

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

Regrets

Voting Members - Rosemary Bellefeuille, Allyssa Horning, Deborah Knoll,

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

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Don Hall, Jim Wibberley

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1.0 Call to Order

Superintendent Stephanian welcomed everyone to the ninth working group meeting. She reminded everyone that this is the last scheduled meeting prior to going to the community at the Public Meeting to share the Committees recommendation. Given where the Committee is in the development of their recommendations and the need to fully consider program placement they need to consider how they will complete their work. This is why item #3 is on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

2.0 Agenda

2.1 Additions and Deletions – There was a request to move the correspondence up on the Agenda in order to discuss this earlier in the evening.

Correspondence was moved to **5.3.2.**

4.3.1. – Ancaster High Update was added to the Agenda by the Staff.

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

3.0 Meeting Dates and Deadline

The Chair stated that at the beginning of the meeting she spoke to the need of the Committee to consider where they are with regard to the remaining meeting and the work to be done. The Committee needs to finalize all its recommendation, including closure recommendations, if any, program placement and the other parts of the mandate which includes such things as transportation and additional capital upgrades. She indicated that it is unlikely that they could manage to cover all of these items at tonight's meeting. Mr. Del Bianco spoke to the timelines chart updates that were distributed to the Committee.

Heather MacDonald asked if they can extend their final deadline date.

Mr. Wibberley shared that the Committee can request that the Board extend the deadline. The Committee can request an extension and then the Board will need to give their approval. You will not know if this has been approved until December.

Q. Are we going to be getting into a different time frame for funding?

Mr. Hall indicated that the Ministry of Education has not allocated Capital Funding at this time. He did not feel that it would have any impact.

Mr. Del Bianco stated that it would require a formal motion to be passed along to the Board for approval.

Q. Are we competing with other ARCs for the best business case scenario? Mr. Wibberley did not feel that they would be comparing the ARCs. It is a matter of scheduling and getting them to the Board. There is a 60 day period in which they will hear delegations and review the data and after a minimum of 60 days they will be voting on their recommendations. The Committee could end up having this delayed until September. Mr. Del Bianco stated that the deadline would be the beginning of February so if you need to move the date from January 19th to the first week of February it may not be a problem.

It was suggested that perhaps this could be reviewed at the end of the meeting to see how the meeting has progressed and how many more meetings the Committee feels that they will require.

There was consensus to make the December 13th a working group meeting instead of a public meeting.

There was consensus that if the Committee requires additional meetings this will be finalized later in the meeting under other business.

4.0 Minutes of the Meeting of October 11, 2011

4.1 Errors or Omissions – There were none.

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

4.3. Business Arising from the Minutes

4.3.1. Ancaster Update – Don Hall, Daniel Del Bianco and Robert Fex

Mr. Don Hall gave an overview of the Ancaster site. Don Hall and Ron Gowland spoke to Judy Langsner to determine the needs of the Ancaster School. Mr. Hall showed in detail the various additions that have been made to the schools over a number of years. Mr. Del Bianco shared that this information will not be shared on the Board web site due to privacy reasons.

Q. What land would be sold to fund this?

A. The southern portion of the site could be severed to provide significant funds to support changes to Ancaster secondary. Proceeds of disposition could be in the area of eight million dollars.

Q. Are we going to be able to make it attractive and desirable?

A. We did talk to Ms. Judy Langsner about this and we have looked at a new entrance area and putting \$5 million into the building to right size and enhance it.

Q. Did you look at anything besides that east wing in terms of right sizing?

A. We did look at the west wing; however, it did not make sense because it is connected to the auditorium.

Some of the Ancaster staff has dedicated written documentation regarding the demolition and right sizing of Ancaster.

Q. You indicated that right sizing would mean demolishing part of the school. I understood it to be building a new school so is it simply demolishing part of the school?

A. We are providing you the information that you requested in the right sizing of Ancaster.

There was further discussion on the right sizing of Ancaster. Mr. Hall shared that they could go to the Ministry of Education requesting funding for the Ancaster renovations; however, it is not uncommon to have them suggest that we self fund by selling off some of our property.

5.0 Minutes of the Public Meeting of November 1, 2011

5.1 Errors or Omissions – Some updates were required to the regrets.

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

Q. Are we missing a member of the Committee?

A. No she has been unwell.

5.3. Business Arising from the Minutes - There was none noted.

5.3.1. Public Meeting Debrief

The public meeting was extremely well attended. A huge thank you was extended to Heather MacDonald and Deborah Beedie for their work and presentations.

Deborah Beedie was thrilled to see the number of people who attended the public meeting.

5.3.2. Correspondence

Q. We did receive a lot of correspondence. How are we going to address the correspondence? Do we reply to these?

Mr. Del Bianco shared that it will be on the web site and the Committee can direct staff to explore some of the questions and report back. There is a lot of time required to process these. Mr. Wibberley stated that if Staff were to respond to the correspondence it would be a huge task to address each of the questions. He felt that it might be more productive to use the information that has been submitted when considering their options.

Some Committee members felt that they need to address and discuss the public's input and asked when are they going to address Plan "B."

There was consensus to have Staff review the correspondence and see if there was a theme and have some answers for the community in response to the correspondence that has been received.

6.0 Accommodation Options – the Chair gave a brief overview of the previous meeting option discussion.

1. The Committee eliminated Option 5 a, b and c which was to close all three schools and build one.
2. The recommendation of Senior Administration was also removed from consideration.
3. The closure of both Parkside and Highland and the construction of a new school in a centrally located site in Dundas or on the Highland site are still on the table.
4. The right-sizing of Ancaster High is also still being examined.

She shared that the goal for the evening was to move towards a recommendation and the floor was opened for discussion.

6.1 Full Committee Discussion of Accommodation Options

Q. Would selling off some of the Ancaster land support us in right sizing and enhancing the school?

A. Mr. Hall shared that if the proposal is strong we could receive funding from the Ministry of Education. They will look to see if we have followed the mandate. The Board and the Ministry of Education may or may not feel that self funding is a good use of HWDSB's assets. A request needs to go to the Ministry of Education to demolish part or all of the building so it is important to have a plan otherwise it might be a tough sell.

Q. Would it be advantageous to be needier and look to the Ministry of Education for funding?

A. The Ministry of Education will look at our mandate and how we are addressing the mandate.

Q. Do you think that we will get funding from the Province or should we be looking at self funding? Do we look for full funding or would we have a stronger business case if we attempt to self fund a portion of the request.

There was further discussion on this topic.

Q. Are we in competition with the other ARCs for the funding of a new school or renovations?

A. The reports are all scheduled to go to the Board at the same time because it will give the Board of Trustees a global picture. They will look at each of the ARCs to determine if they have addressed the mandate and utilization.

Q. How will the south ARC affect the Ancaster ARC with their suggestions of boundary changes

A. Mr. Del Bianco stated that the South ARC is further behind then the other two Secondary ARCs. Between the two schools, Ancaster and Sir Allan MacNab, there are about 3,000 students that are shared between the two schools.

Q. Would the students in Mount Hope want to go to the new school or would they want to go to continue to go to Ancaster. Are the boundary changes going to affect us?

Mr. Hall showed a map that indicated where the South ARC has proposed to build a new school. Mr. Del Bianco shared that the South ARC has only addressed their options once to date and they are further behind. They have had a meeting with the North ARC to discuss Mountain and Parkview.

Heather MacDonald asked if there were any other options out there for consideration.

Mr. Hall shared that the advantage that Staff has is the ability to look at all three ARCs globally. He shared that the South ARC is having a challenge to fill MacNab Secondary similar to Ancaster High.

What could be the ramifications of that?

Mr. Del Bianco shared that if it outside of the Terms of Reference we have to be careful. It does not mean that you can't discuss it or meet with the South ARC it would just require that you stay within the Terms of Reference. This prompted further discussion.

Boris Williams requested the number of students in the rural area.

Trustee Johnstone inquired as to when the Committee will be having a presentation on the option of MacNab/Ancaster?

Mr. Del Bianco shared that it has to be the will of the Committee to put forth an invitation to the South ARC to see if they are interested in discussing this idea.

Q. How do we set up a meeting between the two ARCs? Mr. Del Bianco stated that Staff is meeting with the South ARC tomorrow evening so we could add it to the Agenda to see if they are interested in

exploring this as a possible option. Mr. Wibberley stated that the Committee could give them direction to take this to the South ARC tomorrow evening; however, it has to be the will of the Committee.

The Committee continued to discuss and share their opinions of the options.

Q. If we were to work in conjunction with the South ARC how would that proceed? Mr. Del Bianco stated that the responsibility would fall on Mr. Wibberley and himself to clearly articulate in both of the reports that go to the Board of Trustees.

There was concern about not knowing about the South ARC options. Mr. Del Bianco shared that the South ARC just came forward with their options in September.

Q. What portion of students is being bussed from the Meadowlands?

A. That will have to be looked into.

Q. Is it possible to build on City land since they build on our land - with regard to Parkside?

A. We do have reciprocal agreements with the City so this could be explored.

Some Committee members felt that the selling off of the Ancaster land and not receiving updates and facelifts was not acceptable.

Boris Williams shared that from past experience with the Osler school there was a lot of opposition with the Community and the City Councillors. He felt that it would be very controversial.

Dan Thomson feels that there is space around the Parkside School for adding on without going up.

Sharon Ricci feels that we should consider talking to the City about using some of the Parkside parkland because the Community is very supportive of the school and they would receive a new gym, etc.

Don Hall shared that in Waterdown they are changing the cafeteria from a cafetorium (cafeteria and auditorium). The gym is having seating put in and this is called a gymatorium. The Ministry of Education will no longer fund an auditorium so they are paying for the gym and the Board is paying for the seating.

Judy Shen drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the Catholic School is between the Ancaster and MacNab School.

This prompted further discussion.

A motion was put forward:

The West ARC is giving direction to Mr. Del Bianco and Mr. Wibberley at tomorrow's South ARC meeting to invite the South ARC to dialogue with the West ARC around areas of common interest including the Sir Allan MacNab and Ancaster high catchment and to share the context of the request specifically Staff information shared with the West ARC this evening related to the Sir Allan MacNab and Ancaster catchments at the next working group meeting of the West ARC or another agreeable date. There was consensus on this motion.

Motion – I move that the West ARC receives regular updates at each meeting about the progress of the other Secondary ARCs. There was consensus on this motion.

Q. Do we move ahead without consideration for Ancaster and look at them as no longer part of our ARC?

Mr. Del Bianco stated that you need to wait to hear back from the South ARC to determine if they are even remotely interested. The Committee could continue to discuss the other options that are currently on the table.

The Committee moved into discussion of the options.

Q. Is there another piece of land available for a new school other than Parkside and Highland?

A. Not at this time.

If the Ancaster High and Sir Allan MacNab ends up moving forward this could affect the transportation of the Dundas students.

6.2 Program Placement Options - There was consensus to defer 6.2 to the next meeting.

7.0 Correspondence

There was consensus to have Staff review the correspondence “the ramifications of demolishing the East Wing of Ancaster High and report back to the Committee.

The floor was opened to discuss the correspondence from Diana Kenel’s Plan “B”. Staff would need to take this away to explore it further. **There was consensus given to have Staff take this away to address Plan “B.”**

Rick Hart shared that he feels that there is a big shift with the ARC Committee on something that they unanimously voted on earlier. He shared his thoughts on the direction the Committee was originally going and now that seems to have changed. He stated the importance of doing what is best for the Dundas Community and that was the direction of the ARC originally and they need to have a strong business case to take to the Ministry of Education.

There was further discussion of finishing Plan “A” before moving onto Plan “B.”

8.0 Other Business – There was discussion of the timelines. **There was consensus to add meetings as proposed on the new timelines chart with the addition of December 8th, December 20th and January 9th meeting dates subject to revision at the next ARC meeting.**

There was consensus to ask the Board of Trustees to extend the final ARC report deadline from January 19th to Friday, February 3rd.

9.0 Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.