

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

North Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Board Room – Education Centre

October 4, 2011

Working Meeting #8

Minutes

Attendance:

Committee Members

Chair – Vicki Corcoran

Voting Members – Sandra Binns, Anna Busse, Michele Cameron, Lisa Deys, Laura Gill, Rick Kunc, Joyce Schneider, Dawn Spencer, Grant Thomas, Barb Wachner, Jane Withers

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

Regrets

Voting Members – Michael Chalupka, Annie Fu, Jane Henry, Marie Jackson, Mohamud Mohamed, Prema Rao

Non-Voting Members – Chad Collins, Jason Farr, Jim Holubeshen, Bernie Morelli, Sam Merulla

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Jim Wibberley, Kevin Morton

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1.0 Call to Order

Superintendent Vicki Corcoran welcomed everyone to the eight working group meeting. 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.

2.0 Agenda <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/North-ARC-Agenda-October-4.pdf>

2.1 Additions and Deletions – None

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

3.0 Data and Option Updates – Mr. Del Bianco Del Bianco

Mr. Del Bianco went over the list of updates and data requests.

There were no questions.

4.0 Accommodation Options

4.1 Full committee discussion of accommodation options – Daniel Del Bianco

Mr. Del Bianco explained the boundaries and went over the options 2, 3 and 4 again as a refresher for the Committee. To see the options please click on the following link: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/North-ARC-Summary-Options-Sept-13-2011.pdf>

Mr. Del Bianco spent some time reviewing the Financial Summary as well. To see the Financial Summary please click on the following link: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/NORTH-ARC-FINANCIAL-SUMMARY-SEPT-13-2011-2.pdf>

Q. Have you looked at what will happen to the students while a new school is being built? Will the students stay at their existing schools?

A. Yes we have looked at that. We would work toward as little disruption as possible.

Q. If we are looking at building a new school we would have to look at a way of funding this until the new school is ready and the students have been moved over. Am I correct?

A. Yes

4.2. Accommodation Options for the Public Meeting – Daniel Del Bianco

Mr. Del Bianco asked the Committee if there was anything that they heard at the South ARC joint meeting on September 15, 2011 that they would like to discuss.

Mr. Root shared that he has been in contact with some of the South ARC members since that meeting. He shared that they would also like to see a system school in the lower city.

Mr. Hart asked if, as a group, they had decided what their plans were for the Parkview students.

Q. Do we want the Parkview program as it is? How does that fit into what we as an ARC are doing?

Mr. Root stated that Marco Barzetti did a presentation on the Orchard Park students. Mr. Root feels that some of the students at Parkview and Mountain would benefit in an inclusion program. He shared

that these are not the students that they are concerned about. He still feels that there needs to be a separate school for these special students. He shared that there should be a special school as well as a program for inclusion for those who are ready. He shared that Nancy Leach is finding mentors for some of their graduating students. Mr. Root would like to look at a complex notion of inclusion and perhaps we could look at a wing. What would that look like? We have not heard from the Principals and he feels that we should hear from the Principals since they are the front line leaders.

Nancy Leach gave a summary of what she heard at the last meeting:

HWDSB System School and Community Centre

- Close Parkview Secondary School and sell the property.
- A “wing” attached to a secondary school would be contrary to maintaining Parkview as an independent and distinct program. This would be a disservice to the students. Rather than put good money into a building that is outdated and in need of repair, we could build in the downtown core/code red area on the property of the new secondary school or Scott Park or on the property of a closed and demolished elementary school. Dollars generated from the sale of Parkview and monies from Community Organizations and The City will support the construction of the new building.
- Build a small **System School of Choice and Community Centre** for 300 to 400 students that would provide a holistic approach to serving all members of the community, especially the needs of our most vulnerable secondary students.
- The primary tenant would be a **HWDSB System School of Choice** for secondary students with similar programs to Parkview and Mountain as well as secondary alternative education programs, focused on innovation to meet the students’ needs and create secure futures for them.
- **The System School and Community Centre** would provide for the HWDSB Programs that could be lost through school closures (e.g. Delta’s Day Care Program, NYA:WEH Aboriginal Program, Alternatives for Youth Counsellors (AY), etc.).
- The building would include all of the tech shops and skills training that are present at Parkview and Mountain including the gyms, computer labs, Bake Shop, Kitchen, Cafeteria, Wood Shop, Auto Shop, Tech and Design, Greenhouse, Sewing, Cosmetology, Careers, Literacy, Transitioning Programs, Life Skills Coach for Graduates, etc.)
- The Cafeteria/Bakery Shop could serve the student population and as well as the community through a storefront or client seller.
- An auditorium should be built to serve the System School and Community Groups.
- The Community Programs could include Public Health, Social Work/Family Counselling, Family Medical Practice, seniors’ groups, recreational programming, youth groups, after school groups, YMCA initiatives, employment services-PATH, etc.

Mr. Barzetti shared that as a Principal he would give some feedback:

- The students who came into the inclusion program in Grade 9 are the same students that Mr. Root is concerned about and are now doing a great job and were in the video speaking about the inclusion program.
- He shared that the buildings of Mountain and Parkview are in very bad shape.

A Committee member stated that we want new beautiful high tech facility. We want great hands on programming. What Mr. Root is talking about in the system school she would like to see in every school.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that we need a very strong business case in order to convince the Ministry of Education to allocate the 32 million dollars for a new school.

Mr. Wibberley shared that the building of two new schools would be a tough sell to the Ministry of Education. He also shared that HWDSB could build a high tech facility when building one not two schools. Both schools could share these high tech classrooms.

C. We are making a lot of assumptions when we have not decided on what we are doing with the Parkview Facility. He shared that he has not heard a lot of people advocating for keeping the Parkview School open.

Another member felt that Parkview needs to close because it is an old building and we need to move forward with these students.

Q. Can we use the word annex instead of wing?

C. I would like to have the students share classroom space.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that all of the options look at keeping the Parkview program in place however this could be in a new building and when they are ready for transition then it would be easy to put in place.

A motion was put on the floor to remove option #2 – **There was consensus to remove option #2.**

Q. What benefit do we have in saying what the program will be? We should not be having a discussion on the Parkview program at this point in time.

Mr. Wibberley shared that we are looking at a school within a school and this model is compelling because it is very flexible without having to define what that is.

There was discussion amongst the members on the remaining two options.

C. Option 4 (Closure of Delta, Parkview and Sir Winston Churchill and construct a new school on an existing site (SWC) with a "Wing" for Parkview Program) – this feels like we are not closing the correct school?

Mr. Del Bianco confirmed that what he is hearing from the Committee is that ideally they would like a new site centrally located. **There was consensus to recommend a new centrally located school.**

Back up options could be options 3 & 4:

Concept Option 3 -Closure of Delta, Parkview and Sir John A. Macdonald and construct a new school on an existing site (Sir John A. Macdonald) with "Wing" for Parkview Program

Concept Option 4 -Closure of Delta, Parkview and Sir Winston Churchill and construct a new school on an existing site (SWC) with a "Wing" for Parkview Program

There was some confusion around what the remaining options would look like. Mr. Del Bianco shared that some boundary changes could be suggested to include changes to Orchard Park and Glendale and centrally locate a new school and this would address the long term enrolment needs.

C. Sir John A only draws students from the East and because it is a large school it will always be challenged to keep the enrolment up.

Q. How do we address long term enrolment and renewal needs of Sir John A Macdonald because it is such a large school?

C. Glendale is situated on a site with two other elementary schools. Also Bishop Ryan is building a new school on the mountain.

C. Sir Winston Churchill is a large enough site that it could house a new building. The kids could stay in school while they build a new school on the existing site and it has options available to work with the City and the Community Centre (s).

There was further discussion on whether to build a new school on Sir John A Macdonald versus building it on Sir Winston Churchill. Most Committee members felt that the new school needs to be in the Pan Am corridor.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that he feels that it would create excitement at the Public meeting if the Committee shared that the ARC's option is to build a new school in the Pan Am area.

A member felt that it was important to also share the types of special classrooms that would be offered in the new school. Mr. Del Bianco stated that we first need to share the option and then we will be looking at the program distribution because there are still other schools that need to be considered.

There was further discussion on this point.

Kevin Morton shared that perhaps we should not say the Pan Am corridor because that is a specific area that may not house the size of the school that they want to build. Centrally located would work better.

Superintendents Rocco and Joshua shared that HWDSB is looking at sharing the programming across the cluster and when the Board builds a new facility it will be "state of the art".

Jim shared that the committee could present more than one option and have a back up plan.

Q. Does rebuilding on SJAM even address the centre core?

A. It will not rebuild the central core.

A member feels that we need to be clear about why we are making this recommendation. At this point perhaps we could share what we are looking to work with the City and the possibility of a Community Centre.

Mr. Del Bianco stated that if we get down to one option then at the next working group meeting we could look at programming and what else the Committee would like to have.

Consensus was not given to close SJAM, Delta and Parkview with a new centrally located facility with an annex for Parkview. **A vote was taken and it was carried by an eight to one vote.**

The floor was opened to discuss an option B if they could not find a centrally located site.

Some Committee members felt that if we are serious about our option we should stick with the Committee's recommendation. It is not a decision it is a recommendation. It addresses the needs of the red code district.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that there does not need to be a plan "B".

There was consensus given to present only one option at the public meeting. The option will be close Sir John A Macdonald, Delta and Parkview with a new centrally located facility with an annex for the Parkview students.

5.0 Minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2011

5.1 Errors or Omissions – there were none.

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

5.3 Business Arising from the Minutes

5.3.1. Facility Partnerships – Mr. Del Bianco updated the Committee on the Facility Partnerships. Out of the 18 expressions of interest the list has been narrowed down to three expressions of interest – one only wants to be involved with a new build and the other 2 haven't specified a panel (elementary vs. secondary school) or a specific location. These are very, very preliminary "expressions of interest". He stated the key thing to remember is that just because we want them in a particular school; it doesn't necessarily guarantee that they want to be in that school because of its location, size, lease costs, condition, etc.

5.3.2 Other – no other business.

6.0 Other Business

6.1 Planning for the public meeting - A Co-Chair and two presenters were established for the next public meeting. Mark Currie and Scott Barr volunteered to present and Grant will Co-Chair.

6.2 Other – Mr. Del Bianco asked the Committee to review the program strategy as well as the programs which are proposed for the North cluster of schools.

7.0 Correspondence – ARC West "Plan B" by Diana Kenel was submitted and shared with the Committee.

8.0 Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.