

Sharon,

In an attempt to be a productive committee member, I am submitting my thoughts for consideration at the meeting. Unfortunately I can not participate in the votes, but I hope that discussion will bring the committee to consensus.

As I watch the deliberations of the committee, it appears that the group is starting to narrow in on a recommendation. I support the decisions that have been made so far. Here are my thoughts regarding future discussions:

**Background understanding:**

It is clear that at this time there are too many pupil spaces in the West ARC. (The future remains unknown)

It is clear that neither Dundas school will meet the needs of all students in Dundas.

Cafeteria space limited

Gymnasium space inadequate

Science labs inadequate

Computer labs - questionable

Lack of Auditorium

Traffic issues at Highland

It is clear that Ancaster has more space than necessary for program delivery

**Recommendations:**

Construct or renovate a school in Dundas to address population and programming needs

"Right size" Ancaster

The questions that the committee needs to discuss are details of these recommendations. e.g. what is the location in Dundas? how large should the school be?

The transition planning for moving students from old to new school and the time in between. What is right sizing at Ancaster? What size is necessary? Rather than demolition could the extra space be rented to outside parties or board departments, perhaps as an interim solution?

**Considerations:**

**Dundas -**

Define the size and amenities required for the Dundas population.

Consider that a small incremental cost for additional space (e.g. 200 pupil spaces) at this point will pale in comparison to the cost to renovate later to address overcrowding (lessons from Waterdown)

Note the needs discussed at public meetings and listed above (Gym, Labs, etc.)

Consider Green Community concepts in site location

Walkability - to/ from school, to lunch options and co-op locations etc.

Travel distances for bussed students (minimize for all)

Which site will decrease urban sprawl and encourage a thriving (walkable) community

Consider site size - I am not convinced that the Parkside site is too small. If you subtract the playing fields from a "typical" site, what is necessary for building and parking.

Consider traffic patterns and congestion - get the city involved in the decision so that they are part of the planning.

Consider including Green options in the construction and seek grants to help offset the cost

Consider "Sense of Community", there is a great deal of evidence that when students feel a sense of belonging they perform better, there is less vandalism etc. In blending two 'communities' it will be imperative to build a new 'community' that students see as their own.

Plan programming to limit the students who feel they must travel out of catchment to get what they need. Assess the reasons for out of catchment travel. I am pleased to see that an IB program is planned for a new Dundas school

#### **Ancaster -**

The cost may be prohibitive at this time for any construction on the Ancaster site however there are a number of short term solutions that could address the excess space and offset the cost of running the building

Rent the space to a third party

Relocate the Mountain Learning Centre (\$221K annual lease)

Relocate staff from Maple Lane and Memorial building until the new board office is ready, mothball or sell those facilities

Relocate current Crestwood students as plans begin to assume the Crestwood site for board office

Relocate current Mountain Secondary students - indications are that these students and program should be kept together. Is there another site that has the capacity and the facilities to accommodate the Mountain program? I don't know but it is worth asking the question

Best of luck. I am sorry that I will not be there for the discussion.

Deb Knoll