Learning for All: HWDSB Program Strategy Presentation

PART 1 – Program Strategy and Inclusive Education:

GUIDING QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION:
In this inclusive model where all students attend their local school, what supports and strategies need to be considered in the school and community to address:

ACADEMIC NEEDS
- Purposeful staffing that follows programs (specialized)
- Need to build capacity amongst teachers and program so we don't rely on staff
- Outbound program at Dundas in unique in itself – odd that we are not considering that – ie geography dictates that
- Two IB program at West cluster
- Can we talk more about vulnerable students who are at vocational schools and what that looks like in our cluster – we have students who have a profile of a vocational student who are flourishing in home school with program and social emotional need – ie. Reading program at Parkview can be placed in all schools

SAFETY FOR ALL STUDENTS
- Inclusion is key for all schools via program/pathways
- Inclusion for physical limitations - is staff looking at accommodating facilities for accessibility challenges plus participation with all program in the schools

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS
- Program allocations are dependent on friends – eg. Sage Quest at Ryerson will follow friends NOT program
- feeling/recommending Sage Quest at Westdale
- Who are the caring adults for students

STUDENTS CHOOSING TO ATTEND PROGRAMS IN OTHER SCHOOLS
- Recommendations to also consider sports program at Westdale
- Need to consider facilities

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PART 2: Program Mapping

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How does the program map presented align with the guiding parameters?
   - Need to consider community input on the programs HWDSB can offer to students first and not use school closures as the lens
   - Still need to see environment program in Dundas with purposeful staffing as key
   - Need to consider programming for gifted student outside of AP/IB
   - We need to consider community partnerships/supports for students to access needs at a school within their cluster but doesn't have the facilities required to address the needs.

2. What clarifying questions do you need answered in order to help you develop your ARC recommendations regarding schools and programs?
   - We would need more information on what programs exist within Parkside before we make recommendations (fear is that it is a done deal) need to make informed decisions
   - Need more information about staffing that is associated with programs - ie, DECA Program
   - Difficulty to make decisions about where programs are relocated without hiring purposeful staff.
   - Difficulty to look at placing programs when the feeling is that programs evolve based on community need/interest
   - Jessica explained best thinking about recommendations at this level and the best thinking at senior management so that the group of Board of Trustees Council members could make an informed decision based on use of language so the Board is not the same as Board of Trustees
   - How can you be sure that the program strategy be done in small schools
   - Need to consider transportation for kids, SHSM opportunities for kids
   - Need description of the programs so we know what programs are before we make decisions
   - Need to consider fitness and wellness programs in West (which could be part of Health and Wellness SHSM)
   - Need to capture the school "life"/culture so we can align what is missing in the school culture – ie, extra curricular
   - Fear is we always jump into default that the closure of a Dundas school is done deal before we can talk about program relocation