

**Minutes of the East Hamilton Boundary Review Advisory Panel
Meeting - Wednesday, December 03, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.
Memorial City Elementary School**

Committee Members in Attendance:

Superintendents

Peter Joshua (Chair), Peter Sovran

Trustees

Larry Pattison (Ward 3), Ray Mulholland (Ward 4)

A.M. Cunningham

Principal - Peter Maliphant

**School Council/Home & School - Lauren McLean,
Christy Cowan**

Memorial City

Principal - Chuck Buttle

Vice-Principal - Dale Hill

School Council/Home & School - Nil

Queen Mary

Principal - Darrin Griffiths

Viscount Montgomery

Principal - Stephen Yull

School Council/Home & School - Elaine Fleming

W.H. Ballard

Principal (A) - Audrey Hensen

Vice-Principal (A) - Lindy Millen

School Council/Home & School - Laurie Hazelton

Planning & Accommodation Staff

Robert Fex

Regrets:

Nil

Guests:

Nil

Recorder:

Kathy Forde

1. Call to Order (Peter Joshua)

- Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. - everyone welcomed - roundtable of introductions

2. Agenda

2.1 Additions/Deletions (Peter Joshua)

- Nil

3. Purpose of the Boundary Review

3.1 Boundary Review Policy (Peter Joshua)

- Through the accommodation review process, the recommendation included a boundary review to examine changes to existing boundaries to balance enrolment in the schools affected
- Boundary Review document was reviewed (handout) - factors to be mindful of include optimal school capacity, facility requirements, site size, programs
- Intent of committee is to develop a recommendation that will go to the Board of Trustees to determine how work moves forward
- As part of the process, actions required include creation of the advisory panel, community consultation, review of public feedback and Board approval

- The meeting provides members an opportunity to review information, share comments and prepare for the upcoming public meeting

4. Presentation (Bob Fex)

- Rationale, maps, enrolment reviewed to prepare presentation for public meeting
- Capacity is calculated based on Ministry guidelines
- Utilization is projected five years out - status quo (2014) versus proposed boundary changes (2019) - numbers reflect regular track students
- Numbers are based on the recommendation approved by the Board of Trustees, which was a hybrid of the recommendations brought forth from the ARC and HWDSB Staff
- The French Immersion (FI) boundary for AM Cunningham is larger than the regular boundary for English track students - the shift in boundaries will not shift the FI boundary
- Students may be grandfathered; should boundary changes occur, students in senior grades requesting to remain with peer group and not move to their new school will be considered
- Sibling rules will be reviewed in terms of the Out-of-Catchment (OOC) process similar to any other catchment/OOC situation
- Trustees participate to support the process - once the report is presented to the Board of Trustees they will be the representative voice

5. Questions/Comments from Committee Members

Questions

How will this review impact the next round of elementary reviews for this area?

It can only be speculated how this effort would impact a future accommodation review. Efforts need to focus on the current work underway in terms of boundary review based on the recommendation put forward by the Board of Trustees.

How do portables affect a review?

A review is intended to alleviate pressure at high enrolment schools and balance with lower enrolment schools.

A.M. Cunningham only goes to grade 5 so at what point would students be sent over to Viscount Montgomery?

Keeping grade 5 students within their peer group is a consideration. Student shift is reviewed on a case-by-case basis when needed.

Are all schools within walking distance or will transportation be provided?

Once boundaries are set the provision of transportation will be reviewed and busing would be provided according to policy. There may be a small pocket of students in younger grades that qualify for transportation. Vacant seats are allotted through courtesy transportation

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based on various criteria to maximize the busing service. Mapping with walkout distances can be provided if needed.

Would students in grades 6, 7, 8 have a choice to go with their peers?
Yes.

Comments

- Enrolment numbers can change significantly - for example, previously at Prince of Wales the number of Kindergarten classes went from two to seven because the families that moved out of the neighbourhood were far smaller than the large families that moved in
- Board projections are solid - for example, one particular year when enrolment was challenging at Prince of Wales numbers calculated by the principal varied but Board projections were bang on
- When boundaries change and pockets are adjusted over the years, it is intended to make numbers and programs viable
- Space available at W.H. Ballard should be considered for accommodating special programs keeping these classes stationary for long-term student success and to minimize student transition

6. Next Steps

Tanya Shaver, Executive Assistant to Superintendents Peter Joshua and Peter Sovran, will be a point of contact for communication at tshaver@hwdsb.on.ca.

Next Meeting Dates

- **Public Meeting - December 17, 2014 at Viscount Montgomery – 6:30pm**
- **Committee Meeting - January 08, 2015 at Memorial Hamilton (to be confirmed)**

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.