



## Minutes of the East Hamilton Boundary Review Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 8 – 4:00 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
Memorial City	Principal - Chuck Buttle Vice-Principal - Dale Hill
Viscount Montgomery	Principal - Stephen Yull School Council/Home & School - Elaine Fleming
W.H. Ballard	Principal (A) - Audrey Hensen Vice-Principal (A) - Lindy Millen
Planning & Accommodation Staff	Robert Fex
Regards:	Christy Cowan, A. M. Cunningham School Council
Recorder:	Tanya Shaver, Executive Assistant North Cluster

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### 1. Call to Order (Peter Joshua)

- Peter Joshua welcomed all and called the meeting or order at 4:00 p.m.

### 2. Purpose of Meeting

-The committee's purpose is to finalize the recommendations which will be compiled into a report to be presented to the trustees for approval.

- The information for the recommendations is captured from the Public Consultation Meeting and the Committee's input.
- From what has been heard and what is felt to be the best for all, a consensus is the goal; however, ultimately it is the Board of Trustees that will make the decision.
- Bob Fex will prepare the report and committee members will be emailed a draft copy for input.

### 3. Roundtable Discussion, Comments and Questions

(Please note: From the coloured map provided by Accommodation and Planning, the two areas being discussed for boundary changes are known as the Purple (Queen Mary, Ballard involved) and the Green (Viscount, A M Cunningham/Memorial involved).

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- Main concern for AMC is the students will be in danger when they will be required to cross very busy main streets such as Kenilworth and Ottawa.
- Currently students walk a straight line to Viscount via Central Avenue
- Boundary changes do not affect French Immersion students.
- We need a greater breakdown of which kids in the Green square are French, English, Kindergarten and Grades 6-8 as it will really affect AMC classes (triple instead of split grade classes)
- For Viscount and AMC is there any merit in cleaning up boundary line so there is no crossing of busy streets? *Safety piece. Bob Fex acknowledges crooked looking boundary lines show on the map, however, it is required mainly for proper student placements for mapping and analysis.*
- Is there a hybrid solution to keep those students happy in their schools? Can grades 7/8 stay with peer group – grandfathering? *This would not include siblings of 7/8 students; they must use OOC regular process.*
- Consensus from committee that the Purple section (Queen Mary / Ballard) piece makes sense.
- Consensus from the committee that the Green section is contentious. Many problems can be started and snowball for the English stream students at AMC.
- Would making a boundary change like this have some parents opt for French Immersion? *FI starts in grade 1 so students still would attend Viscount for JK/ SK.*
- AMC English stream students will be affected by programming from Grades 1 – 5 with these boundary changes.
- Ballard has the room and can accommodate the change but if we were a parent looking at it from Queen Mary point of view, it would not make sense. We need to do a good job in explaining to the sending parents how this is an overall good move.
- Of the JK/SK kids in Cunningham do we have any idea how many are going to enrol in FI?
  - *2012 JK / SK – 1 SK enrolled*
  - *2013 – 3 SK enrolled*
  - *2014 – 3 SK enrolled*
  - *Over the past three years average is 3 students enrol.*

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- Support is easy for the Purple area to attend Ballard. It will affect approximately 15 students and there is a crossing guard on Britannia Avenue. No safety issues.
- Committee is finding it hard to support the identified changes to the Green area as it will have a negative impact on the English stream at AMC.
- Viscount is being affected by the Roxborough Park School closure and is not yet sure what the real impact is going to be. Therefore, hard to support the Green area when they are not fully aware of the overall impact. Stephen Yull as Principal of Viscount has no idea how to capture what the enrolment will be for next year with the multiple transitions happening.
- Will there be a neighbourhood start to feel misplaced by any change? *There is a bit of a cultural piece to the community we need to consider.*
- Is the Green area an all or nothing? *Yes, in the terms of what we can recommend. When the report goes to the board many of same questions may come from the Trustees.*
- This panel was tasked with going out to the community to make the recommendations after consultation to the trustees.
- When is the change to take place? *It is a possibility that this could happen September 2015 but that will be decided by trustees.*
- We need to take into account how to translate for our non-English speaking families these changes. These families are going to be asking numerous questions so how we can address this by September? *Once a decision is made there are transition groups in place that will work through the process with the families.*
- Courtesy bussing may be available for affected Queen Mary students to go to Ballard but this cannot be predicted until the school year starts.
- The English stream at AMC are already weak but now with the potential of triple- grade classes this could really impact students in a negative way.
- Already 5 portables on AMC property.
- Any thought of changing the boundary totally? (Kids currently in Green area can choose which school they want but new students coming into area can only go to Viscount. Current K-5 can remain at AMC if they wish. New ones moving in must go to Viscount.)

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*This could create possible problem in neighbourhoods with some students at Viscount and others at AMC.*

- There has been discussion of the placing of FI students across the district. Could be potential changes coming down the road? *If the discussion takes place it will be through elementary program strategy, but that is in the future.*
- All numbers projected forward as per the proposed boundary changes are the English stream only; FI students are not included in projections, but included in totals.
- If change is made to Green area Viscount may have room to take OCC students.
- Any student may use the OOC process that is available.

**Final Results from Discussion**

- Recommendation is unanimous for the Purple area to go forward to the trustees for approval as shown on map.
- Consensus of the committee is to not put the Green area forward for approval. As discussed there appears to be potential problems that may develop causing an impact to the English-stream students at AMC.

**Final Results from Discussion**

- Draft Report to be ready by Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.
- If committee would like to discuss further after draft is seen, meeting can be arranged.
- We will ask (via email) for final feedback on the draft proposal
- Aiming to present at next month's board meeting.

**4. Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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