

# HWDSB

**East Hamilton/Lower Stoney Creek FI Boundary Review  
Advisory Panel Meeting  
Thursday October 12, 2017  
6:00 pm**

**Glendale Secondary  
145 Rainbow Drive, Hamilton, Ontario**

**Attendance:**

**HWDSB Resource Staff** – Jeff Gilles (JG), Sue Dunlop (SD), Paul Denomme (PD), Ellen Warling (EW), Robert Fex (RF), Mark Taylor (MT)

**Trustees** – Todd White (TW)

**Principals/Vice-Principals** - JoAnne Aucoin, Jennifer Robertson-Heath, Sherry Del Mastro, Sandra Constable, Darrin Griffiths, Lindsay Snell, Mark Tadeson

**School Council Members/Parent Representatives** – Paige Murphy, Sasha Walsh, Jen Davis, Brigitte Berkenbosch, Nicole Vander Ploeg, Ljuba Lush, Meagan Walker, Chantale Muise, Melissa Maglar, Lynne Carpenter, Sandra Lindsay, Michelle Hamilton

**Recording Secretary** – Kristen Hebner

- Welcome & Introductions
  - JG welcomes members and provides opening remarks
- Boundary Review Advisory Panel
  - Outline of Advisory Panel members
  - Explanation of mandate
  - Description of members' roles
- Timelines
  - Outline of events leading to boundary review (BR) and timelines of process
  - Walk-through of BR process through graphic
- Rationale for Change
  - Explanation of reasoning behind initiation of East Hamilton and Lower Stoney Creek BR
  - Decision is a result of pupil accommodation review (PAR) in June 2016
  - Funding approvals for schools affected in the East Hamilton and LSC planning areas – Glendale, Eastdale and Memorial SC sites
- Looking at Options for FI
  - Map handout of current FI boundaries for A.M. Cunningham (1-5), Glen Echo (1-5), Glen Brae (6-8)
  - East Hamilton FI
    - Review of schools in consideration of new FI site

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- Map handout of enrolment/capacity of each East Hamilton school for consideration
  - Identification of closing schools and consolidation
  - JG explains importance of balancing RT and FI population and how an imbalance can lead to isolation of groups and other negative impacts
  - TW explains why a single tract FI school was not considered – would require movement of over 50% of community
  - Finding a location for approximately 13 FI classes
  - Panel members recognize that there are only 2 locations with significant available classroom space
  - JG explains importance of demonstrating all available options to display transparency of BR decision-making process
- Lower Stoney Creek
  - Review of schools for consideration of new FI site
  - Map handout of enrolment/capacity of each LSC school for consideration
- Opportunity for panel members to ask questions:
  - Q: Does movement of program slow down the process of FI program?
    - A:
      - EW explains how approach was addressed to Ministry and how staff recommendations were formulated based on enrolment/capacity
      - JG confirms this will not affect timelines for program availability; however, completion of new build may be affected by construction delays
      - BF further explains how enrolment and geography play a role in program relocation
- Staff Proposal
  - FI Boundary Changes
    - Lower Stoney Creek
      - Utilize school on Eastdale site to accommodate FI Gr. 1-8 – more funding received for new Eastdale school (capacity of 564) – therefore, larger facility is best option to accommodate students
      - Green Acres will be FI holding site while construction takes place at Eastdale site
      - Q: If construction of new school is delayed and ready during winter months, will students transition at this time, or will opening be delayed until new school year?
        - A: This is dependent on several factors. Will be determined if/when event should occur and will be based on best-case scenario for students, staffing and program
      - Q: How does implementation of FI program work?
        - A: Program will increase by grade by year
    - East Hamilton
      - A.M. Cunningham will remain FI Gr. 1-5

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- FI Gr. 1-5 at Hillcrest
  - Closer to existing FI locations and has space required for program
- FI Gr. 6-8 at WH Ballard for both feeders
  - More centrally located and has space
- Aim to create least disruption to students as possible
- BF explains rationale for new locations – geographically, as well as spatial requirements to accommodate program (13 classrooms)
- Positive feedback from parent rep's/school council members – in favour of new central location
- Questions re new boundaries:
  - Q: Why can't a full FI Gr. 1-8 program be located at Hillcrest?
    - A: Facility does not have required capacity – would need additional classrooms to accommodate senior grades
  - Q: Will transportation be available?
    - A: Bussing will be available for FI students outside of walking distance
  - Q: Does geography of new boundaries coordinate with locations and densities of FI students?
  - A: BF explains that from a utilization standpoint, new boundaries work well
- Consensus of Advisory Panel
  - Limited options to relocate FI
  - General agreement of proposed new locations for FI program
- Transition Notes
  - Suggestion by parent for Glen Brae students to be outlined on page – explain what will happen for remaining grades at existing schools
  - Review of enrolment numbers and rationale explained for relocation of FI program at Eastdale, Hillcrest and WH Ballard
- Community Consultation
  - October 26, 2017 @ 6:00 pm, Glendale gym
  - Open question to group for suggestions on how to present BR to public
    - Provide summary sheet for attendees with enrolment numbers and goals of meeting, explaining motion in full detail
    - Map of all new boundaries may be overwhelming
      - Consider displaying individual maps of new FI sites
    - Stations with wall maps for comment
    - Comments from Trustee Todd White
      - Map of recommendations
        - Encourage identification of problems in order to propose more options

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- Communicate what does/does not work about FI transitions and new boundaries
- Reiterating point that options are not “set in stone”
- Suggestion for parents to see other boundary considerations that are not feasible in order to visualize why the recommended boundaries are best possible solution for new FI sites
- Current boundaries
  - Consider displaying heat map of student densities to visualize why new boundary recommendations are logical solutions
- Talk more about explanation of schools residing in East Hamilton/LSC and their capacities/enrolment, rather than displaying more maps
  - Generate more understanding and clarity about recommendations
- Exceptions/other options for students with special needs?
  - Up for discussion at public meeting
- Single transition an option for Glen Echo to Eastdale?
  - Eliminate 3 schools in 3 years?
- Adjournment
  - Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm