

HWDSB

West Hamilton City- French Immersion Transition Advisory Committee
Tuesday, November 21, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Bennetto Elementary School
47 Simcoe St. E., Hamilton

Attendance:

HWDSB Resource Staff- Susan Dunlop, Ellen Warling
Trustees- Christine Bingham, Larry Pattison
FASL Chair- Heather Lambert-Hillen
French as a Second Language Consultant- Christine Rees
A.M. Cunningham- No Rep
Bennetto- Sandra Rowell, Wayne Thompson, Emily Gouing, Austin Sanidas
Cathy Wever- Steven Johnston
Central- Tannis Hamil
Dr. Davey- Tanya Glabb, Kristan Leggett
Earl Kitchener- Richelle Bratuz, Terry Rogers, Francis Tregurtha
Hess Street- No Rep
Queen Victoria- Kelly Sweeting, Susan Pasian
Ryerson- Janine Durajlija, Jennifer Walsom
Strathcona- Curtis Tye, Rebekah Smylie
Recording Secretary- Teresa Movre

Start-Up Time: 6:02

Welcome and Introductions

- Superintendent Dunlop welcomed everyone to the Transition Advisory Committee
- Introductions took place
- Review of Guiding Principles

Background

- Review of slides on pages 3 and 4
- Bennetto will introduce a French Immersion Program (grade 1-8) beginning with grades 1-3 in September 2018

- Review of map on page 3 indicating the FI boundaries for September 2018
- Note the thick grey line is the current French Immersion boundary
- The Board of Trustees decided to include the entire Cathy Wever and Queen Victoria will now be directed to Bennetto and not A.M. Cunningham
- Recap
 - Earl Kitchener and Central will feed into Ryerson- Grades 6-8 FI
 - Cathy Wever, Dr. Davey, Hess, Queen Victoria and Strathcona will feed into Bennetto- Grs 1-8 FI

Committee Mandate

- What are we here to do?
 - Review and discuss the following- timelines, enrolment, transition activities, transportation and potential issues, accommodation and program issues

Transition Notes: Earl Kitchener

- Review of slide on page 5
- In order to have a viable program the current FI students (attending EK) in grades 1-2 who live in the new boundary will attend Bennetto from grades 2-3 for September 2018
- 43 students- 24 grade 1 and 19 grade 2
- The program will grow by one grade each year
- This is the same process is currently being implemented at Mary Hopkins
- Full program Grades 1-8 by 2023
- Secondary Pathway is currently Westdale
- This plan will address the accommodation pressures at both sites

Transition Notes: Siblings

- Review of slide on page 6
- The Board prefers to minimize transition and tries to keep families together as much as possible
- Students with older siblings in FI at Earl Kitchener living in the new Bennetto FI boundary may remain at Earl Kitchener until the end of grade 5 and then will feed into Bennetto for grades 6-8 unless they have an older sibling at Ryerson in FI at the same time
- Grade 1's entering FI may attend Earl Kitchener if they have an older sibling enrolled in FI at Earl Kitchener

Transition Notes: Transportation

- Review of slide on page 6
- If families choose to keep younger students at Earl Kitchener or Ryerson no transportation will be provided according to the Transposition Policy
- They could apply for courtesy transportation- no guarantees
- Grades 7-8 transportation- HSR Transit Pass
- Grades 1-6 FI transportation- could be a large or small school bus or small van

Transition Notes: Cathy Wever & Queen Victoria

- Review of slides on page 7
- Boundary change- Instead of going to A.M. Cunningham they will be attending Bennetto
- New students will be directed to Bennetto

Small Discussion Groups- 6:30

- In order to gather feedback the Committee broke up into small groups for discussion

Feedback:

- When a new FI school appears closer to your home families may consider registering
- There may be an increase in families interested in FI
- The new Grade 1 application process may result in FI OOC students at Bennetto
- How many students will remain at Earl Kitchener in grades 1-2?
 - 65- Gr 1s and 63 Gr 2s
- While I understand the need for the Board to be concerned with balance and numbers as a parent I feel this is very disruptive for the children
- Students that attended Bennetto for the JK/SK program, and moved to Earl Kitchener for the Grades 1 FI program Bennetto will now have an additional move back to Bennetto. Potential effect on students academically and socially
- Has there been a consideration that families may not register in FI if they children can't attend Earl Kitchener?
 - We cannot project that
 - Often when a new site opens up that is closer to people's homes we see an increase in registration
 - We wanted an opportunity to offer FI in the North End of the city
 - Opening a north location is an important part of equity of opportunity and access

Transition Activities:

- Review of slide on page 8
- Things that will need to be considered- Communication, Board Supports, Preparation of Bennetto Staff, Activities and Transitions for students

- Possibilities such as visits, tours, staff from both sites visiting, and open houses for parents
- Relying on the committee to discuss transition activities

Future Meeting Dates:

- Review of slide on page 9
- Committee will meet again on January 23, 2018 to review a detailed transition plan and an outline of what we may present at the Public meeting for feedback
- Include information regarding perimeters of transportation- potential length of bus ride, walking boundary map- shows who is eligible for transportation
- Public meeting will take place February 23, 2018
- A follow up meeting on April 10th, 2018

Question & Answer:

1. When will families registering for Grade 1 FI – Sept 2018 hear about transportation- route stops etc.? November 30, 2017 is the registration cut off for September 2018 Grade 1 FI. HWSTS staff work throughout the summer planning routes for both HWDSB and HWCDSB. Every year transportation can look a little bit different- based on current enrolment, addresses, grades etc. After reviewing the student information from both Boards the routes are planned- times and stop locations can change. This information is mailed to student's home beginning in August. As per policy FI transportation utilizes community stops. This can be quite a distance from the home.
2. During the recent FI Grade 1 registration process were families informed they were applying to a program at Bennetto? Yes. The HWDSB website clearly identifies Bennetto as an FI site. The deadline for registration is November 30th. Starting December 15th we will begin offering spots. Parents have a month to decline or accept.
3. Did families' receive a confirmation email when they registered for the Grade 1 FI program? No. They can call reception to confirm. We will look into this option for future years.
4. Is there a possibility if you live in Earl Kitchener's FI catchment and are registering for grade 1 FI at Earl Kitchener the program could be full and you may get offered a spot at another site such as Bennetto? Yes. If a Grade 1 FI class at any site is over capacity you will be offered a spot at another site that can accommodate the numbers.
 - 4.1. If this were to happen and enrolment falls is there a procedure to offer the spot to an in-catchment student? Yes.
5. Is there any communication for current families informing them of the plan for September 2018? Yes. There will be individual communication for each family with a full explanation and what the options are.
6. How are the public meetings publicized? Corporate Communications will be involved in the plan. Flyers, Newspapers, website etc.

Adjournment: 7:00 p.m. - Next meeting- Tuesday, January 23rd at Bennetto

- If you have any additional questions or concerns you can connect with your Trustee or email sidunlop@hwdsb.on.ca directly