

HWDSB

West Hamilton City- French Immersion Transition Advisory Committee
Tuesday, January 23, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Bennetto Elementary School
47 Simcoe St. E., Hamilton

Attendance:

HWDSB Resource Staff- Susan Dunlop
Trustees- Christine Bingham
FASL Chair- Heather Lambert-Hillen
French as a Second Language Consultant- Christine Rees
A.M. Cunningham- Regrets
Bennetto- Sandra Rowell, Wayne Thompson
Cathy Wever- Steven Johnston
Central- Regrets
Dr. Davey- Mary Finstad, Tanya Glabb
Earl Kitchener- Richelle Bratuz, Terry Rogers, Francis Tregurtha
Hess Street- Estella Jones
Queen Victoria- Kelly Sweeting, Susan Pasian
Ryerson- Dan Ivankovic, Jenn Walsom
Strathcona- Sent regrets
Members of the Public: Alex Woolley, Janet Fritz, Dave Fritz (Earl Kitchener),
Regrets: Jennifer George, Karen Henderson, Tannis Hamill, Larry Pattison
Recording Secretary- Teresa Movre

Start-Up Time: 6:04

Welcome and Introductions

- Superintendent Dunlop welcomed everyone to the Transition Advisory Committee meeting
- Review of slides 2-5
- Review of the agenda- no additions required
- Introductions took place
- Approval of minutes- no changes required
- Reminder of Guiding Principles
- Review of FI boundaries for West Hamilton

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Transition Update

- Review of slide 6-7
- Recently finished the early grade 1 French Immersion registration
- Placement offers have been made across the system
- Healthy enrolment at both Bennetto and Earl Kitchener
- Personalized letters with options for September 2018 were sent out in early January to all families affected by the Earl Kitchener Bennetto transition
- The schools are tracking families decisions to support spring staffing

Walking Boundary

- Review of slide 8
- Pink circle represents the walking boundary for JK/SK
- Larger area marked in pink and blue represents the walking boundary for grades 1-8
- Large areas of Bennetto, Dr. Davey and Hess Street boundaries are within walking distance of FI-Bennetto
- Most families in the Strathcona, Cathy Wever and Queen Victoria boundaries are not within walking distance and would be eligible for transportation

Transition Activities

- Review of slide 9
- The Board has started to communicate with families affected by the transition
- Looking at appropriate staffing for the new program
- Will begin to prepare Bennetto staff and help to create the French and English environment
- Planning activities for the current students in grades 1&2 at Earl Kitchener who will transition to Bennetto in September 2018

Transition Group Work

- Break up into smaller groups to consider the following:
 - What kind of preparation does Bennetto staff need in order to prepare for the transition?
 - What activities can we look at to prepare the grades 1 and 2s for the transition?

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Transition Feedback and Ideas

- Guided tours, Meet and Greet, Open House
- Parents can send questions about the school ahead of time
- Class visits, play dates, scavenger hunt etc.
- Bennetto can start integrating the French culture through Oh Canada and signage within the school
- Invite other parents to join the school council and attend meetings
- Preparing Bennetto as a whole school
- Announcements and bulletin boards in English and French
- Book room and Library resources in both languages

Update from Principals of Earl Kitchener/Bennetto

- Inviting students from Earl Kitchener and Bennetto to a BBQ/Scavenger hunt
- Bennetto's newly formed French group made up of grades 6-8 students to host the FI students
- Bennetto has already begun "French Fridays" French version of Oh Canada
- Kids visit first followed by parent visit
- Bennetto has already met with a few families and have done a quick tour

Public Meeting

- Review of slide 11
- Tuesday, February 27th 6:00 pm at Bennetto
- Planning a brief presentation
- Question and Answer session
- Table facilitated groups with discussion
- Two questions planned for the evening
 - What additional questions do you have about the French Immersion Transition to Bennetto?
 - Is there anything we should consider that we have not already considered to support students in the transition?

Feedback and Ideas

- Should we consider a different order
 - Brief presentations/Moving to facilitated groups/then Q and A

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- Often people want their question answered first
- Questions that come up at the facilitated groups can be brought forward to the Q&A
- Consider including information regarding Before and After School Care and Programming at EK
- Canadian Parents for French- Could be they be invited? Yes. Heather Lambert-Hillen to reach out to Denise Massie
- Provide back ground information explaining what is taught in French in what grades- either in the presentation or have the information at each table for sharing
- Large maps
- General slides about FI
- Include some of the FI booklets- Christine Rees will look into this
- Parents that have students who have transitioned into FI and have already moved to a new school could share their experiences

- Corporate Communications will create a flyer to advertise the public meeting
- Flyer will be shared with the committee and posted on the Board website and school websites
- Principal/VPs may be asked to act as facilitators

Future Meeting Dates

- Review of slide 12
- Tuesday, February 27, 2018 (Public meeting)
- Tuesday, April 10, 2018
- Additional meetings can be added if required

Adjournment: 6:45 p.m. - Next meeting- Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at Bennetto

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