

**Public Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Bennetto Elementary School**

**Attendance:**

**HWDSB Resource Staff-** Superintendent Susan Dunlop

**Trustees-** Christine Bingham

**FASL Chair-** Heather Lambert-Hillen

**French as a Second Language Consultant-** Christine Rees

**A.M. Cunningham-** Jenn George

**Bennetto-** Sandra Rowell, Lori MacNab, Wayne Thompson, Emily Gowing

**Cathy Wever-** Steven Johnston

**Central-** Tannis Hamill, Ayla Genc

**Dr. Davey-** Regrets

**Earl Kitchener-** Richelle Bratuz

**Hess Street-** Estella Jones

**Queen Victoria-** Kelly Sweeting, Susan Pasian

**Ryerson-** Dan Ivankovic, Jennifer Walsom

**Strathcona-** Regrets

**Members of the Public:** Alex Woolley, Carrie Elsdon, Matt VanDongen, Michelle Ellis, Jeff Crow, Sara Traficante, Kirk Starkey, Margaret Hastings-James

**Regrets:** Mary Finstad, Tanya Glabb, Francis Tregurtha, Karen Henderson, Larry Pattison, Austin Sanidas

**Recording Secretary-** Teresa Movre

**Start-Up Time:** 6:07

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Review of slide 2
- Superintendent Dunlop welcomed everyone to the Transition Advisory Committee Public meeting
- 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

## Background

- Review of slides 3- 9
- Explanation of the Committee Membership
  - Bennetto- Principal, Teacher Rep, School Council rep, Student Rep
  - Principal and parent rep from all affected elementary schools
  - French as a Second Language - Advisory Chair, Consultant
  - Trustees from affected schools
- In June 2017 the Board of Trustees passed a motion as part of the West Hamilton City Pupil Accommodation Review that Bennetto introduce a French Immersion program (grades 1-8) starting in September 2018 commencing with grades 1-3
- New French Immersion boundaries (slide 6)
- 10 Schools affected
  - A.M. Cunningham
  - Bennetto
  - Cathy Wever
  - Central
  - Dr. Davey
  - Earl Kitchener
  - Hess Street
  - Queen Victoria
  - Ryerson
  - Strathcona
- Make recommendations and give advice
- Guiding Principles
  - Engaging program
  - Reduce reliance on portables
  - Preferred K-8 model
  - Equity of access and opportunity
- New Bennetto Program will provide equity of access to the lower city
- Review of the projected enrolment

## Student Transitions

- Review of slides 10-11
- New French Immersion location at Bennetto

- Grades 1-3 beginning in September 2018
- Program will grow by a grade each subsequent year
- Grade 8 in 2023
- In order to keep families together allowances were made for siblings
  - Students with older siblings in French Immersion at Earl Kitchener or A.M. Cunningham who live in the new Bennetto French Immersion boundary were given the option to remain until grade 5
  - After grade 5, they transition to Bennetto for grade 6 unless they have an older sibling in French Immersion at Ryerson, Glen Brae (or eventually W.H. Ballard)
  - Grade 1's entering French Immersion may attend Earl Kitchener or A.M. Cunningham if they have an older sibling in French Immersion at the school
  - If families choose to keep younger students at Earl Kitchener, A.M. Cunningham, Ryerson or Glen Brae with their older siblings no transportation will be provided for the younger siblings

## Walking Map

- Review of slide 12
- Gives an idea of who may be eligible for transportation
- HWSTS calculates individual addresses

## Transportation

- Review of slide 13
- Eligibility based on the Transportation Policy and Procedure
- If families choose to keep younger students at Earl Kitchener, A.M. Cunningham, Ryerson or Glen Brae with their older siblings no transportation will be provided for the younger siblings
- French Immersion transportation works through group community stops
- Stops can be far apart and far to travel to the stop
- Courtesy Transportation is a possibility if it is available
- Courtesy transportation is not assigned until at least the third week of September

## Transition Activities

- Review of slide 14
- Personalized communication was sent to the current grades 1 & 2s at Earl Kitchener and A.M. Cunningham who live in the New Bennetto French Immersion boundary
- Preparation for Bennetto staff to help create the English/French environment

## **Update from French as a Second Language Consultant- Christine Rees**

- Same process took place in Waterdown last year
- A budget is provided to schools opening up a new site for resources and staff PD
- This budget will continue for each year of opening a new grade
- Developed a template available for items to be order
- Some examples of resources and supports
  - Curriculum Resources and PD for Teachers
  - Class Act- early reading supports
  - Forest of Reading Program

## **Update from Principals of Earl Kitchener/Bennetto- Richelle Bratuz, Sandra Rowell**

### **For students**

- Students new to Bennetto will be invited to Bennetto
- Bennetto has recently started a French Club and French Fridays
- French Club working on ways to welcome these new students
- Picnic/BBQ

### **For parents**

- Open House type event at Bennetto for families following the student visits
- Their children will be able to show their parents around their new school
- Students will have a shared experience with their parents

### **Question and Answer**

1. **What is the confirmed enrolment for the grades 1-3?** *Confirmed enrolment as of today in Grades 1-3s is 44 students.*
2. **How are these enrolment projections accurate when some people haven't yet made a decision if they will attend Bennetto French Immersion program?** *The French Immersion registration application process has just ended. There is still room available*

*in grade 1 at Bennetto. The Board looks at historical trends. There is a healthy number of students to get a program started.*

- 3. What are the grade levels of these 44 students and what class size like?** *The Board is just in the middle of the staffing process now. 44 students will generate 2-3 combined classes. We do have room in Bennetto in grade 1 French Immersion if there are late registrations.*
- 4. Is there any information on Before/After school care? Times?** *Currently Jamesville provides the Before/ After School Care program for Bennetto students. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students remain at Bennetto. The older grades go over to the Jamesville Centre. This may change because the Bennetto site is being considered at for a new Day Care. If there are a large number of families who want Before and After School Care we can bring that information back to the Board. Depends on numbers. Could expand.*
- 5. Can you explain the hiring process for the French Immersion Teachers coming to Bennetto?** *Elementary School Staffing usually takes place throughout May and into June. New jobs will be posted for internal applications. Once those posting rounds are completed then the process is opened up to external applicants. They could be both experienced teachers or brand new teachers. HWDSB has a constant hiring process for French Immersion teachers throughout the year.*
- 6. Is there a budget for startup for Library resources etc.?** *Substantial funding will be provided to Bennetto for startup. In addition, the school can utilize some of the school budget for French resources. Since the program is beginning in grades 1-3 most funds are concentrated in classroom- Library becomes within the classroom. As the grades increase we will start to populate the actual library with French resources. Most likely books will not be moving from Earl Kitchener.*
- 7. Is the French Immersion Program good for International students?** *We encourage all students to go to French Immersion. It does not matter if your first language is English or another language. We want students to speak French as much as possible in the classroom. The ELL students are on an even playing field with the English students because they are all new to French. In grade 1 students do receive some English instruction. ELL students will pick up English on the playground and with their friends.*
- 8. Is there a time set for the Open House and how will it be communicated?** *Dates have not been selected. Waiting for the nicer weather, potentially early June. Letters and emails will be sent to the families.*
- 9. If a family has applied late for French Immersion Program when will they be notified of their placement?** *When a program is full we are offering placement at other school sites (Bennetto is one of the sites). Board Staff meet on a monthly basis to review the*

*applications and send out offers. Families have a 3-week window to respond to the offer. If a spot opens up at a school at a school which was closed potentially we could offer that spot to a student who lives in that particular boundary but was directed to another site. This would not happen until the end of September.*

- 10. Can you enter French Immersion after Grade 1?** *French Immersion begins in grade 1. Rarely an exception is made after grade 1. E.g. Francophone family. The level of French would have to be very high. We have to consider the other students have developed French skills in Math, Science, and Social Studies etc. Wide vocabulary in French.*
- 11. Do the Parent reps from the affected schools have children affected by this new boundary/program?** *Not necessarily. The Parent rep was most likely selected through the School Council at each school. All meetings are open to the public for observation.*
- 12. Walking Distance Map- Has any consideration given to the neighbourhood family use to walk to school? Jail, Half-Way Houses etc.** *HWSTS looks for appropriate safety e.g. sidewalks. Crossing guards are assigned by the City of Hamilton. Bennetto doesn't currently have a safe travel plan. If there is interest, we could ask City of Hamilton staff to come to Bennetto to talk about a school travel plan. Active and Safe routes to school.*
- 13. Does HWSTS take parental input?** *Generally, no. Routes are looked at during the summer and are based on the addresses of students. If a parent has a concern about Transportation you can connect with HWSTS or call our office.*
- 14. Some Earl Kitchener students are upset about losing their playground. Is there a plan for a new playground at Bennetto?** *Bennetto is fortunate to have a large footprint. There are some improvements planned depending on funding. As part of the Elementary Program Strategy Revitalization Bennetto is one of the schools that will get a new play field over the next couple of years. Bennetto was participated in the Project Number Nine event. Nothing firm as of yet- Students requesting soccer fields, basketball nets, outside wood structure etc. There may not be a playground structure but there is lots of activity to engage students in active play. There is an active Parent Committee very interested in raising money and applying to grants to improve the playground.*

## Facilitated Feedback

- Review of slide 16
- We are looking for your voice
- Principal and Vice Principals to facilitate
- Two Questions
  - 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?

## Next Steps

- Review of slide 17
- We will compile the public feedback
- Next meeting - Tuesday, April 10, 2018- 6:00 pm at Bennetto
- Additional meetings can be added if required

**Adjournment:** 7:18 p.m. - Next meeting- Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at Bennetto

- If you have any additional questions or concerns you can connect with your Trustee or email [sidunlop@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:sidunlop@hwdsb.on.ca) directly