

HWDSB

Special Board Meeting

Monday, May 8, 2017

Trustee Board Room

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558

Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

UPDATED: May 8, 2017 at 12:00 pm

AGENDA: 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order
2. O Canada
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Delegations: **Ancaster** Pupil Accommodation Review
 - a. Karen Lane-Groen (10 mins)
 - b. Kerry Stetson (10 mins)
 - c. Andrew Hawryluk (10 mins)
 - d. Amy Szoke (5 mins)
 - e. Jennifer Kershaw (10 mins)
 - f. Laura Faulkner (10 mins)
 - g. Elizabeth Crawford (10 mins)
 - h. Kathleen Payne (10 mins)
 - i. Tracey Gaunt (10 mins)
 - j. Barb Firman (10 mins)
 - k. Scott Murray (10 mins)
 - l. Jim Somerville (5 mins)
 - m. Diane Furman (10 mins)
 - n. Mike Bell (10 mins)
 - o. Dan Leake (5 mins)
 - p. Michele Money (5 mins)
 - q. Jay Percy (10 mins)
 - r. Zach Muraca (10 mins)
 - s. Richard Schepens (5 mins)
 - t. Heather Brush (5 mins)

** BREAK – 5 mins **

curiosity • creativity • possibility

5. Delegations: **West Hamilton City** Pupil Accommodation Review
 - a. Patricia Bradbury (10 mins)
 - b. Kerri Wilkinson (5 mins)
 - c. Wendy MacDonald (5 mins)
 - d. Benjamin Oscar (10 mins)
 - e. Allison Assaf (5 mins)
 - f. David Heska (10 mins)
 - g. Jim Jones (5 mins)
 - h. Nicola Carter (10 mins)
 - i. Ryan Price (5 mins)
 - j. Rob Fiedler (10 mins)
 - k. Jessica Aird (5 mins)
 - l. Gessie Stearns (5 mins)
 - m. Rebekah Smylie (5 mins)
 - n. Julie Goruk (10 mins)
 - o. Sheri Selway (5 mins)
 - p. Elizabeth Sadler (5 mins)

6. Written Correspondence received
 - a. Dianne Russell - letter re: Queen's Rangers
 - b. Joe Betzner - letter re: Queen's Rangers – Outdoor Education Program
 - c. Suzanne Coleman - letter re: Queen's Rangers – Outdoor Education Program
 - d. Sandra Dunphy – letter re: Queen's Rangers
 - e. Ben Loewith – letter re: Queen's Rangers – Outdoor Education Program
 - f. Erin Gardner – letter re: Queen's Rangers
 - g. Sarah Van Sickle – letter re: Proposal for Ancaster PAR
 - h. Penny Santa-Barbara – letter re: Queen's Rangers

7. Pupil Accommodation Q&A
 - a. Presentation of answers (from last meeting)
 - b. New Questions (to be presented next meeting)

8. Adjournment

Meeting times and locations are subject to change. Please refer to our website for the latest information.

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/trustees/meetings/>

Ancaster PAR Correspondence

From: Russell, Dianne

Sent: May-01-17 5:46 PM

To: Heather Miller [Staff]

Cc:

Subject: Queen's Rangers

Hi Heather,

I ask that you please help keep our community school Queen's Rangers from closing. Lynden school has been closed and to have Queen's Rangers close as well would be devastating for our children and our community. Thanking you in advance for your help.

We had Jerseyville school closed- leaving very few rural schools- isolating our kids even further.

Dianne Russell, PhD.

Research & Knowledge Exchange Consultant

Associate Clinical Professor

School of Rehabilitation Science,

McMaster University, Hamilton.

April 30, 2017

To whom it may concern,

My name is Joe Betzner and I am a local farmer in Lynden , and I would be happy to participate in an outdoor education program if it were to be established at Queen's Rangers School. Having a rural school in our neighbourhood is vital to our farming community.

Joe Betzner

[REDACTED]

Lynden, ON

[REDACTED]

May 1, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am part of the Queen's Rangers community and I would fully support an Outdoor Education Program at Queen's Rangers School. I run an Equine Assisted Learning program on my farm in Lynden, and would be happy to host an educational program teaching students emotional intelligence, leadership skills, confidence building and mindful activities.

Suzanne Coleman

Meadowlark Farm

[REDACTED]

Lynden, ON L0R 1T0

[REDACTED]

Hello,

I am a Queen's Rangers (QR) parent writing to you about how important our school is to my family and the community. We have lived in the area for thirteen years and my children are in grade one and four.

I attend the Parent Council meetings and I was very cynical last fall when the Ancaster PAR was announced. Isn't it just about money? Does our opinion really matter? Why are we included with the Ancaster schools, we are in Copetown?

I have tried to have an open mind. I attended most of the meetings and listened. Here are my thoughts on the PAR process.

It was rushed and things moved quickly. Start to finish in six months! After all the meetings, discussions, and suggestions the board reverted to their first option anyway, closure for our school. Our school closure ensures the opportunity to apply for funds for two new shiny Ancaster schools.

Throughout the process, I often felt the school board employees were like a travelling road show – reading from a script and facilitating discussion but not really hearing what people said. This was very clear when we asked repeated questions about the boundary review.

We have been told that after a decision on June. 8th the boundary review will then be completed in just three weeks! Clearly, the school board has discussed several boundary options and how that will affect enrolment at the new Beverly school once it is built. If the goal is consultation with the community and a transparent process then we should have access to this information. A boundary review should have happened prior to this PAR process.

Boundaries matter for rural schools and it is the only way to increase enrolment. There are no subdivisions going up in my neighborhood and that's why I moved here in the first place.

Now my children are in the difficult situation of not only losing their school but their friends if the school closes and the boundaries are adjusted. This will cause significant student disruption for our school community. I've been asked several

times by my six year old, “Mommy, will I have any of my friends at my new school”?

One of the school boards key phrases states the goal of helping every child achieve their full potential. This is evident everyday at Queens Rangers. My children have been supported every step of the way by our principal, teachers, fellow students and QR community.

A few years ago I had the opportunity to attend the meetings and focus groups facilitated by The Learning Partnership. QR was one of the few schools that took part in the HWDSB Engaging Boys for Success project. Since then, several initiatives have been implemented at the school to support boys as they learn. These include mental health initiatives, adaptations to learning styles and specific programs to engage boys. QR is progressive, inclusive and a place where everyone belongs.

Throughout Ontario the closure of rural schools continues. How can this be good for our students and the community?

Please consider our school community perspective prior to making your decision.

Sincerely,

Sandra Dunphy

Joe Loewith and Sons Ltd

[REDACTED]

Lynden, ON

LOR 1T0

May 3rd, 2017

Delegation Meeting May 8th, 2017

School Trustees;

We would like to express our support for the use of Queen's Rangers School as part of an Outdoor Education Program for the community.

Each year, we host hundreds of individuals from Hamilton and around the world, who come to learn about the role that animal agriculture plays in the environment and the economy. For many of the young attendees, it is the first time they have ever seen a cow. They leave with a much greater understanding and appreciation for where their food comes from, the careers available in agriculture, and the role technology and research has in growing a competitive industry.

We feel that using Queen's Rangers School as an Outdoor Education Centre would be an excellent way to mesh the on farm visit with the related curriculum. In the future, we would be happy to expand our relationship with the school board to allow as many students as possible to receive this experience.

If we can play any role in the future, please contact us.

Sincerely;

Ben Loewith

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ancaster PAR Correspondence

Sent: May-03-17 8:22 PM

To: Heather Miller [Staff] <hmiller@hwdsb.on.ca>

Cc:

Subject: Consideration for Queen's Rangers School

Ms Heather Miller,

As a new-ish resident to the 2nd Concession West in the Copetown (or Lynden according to Canada Post), I am very sad to hear the threat to close the adorable Queen's Rangers Elementary School. Upon our arrival a few years ago, I was flooded with excitement to see this tiny school in the country just around the corner and had dreams of our future children being able to attend a small school just like I once had.

I grew up on Pelee Island, the smallest, southern most community in the country. If anyone understands the value of a small and personal school it is me! During my 9 years of attendance, we had an average of 35 students from K-8 within 3 classrooms and 3 teachers to handle us all. We all were able to get the care and attention we required to flourish as individuals. Our teachers were able to sufficiently supervise our behaviours and progress. As students we all knew each other, cared for each other, looked out for one another and everyone was always included. We were ALL friends! We were highly productive and creative students. I can only imagine Queen's Rangers to be the same.

Please see the importance here. Small schools build better character, stronger minds and warmer hearts. Having a small & kind school close by in our community is incredibly important for us as a future family. I am not so sure we will be sticking around these parts to raise our family if it isn't important to you and is closed down.

Thank you kindly,

Erin Gardner

May 1, 2017

Alex Johnstone
 Ward 12 School Trustee
 Hamilton Wentworth District School Board

RE: Proposal for Ancaster Pupil Accommodations Review

As a Queen's Rangers parent that has been involved in this process I had hoped that we would be able to save our school. However I understand that this may not be possible due to the type of funding that the board is applying for. Without the consolidation of schools the board will not be able to compile a successful business plan for funding. Therefore I would like to submit an alternate property for consideration for a new school build.

Throughout this process we have been told that we should consider community partnerships. Recently it has come to my attention that there is a parcel of land (15 acres) for sale adjacent to the Ancaster Rotary Centre. I feel that this parcel of land offers the perfect solution for several concerns the community voiced at the public meetings.

1. The current CH Bray site has transportation congestion issues. Consolidating schools and rebuilding on this site will only add to the current issues that this site has.
2. There was a suggestion to rebuild CH Bray on the Ancaster High School grounds but the public had concerns of loss of green space and proximity to the high school.

The proposed parcel of land offers a generous amount of land which meets board size requirements, maintains current levels of greenspace and elevates traffic congestion issues. I strongly believe that this location could appease the rural community as it maintains a rural feel and is much closer to the Queen's Rangers boundaries than the current CH Bray site.

Based on the 2016 and 2017 Ministry of Education Guidelines there is a priority for recreational after school programming. With the close proximity to the Rotary Centre, after school programming could be easily offered and several joint objectives and partnerships could be achieved. There is an increased ability for several recreational facilities and teams to be established between facilities. The Rotary Centre could become even more of a community hub for the Ancaster area and would be an ideal location to offer an OEYCFC.

The current Queen's Rangers school boundaries have students attending Ancaster High School therefore this location would bring the children to the same area that they eventually would be but with fewer transitions. This location provides a comfortable separation of a road between the elementary and secondary students but brings them close enough to assist with transitions and partnerships between them.

The proposal is very similar to the board's initial option.

- Close Queen's Rangers and Fessesden
- Rebuild CH Bray, addition to Rousseau and Ancaster Senior

New Construction – 564 pupil place JK-8 school on Vacant Land at 493 Jerseyville Road

- CH Bray students directed to new school (100% of students)
- Queen's Rangers students directed to new school (100% of students)
- Ancaster Senior English students directed to school (41% of students)

Addition– 495 pupil place school - Retrofit of Rousseau for JK-8, New FI Program

- Rousseau students remain at Rousseau school (100% of students)
- Ancaster Senior English students directed to Rousseau (22% of students)
- Fessenden FI students directed to Rousseau (52% of students)
- Ancaster Senior FI students directed to Rousseau (74% of students)

Addition – 465 pupil place school - Retrofit of Ancaster Senior for JK-8

- Fessenden English students directed to Ancaster Senior (100% of students)
- Ancaster Senior English students remain at Ancaster Senior (37% of students)
- Fessenden FI students directed to Ancaster Senior (48% of students)
- Ancaster Senior FI students remain at Ancaster Senior (26% of students)

Please see the below link to the MLS Listing of the vacant land for sale and the picture below which perfectly depicts what this parcel of land could offer to the Ancaster Community.

<https://www.realtor.ca/Residential/Vacant-Land/18037218/493-JERSEYVILLE-Road-West-ANCASTER-Ontario-L9G3L5>



We are all working toward the common goal of creating the best schools for the Ancaster community and its children. This land is a one time opportunity to be able to offer all these facilities in one convenient location. The sale of the land of CH Bray and Queen's Rangers property would help offset the cost of purchasing this vacant land.

In addition to the consideration of the purchase of this land I am also suggesting that Queen's Rangers families closer to the new Beverly Central location be included in the boundary review and that those families wanting to remain in a fully rural school be given the opportunity to attend Beverly Central. Please provide this option to all trustees as a potential solution to the Ancaster School Community Pupil Accommodations Review. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Van Sickle

I am a Copetown community member who lives 6 minutes from Queens Rangers School. Ten years ago my husband and I made the decision to move out here from Dundas as we wanted to raise a family in a rural environment. We were excited to have our children attend the same school he did as a child.

It's not a decision we've regretted in the least. Queens Rangers is the epitome (in my opinion) of a real community school. The teachers and principal are all outstanding, we know all the parents in our children's classes and we help each other out when we are in need childminding or rides to extracurricular activities. This is because we are a small, tight community. If they are forced to attend a school with over 500 children we lose that small town feel and our kids simply become one of many.

Queens Rangers has an opportunity to become a **hub** for students across Hamilton to learn about agriculture and farming with our community partners. This needs to become part of the curriculum for all our students as we need to teach more about sustainability and resilience.

To be honest I feel like this decision has been made already and the board is simply letting us have our say before they close **yet another** rural school! When is this going to end? How many rural schools have to close before trustees start listening? There are so many new builds scheduled across Hamilton already.....can you tell me what the odds are that CH Bray will even get the funding needed since they aren't in a growth area?

Can we not just renovate and update all schools? Can we put our students and communities first instead of just thinking about board funding??? We need to start being more accountable to our students and their wellbeing!!

Please consider all the options put forward during our community PAR meetings and help us KEEP QUEENS RANGERS OPEN!

Sincerely,

Penny Santa-Barbara