

King George Elementary Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Prince of Wales School

May 17th, 2011

Minutes (Public Meeting # 2)

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair –Pat Rocco

Voting Members – Agnes Clarke, Jennifer Drahusz, Dianna Gillespie, Felicia Guarascia, Anna Macky, Brenda Reid, Crystal Provo, Brian Seamans

Non-Voting Members – Karen Bikinis, John Bradley, Lori Helt, Susan Neville, Tim Simmons, Janet VanDuzen, Michelle Pickett, Linda Wilson

Not Present:

Voting Members –Lisa Cameron (regrets)

Non-Voting Members –

Irma Belanger, Bernie Morelli

Resource Staff

Ellen Warling, Michael Slee, Todd Salerno

Recording Secretary

Claire Vander Beek

1. Welcome and Introductions – Superintendent of Student Achievement Pat Rocco

Chair Pat Rocco welcomed the members of the public to the ARC meeting. ARC members and resource staff were introduced.

2. Purpose of the Meeting

The Chair provided a brief overview of the evening's agenda <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arcelementary/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/KingGeorge-Public-Meeting-1.pdf> which is to provide an overview of the ARC process, present the Board option and to gather public input into the HWDSB option as the King George ARC begins deliberation on their recommendation. All meetings are open to the public and documentation presented to the committee will be posted on the Board's website for transparency.

3. Overview of the Process

Ellen Warling, Manager of Accommodation and Planning provided an outline of the ARC process using a power point presentation. http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arcelementary/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/KingGeorge_PublicMeeting2_Presented-May-17_2011.pdf (pages 1 – 9)

- Accommodation reviews must follow established Ministry guidelines. Each school board develops its own guidelines/policies based on Ministry guidelines.
- Terms of Reference are established for each ARC and identify schools in the ARCs, members, mandate and timelines. These are posted on the Board's website. http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arcelementary/?page_id=66
- Tonight's meeting is the second of four public/town hall meetings and is an opportunity to share information with the community and get feedback.

- Four working meetings have been established wherein the ARC committee will develop their own option. Working meetings are open to the public on an observation-only basis. The next working meeting will be held at Memorial School.
- The King George ARC will prepare a report to the trustees with their recommendation and, along with the Senior Administration option, will be submitted to the Board of Trustees who make the final decision. These reports are due to the Board November 11, 2011
- September 21 is the next public meeting, at which time the ARC committee option(s) will be presented.

Ms. Warling advised the ARC members have been presented with School Information Profiles on each of the three schools involved in the ARC. These profiles consider the value of schools to the students, the community, the Board and the local economy. They are not meant to be used as “ranking” the schools but as data for deliberations. This information is available on the Board’s website. http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arcelementary/?page_id=60

During their deliberations the King George ARC members will consider a number of areas: facility utilization – permanent/non-permanent accommodation, program offering, quality of teaching and learning environments, transportation, partnerships and equity. The School Profiles will be reviewed at the next working meeting on June 1st at Memorial School. The ARC can request additional data in developing their option(s).

4. Presentation of Accommodation Option Created by HWDSB Senior Administration

http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arcelementary/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/KingGeorge_PublicMeeting2_Presented-May-17-2011.pdf (pages 10 – 20)

Ms. Warling advised that an accommodation review can result in both program and financial benefits. She explained that boards are funded on a per-pupil basis based on enrolment, not the number of facilities; hence the proposal to consolidate three school into two schools.

Ms. Warling reviewed the current enrolment data for the three schools. OTG is On The Ground capacity of each school. Current surplus space of 543 students among the three schools will increase to 671 by 2020. The option being presented tonight is to close King George School and realign students to attend either Prince of Wales School (those living west of Gage and north of Barton) or Memorial (City) School. King George School would close June 2012 and students would be reallocated as of September 2012. Under this option, 717 students would attend Prince of Wales in September 2012 (which has an OTG capacity of 746). 508 students would attend Memorial (City) School in September 2012 (which has an OTG capacity of 634). Existing Grade 7 students will be grandfathered in order to allow them the opportunity to graduate with their peers. This option results in approximately 165 students moving to Prince of Wales School and approximately 70 student to Memorial (City) School. Both of these schools will have full-day Kindergarten effective September 2012.

Ms. Warling then addressed the boundary maps for Prince of Wales and Memorial (City) Schools under this option. The Board’s walking distances are changing effective September 2011 to 1.0K for JK-SK and 1.6K for grades 1-8. As a result, JK-SK students in the light orange area on the maps should be eligible for busing and grade 1-8 students in the dark orange areas. As with all transportation matters, the Transportation Department will make the final determination of which students will receive busing based on their address. Under this option, students living within the gray portion of the Prince of Wales map would be bused - SK/K through grade 8.

In summarizing the proposed option, Ms. Warling Identified the following:

- King George School would close in June 2012
- Students would be consolidated in to two K-8 schools
- Both schools will have full day K
- Consolidation will increase school utilization to over 80% and would result in enhanced programming for students
- A positive impact on facilities budget as two buildings instead of three to maintain.

5. Next Steps

Mr. Rocco thanked Ms. Warling for presenting the HWDSB senior administration option. The ARC members’ next steps will be to consider this option and input on the option received from the public tonight,, review the data provided on all three schools, and determine what option they would like to send to the Board of Trustees for

consideration. He restated the next working meeting will take place June 1st, and the next public meeting is in September.

6. Questions/Comments from the Public

Mr. Rocco then welcomed questions from parents in the audience.

James O'Donnell

Q: If Memorial School is getting 70 students spread across all grades, that would equate to approximately eight students per grade. What is the impact on the number of split classes?

A: Mr. Rocco noted several considerations in responding: The number of students moving will be based on boundaries (yet to be finalized). Additional students to the school will also result in more staff. Collective Agreements identify class caps / class sizes. It is difficult to predict if there will be split classes at this point, but the school would have to be reorganized because of the additional students.

Principal John Bradley acknowledged that additional students may eliminate some of the splits or may create some.

Susan Neudorf

Q: There are six classrooms at Prince of Wales identified as surplus on the website at the school – what are they currently being used for?

A: Principal VanDuzen identified the rooms as: sensory room (for autistic students), 3rd floor book room, LRT room, two French and one Science Room.

Q: If a main consideration is value to students, why are you taking out a science room?

Mr. Rocco identified how changes could be addressed. A LRT withdraws students and there are numerous areas for LRTs to work. French would be delivered on a cart and move between classrooms. How these rooms would be impacted would depend on the number of students coming to Prince of Wales and where they align in the grades.

Q: Currently there are four kindergarten classes at Prince of Wales. What room would be used for more K students?

A: Principal VanDuzen: We would adjust rooms.

Q: Would we lose the parenting centre or preschool?

A: Principal VanDuzen: No.

Mr. Rocco: The functionality of the school has to be continue.

Q: Students are currently split in half for recess, how would you accommodate the increase in students?

A: Principal VanDuzen: Yes, students are currently split and we would continue with that model. We may have to look at adjusting in and out times and using the two playgrounds. It would be a matter of balancing.

Q: The SIPs provide data for the Committee. I believe it would be useful for ARC members to actually be in the school during the daytime to experience traffic flow, how is space used in order to come up with a better recommendation.

A: Mr. Rocco: While the ARC came this evening to visit the school, they would be welcome to visit the schools during the daytime. This is a good suggestion. It would add to their understanding. ARC members are more than welcome at all three schools; please contact the principal.

Jamie O'Donnell:

Q: What are the potential financial savings referred to?

A: Mr. Rocco: Student numbers are not changing and staffing would remain constant. Maintenance costs are fixed, and savings would result by maintaining only two schools.

Ms. Warling: The intent is to recommend closure and if not required, declare surplus and put up for sale for disposition of the property.

Todd Salerno, Facilities Management: The intent is to remove the facility from our books and not have the continuous maintenance and update costs so we can dedicate the money to two schools instead of three. Those are the type of savings.

Mr. Rocco: You need to be aware that Parkview School is also currently under an accommodation review (ARC) structure. The Board no longer owns the Scott Park facility – it was sold but has been left idle by the purchaser.

Cynthia Lokker

Q: I have a comment rather than a question. In the ad for the meeting tonight it has a 6:15p – 9p timeframe. This can be quite intimidating to our parents. Would it be possible to ask principals to advertise a 6:15p- 7:30p timeframe in their school newsletters?

A: Mr. Rocco welcomed the suggestion, agreeing the meetings to this point have not been nearly as late as advertised.

In bringing the meeting to closure, Mr. Rocco thanked the school community for their time and comments which the Accommodation Review Committee will take into consideration.

7. Adjournment

Adjournment took place at 6:50 p.m.