

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)
Dalewood Elementary Accommodation Review Committee Meeting
Education Centre Board Room
October 12, 2011
Minutes (Working Meeting #7)

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair –Krys Croxall

Voting Members – Suzanne Brown, Maria Carbone, Nadia Coakley, Anita McGowan, Kim Newcombe, Michael Reid, Kristen West

Non-Voting Members – Judith Bishop, Heidi Harper, Joanne Hall, Margaret Jobson, Debra Lewis, Peter Martindale, Denise Minardi, Colleen Morgan, Michelle Rodney-Bartalos

Regrets

Voting Members – Pamela Irving, Emily Reid

Non-Voting Members – Silvana Galli Lamarche, Brian McHattie

Resource Staff

Ellen Warling, Daniel Del Bianco, Ron Gowland

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1.0 Call to Order – Superintendent Krys Croxall

Superintendent Krys Croxall welcomed everyone back to the seventh working group meeting.

The Chair welcomed all members of the public in attendance. She stated that the working group meetings of the ARC differed slightly from the “town hall” style public meetings in that any one that was not a member of the ARC was there in an observing capacity only.

2.0 Agenda

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arcelementary/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Dalewood-ARC-agenda-October-12-2011-Working-Group-Meet.pdf>

2.1 Additions/Deletions – There were no additions to the agenda.

2.2 Approval of the Agenda -The agenda was approved by consensus.

3.0 Minutes of the Working Group Meeting #5 (September 14, 2011)

3.1 Errors and Omissions – There were no errors or omissions.

3.2. Approval of the Minutes – The minutes were approved by consensus.

3.3 Business Arising from the Minutes – There was no business arising from the minutes.

4.0 Review of Public Meeting #3 (October 5, 2011)

The Committee discovered that the unity from the Community for keeping “status quo” was amazing. The Committee thanked the Co-Chairs for doing a terrific job presenting.

5.0 Review of the Data Requested by the Committee

The Transportation Analysis was distributed electronically prior to the meeting and a copy of the maps was provided in the package. This will be explored further with Ms. Warling’s presentation.

B-Memos were sent to the Committee electronically relating to Prohibitive to Repair (PTR) funding. The B- Memos referred to schools that were designated PTR. The memos stated that the schools that would not be open in 10 years time would not receive further funding.

Q. Does that apply to the schools in the ARC? Will these schools be refused funding over the next 10 years?

A. That was specific to the PTR; however, the schools within an ARC are affected by the Capital funding that we receive.

Q. In the status quo option would any of the three schools be on that list?

A. For five years under the Ministry guidelines we can not have another ARC which affects these schools.

The reason that we have not spent money on the two schools Prince Philip and Dalewood is that they were designated PTR at that time. Once the Board of Trustees (BOT) have made their decision, and if things remain status quo, those schools can not be in another ARC for five years. The schools could receive capital funding if there is a need. G R Allan did receive money because it was not designated PTR and repairs were required.

6.0 Review of Concept Options proposed by the ARC – Ellen Warling

To view the presentation please click on the following link:

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arcelementary/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Dalewood-ARC-Staff-Presentation-October-12-2011.pdf>

6.1 Overview of Remaining Options

Ms. Warling reviewed the mandate of the Dalewood ARC. She spoke of the historical and projected enrolments. The students who are currently in Dundana and graduating in June will move over to Sir William Osler which is their middle school.

Q. Can we show a five year projection in our report that goes to the Board of Trustees (BOT)?

How you choose to articulate your report is up to the Committee; however, I feel that long term is important. The BOT need to know the long term projections.

Ms. Warling reviewed the current situation of the facilities and the projected enrolment as well as the Facility Condition Index (FCI).

She spoke of the options that the ARC Committee presented to the public. She drew the Committee's attention to the fact that G R Allan and Prince Philip students in the English program will have split grades from grades 1 to grade 5 due to the decrease in enrolment.

Ms. Warling spoke of the considerations that the Committee presented to the public supporting "status quo". She then reviewed the Staff Recommendation considerations.

The Committee was asked if they would like to eliminate Option 13. The Chair reminded the Committee that the Staff recommendation may not necessarily be the same recommendation that is presented as the final recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The floor was opened up for discussion.

A committee member did share that the original FCI information was flawed and would an ARC have been initiated if the BOT had the correct information.

Ms. Warling reviewed the Capital Priorities Statistics from the recent Provincial Capital Funding announcement. This included various Board Projects that have requested funding and the number of projects that actually received this funding and the number that remain outstanding on a Province wide basis.

A slide was shown which reviewed the changes that would be proposed for the various options and the financial impact of these options.

6.2 Group Discussion (Focus on eliminating options)

Option 13 was eliminated by consensus.

Q. In the staff recommendation is there a Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) room for the Mandarin program?

A. We receive funding for the number of FDK rooms that are required and how we designate that funding is up to the Board. We will likely have a JK/SK room for the Mandarin students.

Q. Can we eliminate some of the costs for the next five years if we keep status quo? Can some of this work be delayed for five years – e.g. asbestos?

Q. Has the cost of the administration been taken into account?

A. If you have over 50 students you receive funding for a Principal. There is a formula for the funding of secretaries.

Q. Would there be a need for portables at G R Allan in the Staff Recommendation when the school is at 122% in 2012.

A. They may be required for a short time.

All of the classrooms were broken down by stream except for the Kindergarten classes.

If the Mandarin program is moved to a different school will this affect G R Allan and will we be back in an ARC?

C. The Mandarin program has increased each year by an extra classroom and an extra teacher over the past three years. We had to turn kids away from the kindergarten program this year and we have a waiting list. They anticipate that they will have full enrolment in the next two years.

There was a review of where the proposed additions would be made at G R Allan. There was discussion on parking space and the remaining playground area.

Q. Can we have something sent to us showing what the open space would entail and what the by-law would entail?

Some of the Committee members shared that families have stated that if their children are moved to G R Allan they will move their children into the French Immersion program.

Q. If the committee went with Option 11 what is the minimum amount that the Board would have to spend to stay with the status quo? Would we have to put in an elevator, a book room?

A. The minimum would be two JK rooms which is \$860,000 and is funded by the Ministry. You would still have a series of legacy costs – accessibility, mechanical costs, and electrical costs. We would leave 11.6 million of legacy costs on the books.

There was further discussion on renovation details.

Mr. Reid felt that the Committee should invite the Trustees to the last public meeting to hear what the community has to say and how they feel about the proposed changes.

Anita indicated that she contacted the schools and the enrolments were up by 30 students over the projected enrolment for this year. This may not be indicative of next year; however, that was the case for the current year.

Q. If we go with the Staff recommendation is the funding directly related to the roll out of the five year implementation of the JK full day kindergarten?

A. FDK funding is directly tied to need as of 2013/14. If the consideration occurs at a later date there may be no funding available to add the necessary classrooms. Currently the Ministry is offering funding to create these classrooms.

Q. We have had requests for upgrades to the washrooms and an elevator at GR Allan. What are the chances of getting funding for this if the recommendation remains status quo?

A. If those changes are necessary down the road then they would need to apply for capital projects funding.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that if we go back to the Trustees with “status quo along with a shopping list” it could be a challenge to receive funding. Currently, he feels that the BOT are looking for changes not status quo hence why we have had the ARC.

Q. Can we look for funding privately? If status quo is something that the Committee would like pursue and they would like to look for outside funding is there a way to go about it?

A. This type of funding would need to come through a foundation and there are criteria that would need to be met. We would have to look at the Board Policy to see if fundraising is permitted because it creates inequity with other communities who can not afford this.

The Committee opened the floor to discuss this consideration.

Allenby School was up for closure three times. It was a very traumatic...as it always is. Typically once a school has been designated for closure the Board does not put a lot of money into the school. Once this school closed it allowed for updates to another school. None of the students from Allenby had to be bussed because they were within walking distance of the next school.

A lot of the Committee members feel at an impasse. A Committee member felt that the Staff is going to go with their recommendation so she wonders if the Committee can go with the status quo and both groups can give their view points and see where the chips fall.

Mr. Del Bianco shared with the group how things proceed from here. The Committee will present their final option to the Public and then there will be one more working group meeting. No changes can be made to the option once it has been presented at the final public meeting. The Committee as well as the staff will present their recommendations to the Board of Trustees. There is a minimum of a 60 day period before the Board of Trustees makes their final decision.

Mr. Reid shared his views on fundraising for an elevator at GR Allan. He also shared that the only way to not overcrowd GR Allan is to remain status quo. We have three viable schools and he feels that we should discuss a new option of status quo without renovations. It is refining our option.

The Chair shared that the Ministry guidelines states that fundraising is not permitted for capital projects that should be funded by Board funds.

The floor was opened to discuss the option of status quo without renovations. RECAP data came up for discussion and the amount of money the Board has available to them versus the amount of need.

The Chair shared with the Committee that they have had a great deal of discussion. The reality is that there are only two options (or potentially three) on the table and the time has come to make a decision and narrow down where they would like to go.

Trustee Bishop shared that they have had Community meetings on possible ARCs for the past seven years. She stated that we have been waiting for Innovation Park for many years. She worked hard to get the Mandarin program into Prince Philip to increase the enrolment. This situation is not something new.

Mr. Reid shared that his interpretation of the fundraising guidelines is that the Ministry does provide for fundraising and he would like to pursue fundraising for an elevator in GR Allan. He still feels that there would be too many students at GR Allan.

A motion was put forth that we keep status quo with a recommendation using Mr. Del Bianco wording.
Keep us status quo and provide us with FDK updates and a list of upgrades.

Consensus was given to use Option 11 and it will be presented as status quo and it will be clearly stated at the public meeting that the upgrades may not be attained due to lack of funding by both the Board and the Ministry.

Consensus was given to extend until 9:20 p.m.

Consensus was given to eliminate the staff option.

Discussion was then generated on presenting the RECAPP data at the next public meeting.

Consensus was given to extend to 9:30 p.m.

Volunteers to present at the public meeting will be Kristen West and Suzanne Brown.

8.0 Correspondence

The Dalewood petition and the Rev. Allison Barrett George's letter were distributed as correspondence.

9.0 Other Business

Can we invite the Trustees to the public meeting?

Mr. Del Bianco feels that this may deter from the purpose of the 4th Public meeting. He recommended that the public can present to the Trustees at the meeting set up to hear delegations. This meeting is no less than 30 days after the BOT receive the reports. The meeting is an open forum solely dedicated to hear from delegations and the public.

10.0 Adjournment

Consensus was given to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.