# Option 22

## **Rationale for Supporting Option**

- Population is great bigger schools do guarantee collaboration and smaller schools do not suggest collaboration is not there
- More kids are able to walk to school and less busing needed- dollars saved and more exercise
- Deals with growing population south to the link area - with homes being built right of the link it enables those new families to have a community school
- Schools south of the link will help decrease the population or balance it out at Helen Detwiler, stats state they are at 119 percent.
- Def of hard of hearing- smaller schools provide students with an easier integration. Change is difficult for students and this is a program that has been around since the 60's and is successful. (Queensdale is one of two programs in all of Ontario)
- Geographically makes most senses- keeps catchment small. You get a sense of community. You can walk your child to school and know the children your kids attend school with. We build a sense of community
- Linden Park- stays open to have the association with the recreation centre.
- Linden Park- has daycare facilities, special needs programs are established
- Within all the schools there will be the availability for population to grow. These schools are spread out enough to meet small community needs
- Less kids crossing main intersections to get to school no LINK crossing, making it safe kids to get to school
- Disrupts the least amount of students and minimal displacement of special children.
   We know this can be placed in any building, but is that the best option for our children?
- Currently three schools with 900 metres of

#### Rationale for NOT Supporting Option

- All these small schools will need Money to.
- Move to build new school.
- Linden Park is too small for a K-8 community.
- Too many transitions for Armstrong students or any students who are in a K-6 school. The transition will be 3 times.
- Where will the SAGE program go?
- Armstrong is large enough already and waste of money to build a new school

- each other (Ridgmeount, Pauline and Cardinale). Too many schools in one area, kids need to be bused in, spreading them out helps to keep them in the community
- Good distribution. Kids from every region can get to school with minimum bussing.
- Lots of kids still together, though some gap at Armstrong
- Kids are not having to cross major intersections (like U Wentworth and Mohawk, which is one of the most dangerous in the city)
- · Seems most balanced.
- · Savings in transportation
- Really walkable (Mentioned many times)
- · Good population distribution
- Save green space at Linden Park, which is a definite plus and priority.
- Rec centre at HP will be viable for Linden Park-good resource for enhanced learning
- Linden Park can form partnership with Sackville senior centre, good for student learning.
- New school in existing communities is a win-win: combo community with state-ofthe-art facility. Sustains community.
- Lots of green space/green space sustained
- Armstrong is not wheelchair accessible.
   And very difficult to make it so.
- Hard of hearing program Armstrong is not a good facility.
- Armstrong is on a very busy main street; difficult to access, lots of commercial space that is difficult to supervise and will provide unnecessary distractions. A school in a community and on a side street is preferable.
- Pleased to maintain Linden Park. Day care facility is great and is important to the community. Linden Park also provides excellent facilities for high-needs students.
- Please don't close Linden Park
- Sub-divides the area into small communities and puts a school in each one.
- Sustains the green space at Linden Park.
- · New division deserves a community that is

walkable.

- Preserves some K-6 model schools, which research shows younger children benefit from.
- Some research contests 500-600 as optimal size. Also research that champions 200 size.
- Model preserves green space
- Reduces dependency on transportation, which is an unpredictable cost.
- Keeping the hard of hearing program in place shows respect for those students and that community. If we can avoid changing venue, we should.
- Everything looks walkable.
- Good to take advantage of Linden Park site, especially rec centre and senior centre.
- Good to have a school south of the Linc in this cluster. Again, walkability is preserved.
- Would like to see renovations specified in this option. (not explicit in this plan)
- Balanced. Schools in each area.
- The numbers look great, as far as long term utilization. Consistent utilization, with no spikes and dips

Option 32				
	Rationale for Supporting Option	Rationale for NOT Supporting Option		
•	Closing the oldest building (Armstrong) makes sense About 5 million was spent on Queensdale about 7 yrs agotherefore it is good to	Students that attend the new build or the Pauline Johnson/Cardinal will be split when they go to High School.		
•	keep this building open  New school south of the linc is good because schools in that area are above capacity and therefore the kids south of the linc won't need to be bused to the new school	By the closing Armstrong, students are being transitioned and have to adjust several times.  Where would the Sage program go?		
•	Advantage to close Armstrong because the building is so oldwould take too much money.			
•	This keeps open small schools that are wheelchair accessible (one floor)			
•	Deals with future development south of the lincthe new school			
•	New school south of the linc would accommodate 60% of students bused to Ridgemount.			
•	Leaves capacity at Franklin Road to alleviate stress of overcrowding at Lawfield			
•	Proposed new construction would have accessibility built in			
•	Keeps Queensdale open which houses a hard of hearing program that has become well established for many years since the 60'salso provides integration for these students in a small setting			
	Has good utilization ratesalmost 90%			
•	Like the boundaries in this option because it will reduce transportation (x2)			
•	Linden park has daycare from 7-6 and is close for a special needsalso less transportation			
•	Linden park has beautiful land and the early years centre right across			
	Nice even distribution of schools across the mountaineach neighbourhood has a walkable school therefore reduces the need for busing with its unpredictable costs			
0	Keeps Hard of Hearing Program in			

- Queensdale which has been there for over 20 years.
- Queensdale has been extensively renovated
- Smaller K-6 Model is appreciated
- Good for property values in the Queensdale community
- These boundaries seem good...not too large and spaced out
- Central mountain is the remaining area that doesn't have a new school....therefore a new school is a good thing!!
- The JK's are being kept in their primary schools before being sent off further to middle schools
- Keeps the kids in the area close to Queensdale and Eastmount Park...less need for busing
- Schools are in quiet neighbourhoods that will still accommodate drop off and pick ups
- A good option if the renovations brought the current facilities up to the 2022 stds

Very happy about this option because of children's needs and daycare that is at Linden park It will be a shame if they close it because of the land around Linden park

I really like this option, it is the least displacement for children. There is more green space, fewer busy streets.

Can use the space attached to the Hill Park building because it will be closed and the fields will be available for elementary school use.

The recreational centre can be used by the students capitalizing on the already established partnership.

Like that there is a plan B which includes no new builds, by keeping Cardinal and Pauline Johnson open instead.

Another good point is that the intermediate schools are close to each other which allows

greater collaboration among teachers and easier access to extra curriculars between schools.

Need to keep the deaf and hard of hearing program at Queensdale because the community is already established.

Like the idea of a new school being built.

The junior kids remain within walking distance of their school.

I support this option because it is in line with the reference criteria of the Board and the Ministry stating that the educational well being of the students is critical and any proposal should be providing a learning environment that offers the best to our children. This option proposes to close a school that is not thriving and is in the bottom three of all schools in Hamilton according to the Fraser institute.

## Option 34

### **Rationale for Supporting Option**

- Queensdale and Eastmount kids feed into Armstrong anyways – it is a large school and it is an established transition –
- Armstrong is a good building and a daycare facility for before and after school care – a good central location
- Armstrong now has a "house" system that is working throughout the school – building community - ,mentoring for younger students
- Armstrong community nights once a month for the school and community.
- · The costs are low comparatively speaking
- Savings are high
- Amalgamation is good to limit transitions continuity
- Like the Pauline and Cardinal hub is intact
- Better to keep a large school open rather than having several tiny schools open (the cost is better)
- Armstrong has a large outdoor area for playground and grass and is all fenced in
- Better plan because it has the most kids at capacity for the school to get school dollars and not building a new school
- Good because hitting the target enrollment

# Rationale for NOT Supporting Option

- Ridgemount has too large a catchment area
- It does not deal with the populations above the Linc – Jerome, Crerar and Rickmans – if they move the Detwiler boundary that would be better – but it is over crowded
- Build a new school in this is and let the Detwiler kids go to it that would be better.
- Too many schools closing
- What will happen to the properties?
- Too much busing leads to a loss of community
- Too much busing not enough walking
- Population of the schools will be too large
- Proposal is similar to the Board option which will be revised – they have already indicated that this does not work so why include this option?
- Costs for accessibility are not being considered – needs to be done my 2017
- Pauline and Cardinal Heights are way below the 90%
- Busing costs are double some of the other options – kids are farther away and this is a significant problem
- Longer bus rides can lead to more difficulties – timings and cancelation issues
- More busing more disasters
- This plan does not follow the reference criteria regarding offering the best programming and educational facilities for the students – its proposing to close thriving school and keeping open a school that is in the bottom 3 according to the Fasier institute rankings.
- Closing of Linden Park facilities meet the needs of the community – a daycare open to 7 – 6 pm – a shame for the community
- Losing Linden Park loss of community park and green space – community hub next to the community center
- Armstrong very close to a fast moving traffic
- Boundaries are very large

- This community is already losing a secondary school – to maintain the community to have schools remain in this area
- Centralization leads to 3 community schools
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program has not been addressed
- Renovations would be needed wherever the program is moved to
- Concerns of 700 students are Armstrong too many for an elementary school
- Concerns over Armstrong renovations, accessibility (by 2017)
- Renovations done at Queensdale (7 years ago) – why close it?
- Where would they place 7 additional buses at Armstrong? Already congested
- Ridgemeount catchment is too large
- Not an option that puts children first.
- Ridgemount, Pauline, Cardinal all within the same kilometer area
- Walking is preferred over busing
- Longer bus rides lead to difficulty especially for kindergarten kids
- Yes the parents can advocate on weekends but it is helpful that it happen during the week as well.
- No new school a problem move away from older schools
- Does not include assesbility construction at Armstrong or inclusion of the Deaf or Hard of Hearing Program
- Does not include modifications to turn a 100 year olds school into a 21<sup>st</sup> century fluency environment
- Armstrong is at the end of its usable lifespan being 100 years old
- Does not include the second cycle replacement cost (12,000,000)
- Highest transportation cost and most busing, structural anutiy that can never be changes

Transportation costs are doubled

Ridiculous to have a school that is JK-3, instead combine with another school to make it JK -8 and

Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

close Cardinal Heights

Outdoor space not big enough to hold the amount of students being sent to Armstrong

Young children JK SK being bused to school isn't a good idea because they have to cross a major street

Kids unable to walk to school Central mountain needs a new school Armstrong needs too many renovations waste of money

Huge catchment area will delete sense of community

Large school has too many kids ... overwhelming for young children

Just as much green space at smaller schools

Armstrong has busy street and dangerous for kids Concession street is too congested and will be a mess for parents picking up and dropping off kids More room around the smaller schools

Can't assume just because the school is large that there will be collaboration

Stress for kids at Linden park being separated from friends

Also busing Linden kids wouldn't qualify maybe Safety of students crossing major roads to get to Armstrong

Kids hanging out at Tim Hortons may be a problem Kids will stay at smaller schools without the lure of Tim Hortons or Dairy Queen thus healthier for kids to stay at smaller school

Too may kids at Armstrong teachers will have difficulty getting to know all the kids on the playground

You get to know kids better at a smaller school

If not going to build a new school that means our current schools will be 8 years older in 2022 (not good)

Build a school and save all the renovation costs

Deaf and hard of hearing program would have to go to Armstrong and is there is a report that Armstrong is not ready for this program It would require lots of renovations

Learning environment not good for these kids because they require a smaller number of kids so they feel accepted and would be able to integrate easier in a smaller setting

## Option 35

### **Rationale for Supporting Option**

- It is the least disruptive
- Queensdale already has the facilities for all day Kindergarten and that would be a cost savings
- This doesn't displace the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. If it got displaced it would require extensive construction and supports costs. This references the principle of equity
- Keeps the only fully accessible school open
- Like the fact that Armstrong is central and big enough to house the students
- Students of Queensdale and Eastmount already feed into Eastmount
- Armstrong has the SAGE program
- Strong sense of community (6 times a year a community event where families can come and participate in things at the schools)
- The "House" program helps unite the school and promotes leadership within the school and the younger students feel a part of the school and the younger students develop a connection with the older kids
- Pumpkin Patch provides before and after care walking the kids back and forth to Armstrong.
- If you right-sized Armstrong and removed the 1980's addition you could eliminate 200 people places and get in line with enrollments
- If you had a new build at Pauline
  Johnson/Cardinal Heights you would save
  \$8 million or as high as \$13 million if you
  included Ridgemount

Least disruptive of all the options to the children

This option appears to the least disruptive to the kids. This plan only has 3 buses. There are no new builds and schools seem to be in the spaces

#### Rationale for NOT Supporting Option

- The block of Franklin/Linden is potentially moving kids away from a plot of land where there is a pool and aftercare program that isn't available in the other area.
- Either Pauline Johnson or Cardinal Heights should be K-8 with the other one being closed since they are so close together.
   Less students will be coming with the school closing anyways. Or maybe Ridgemount should close. There just seems like there are too many schools in this boundary
- It is the most costly option, but consolidating the schools in the south end is a good idea
- Would need to address the accessibility issues of the other schools
- Looks like it would have more students being bussed compared to the status quo
- The splitting up of students from a school into other schools
- The boundaries are a bit strange when Linden Park closes. It creates a problem area
- Concerns regarding the accessibility for Armstrong. It will create congestion.
- Concerns over who would buy and develop the land around Linden Park and Eastmount? What kind of development would be there? What happens if more houses are built on that land? This would impact the utilization numbers that have been calculated.
- If 300-400 houses go into the area of Linden Park then Franklin Road will be way over capacity. Plus there will be turn over of the houses in the area immediately surrounding Linden Park as the residents pass and young families move in
- Ridgemount/Pauline Johnson why keep those schools together and then have

where the kids live.

- other students bussed, especially when they are junior elementary schools
- In the Ridgemount/Pauline Johnson/ Cardinal Heights area there are too many schools in the north section of the catchment and the south area looks like it will be underserved
- Does not like Armstrong → The area is already busy and will only get busier with more students
- Concerns over students hanging out at Tim Hortons and other areas around the school. Student come back late from Nutrition Break.
- In smaller neighbourhood schools there won't be the same temptation to visit other areas
- Linden Park has better surrounding facilities (Day Care, Pool) so Franklin Road should come to Linden Park

Closing Linden Park would adversely effect special needs children – mom has to come in to change the feeding tube. Linden Park is 2 minutes away from the home. Nurses cannot do this task. Mom had to learn everything to do this.

Concerned about the loss of the local daycare for all ages. Provided with healthy food and supervision from 6:00 in the morning until after hours.

Not all children will be able to walk to school. Would prefer to keep a community school that serves local community.

Would prefer to keep the hard of hearing student program at Queensdale. Students are accepted and the school has expensive accommodations to keep them there.

This option still has lots of buses.

86% enrollment target may not be high high enough – certainly does not reach 90%.

By 2022 the existing schools will be older and are they then going to be able to adapt to technological needs. There is no new school being

built under this option. When was the last time a new school was built on the mountain?

Among savings generated from renovations, administration and capital facility there may be enough for a new school so why not just build the new school?

500-600 students is not optimal for elementary students; it should less.

Costs to address student accessibility for all schools except Queensdale have not been factored in. This needs to be done by 2017.

G.L. Armstrong is on a busy street with lots of traffic and pollution.

This option does not address the student needs of those living in Crerar, Ryckman's and Jerome. These students should be able to walk to school.

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