

Central Mountain Accommodation Review Committee  
Working Group Meeting # 9  
Tuesday, January 28, 2014  
6:00 p.m.

Pauline Johnson Elementary School  
25 Hummingbird Lane, Hamilton, ON

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

**Chair** - Michael Prendergast

**Voting Members** - Diana Asrani, Amber Bourque, Candice Campbell, Marney Campbell, Jenn Clarke, Philip Erwood, Leanne Friesen, Dianna Gamble, Adam Hinks, Marj Howden, Barbara Jalsevac, Kathy Long, Denise McCafferty, Jamie McLean, Sharon Miller, Patricia Mousseau, Robert Nixon, Candice Romaker, Margaret Toth, Lourie Vanderzyden, Philip Viana, Laurie Walowina

**Non-Voting Members** - Julie Beattie, Maria Carbone, Biljana Arsovic Filice, Colin Hazell, Lillian Orban, Jennifer Robertson-Heath, Nanci-Jane Simpson, Doug Trimble

Regrets

**Voting Members** - Janeen Schaeffer

**Non-Voting Members** - Linda Astle

Resource Staff

Ian Hopkins, Ellen Warling

Recording Secretary

Kathy Forde

Public - 8 public attendees present - Linden Park (2); Queensdale (5); All Schools (1)

**1. Call to Order**

Michael Prendergast called the meeting to order. Members were reminded that the meeting and participants could be recorded at any time and to remain seated during the meeting.

**2. Agenda**

**2.1 Additions/Deletions**

Item 6 Correspondence was moved to Item 4. Subsequent items renumbered accordingly.

## 2.2 Approval of Agenda

With changes discussed, the agenda was approved by consensus.

## 3. Minutes from Working Group Meeting # 8

### 3.1 Clarification

Attendance was updated for accuracy.

### 3.2 Approval of Minutes

With clarification as discussed, minutes were approved by consensus.

## 4. Correspondence

Time was permitted for members to review new correspondence. No action required. In response to comments on the accuracy of two previous letters, it was noted that some public attendees may not sign-in so any reference to meeting proceedings or interpretation of meeting discussions would be accepted as provided. Correspondence is collected for review as submitted and is not edited or declined.

## 5. Accommodation Options

### 5.1 Discussion

Michael Prendergast reminded members to be mindful of the Terms of Reference and guiding principles as options continue to be discussed. The four options that moved forward from the last meeting include Options 22, 32, 34 (combination of Options 6 and 11) and 35 (combination of Options 7 and 23).

Updated costing details were reviewed and now include the blended options. Some of the options still require tweaks in terms of timing and boundaries which can still be incorporated. Final values will be incorporated prior to the Public Meeting. Option 22 is the only option with a land purchase so additional costs will be added. Full costing for renovations was not entirely complete.

The number of options to be presented at the Public Meeting was discussed. Three options were presented at the last Public Meeting. The end goal will be to present two or three options. At the last Working Group meeting, members will finalize the report.

Members formed breakout groups to review each of the four options. Comments on advantages and disadvantages were shared as follows:

### Option 22

- Appears to be a forward-thinking balanced option in terms of geographic distribution but population numbers need to be reviewed
- Linden Park will have approximately six classes for each of the grades 7 and 8 levels but only two to three classes for the lower grades

- Ridgemount is better under Plan B
- Numbers are low at some schools
- Board will need to locate property
- Timelines to be added
- Schools have switched between JK-5 and JK-6
- Should have JK-5 and 6-8 students stay together
- From a teaching perspective, grade six is considered junior
- Public feedback indicated preference for keeping communities together and to move students in the same direction of consolidations
- Distribution of student population must be carefully considered
- GL Armstrong students have potential of three moves per student before entering high school
- Transitions have been a big concern but to gain future long term success we may have to endure a short term adjustment
- Community partners are important
- Funding is provided according to the number of students not community partners
- In a consolidation, more rooms can be built as needed

#### **Option 32**

- Lowest numbers for busing so is an advantage for transportation (numbers are estimate only)
- Enrolment capacity numbers are really good across all schools so are fairly balanced
- Timelines seems most practical
- Seems to meet all reference criteria
- This option aligns with public voice
- Need to change the 2014 reference to 2015
- Linden Park remains open, is better utilized and one of the nicer properties
- In terms of quality teaching environments, the schools with grades 6-8 have the largest properties so allow maximum space
- If a new build is not supported the backup plan would be to keep everything as is
- Low utilization in the future but higher than the other options

#### **Option 34 (6/11 combo)**

- Cardinal heights would be at capacity if renovations were completed to absorb Pauline Johnson
- Transportation is safe
- Similar to Staff Option
- Capital would be needed for a six room addition at Ridgemount
- Keeps only one school open in a very large area which is a public concern
- Proximity of GL Armstrong to businesses and a busy street could be a concern although it was noted from past experience over the last few years that no problems have been encountered

- GL Armstrong with increased student population may create traffic congestion - a Kiss and Ride would have to be considered

**Option 35 (7/23 combo)**

- Closes two schools instead of three
- Enrolments are still good
- If we keep a school open and it is a right-sized school it is considered an advantage
- If keeping majority of schools open renewal costs over the years will be high
- It was noted that renovation numbers at Queensdale were previously reviewed

To move forward, members voted (secret ballot) on the number of options to present at the Public Meeting:

- 1 option - (0) votes
- 2 options - (3) votes
- 3 options - (9) votes
- 4 options - (10) votes**

All four options will be presented, which provides the maximum opportunity for feedback.

**5.2 Rationale for Options**

Rationale will be provided for each option based on committee comments.

**6. Public Meeting # 4**

**6.1 Format (Public/Working Meeting, Facilitators, Q&A)**

Various ideas were shared on the format. The public meeting will be perceived as an opportunity for people to speak so the public will want an open floor question and answer session to feel they have been heard. A constructive session will be important to ensure time is used effectively. Facilitators will record public feedback, which can then be consolidated for review. Questions will be focused to assist in finalizing the options. It was suggested that options be displayed prior to the meeting for viewing and that reference criteria be included for better public understanding. Some insight on why the other options did not move forward should perhaps be available as well if questions are raised. Members felt that they do not need three full hours of public consultation as they do not expect to hear anything new. As such, it was suggested that the Public Meeting be scheduled for the first half of the evening (auditorium) and that a Working Group meeting follow for the second half (library) to allow time for review of public feedback and for determining the options that will move forward as only one last Working Meeting is scheduled to finalize all work. Meeting time for the Working Group can be extended if necessary upon a vote. The public will be allowed to observe as always. It was suggested that Board staff be available following the Public Meeting to respond to any further questions.

The final ARC Report needs to be submitted by February 20, 2014. The public will then have another opportunity to voice final concerns through delegations when options are presented to trustees. Date and procedures for delegations will be communicated in advance. Members discussed that two options will be selected for the final ARC Report. One option will include a new build and one will be without a new build.

## **6.2 Presentation**

Michael Prendergast will provide opening remarks.

## **6.3 Presentation Volunteers**

Any members interested in volunteering or with additional comments can connect with Ian Hopkins.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

- **Next Public Meeting # 4 - February 04, 2014 at Hill Park**
- **Working Group Meeting # 10 - February 11, 2014 at Ridgemount**

### **Handouts**

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes - Working Group Meeting # 8
- Correspondence
- Committee Options 22, 32, 34, 35
- Financial Summary Options 22, 32, 34, 35