

Central Mountain Accommodation Review Committee  
Working Group Meeting # 8  
Tuesday, January 21, 2014  
6:00 p.m.

Eastmount Park Elementary School  
55 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Hamilton, ON

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

**Chair** - Michael Prendergast

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

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

Regrets

**Voting Members** - Philip Erwood, Dianna Gamble, Barbara Jalsevac

**Non-Voting Members** - Nil

Resource Staff

Ian Hopkins, Ellen Warling

Recording Secretary

Kathy Forde

**Public** - 8 public attendees present - Linden Park (1); Queensdale (7)

**1. Call to Order**

Michael Prendergast called the meeting to order.

**2. Agenda**

**2.1 Additions/Deletions**

Item 3.1 - Meeting Schedule added for clarification.

Item 7 - Correspondence moved to Item 4.3 to allow for review of new option submitted.

## **2.2 Approval of Agenda**

With changes discussed, the agenda was approved by consensus by a show of hands.

## **3. Working Group Meeting Format**

In response to various comments received since the last meeting, Michael Prendergast reminded everyone to be respectful while speaking to ensure only one conversation is underway thereby reducing disruption.

### **3.1 Meeting Schedule**

Members considered the schedule with additional meeting dates to be reasonable for moving forward in developing two or three options for the Public Meeting on February 04. However, members thought the idea of finalizing work on February 11 may become rushed so suggested blending the Public Meeting with a Working Group Meeting on February 04. Members voted by consensus to accept the meeting schedule as presented but will need to confirm if a Working Group Meeting is added February 04. If so, the meeting schedule will need to be updated.

## **4. Minutes from Working Group Meeting # 7**

### **4.1 Clarification**

Regrets under attendance updated. Item 8.1 regarding the rubric created by Jamie McLean revised for accuracy.

### **4.2 Approval of Minutes**

With the changes discussed, minutes were approved by consensus by a show of hands.

### **4.3 Correspondence**

The first piece, identified as new option 33 was reviewed. Many points have already been seen in other options. Overall, members consider it to be very similar to Option 23. Members will be mindful of this submission as options are reviewed. On the second item concerning enrolment projections, Ellen Warling noted that numbers and formulas used by the Board are verified regularly for accuracy. A decline in kindergarten students is normally due to those heading off to French Immersion programming which starts in grade one. Other declines are often due to families moving. Each neighbourhood is different by community by year. Related to the third letter regarding evaluation of options, members were reminded to reference the Terms of Reference and to be mindful of guiding principles and public considerations.

## **5. Accommodation Options**

### **5.1 Options 22, 23, 30, 31 & 32 Costing and Transportation Info**

Ian Hopkins provided and reviewed the costing and transportation information provided for Options 22, 23, 30, 31 and 32 noting that the transportation data is only a raw analysis.

## 5.2 Continuing Discussion and Development

Options continue to be developed based on the feedback received from public input. The committee will finalize its work on February 11 at the last Working Group Meeting. Not less than 30 days after the ARC report is submitted to the Director, the Staff Report can be received by the Board of Trustees. There is a 60 day window after the staff report has been presented to hold public delegations. After the 60 days and public delegations the Trustees may vote on a final outcome. The committee can present as many options as desired but it is encouraged there is a plan B for options with suggested new builds in the situation HWDSB is not granted funding for building a new school.

The Staff Option will include only one recommendation. It is written by HWDSB Facilities staff and the Executive Team and can also change based on public input. When the report is submitted, the final Staff recommendation will be available to the public. From past experience, the staff option often changes from the initial option that was proposed at the beginning of the accommodation review process

A committee member expressed concern about staff having the opportunity for writing the Staff Option at the beginning and ending of the process as it seems the committee is not well-informed without knowing what the final Staff Option will be. Comments were noted as a consideration for future ARC processes.

Members formed breakouts to review and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the options moving forward. It was noted that Options 6 and 11 are similar, and Options 7 and 23 are similar.

### Option 6 and 11

#### Option 6

- Population at GL Armstrong drops over the years but is a school to stay open
- High transportation costs
- Splitting students in different directions - public does not like this
- Only two schools K-8
- Does not mention renovations at GL Armstrong
- Cost effective compared to renovation costs
- No new builds - uses existing infrastructure

#### Option 11

- Costly
- GL Armstrong may not be best site for a new build - busy area and size of property (4.55 acres)
- Closing five schools
- With exception of retrofit it is the Board option - just shifts things
- Population seems to be more stable
- Cheaper to renovate opposed to a new build
- Option 11 seems better aligned

### **Option 7 and 23**

#### **Option 7**

- Closing same schools but much higher OTG capacity so need to adjust boundaries
- K-8 population of 300 or so students
- Low utilization at some schools
- Possibly needs realignment for where kids are going
- Current OTG capacity falls below reference criteria

#### **Option 23**

- Cardinal Heights, Franklin Road and GL Armstrong under capacity
- Same disruption but better utilization - need to consolidate kids
- Capacity is an issue
- Programming is an issue when grades are limited
- There is validity but needs to be tweaked where it does not work

### **Option 22**

- Why would the Board close Ridgemount after renovating the school
- High costs
- Is different - involves more puzzle pieces but meets public criteria (walkability, vitality of the central mountain)
- Three JK-6
- Growth seems to be moving south so the Board may decide to build a new school there
- To save money, could consider renovation of a JK-8 rather than closing and building new school

### **Option 30**

- Eliminates everything west of Upper Wentworth
- Highest transportation costs
- Seems overly aggressive
- It is a significant realignment
- May be one worth removing

### **Option 31**

- Has the highest cost with only one school closure and one new build
- GL Armstrong remains open so adds many renewal costs
- Only 81 % utilization overall which seems too low
- Almost status quo

### **Option 32**

- Utilization is low at Cardinal Heights, Franklin Road, Queensdale
- Overall utilization good at mid-90%
- Worth discussing options that leave Linden Park open

- Where do GL Armstrong 7-8 students go
- Similar to Option 31 with exception of one school
- Concern about greenspace
- Operational savings is good
- Transportation costs do not change so from cost perspective makes sense
- Similar to Option 22
- A lot of transitions from grade 6 to 7 to 8
- Ridgemount closure is an issue due to recent renovations

### Option 33

- Not reviewed as many details were included within the other options examined.

### General Comments

- It was noted that if schools are over-capacity or areas are under-serviced a new school can be considered but that process that takes time for funding and construction. The Board looks at capacity, infrastructure and new communities. Ancaster Meadows and Bellmoore schools were associated with growth communities. Now, Winona and Waterdown are considered areas of growth.
- As work nears final discussions, details can be tweaked as needed to bring clarity. Solid options need to be selected and can then be blended. The goal is to write the best option/s.

To narrow down options, members (20) voted on their preferred option of six options by secret ballot:

- Option 6 and 11 blended - (4) votes
- Option 7 and 23 blended - (7) votes**
- Option 22 - 3 votes
- Option 30 - 3 votes
- Option 31 - 1 vote
- Option 32 - 2 votes

Members (20) then voted on their preferred (second) option of five options by secret ballot:

- Option 6 and 11 - (7) votes
- Option 22 - (8) votes**
- Option 30 - (4) votes
- Option 31 - (0) votes
- Option 32 - (1) votes

Members (20 minus one abstained) then voted on their preferred (third) option of four options by secret ballot:

**Option 6 and 11 - (7) votes**

Option 30 - (5) votes

Option 31 - (0) votes

**Option 32 - (7) votes**

Options that will move forward for further review include:

**Options 6 and 11 (to be blended)**

**Options 7 and 23 (to be blended)**

**Option 22**

**Option 32**

Members broke into groups to start looking at blending Options 6 and 11 into one and Options 7 and 23 into one. Comments can be provided to Ian Hopkins who will provide related details and costing for the blended options. This narrows the options down to four that will be further reviewed at the next meeting.

**6. Accommodation Review Committee Report**

**6.1 Draft Table of Contents**

Deferred.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

- **Working Group Meeting # 9 - January 28, 2014 at Pauline Johnson**
- **Next Public Meeting # 4 - February 04, 2014 at Hill Park**
- **Working Group Meeting # 10 - February 11, 2014 at Ridgemount**

**Handouts**

- Agenda
- Work Plan
- Updated Schedule
- Draft Minutes - Working Group Meeting # 7
- Correspondence
- Financial Summary Options 22, 23, 30, 31, 32
- Financial Summary Options 6, 7, 11
- ARC Report - Draft Table of Contents