

**East Hamilton City 1 Accommodation Review Committee
Public Consultation Meeting # 3
Thursday, December 05, 2013
6:00 p.m.**

**Rosedale Elementary School
25 Erindale Avenue, Hamilton, ON**

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Chair - Peter Joshua

Voting Members - Abbie Boyko, Casey Eaton, Susan Fischer, Laurie Hazelton, Sandra Lindsay, Megan MacDonald, Brian McPhee, Barbara Mitchell, Brianna Okerstrom, Brandy Paul, Samantha Prosser, Norma Rookwood, Carla Shewell, Jennifer Voth, Chris Weston, Shannon Weston, Tracie Wilson

Non-Voting Members - Lisa Barzetti, Joanna Crapsi-Cascioli, John Gris, Dan Ivankovic, Ray Mulholland, Tiz Penny

Regrets

Voting Members - Susan Pretula

Non-Voting Members - Sandra Constable, Elaine Pilgrim-Susi, Todd White

Resource Staff

Rob Faulkner, Bob Fex, Peter Sovran

Recording Secretary

Kathy Forde

Public - 68 public attendees were present - Hillcrest (1); Parkdale (1); Queensdale (1); Rosedale (47); Viscount Montgomery (2); W.H. Ballard (2); Woodward (9); No School Affiliation Identified (5)

1. Call to Order

Peter Joshua called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions followed. Committee members Barbara Mitchell, Chris Weston and Sandra Lindsay assisted in facilitating the meeting.

2. Agenda

2.1 Additions/Deletions

Nil

2.2 Approval of Agenda

Approved.

3. Purpose of the Meeting - why we are here

The intent of the meeting was to review the work completed to date and to present the draft options that have been developed. The role of committee members is to act in an advisory capacity to lead the public review and develop options for further consideration. Meeting norms were reviewed noting the importance of a positive and respectful environment. Public consultation provides an opportunity for collecting valuable input.

4. Where the Committee is in the Process

Timelines were reviewed. The process started in June 2013 when the Board approved the preliminary report to move forward with the elementary ARC review. In May 2013, the policy and terms of reference were approved. Over the summer, background material was prepared and committees were formed. Since October, the Working Group has met five times and two Public Meetings have taken place. Meetings will continue until the end of January 2014. A report will go to the Board in February. Trustees are expected to make a decision by May.

Throughout the process, committee members have examined a great amount of data and reviewed feedback provided to create the draft options that will be presented. The purpose of Public Meeting is to gather further feedback and ensure people are aware and involved in the options being developed. Key themes and items of interest have been developed as guiding principles based on public consultation. Public voice is an important part of the process. Reference criteria provided through the Terms of Reference have also been considered (facility utilization, permanent and non-permanent accommodation, program offerings, quality teaching and learning environments, transportation, partnership opportunities, equity).

5. Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Key Themes and Points for Consideration

Through the examination of data and public input, committee members also collectively created key themes to assist in the development of options. Key points for consideration include transportation, community and community partnerships, accessibility, operations, class size, school size, date for implementation (June 2015 or later), no portables, walking distances and safety, facility conditions, a new build on Viscount Montgomery site, review of Parkdale boundaries and current enrolment with FDK consideration. The 2014 timeline referenced in the staff option for school closures was contemplated and redefined to June 2015 as the earliest date for implementation under all committee options to allow more time for adapting to any changes. Numbers are based on current and projected enrolments recognizing that enrolment does fluctuate. Common interests and forward thinking continues to provide direction for the work underway.

6. Committee Draft Options

Draft options as developed were presented.

Option 1 (D)

- **Parkdale closes - students assigned to W.H. Ballard and Hillcrest**
- **Roxborough Park closes - students assigned to Hillcrest and Viscount Montgomery**
- **Woodward closes - students assigned to Hillcrest**
- **Rosedale becomes a JK-6 with a boundary change (Viscount Montgomery area south of King)**

Overall capacity with the changes suggested goes from 67% (2012) to 82% (2017) to 76% (2022).

Option 2 (F)

- **Parkdale closes - students assigned to W.H. Ballard and Hillcrest**
- **Roxborough Park closes - students assigned to Hillcrest and Viscount Montgomery**
- **Woodward becomes a JK-6 with boundary change (Hillcrest area south to Vansitmart)**
- **Rosedale becomes a JK-6 with a boundary change (Viscount Montgomery area south of King)**

Overall capacity with the changes suggested goes from 67% (2012) to 75% (2017) to 70% (2022).

Staff Accommodation Option

- **Consolidate Roxborough Park, Hillcrest and Woodward in to Hillcrest in 2014 (minimal construction/renovation costs)**
- **Consolidate Rosedale and Viscount Montgomery into Viscount Montgomery in 2014 (minimal construction/renovation costs)**
- **Consolidate Parkdale and W.H. Ballard into H.W. Ballard I 2014 (minimal construction/renovation costs)**

Overall capacity with the changes suggested goes from 67% (2012) to 92% (2017) to 85% (2022).

The staff option was presented at the first public meeting as a starting point only in order to move forward on developing committee options. Options being developed are not final and require further input and review. In the end, trustees will select either the staff option or committee option or a variation of both.

7. Group Discussions of ARC Options

Options developed by the committee require further feedback to ensure opinions and challenges are heard. All comments are taken into consideration. The importance of respecting each other's opinions and ideas was reiterated. Attendees formed breakout groups for discussions. Facilitators recorded comments, which are provided as a separate feedback document. Appreciation was extended for the input provided. The floor was open to any questions remaining on the process and development of options.

Questions & Answers

Decision Making

Q1. How the decision is being weighed? It seems to be a business decision versus what is best for the students?

A1. The final decision rests at the Board level with trustees. At every meeting the number one priority has been the children and having the best schools and environments possible.

Business is only one aspect. Committee members represent the community to develop a recommendation that will be reviewed along with the staff option but trustees will make the final decision. Nobody is looking at property as a way of making money or as a business venture. All we can do is look at the numbers and consider all feedback. If something has not been covered please let us know moving forward.

Q2. I am worried about what will weigh on the minds of trustees. How will they really react? Will all our efforts be for nothing?

A2. Public voice is very influential. A considerable amount of time has been dedicated for public input. Trustees Ray Mulholland and Todd White regularly attend the meetings to hear the conversations. The public is welcomed to attend all Working Group meetings to observe discussions. All meeting information is posted on the Board website at www.hwdsb.on.ca.

Numbers

Q3. Have numbers been run based on current scenarios?

A3. Class size did come up in discussion but classroom sizes are capped by the Ministry. Student population may eliminate split classes but we do have breakdowns. Further number crunching will follow as options are developed. As the number of students is increased in a school, extra classrooms would be needed.

Options

Q4. Following the next two Working Group meetings will there be more options or just the current two developed by the committee?

A4. Work is in progress so current options could change or new options added.

Students

Q5. Where do you place these extra students?

A5. In specialty rooms, portables or additions.

Q6. With the closing of a school comes change. How will children be affected going from a small school to larger school? Are there any statistics on impacts to students, teachers or the community?

A6. As with other closure, when final decisions are made, a transition committee with resources and supports is formed to help students and families adapt to their new environment. The voice of parents and students is gathered throughout the process. Anything discussed is public information and is posted

on the Board website. We are working on new a transition webpage. People can also view transition details related to the secondary ARC for insight. The transition committee for the secondary ARC is well represented and everyone seems excited. The kids feed off their parents so a positive mindset is important.

Timeline

Q7. What is the timeline ahead?

A7. The next Public Meeting is January 21, 2014 where the final option(s) will be presented. There are also two Working Group meetings prior to the next Public Meeting. On January 28, at the final Working Group meeting, committee members will review the last of public feedback. A report will then go to the Board then to trustees. Trustees will provide an opportunity for public delegations to express any final concerns.

Value

Q8. In terms of future land use and value, is it worth tearing down one or two schools to make a new school? Is it worth tearing down a school to build a few new houses? Are houses for a few people more valuable than a school for a community, even if the school has low capacity?-

A8. Good point - comment noted.

Comments

- The relationship between the Faith Gospel Church and the Rosedale community is strongly valued.
- When Hillsdale and Hillcrest amalgamated, bullying went down because the older kids seemed to protect the younger ones.

Further comments and ideas can be shared through your community representative or at ARCinfo@hwdsb.on.ca

8. Next Steps

- Options will be refined based on public consultation and presented at Public Meeting # 4
- **Next Working Group Meeting # 6 - December 12, 2013 at Roxborough Park**
- **Next Public Meeting # 4 - January 28, 2014 at W.H. Ballard**

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Handouts

- Agenda
- Presentation