

East Hamilton City 1 Accommodation Review Committee
Working Group Meeting # 5
Thursday, November 28, 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, Brandy Paul, Brianna Okerstrom, Samantha Prosser, Norma Rookwood, Carla Shewell, Jennifer Voth, Chris Weston, Shannon Weston,

Non-Voting Members - Lisa Barzetti, Sandra Constable, Joanna Crapsi-Cascioli, John Gris, Dan Ivankovic, Ray Mulholland, Tiz Penny, Elaine Pilgrim-Susi, Todd White

Regrets

Voting Members - Susan Pretula, Tracie Wilson

Non-Voting Members - Nil

Resource Staff

Bob Fex, Peter Sovran

Recording Secretary

Kathy Forde

Public - 6 public attendee were present - Rosedale (6)

1. Call to Order

Peter Joshua called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The purpose of the meeting was to review the options developed and prepare for the public meeting.

2. Agenda

2.1 Additions/Deletions

Nil

2.2 Approval of Agenda

Approved by consensus by a show of hands.

3. Minutes from Working Group Meeting # 4

3.1 Clarification

Nil

3.2 Approval of Minutes

Approved by consensus by a show of hands.

4. Correspondence - Consultation Document

A consultation document from Tim Simmons, Chair of the Board, was included as correspondence to provide further understanding on the accommodation process.

5. Review of ARC Options

5.1 Discussion

Members reviewed and collaborated on the seven options generated in order to collectively select the preferred options going forward for presentation to the public. Options submitted to date reflect on committee insights and on the public feedback and correspondence received to date. Informed thinking will be essential for providing rationale to support the options presented to the public. The themes (important factors) developed for decision making were reviewed (transportation; community and community partnerships; accessibility; operations; class sizes; school size). Committee members were reminded that Ministry standards must also be respected. Key points developed for consideration were also reviewed (effective date for implementation - June 2015 or beyond; no portables added to any schools; walking distances and safety; facility conditions - current and 10 year needs; build new school on Viscount Montgomery property; review of all boundaries; based on current 2013-14 enrolment with FDK consideration). Members noted that reference to the review of Parkdale boundaries as stated in the presentation should read "review of all boundaries". A boundary map was posted at the meeting for members to view.

Responses received from members on their top two preferred options following the last meeting were tallied and presented for additional information. Option E had the fewest votes (2) and Option D had the greatest votes (7). Votes and comments are noted below.

Option A1: Woodward and Roxborough Park to Hillcrest; and (B) Woodward, Roxborough Park, Parkdale and Rosedale close [5 votes]

- Members noted for clarification that Option A1 includes Option B. As such, this option will be renamed as Option A1/B.

Option A2: Same as Option A1 but consider boundary change and allow Woodward to stay open (Roxborough Park closes) [4 votes]

- Members noted for clarification that Option A2 includes Option B. As such, this option will be renamed as Option A2/B. Option B will be omitted.

Option B: Build new school on Viscount Montgomery property, students at Viscount Montgomery, Parkdale and Rosedale remain at current location until the new school is built (Parkdale and Rosedale close) [5 votes]

- Option B merged with Option A1 and Option A2. As such, Option B will be omitted moving forward.

Option C: Consider boundary change, Roxborough Park remains open, with some students from Parkdale going to Roxborough Park and others to WH Ballard; Woodward to Hillcrest (Parkdale and Woodward close) [3 votes]

Option D: Keep Rosedale open (as K-6) with a boundary change, Parkdale to WH Ballard and Hillcrest (based on walking distances), boundary change so that some Roxborough Park to Hillcrest and others from Roxborough Park to Viscount Montgomery; Woodward to Hillcrest (Parkdale, Roxborough Park and Woodward close) [7 votes].

- Option D is worded slightly different than the electronic version and includes reference to boundary changes as reflected in the handout. To clarify the enrolment, boundary and catchment details as needed, committee members were asked to provide specifics to Bob Fex. Bob will provide an update.

Option E: Close Roxborough Park, close Woodward and students go to remaining schools (to be determined); change Rosedale boundary (Roxborough Park and Woodward close; Parkdale?) [2 votes]

Option F: Roxborough Park split between Viscount Montgomery and Hillcrest; Parkdale split between WH Ballard and Hillcrest; Rosedale (K-6) and Woodward (K-6) remain open with potential boundary changes to both (Roxborough Park and Parkdale close) [4 votes]

Members then formed breakout groups based on their most preferred option to further review and collaborate on the six options (Option B merged) listed keeping reference criteria, key themes and public input in mind. Following initial review, an opportunity was provided for members to move to another station to add comments. Discussion points and votes are noted below.

Option A1/B [5 votes in favour to move the option forward]

Pros

- highest utilization rate so maximizes funding which can be used for 21st Century and programs
- brings in all schools

Cons

- W.H. Ballard underutilized
- a lot of work with boundaries
- basically Board option

- creates mega schools
- closes two schools and puts some over capacity

Option A2/B [4 votes in favour to move option forward]

Pros

- no portables
- new school would be built
- brings Woodward to 76% utilization / Hillcrest at 96%

Cons

- Rosedale kids cross major intersections
- boundary changes

Option C [3 votes in favour to move option forward]

Pros

- closes 3/4 schools suggested
- allows numbers of students to be flexible

Cons

- underutilization - trying to keep an underutilized school open is not beneficial for the whole ARC, funding could be used at other schools, if closing school like Roxborough Park all benefits/resources travel with the students
- Roxborough Park may have to update accessibility

Option D [8 votes in favour to move option forward]

Pros

- Closes three schools not four
- Brings school to 85% capacity which also provides space for different programs
- FCI - in terms of high/urgent needs - second lowest to maintain
- No portables needed - school would be under-capacity
- Can move students to Viscount Montgomery and W.H. Ballard increasing utilization and keeping Hillcrest under capacity

Cons

- Hillcrest is overcapacity
- Rosedale would not have optimal school capacity or utilization rates
- Does not include a new Viscount Montgomery

Option E [0 votes in favour to move option forward]

- no comments
- members agreed to remove option E by consensus by a show of hands

DECISION: Option E removed

Option F [9 votes in favour to move option forward]

Pros

- no portables / schools kept open are on larger lots
- Hillcrest will not be over capacity
- less transportation costs
- by not being at capacity will allow room for other classes
- Woodward enrolment does not change for 10 years and keeps small school structure
- FCI and capital expenses - Woodward is the lowest

Cons

- Not a lot of cost savings for the Board

Based on votes, two options (Option D and Option F) will move forward to Public Meeting # 3. Members will present the options as a collective group with rationale to demonstrate that data, feedback and overall costs have been considered and that these options fit with the guiding principles. Options are still preliminary and can be adjusted based on further public feedback.

Format, content and setup for the Public Meeting were discussed. Bob Fex will ensure information is refined as needed. The meeting will open with a presentation, followed with small group discussions to gather feedback then the floor will open for questions and answers. Setup will be the same as Public Meeting # 2. The Public Meeting will provide another opportunity to gather feedback. A cordless microphone will be available. Facilitators will assist in gathering comments. Barbara Mitchell, Chris Weston and Sandi Lindsay volunteered to assist in the presentation.

5.2 Refine Option Numbers

Options to be presented to the public were refined as Option 1 (D) and Option 2 (F).

6. Next Steps

- Options will be presented at the next Public Meeting and feedback collected.
- **Next Public Meeting # 3 - December 05, 2013 at Rosedale**
- **Next Working Group Meeting # 6 - December 12, 2013 at Roxborough Park**

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Handouts

- Agenda
- Presentation
- Draft Minutes - Working Group Meeting # 4
- ARC Options
- Correspondence - Consultation Document