

**Question 1: How does the staff recommendation follow the reference criteria?**

**1) Planning**

- Boundaries
- Future growth of school and facility needs
  - From 53 south, changing boundaries?
  - Portables in the future? New development, possibility of more development?
  - Boundary changes for Bellmoore and send Bell-Stone?
  - Board studies potential development
  - In ten years numbers are up- building is old- what then?

**2) Facility**

- Size and capacity of school to accommodate number of students
- Accessibility
- Capital repairs
  - No need for portables in the short time
  - Are there enough rooms at mount hope? Some rooms aren't 100% utilized
  - Add portables or building addition
  - Facility utilization- accommodating a greater number of students within one building
  - It's all dollars and cents
  - Bell-Stone is accessible, Mount Hope isn't
  - Bell-Stone has the capacity of 180 students- can't fit Mount Hope students- numbers don't lie
  - Equity- accessibility; what does Mount Hope require in order for an elevator to be added

**3) Transportation**

- Walkability to Mount Hope
- Reduction in transportation time on bus
  - Bell-Stone does not accommodate walking students
  - Transportation- assumption that a large number of students walk to Mount Hope
  - Transportation- believe this does met as currently buses do stop at each school. Consolidation of schools reduces transition times between home and school
  - Keep in mind the length of time on a bus

**4) Transition**

- Entire school community- parents, teachers, students, etc.

**5) Programming**

- Class size
- New opportunity
  - Rotary system? Possibility to attract specialist teachers
  - Program offerings- further discussion necessary to determine program differences between schools
  - Small isn't always better. Mix the group differently- class dynamic- behaviour- social interaction
  - Staffing increase?
  - Will class size increase? Cap- determined by the ministry

**6) Happy cloud**

- There is general alignment

**Question 2: What additional reference criteria do you think are important for the ARC to consider when developing recommendations?**

**1) Physical facility**

- Preference for bricks and mortar over portables if expansion is required
- Air conditioning?
- Accessibility?
- Health and safety- school environment and extreme heat; leading to the installation of air conditioning

**2) Distance/Geography**

- High schools- where will we feed? Distance to Ancaster for students closer to Bell-Stone
- Rural Boundaries- can they change
- Transportation- concern about long bus rides

**3) Program Offerings/ Learning Environment**

- JK to 12? Would the board consider a different model?
- Addition of specialized programs- drama, enhanced and remedial programs
- FDK- will we be able to accommodate the rest of the student population
- Will there be consideration for additional supports for students with special needs?

**4) Facility Utilization**

- How will the other building and land be used in the future?

***Question 3: Using the additional reference criteria, how well does the staff recommendation meet the new criteria?***

**1) Infrastructure improvements**

- More information required
- Washrooms would require updating and new washrooms would need to be added
- Some rooms, staff room, library and office have air conditioning. Mount Hope will need to be outfitted for AC
- Increased tarmac/resurface? Currently the tarmac is in poor condition
- New windows in the existing building
- Additional parking spaces
- Revamping of the current bus loading and unloading area- student safety
- Accessibility
- FDK classroom- if needed, where would this go? Washrooms?
- Is there legislation re: # of students and # of washrooms?

**2) Defined Boundaries**

- Possible boundary changes
- Feeder schools- high schools

***Question 4: What else do you feel is important for the ARC to consider as they begin developing options?***

**1) Timeline**

- Closing in 2014 too quick- extend to 2015
- Limited time to form closing committee
- Will the building be ready?

**2) Student Support**

- Students first
- Adjust new class sizes

**3) Physical Building**

- Is there enough room in the school?
- Will the school be ready?

**4) Catchment/High school feeder**

- Can we change the catchment to keep Bell-Stone open?
- Long term planning- boundaries?
- Change catchment for high school (Ancaster too far)

## **Common themes:**

### **1) Boundaries**

- Bell-Stone/Bellmoore
- High school
- Urban boundary

### **2) Facility**

- Accessibility
- Capital repairs including:
  - Tarmac (addition and resurfacing)
  - Additional parking
  - Air conditioning
  - More washrooms
  - Additional FDK room
  - New windows
  - Revamp of bus loading zone
- Portables
- Preference for brick and mortar over portables
- Timeline- will building be ready for September 2014?

### **3) Transportation**

- Concern over lengthy bus ride times
- Reduction in bus times for some students

### **4) Timeline/Transition**

- Closing June 2014 is too quick
- Staffing
- Building readiness

### **5) Programming**

- Class sizes
- New opportunities (drama, enhanced and remedial programs, extracurricular activities)
- Support for Spec Ed students