

**West Glanbrook Accommodation Review Committee**

**Public Meeting # 1**

**Wednesday, October 09, 2013**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Mount Hope Elementary School  
9149 Airport Road, Hamilton, ON**

**Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

**Chair (Acting)** - Pam Reinholdt

**Voting Members-** Theresa Weylie, Steve Paul, Janet Lewis, Alyson Brave, Melanie Holjak, Trisha Woehrle, Karen Stewart

**Non-Voting Members-** Alex Johnstone, Rob Maudsley

**Regrets**

**Voting Members-** Amie Vandevrie

**Non-Voting Members-** Krys Croxall

**Resource Staff**

Ian Hopkins, Daniel Del Bianco, Mark Taylor, Bill Yull, Teresa Movre, Sandie Rowell

**Recording Secretary**

Colleen Pyke

**Public** – 9 public attendees present

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Superintendent Pam Reinholdt introduced herself as acting Chair for the West Glanbrook Accommodation Review Committee. She introduced resource staff and the facilitators for the evening. She noted that the purpose of this meeting is to gather input from the public, to provide their thinking, words of wisdom and knowledge of the area. The working group committee members will be listening and participating. They will take back information learned from public meetings to better form their recommendation. Ultimately, the Board of Trustees will make the final decision.

The Mandate of the Accommodation Review and Committee Norms were reviewed.

Next Public Meeting - Wednesday, November 06, 2013

\*\*\*All Accommodation Review Committee Meetings are open to the public\*\*\*

**2. What is an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)?**

The Chair explained that an Accommodation Review Committee is struck when the Board of Trustees considers closing schools. Board staff is required to present an option. This is an initial option to generate discussion. In the end, this may not be the final recommendation. The Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) is responsible for creating a recommendation as well. There are many possibilities and the staff option is just the initial piece in order to be transparent. The Chair reviewed types of members, both voting and non-voting and noted that the ARC is made of parents and staff from both schools involved.

Public meeting format was reviewed. Facilitators will be assigned to a group to assist and take notes. All group feedback will be posted on the HWDSB website.

**3. Where are we in the Accommodation Review Process?**

Ian Hopkins reviewed where we are in the process. In June 2013, staff took the preliminary Accommodation Review report to Board for approval to begin Accommodation Reviews. Currently we are in the Community Review phase from October 2013 to January 2014. There will be four public meetings and approximately eight working group meetings (subject to change). The ARC will then come up with a recommendation to bring to Board. Following this, there will be a Board review phase. Staff will create a recommendation which will go to Board. There will be a 60 day period of public delegation and the projected decision by Trustees is May 2014.

**4. Why HWDSB are conducting Accommodation Reviews**

Ian Hopkins provided an overview noting HWDSB is seeing a decline in enrolment, underutilized schools, an excess of 5,000 pupil places, an aging inventory of schools (many built in the 1950s and 60s) and limited provincial dollars. Provincial funding is largely based on enrolment, which means our funding is spread thinly throughout our Board.

The Terms of Reference were reviewed.

**5. How does the ARC process work?**

Ian Hopkins reviewed the Reference criteria, noting this is an open ended list and that items can be added by the ARC. During working group meetings the ARC will analyze and discuss accommodation items. Public meetings will be an opportunity for members of the community to give their input. All meetings are open to the public; however public participation will be limited to public meetings.

**6. Why an Accommodation Review for West Glanbrook**

Daniel Del Bianco noted that there are four Accommodation Reviews currently running across HWDSB. The first four Accommodation Reviews are grouped together for a number of reasons including, geographic area (associated school), underutilized schools and non JK-8 program models. West Glanbrook is one of three ARCs that were identified in 2010. The next number of years of Accommodation Reviews has been outlined in the Long Term Facilities Master Plan.

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/board/facilities-master-plan/>

### **7. Current Situation and Staff Option**

Daniel Del Bianco reviewed the current situation, including boundaries, enrolment and facility conditions. He noted that the enrolment is from the 2012 school year. Facility condition index (repair costs relative to total replacement value) was reviewed, citing that as the items within the school age (boilers, roof, flooring, etc.), the FCI increases. The goal is to alleviate the gap between enrolment and capacity. Schools must be heated and maintained as if they are completely full, but are not receiving the funding for that.

The Ministry requires the presentation of a staff option. This is a starting point and is not 'final'. Staff will take what has been learned throughout the Accommodation Review and apply it to the final staff recommendation.

The staff option recommends that the two schools combine, which sees the closure of Bell-Stone. All students will consolidate into Mount Hope. Recommended timeline would be closure of Bell-Stone in June 2014 and consolidation in September 2014. This option does bridge the enrolment versus capacity gap and creates the JK-8 model, as per the LTFMP guiding principles. Mount Hope may require the construction of an additional kindergarten room. Students that are currently attending Bell-Stone or Mount Hope as out-of-catchment will maintain their status however; no new out-of-catchment students will be accepted.

### **8. Small group discussions**

The Chair gave instructions for group work.  
See attached for facilitator feedback.

### **9. Next Steps**

Next working group meeting- October 16, 2013 Mount Hope  
Next public meeting- November 06, 2013 Bell-Stone

### **10. Adjournment**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and participating.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

**Facilitator Feedback – West Glanbrook Public Meeting #1 – October 09, 2013**

Facilitators reported on the top three priorities raised in group discussion as noted below. Information will be provided to Committee Members for information and consideration as an alternate recommendation is developed.

- Appropriate resources to support programming for all students, in particular our students with special needs
- Site readiness – washrooms, accessibility, air conditioning, bus loading/unloading area
- Consideration for long term planning- boundaries and future developments
- How transitions will be handled
- Timelines may be too tight
- Planned pathways for all students- some may be closer to Ancaster High, some are not
- Class size- how will the school organization look