

West Glanbrook Accommodation Review Committee

Public Consultation Meeting # 3

Wednesday, December 4th, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Mount Hope Elementary School

9149 Airport Road, Mount Hope

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair – Sue Dunlop

Voting Members –Theresa Weylie, Steve Paul, Melanie Holjak, Trisha Woehrl, Karen Stewart, Alyson Brave, Amie Vandevrie

Non-Voting Members – Alex Johnstone, Rob Maudsley

Regrets

Voting Members – Janet Lewis

Non-Voting Members - Nil

Resource Staff

Ian Hopkins, Mark Taylor, Daniel Del Bianco

Recording Secretary

Colleen Pyke

Public - 8 public attendees present

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sue Dunlop introduced herself as acting Superintendent for the West cluster and the Chair of this Accommodation Review. She explained that the Committee will conduct the presentation this evening and there will be a portion of the evening dedicated to public feedback.

2. Overview of Accommodation Review Process

Melanie Holjak provided the group with an overview of the Accommodation Review process including the ARC mandate, committee membership, reference criteria, the two types of meetings (Working Group and Public), where we are in the process (Community review phase), and why accommodation reviews are being conducted across HWDSB.

Next Public Meeting –January 22nd 2013 – Bell-Stone Elementary – 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

All Accommodation Review Committee Meetings are open to the public

3. Work Completed by Accommodation Review Committee

Melanie explained the work that the Accommodation Review Committee has done since the last public meeting including requested capital information, 2 school tours, and an analysis of public feedback. In addition, the ARC has begun creating their recommendations.

4. Accommodation Review Committee Options

Theresa Weylie explained the current situation (boundary maps, enrolment, and utilization). She explained that the Committee has created two options.

Alyson Brave presented Option 1:

Close Bell-Stone in June 2015; amalgamate into Mount Hope in Sept 2015. Capital renovations would include an FDK addition, renovated washrooms (completed by September 2015), update parking lot to accommodate buses and parent traffic and resurfacing the playground. She noted that bringing Bell-Stone students to Mount Hope would result in 100% utilization by 2015 for this review area. Some of the pros to this option include; it meets reference criteria, capital renovations could be completed before students come, and provides longer transition time for students. She explained some possible cons to the option including; waiting a year could reduce Bell-Stone enrolment even further, concerns about morale at Bell-Stone, concerns about availability of programming and extracurricular activities, could build more anxiety in students by waiting a year, and difficulty staffing Bell-Stone.

Theresa Weylie presented Option 2:

Close in Bell-Stone in June 2014; amalgamate into Mount Hope in Sept 2014. Capital renovations would include renovated washrooms, expansion of gymnasium, and an addition of an FDK room. The Committee would like to include a recommendation to have the secondary boundaries (New South Secondary and Ancaster High) reviewed. This option would also result in 100% utilization for the review area. Some of the pros to this option include; it meets reference criteria, there would be more staff, programs, extracurricular activities, it may relieve some anxiety by not waiting a year, and a transition committee could be struck at any point. The cons include; the timeline is short and capital renovations would not necessarily be completed by 2014.

5. Facilitated Group Discussion

Alyson Brave explained that everyone will be split into 2 and each group will have a facilitator to take notes. She pointed out that there are packages available on your tables that include the options that were presented to you, the reference criteria and two questions for feedback. The questions asked of the public are as follows:

1. Are there any additional pros and cons to both options?
2. A transition committee will be struck: What do you think would make the transition easier?

After the small group discussions, Sue Dunlop asked if there were further questions.

Q1) After the ARC figures out their option, do all the Trustees have a vote?

A1) The ARC will make their recommendation and it is sent to Board staff to review. Board staff will then reevaluate their initial recommendation. Both the ARC recommendation and Staff recommendation will be presented to Trustees. There is then a period of public delegation. Following this, the all the Trustees will vote.

Q2) Have the public delegations made a difference in Trustee decisions in the past?

A2) Trustee Johnstone noted that it certainly made a difference in her mind. She explained that the Trustees try to take everything into consideration and really appreciate the public opinions presented to them during this phase.

6. Next Steps

- Next Working Group Meeting - December 11, 2013 at Mount Hope 6-9 p.m.
The ARC will be looking at all the information received at Public Meeting #3, for consideration. They will formulate their final recommendation at this meeting.
- Next Public Meeting #4 – January 22, 2013 at Bell-Stone 6-9 p.m.
The ARC will present their final recommendation.

7. Adjournment

Sue Dunlop thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22p.m.