

**West Flamborough Accommodation Review Committee
Working Group Meeting # 8
Wednesday, January 29, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

**Spencer Valley Elementary School
441 Old Brock Road, Greensville, ON**

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair - Mag Gardner

Voting Members - Sara Ardiel, Karen Baille, Pamela Beach, John Belanger, Tania Brittain, Kristin Glasbergen, Cairine Grantham, Brett Humphrey, Anthony Hunter, Rachel Kott, Patti Lee, Callie Matthews, Shelley McGuire, Stephanie Munro, Marguerite Richer, Heather Ryan, Melissa Slote, Janine Vandenheuval, Sue VanEgdom, David Wardell

Non-Voting Members - Stewart Cameron, Doug Dunford, Kate Fischer, Eddie Grattan, Kim Short, Karen Turkstra

Regrets

Voting Members - Jessica Dymont, Candice Goodale, Colleen Evans

Non-Voting Members - Nil

Resource Staff

Bob Fex

Recording Secretary

Kathy Forde

Public - 1 public attendee was present - Dundana (1)

1. Call to Order

Mag Gardner called the meeting to order and reflected on the amazing efforts and progress to date. Karen Turkstra expressed appreciation to everyone for their time, energy, attendance and professionalism throughout the ARC review process for West Flamborough.

2. Agenda

2.1 Additions/Deletions

Nil

2.2 Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved.

3. Minutes from Working Group Meeting # 7

3.1 Clarification

Nil

3.2 Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved by consensus.

4. Minutes from Public Meeting # 4

4.1 Clarification

Nil

4.2 Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved by consensus.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence received and reviewed. No comments.

6. Questions for Clarification

Financial Summary

Bob Fex walked members through the most recent financial summary on the options moving forward. Details for the Staff Option did not change. Part 1 represents the west section. Part 2 represents the east section. Details are estimated and provided for discussion purposes only. Administration savings are calculated for a one-year period only. Operational savings relate to expenditures for the operation and maintenance of a school including heating, lighting, cleaning and routine maintenance. Differences in savings between closures and new builds were explained to ensure clarity.

Ministry benchmarks were raised. Clarification was requested for the line item reading 'Allowance to Meet Ministry Benchmarks'. It was explained that all schools in all HWDSB accommodation reviews currently underway are being visited to capture rooms that do not meet ministry standards. This exercise was to proactively capture any 'incidental' capital costs that could potentially arise should construction renovations be the direction given by Trustees as per accommodation options.

Karen Turkstra added that from a trustee perspective, estimated total renewal costs are reflected in the financial summary but the total savings are not. This information will be important when evaluating options in terms of value to the students, Board, community and economy. Proceeds to disposition estimates seem to be very conservative.

Member Contribution

Mag Gardner had invited members to share personal thoughts since the last meeting. Comments were consolidated and provided in a handout for information. It will be important to aim for consensus and for members to settle within a comfort zone once the process is complete. It is essential that all members feel they have contributed and that the best decision has evolved with the best collective thinking given the information and timeline provided. An opportunity was provided for members to review the handout, highlight any items of particular interest and share thoughts amongst members. It is important for everyone to be part of the conversation and to ensure discussions add value to the decisions made.

7. Finalize Committee Options

7.1 Discussion of ARC Options

To identify preferences for options going forward the methodology for voting was discussed. Voting would be done by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is considered necessary. Quorum tonight was confirmed at 11 members.

Committee Option - Part 1: West Section

Close Beverly Central & Dr. Seaton schools. Build a new JK to 8 school with a capacity of 350 in partnership with the City of Hamilton at the Beverly Community Centre.

Contingency if Community Centre is not attainable:

Close Beverly Central & Dr. Seaton schools. Build a new JK to 8 school with a capacity of 350 on the Beverly Central school site.

Vote - Do we wish to open this option up for discussion - (6) votes

- Did not pass
- Will not open for discussion - option considered clean

Committee Option - Part 2: East Section

Close Greenville, Millgrove, and Spencer Valley schools. Build a new JK to 8 school with a capacity of 525 on the Spencer Valley site.

or

Close Greenville & Spencer Valley schools and build a new JK to 8 school with a capacity 350 on the Spencer Valley site. Millgrove School remains status quo and remains as a Spencer Valley feeder school for grades 6-8.

Vote - Explore using the Greensville site for the new school (8) votes YES / (11) votes NO

- Did not pass
- No further discussion required

Vote - Do we feature one portion as a preference and not show them as equal options - do we wish to open this up for discussion - (11) votes YES

- Prefer to display preference
- Presenting only one option would appear as a more confident option
- Should avoid looking “wishy-washy”
- Important to rank between the two possibilities
- There is value in ranking but feel we have agreement
- Should look at a central site
- Should vote if we change location
- If convey a preference from this committee it shows a certainty and it is a more assertive stand
- Strategically, members wondered if it is better to have a preferred option
- Karen Turkstra noted that from a trustee perspective, one option portrays a community preference and two options portrays either selection would be acceptable. If two options are submitted it is the trustees who ultimately decide on the option that moves forward

Vote - Preference for whether there are preferences articulated in Part 2 - (13) votes YES

- Thoughts on location were shared
- Millgrove parents want to keep their school open
- Public feels it is one school (Millgrove) versus two (Greensville, Spencer Valley)
- People want a central location
- Brock Road is a zigzag so many stops are required meaning a 45-minute bus ride for some
- The Freulton community is feeling separated from Spencer Valley
- To add a new location without public input would be deceptive
- A central location could be the Millgrove Library which is closing, or the baseball park or the possibility of residential property

Vote - Do you want to discuss a central location - (11) votes YES

- Perhaps the second part of the option should read “the alternative would be in a central location to be determined”
- Good idea in some ways to address distance as a public concern but when building a school for all three communities in the east two thirds of the population would be coming from a certain area so increased busing would be needed - proximity needs to be considered
- What would benefit the majority of students
- Since we have Spencer Valley and Greensville as good potential locations why would you look at a new location

- I understand Greenville is not wanting to give up their location but that community is also reluctant to consider other locations
- Perhaps consider the North Wentworth Arena at Hwy 5 & 6
- To build a 500 school with declining enrolment seems to be ineffective
- Are we being equitable - seems the idea of busing times is being over-discussed versus how the west section was discussed

Vote - Does the ARC want to recommend a central location as part of its language - (4) votes YES

- Did not pass
- No further discussion on a central location
- Put the new school on an existing site without any preference then let trustees decide
- Between the three schools Spencer Valley has the most land
- Looking at public input from Greenville it may not be fair to disregard community interest
- Greenville is that much farther than other locations
- If all schools are united in one building it will benefit the kids by having full-time principals, expert teachers, more resources, better extra-curricular activities, etc. - if Millgrove remains status quo and enrolment drops the impact on students and staff will be not be good
- I have a JK son on the bus for 45 minutes and it is o.k. and is something the family realized when moving to this area
- A long bus ride may not be good for 3-year olds with small bladders

Vote - Would you want the first part to read “on an existing site [Spencer Valley, Millgrove, Greenville]” - (4) votes YES

- Did not pass
- No further discussion required

Members discussed their preferences for voting on Part 2 and agreed to secret ballot.

Vote - Preference between (A) and (B) portion of Part 2 (by secret ballot)

(A) Close Greenville, Millgrove, and Spencer Valley schools. Build a new JK to 8 school with a capacity of 525 on the Spencer Valley site - **(16) votes**

(B) Close Greenville & Spencer Valley schools and build a new JK to 8 school with a capacity 350 on the Spencer Valley site. Millgrove School remains status quo and remains as a Spencer Valley feeder school for grades 6-8 - **(4) votes**

Part A will be considered as the preference with Part B considered as the contingency.

8. Committee Draft Report

Volunteers will be needed to scrutinize and edit the report. Over the course of the week the report will be finalized to ensure content accurately reflects committee discussions and preferences. The complete report that goes to the Director will include all binder content and appendices. Volunteers include Janine Vandenneuval (Beverly Central), Stephanie Munro (Dr. Seaton), Kristin Glasbergen (Greenville), Anthony Hunter (Millgrove), Tania Brittain (Spencer Valley).

The Committee Report will be provided to all members once complete.

The Staff Report will be provided to members once it is made public. An email will be sent with the link included for quick access.

9. Next Steps - Final Report Submission

Members will be informed when the date is confirmed for presentation to the Board of Trustees and on the procedures for delegations.

Karen Turkstra noted that the Working Group meetings are now complete so the role of committee members is done. What happens in the days ahead will not be about who wins but will move forward based on the process in a positive format that includes final public consultation through the delegations.

In closing, Mag Gardner noted that members entered the process as individuals and evolved as a committee. Appreciation was extended for a job well done.

The draft minutes were reviewed at the end of the meeting and approved by consensus.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Handouts

- Agenda
- Presentation
- Draft Minutes - Working Group Meeting # 7
- Draft Minutes - Public Meeting # 4
- Correspondence
- Financial Summary