



Accommodation Review Orientation Session
January 13, 2016 - 6:00 pm
Education Centre, 20 Education Court, Hamilton, ON Room EC-201C

Minutes

Attendance:

East Hamilton City 2 - Elizabeth Bagshaw, Glen Brae, Glen Echo, Lake Avenue, Sir Isaac Brock, Sir Wilfred Laurier - Committee Members (7), Principals (5)
Lower Stoney Creek - Collegiate Avenue, Eastdale, Green Acres, Memorial Stoney Creek, Mountain View, R.L. Hyslop - Committee Members (14), Principals (5)
HWDSB Staff - David Anderson, Robert Fex, Jeff Gillies, Ian Hopkins, Pam Reinholdt, Ellen Warling
Trustees - Todd White
Public - Nil
Recording Secretary - Kathy Forde

1. Welcome and Introductions

Pam Reinholdt, Superintendent of Transitions, welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided introductions. The purpose of the orientation session is to provide an overview on how the process will unfold.

Jeff Gillies gave opening remarks noting the process provides opportunities for learning and for collaborative work to make positive and productive decisions in honour of HWDSB students. Jeff will serve as Superintendent of Student Achievement and will Chair both committees to facilitate discussions.

Trustee Todd White provided an overview of the process underway on Accommodation Reviews for East Hamilton City 2 and Lower Stoney Creek school communities. In essence, the current exercise is a planning activity to take advantage of investment opportunities and to design our school communities with the facilities and programming desired. The current process has been refined since past practice and policy has been updated. Each cluster under review includes six schools and will be led by the work of Advisory Committees members. Ultimately, the goal is to advise the Board of Trustees and provide the best collective thinking on how to design the schools within each cluster. Committees will contemplate the impacts around possible school consolidation, closure, revitalization or rebuilds. The timeline includes opportunities for public consultation and delegations. Decisions are targeted for completion by June 2016. HWDSB staff will be available to provide resource support. Trustees Todd White (East Hamilton City 2) and Jeff Beattie (Lower Stoney Creek) will also be available as needed.

Handouts provided (presentation/draft meeting schedules/binders). Updates will be posted regularly on the HWDSB website for public information. Minutes will be taken at the meetings to record main discussion points. Sign-in sheets will be used for attendance.



2. Presentation

Bob Fex presented an overview of the process including timelines, school facilities, key documents, key criteria, guiding principles, mandate, committee composition, committee role, resource supports, information/data requests and meetings. Essentially, through a provincial review process, school groupings are examined and solutions are recommended to address issues around excess capacity due to low enrolment, enrolment pressure, school facility condition issues and facility needs. Approximately 3,000 vacant seats currently exist. Ministry policy and directives are common to all School Boards within the province. Working group meetings and public consultation will take place from January to April 2016. Delegations, decisions and final proposals to the Ministry are expected to occur May to June 2016. Resource staff are involved to support the process and committee work that will unfold.

Ian Hopkins highlighted formats for the working group and public meetings. Draft meeting schedules and binders were reviewed. In terms of next steps, to prepare for the first working group meeting, committee members should examine binder content and draft meeting dates. Comments and questions will be addressed at the first meeting. Engagement and community voice will be an important part of the process.

3. Questions & Answers

Q1. What time do these meetings take place?

A1. Meetings will run from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Childcare will be provided at the public meetings.

Q2. How many committees exist and do they interact?

A2. There are currently two separate committees (East Hamilton City 2 and Lower Stoney Creek). Members are free to share information across committees.

Q3. Are community representatives still to be identified?

A3. A community representative for East Hamilton City 2 has now been identified. A community representative for Lower Stoney Creek has not come forward. A community representative brings a different lens to the table and allows the process to include a wide scope of views. Community reps should not have any children attending any HWDSB schools.

4. Closing Remarks

Todd White reminded members they do have ownership over the process so to ensure any concerns are raised. Pam Reinholdt reiterated that the working groups would have an opportunity to review draft schedules and determine meeting dates. When schedules are confirmed, dates will be posted on the HWDSB website and can be shared with school communities. Public attendees are welcomed to attend working group meetings as observers.

The session adjourned at 7:15 p.m.