



**East Hamilton City 2 Accommodation Review
Public Meeting #1
February 04, 2016 - 6:00 pm
Glendale Secondary School, 145 Rainbow Drive, Hamilton, ON (Cafeteria)**

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members - Lisa Corsini, Tamara Cummings, Jeff Gillies (Chair), Lisa Hardie, Drazena Hidalgo, Sasha Kajganic, Laura Neubrand, Suzie Spelic, Terri Trimble, Marissa Turner, Meagan Walker

Committee Member Regrets - Cherie Evans, Judy Kloosterman

HWDSB Resource Staff - John Bradley, Anegret Cucuz, Robert Faulkner, Bob Fex, Sherry Halla, Susan Jackson Boshier, Rhonda Moules, Jackie Penman, Pam Reinholdt, Mark Tadeson, Curtis Tye

Trustees - Ray Mulholland, Todd White

Public - 18 Public Attendees - A.M. Cunningham (2); Elizabeth Bagshaw (1); Glen Brae (2); Glen Echo (6); Hamilton Community News (1); Neighbours (3); Affiliation unspecified (3)

Recording Secretary - Kathy Forde

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jeff Gillies welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided introductions. The forum provides an opportunity for communities to understand the process, review information, view options being considered and provide feedback. All aspects of the review process are posted to the website for public information at www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews

Todd White provided greetings upon arrival. The work ahead has purposeful intent and there is much opportunity to explore options for the six schools under review. Each school is approximately 50 years old. Funds are currently available for school investment. It is an interesting process. The Advisory Committee has an opportunity to consider public feedback and will provide advice to trustees on how people wish to design their school communities. Community input is essential.

Interpreters were available (Arabic, Pujabi, Serbian, Urdu) to assist public attendees if needed.

2. Overview of Accommodation Review Process

An accommodation review process is the procedure used by school boards to examine schools and recommend solutions on issues around excess capacity, enrolment, facility conditions and facility needs. Advisory committees are formed to assist in reviewing possibilities and providing community insight. The role of the Advisory Committee is essentially to provide advice. Final decisions are made by the Board of Trustees. An orientation session was held in January to inform Advisory Committee members on how the process would unfold. All information from the orientation meeting is available on the Board website. The final proposal to the Ministry is expected by June 2016.



3. Summary of Initial Report

Bob Fex provided an overview of the Initial Report, which was submitted to the Board of Trustees on December 7, 2015. Details focused on school information profiles, key criteria, mapping, enrolment projections, cost comparisons and funding. Key criteria centres on conditions that support student achievement, student well-being, financial viability and guiding principles under the Long Term Facilities Master Plan. The Ministry mandated that an initial option, or recommendation, be developed as a starting point. Ministry funding provided the opportunity to secure consultants to examine the schools and provide feasibility summaries and estimated costing of accommodation options. The scope focused on accessibility, benchmark, and renewal.

The Initial Recommended Option was presented. Boundaries, walking distances and enrolment projections were reviewed.

Recommended Option

- Build a new JK-8 school on Glen Brae site - anticipated occupancy Sep 2019
 - New school to accommodate programs from Glen Brae, Glen Echo, and approximately 27% students from Sir Isaac Brock
- Additions to Lake Avenue and Sir Wilfrid Laurier - anticipated occupancy Sep 2019
- Close Elizabeth Bagshaw, existing Glen Brae, Glen Echo, Sir Isaac Brock - anticipated Jun 2019
- New Construction - 650 pupil place dual tract JK-8 school on Glen Brae site - anticipated opening Sep 2019
- Addition - 8 classroom addition at Lake Avenue - anticipated opening Sep 2019
- Addition - 6 classroom, 2 FDK, 2 resource rooms at Sir Wilfrid Laurier - anticipated opening Sep 2019

An Alternative Option, developed by staff as a second scenario was also presented. Details focused on boundaries, walking distances and enrolment projections.

Alternative Option

- Rebuild Glen Brae - anticipated occupancy Sep 2019
- Repatriate Elizabeth Bagshaw students from Sir Wilfrid Laurier back to Elizabeth Bagshaw - anticipated occupancy Sep 2019
 - Approximately 18% of students that reside in Elizabeth Bagshaw's attendance boundary attend Sir Wilfrid Laurier (based on 3 year average)
- New Construction - 800 pupil place dual tract JK-8 school on Glen Brae site - anticipated opening Sep 2019

Status Quo

- A scenario with no changes is a third option for consideration.

A cost comparison was presented to illustrate estimates between the Recommended Option (\$31M) and Alternative Option (\$35M). Through School Consolidation Capital Funds, \$750M has been earmarked province-wide over four years to support related work. In year one, HWDSB received approximately \$19M. School Renewal Funding is also available, which supports the operations, maintenance and repair of schools. HWDSB received approximately \$19.5M this year to address the renewal needs of all schools within HWDSB. The 'system-wide' renewal needs are extensive and challenging given the 'limited' funds and amount of renewal.



Proposed timelines were also reviewed in terms of review, funding and construction phases. An anticipated date of September-December 2019 was provided as an occupancy date in order to illustrate the estimated construction time lines of the accommodation options.

Jeff Gillies reiterated that the options presented have been developed as a starting point for discussion and consideration. The Advisory Committee has a growing desire to look at a hybrid option so work continues. It is an extensive task. Community input and guidance from the Advisory Committee will be essential.

4. Interactive Review of Options

Attendees were invited to circulate among the three options posted and provide comments and input on the pros and cons of each. Committee members were available to answer any questions. Everyone regrouped to share comments and raise any concerns in an open dialogue format.

5. Closing Questions and Discussion

Q. If schools are closed and go up for sale, what happens to the vacant lands and buildings? Is there any consideration for future growth, new housing development and the need for future space? Perhaps vacant schools should not be sold in case of future need.

A. Properties no longer required are normally put up for sale to a list of preferred agents and if no interest is expressed then to the open market. However, vacant properties could be retained for future use. In recent conversations with trustees and City Councillors, thoughts were shared around retaining property for future growth should the population rebound. When a school closes and is sold on the open market, the property often turns into new development. There are many factors to consider in conjunction with the City. A number of options could produce various results. This comment regarding consideration of future growth is an example of advice the Advisory Committee can provide to trustees.

Q. Any consideration for French Immersion?

A. We have a solid French Immersion program with a very large catchment area. We are monitoring numbers, considering long-term planning and looking at French Immersion as part of the Elementary Program Strategy that is currently being developed. The Strategy will undergo a consultative process. We can work through the Advisory Committees for Lower Stoney Creek and for East Hamilton, if the need arises for the two review groups to meet.

Q. Are projections based on a dual tract school at Glen Brae and not on a new program?

A. Yes, correct.

Q. I went to a K-8 school and my children went to middle school. Why is the Board switching back and forth and now going back to a K-8 model?

A. There is an emphasis from the Ministry on the K-8 model. Perspective around a K-8 school is that from the beginning students remain in one location until grade 8 graduation then move to the secondary level. By reducing transitions, stability and continuity are created for the student. Research on grade structure and school size has produced mixed reviews. There is no solid evidence that indicates one model provides better student success over another. Evidence only indicates that reduced transition produces greater student success. Previously we could fill all schools with various grades but with declining enrolment that is no longer the case. We do recognize that a K-8 school may be ideal in some cases but not all cases. It depends on numbers in the community as to which facilities



can be filled and what grades are offered. A K-8 facility tends to be more flexible. The Board leans towards the preferred K-8 model but is open to community voice. This type of forums allows community voice to be heard

Q. Regarding the Recommended Option, the impact on Lake Avenue School is a concern. The negative impact on a small catchment is a concern. Is anything missing? Seems the Alternative Option creates a homogenous school, which could create problems whereas the Recommended Option is more open.

A. The pros and cons listed are the views and opinions of the Advisory Committee members. All views related to Lake Avenue School will be considered. Everyone will have a different perspective.

Q. With the Alternative Option looking at a super school, I am concerned about the allocation of dollars to special needs kids - in big schools these kids sometimes fall through the cracks.

A. We do provide appropriate programming for all students regardless of the school - we are committed to supporting all students.

Q. When they close schools and kids are on buses sometimes bus rides are very lengthy especially for little ones - schools should be within walking distances - kids should not be bused - children need physical activity - big schools do not permit walking for everyone - inclement weather must be considered for the little ones walking to school.

A. Comments on walkability versus bus transportation are noted. Percentages of students bused are comparable: status Quo Option - 17% bused / Recommended Option - 11% bused / Alternative Option - 20% bused.

Comments

- With bigger schools there are more opportunities for activities and extra-curricular activities - there are also more people to help out with the kids
- You cannot eliminate busing - also, many kids who can walk still get driven

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next Meetings

- Working Group #3 - Thursday, February 18, 2016 6:00 pm - Sir Wilfrid Laurier
- Public Meeting #2 - Thursday, April 14, 2016 6:00 pm - Glendale



East Hamilton City 2 Accommodation Review Public Meeting #1 Public Feedback

Initial Report Recommended Option

Pros

- Playground/extra-curricular grounds outside - space outdoors allows for this
- High school student involvement at elementary school
- Larger parking space for new Glen Brae
- Proper music teaching room - bigger rooms in general

Cons

- No comments

Additional Comments

- Glen Brae - close to buses and new bus system (GO)
- Love the high school can be involved with the K-8
- Bigger kids picking up younger siblings
- Family connected "Glen" schools
- French Immersion program will include this high school
- After new Glen Brae was built, it would be unacceptable to lose any green space
- Area changing - new GO station coming - families moving into existing homes
- Why do we not look at encompassing all students in the area - why not work with the Catholic Board - less competition to more cooperation
- Nutrition program continued?
- What about the possibility of having a split evenly with K-6 schools and 7-12?
- Child care?
- What is the option for a daycare based in the school for new Glen Brae?
- How will traffic be considered during school hours? Where will buses park?
- We will lose green space in the Glen Echo/Brae area
- Is there enough green space at Laurier to accommodate the revised school? I understand that a new housing development will be built on the old Bishop Ryan site
- What is/will be the consideration given to the PFLC program currently running at Lake Avenue? The space is already small - with addition of families, a larger space/programming for PFLC?
- Parking capacity at new Glen Brae?



Initial Report Alternative Option

Pros

- Community feel of school and support for special needs
- Parking - travel - ability to navigate around the schools
- I have six kids (one in Glen Brae, four at Sir Isaac Brock, one going Sep 2016) so if possible building a new school at same place would be appreciated

Cons

- Busing - I think we are going in the wrong direction - we should be thinking into the future and reduce the need of school buses - with the overall lack of physical activity our young students get - walking distances should be walkable, most of the school year could have unpleasant weather

Additional Comments

- No comments

Status Quo

Pros

- No comments

Cons

- No comments

Additional Comments

- No comments