



**East Hamilton City 2 Accommodation Review
Working Group Meeting #5
March 22, 2016 - 6:00 pm
Sir Isaac Brock Elementary School, 130 Greenford Drive, Stoney Creek, ON (Library)**

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members - Lisa Corsini, Tamara Cummings, Jeff Gillies (Chair), Drazena Hidalgo, Sasha Kajganic, Judy Kloosterman, Laura Neubrand, Terri Trimble, Meagan Walker

Committee Member Regrets - Cherie Evans, Lisa Hardie, Suzie Spelic, Marissa Turner,

HWDSB Resource Staff - Anegret Cucuz, Robert Faulkner, Sarah Goodman, Sherry Halla, Susan Jackson Bosher, Rhonda Moules, Pam Reinholdt, Mark Tadeson, Curtis Tye,

Trustees - Ray Mulholland, Todd White

Public - 3 public attendees present

Recording Secretary - Kathy Forde

1. Welcome

Jeff Gillies welcomed everyone and provided opening remarks. Sarah Goodman was introduced as the new Principal of Lake Avenue replacing Anegret Cucuz upon her retirement March 31. Terri Trimble will be moving to Cootes Paradise but will remain on the committee as work nears the final stages.

2. Review & Approve Minutes

Working Group Meeting #4 - Minutes accepted without any changes. Members concurred.

3. WG #4 Meeting Discussion

The role of the Advisory Committee was reviewed.

Consensus Points

Consensus points as discussed at the last meeting were reviewed:

- Close Elizabeth Bagshaw School
- Build addition on Sir Wilfrid Laurier School. Recommend expanding Sir Wilfrid Laurier gymnasium to reflect projected student population
- Adjust boundaries for Sir Wilfrid Laurier School to alleviate enrolment pressures. Build a new school consolidating Glen Brae, Glen Echo and Sir Isaac Brock (location to be determined)
- Build addition on Lake Avenue School
- Adjust Lake Avenue School boundary to include Kenora neighbourhood. Recommend bus transportation for families in Kenora neighbourhood to travel to Lake Avenue School

Some concern remains around Kenora families moving to Lake Avenue. Kenora families reside in a high needs poverty stricken area. Moving will add stress to families and to staff.



Glen - Brock Site Discussion

Considerations focus on the impact to students, walkability, shared space (auditorium, playing fields, track, etc.) and land space (Glen site 18.5 acres / Sir Isaac Brock site 7 acres). Further thoughts were shared:

Glen Site - Some members consider the Glen site as the logical solution

- more space to build
- The majority of walkers would be in the Glen area
- Students eventually come into the area to attend Glendale
- Working families and single families would appreciate the school drop off and pickup convenience where elementary and secondary students are closer together on one large site

Brock Site - Other members believe the Brock site is best

- land space is sufficient
- students do not need to be housed beside Glendale just to use the auditorium
- 1800 elementary and secondary kids in one area (Glen site) is a lot

General Comments

- If students from the Kenora neighbourhood are bused, it does not matter so much which school they attend
- Students who meet requirements for transportation would be bused
- Disheartening to see anything in the existing areas change - do not want to separate kids
- It is a difficult decision - members want the best for all students and wish for kids to strive

It is recognized that the committee is not in agreement on a preferred location, which is fine. Preference for moving forward at this point involves a new build (Glen Brae, Glen Echo, Sir Isaac Brock into one JK-8 school) but with the location between the Glen site or Sir Isaac Brock site still to be determined. Each perspective can be captured in the advice that goes forward to trustees to identify the issues that are important to the families and school communities. Committee members will assist in crafting the points of interest that will be included in the report and will have an opportunity to scrutinize the draft report. Final decisions will be made by trustees. Members concurred.

4. Another Accommodation Option - Discussion

From discussions at the last meeting, a new scenario was requested and reviewed. Members shared thoughts on whether this would be a viable option.

Scenario for Working Group Meeting # 5 (JK-5/6-8 model)

Close Elizabeth Bagshaw into Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Glen Echo into Sir Isaac Brock

Sir Isaac Brock remains a JK-5 and now offers French Immersion 1-5

- Renovation/Addition - (268 + 207 = 475 OTG)
 - 9 classroom addition (207)

Glen Brae remains a 6-8 English & FI school

- New build - 575 pupil place 6-8 school on Glen Brae site
- Sir Wilfrid Laurier English 6-8 attend Glen Brae

Sir Wilfrid Laurier becomes JK-5 school

- Renovation/Addition

Lake Avenue remains status quo - no boundary change



Comments

- This option represents a good balance of numbers between schools
- Numbers include FI students from Stoney Creek
- Comparing study areas is not an easy task - East Hamilton and Lower Stoney Creek are different communities
- Members are cognizant of the needs of the various communities
- Student population is higher in the East Hamilton study area versus Lower Stoney Creek
- Small schools are becoming a rarity
- This scenario requires a lot of busing
- French Immersion is an item of interest but is outside the scope of this Advisory Committee and falls under the Elementary Program Strategy, which is currently being developed. There is currently no FI in lower Stoney Creek. The strategy is recommending locations around the city. FI will likely remain within the East Hamilton community. East Hamilton will have to work with the FI numbers that are currently available.
- Lake Avenue is perceived as a large low socio-economic school and as a transitional school with minimum “roots” in the community. In response, the principal believes Lake Avenue is no longer the transitional school it once was. Over the last few years, the school has gained a solid population with little influx. The community is happy in this location and wants to remain.
- The concern of having many poor kids reside in one school (Lake Avenue) is recognized. Perhaps the school could pursue more government assistance and programs considering the need at the school.
- A new build provides the possibility of securing more money in comparison to renewal dollars but this grade structure is a challenging model and may impact the business case in terms of feasibility and acceptance
- The FCI is a factor to consider when pursuing a new build
- Services for special needs follow the student regardless of school
- This would keep Kenora kids at Sir Isaac Brock for JK-5 then to Glen Brae for 6-8
- Some parents walk their kids to school and others do not
- Easier for parents to get kids on a bus than walking
- Kids would not be on the bus for lengthy ride times
- May have a negative impact on the family structure where older siblings walk younger siblings to school
- Do not like all the transportation in terms of cost and environment
- Many parents are driving their children and streets are already congested - larger schools with extra students are expected to increase congestion - Sir Wilfrid Laurier is currently challenged with traffic
- Members have mixed opinions

It is recognized that the committee has struggled throughout the process in terms of achieving an easy or best solution from a challenging situation. Appreciation was extended to committee members for their many efforts and ideas throughout the process. Each school is unique in its own individual way. Members are looking at student needs and are somewhat protecting their own school communities but do need to look ahead to the future with forward thinking to allow our students to flourish.

Trustee White also noted that the committee cannot agree on one recommendation so suggested that providing advice may be the best approach for moving forward. There is value in each scenario. Itemizing the committee's best thinking will assist trustees in making decisions. Perhaps a tiered approach or sections on various scenarios should be considered as the format with advice and questions highlighted for each.



Numbers seem to be a point of interest. As such, members suggested that prospects for funding may be better if four JK-8 schools were presented, preferably around the parameters of a Glen, Lake Avenue, Sir Isaac Brock and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. At the next meeting, a new scenario with four schools around the size of 500 will be explored with initial information first before in-depth analysis and costing are provided. If there is no consensus the committee will work towards parameters (advice) for trustees. Members concurred.

5. Joint East Hamilton-Lower Stoney Creek Meeting

An open invitation was extended to committee members to participate in a tour of Gatestone Elementary School and joint discussions with Lower Stoney Creek on March 23, 2016.

6. Planning for Public Meeting

Final thoughts to prepare for the Public Meeting will be discussed at the next Working Group Meeting. The date for the Public Meeting will change to April 11, 2016 as Pam Reinholdt and Jeff Gillies cannot attend the April 14 date originally scheduled. Public participants are welcomed to attend to express thoughts and provide input.

7. Adjournment

The session adjourned at 8:00 p.m.