



**East Hamilton City 2 Accommodation Review
Working Group Meeting #6
April 05, 2016 - 6:00 pm
Lake Avenue Elementary School, 157 Lake Ave N, Hamilton, ON (Library)**

Minutes

Attendance

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

Committee Member Regrets - Cherie Evans, Marissa Turner

HWDSB Resource Staff - John Bradley, Robert Faulkner, Bob Fex, Sarah Goodman, Sherry Halla, Susan Jackson Boshier, Rhonda Moules, Pam Reinholdt, Mark Tadeson, Curtis Tye, Ellen Warling

Trustees - Todd White

Public/Media - Nil

Recording Secretary - Kathy Forde

1. Welcome

Jeff Gillies welcomed everyone, provided opening remarks and reviewed the agenda.

2. Review & Approve Minutes

Working Group Meeting #5 - Minutes reviewed. The JK-5/6-8 scenario under Item 4 was discussed in terms of an addition versus new build for Sir Isaac Brock. The Chair indicated that discussions at Working Group Meeting #5 led to committee interest in a new four school JK-8 scenario, which would be presented tonight (Item 5 below). The JK-5/6-8 scenario could be revisited if necessary. Minutes accepted without any changes. Members concurred.

3. Review Meeting Protocols

To ensure discussions follow protocol, it was noted that the public are welcome to attend working group meetings as observers and to attend public meetings to provide input. Principal participation is in an advisory role.

4. Review Accommodation Option from WG #4 (three school model JK-8)

Following committee interest around a three school concept, this scenario was presented for further committee review:

Close Elizabeth Bagshaw, Glen Echo, Glen Brae and Sir Isaac Brock

Estimated construction required:

- New build - 800 pupil place JK-8 school on Glen Brae site (or Brock site - site to be determined)
- Renovation/Addition - Lake Avenue site (516 + 184 = 700 OTG)
 - 8 classroom addition (184)
- Renovation/Addition - Sir Wilfrid Laurier site (709 + 96 = 805 OTG)
 - 1 FDK room addition (26)
 - 2 classroom addition (46)
 - Resource spaces (24)



Details, boundaries, enrolment projections and costing were reviewed. French Immersion numbers are included (approximately 300 students overall). Capacity numbers were explained to provide an understanding of why OTG numbers are normally higher than enrolment numbers. Basically, each and every classroom needed by grade is not completely full to maximum capacity which creates the higher OTG number. It was noted that surplus properties can be sold, demolished, repurposed, used temporarily as holding schools or leased considering return on investment. When properties are sold, proceeds from disposition (sales) go towards renewal. External interest is often expressed in properties for sale. Comments on the pros and cons for this scenario are noted below under Item 6.

5. Review Accommodation Option for WG #6 (four school model JK-8)

From committee interest around a four school concept and consensus points, a second scenario was illustrated for committee review:

Close Elizabeth Bagshaw, Glen Brae and Glen Echo

Estimated construction required:

- New build - 550 pupil place JK-8 Eng/FI school on Glen Brae site
- Renovation/Addition - Sir Isaac Brock site Eng JK-8 (268 + 115 + 26 + 24 + = 433 OTG)
 - 5 classroom addition (115)
 - 1 FDK room addition (26)
 - 2 Resource spaces (24)
 - 1 Music room (0)
- Renovation/Addition - Sir Wilfrid Laurier site Eng JK-8 (709 + 96 + = 805 OTG)
 - 1 FDK room addition (26)
 - 2 classroom addition (46)
 - 2 Resource spaces (24)
- Lake Avenue - Status Quo Eng JK-8

Details, boundaries, enrolment projections and costing were reviewed. French Immersion would be located on the Glen Brae site. Numbers at Sir Wilfrid Laurier remain high due to location and geographical restrictions within the boundary. Comments on the pros and cons for this scenario are noted below under Item 6.

It was noted that during joint discussions on March 23, 2016 with the Lower Stoney Creek Advisory Committee, East Hamilton Advisory Committee members expressed some interest around the Riverdale community in terms of which school seems most appropriate for students living on Gainsborough Road to attend. Currently 30 students in this area are bused to Green Acres but East Hamilton members believe Lake Avenue School may be the logical choice because Lake Avenue is much closer and is walkable. A map was presented to illustrate student density in the area. Members were reminded that pockets of student populations near the perimeter of catchment areas will not always accommodate all interests. Any shift in students from Green Acres to Lake Avenue would impact secondary boundaries between Glendale and Orchard Park. However, interest raised is valid and East Hamilton members believe moving these kids to the nearest school is most logical. Further thoughts from the Lower Stoney Creek Advisory Group should be sought and considered. The committee can then determine if this item is worth pursuing and how to move forward with advice to trustees.

6. Discussion & Consensus

Scenarios for WG #4 (three school model) and WG #6 (four school model) were posted for members to view. Members provided comments on the pros (green sticky notes) and cons (yellow sticky notes) as follows:



Scenario for Working Group Meeting #4 (three school scenario JK-8)

Pros

- If busing for Kenora kids is approved, going to Lake Avenue makes sense
- Funds from sale of Sir Isaac Brock to support project?
- Glen Brae site for new build best option - Sir Isaac Brock site will be available for sale
- In terms of student locations (higher numbers), Glen Brae sight makes most sense
- Large school creates a bigger community, which could mean more opportunities
- Points previously discussed regarding larger schools still stand
- If French Immersion removed a smaller build would be appropriate and not have over-built schools - if French Immersion stays, more proportionate FI and English number of students
- Having new build at Glen site means the new school can still take advantage of volunteer high school students
- Rebuild on Glen site (bigger area)
- Reduced number of students being transported out of neighbourhood and reduced transportation cost
- Reduction in cost of human resources (admin/office/caretaking) and provides principal and vice-principal for schools

Cons

- Taking away from having two communities
- Don't like the crossing of Centennial Pkwy
- Students crossing Centennial Pkwy if buses aren't approved
- Three plus two special classes combo Elizabeth Bagshaw and Sir Wilfrid Laurier? Are we keeping? Very busy?
- The addition on Lake Avenue creates difficulty on the playground - I don't like the location of the planned addition
- Lake Avenue has already had lots of additions
- Too many children on one site (elementary/secondary)
- Too many kids on the Glen Brae site - too close to high school

Scenario for Working Group #6 (four school scenario JK-8)

Pros

- Makes sense to me
- Students not crossing Centennial Pkwy
- Not adding more low SES students to Lake Avenue
- Four schools with better balanced and lower enrolments
- Keeps the "Glen" community together
- Having new build at Glen Site means the new school can still take advantage of volunteer high school students
- Keeping kids in their own "small community" except Sir Wilfrid Laurier (not small)
- Keeps two communities together
- Low numbers spreading children out



Cons

- Four schools long-term maintenance and care does not make sense to me
- Very low savings on admin/caretaking staff
- Have to look at Lake Avenue (numbers) when Green Acres closes
- Concern for Glen site was smaller kids being near high school - Glen kids still by high school just not Sir Isaac Brock?
- Three plus two special classes combo Elizabeth Bagshaw and Sit Wilfrid Laurier? Are we keeping? Very busy?
- This makes a disproportionate number of FI students in Glen Brae site - 2/3 French to 1/3 English which opens a whole host of concerns
- Does this number of students provide admin/VP/office staff appropriate to students?
- If French Immersion moves will there be enough students to make the size worthwhile?

Pros and cons as written were reviewed. Members noted:

- Both scenarios offer points of interest so neither can be eliminated at this point
- Both scenarios will be presented at the Public Meeting
- Concern continues around getting kids from the Kenora neighbourhood over to Lake Avenue School

7. Planning for Public Meeting

The format for the upcoming public meeting will include an overview of the process, work completed, options explored, and draft report. Both the three school model and the four school model above will be presented at the public meeting. The meeting will be hosted by Ellen Warling and Robert Fex. Bus tickets and child minding are available upon request. Any need for interpreters must be communicated to Kathy Forde by April 08, 2016.

Following a request by one committee member, Corporate Communications will provide further communication to the school community in advance of the public meeting.

A final Working Group Meeting #7 was proposed for April 21 at Elizabeth Bagshaw as follow-up to the Public Meeting and to craft the final report that goes forward to trustees allowing committee members an opportunity to ensure all relevant points have been captured. Members concurred.

Delegation night takes place on May 16, 2016 at the HWDSB Board Office. Delegations provide another opportunity for the public to express any concerns to trustees.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next Meetings

- Public Meeting #2 - Thursday April 14, 2016 6:00p - Glendale
- Working Group Meeting #7 - Thursday April 21, 2016 6:00p - Elizabeth Bagshaw