



Lower Stoney Creek Accommodation Review Public Meeting #2

April 12, 2016 - 6:00 pm

Orchard Park Secondary School, 200 Dewitt Road, Stoney Creek, ON - Cafeteria

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members - Kim Adam, Heather Archibald, Jeff Gillies (Chair), Ljuba Lush, Monique Moore, Marilyn Murray, Joelle Narancic, Mubina Panju, Dave Quinn, Denise Rainford, Sarah Solter

Committee Member Regrets - Candice Babbey, Patrick Coulter, Irina Omari, Christine VanEgmond, Linda Wallace

HWDSB Resource Staff - Tara Gasparik, Ian Hopkins, Jackie Penman, Pam Reinholdt, Ellen Warling

Trustees - Jeff Beattie

Public/Media - 8 public attendees present - Councillor Maria Pearson (1); Collegiate (4); Green Acres (1); Mountain View (1); affiliation unidentified (1)

Recording Secretary - Kathy Forde

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jeff Gillies welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided opening remarks. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure an open and transparent process and to share information on the work underway. Introductions followed.

Jeff Beattie also provided opening remarks and expressed thanks to committee members and staff for their efforts and time towards the process. Community voice is essential. The meeting provides an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments.

2. Accommodation Review Process Update

The accommodation review is the process used by school boards to examine a grouping of schools in order to recommend solutions to address excess capacity due to low enrolment, enrolment pressures, school facility condition issues or facility needs. Information continues to be posted regularly on the Board website at www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews. The role of the Advisory Committee and timelines were reviewed. The Initial Report went to Trustees in December 2015. Advisory Committee meetings and public meetings were scheduled from January to April 2016. The Final Report and Public Delegations occur over April and May 2016. The final proposal will go to the Ministry by June 2016.

3. Recommended Option

The Initial Report Recommendation Option

- Rebuild Collegiate Avenue, Eastdale and Memorial (SC) - Anticipated occupancy September 2019
- Close Green Acres, Mountain View and R.L. Hyslop - Anticipated June 2019
- New Construction - 520 pupil place school on Collegiate Site anticipated opening September 2019
- New Construction - 460 pupil place school on Eastdale Site anticipated opening September 2019
- New Construction - 550 pupil place school on Memorial (SC) Site anticipated opening September 2019



Mapping, enrolment projections and costing were reviewed. Enrolment in the study area is stable. The cost estimate for new school construction including demolition and site preparation ranges from \$11M to \$13M.

Project timelines proposed include Phase 1: Accommodation Review (6 months); Phase 2: Funding Application Process (9-12 months); Phase 3: Pre-Construction (12-18 months); Phase 4: Construction (18 months); and Phase 5: Occupancy (Sep-Dec 2019).

The Recommended Option was preferred by the Advisory Committee based on the opportunities for improved programming and extra-curricular options for each school, equity of access for all students to new facilities, community access and availability of funding.

Options that generated little interest among committee members and the public are no longer being considered:

Alternative Option

- Close R.L. Hyslop in June 2018
 - Students residing west of Lake Avenue directed to Green Acres (34% of students)
 - Students residing east of Lake Avenue and west of Gray Street directed to Collegiate Avenue (20% of students)
 - Students residing east of Gray Street directed to Eastdale (46% of students)

Status Quo

- No changes

Funding details were explained. \$750M has been allocated province-wide over four years through School Consolidation Capital for new schools, retrofits and additions that support school consolidation. Separately, School Renewal grants are also available for school maintenance and repairs but funds are limited. In 2015, HWDSB received approximately \$19.5M toward renewal costs. However funds are used among all 103 HWDSB facilities. Proceeds from disposition (property sales) must go towards renewal for maintaining existing schools and cannot be used for new builds. All attempts will be made for accessing the funds that are available.

4. Key Themes from Public Meeting #1

Key themes that emerged from the first Public Meeting focused on transportation and student safety, class size, communication planning, funding and timing of new builds, and student transition. With the Recommended Option, it is estimated that 44 percent of students in the study area would be eligible for transportation which is a slight increase from the current 43 percent. A map was presented to illustrate walking distances for the Recommended Option. A reduction from six to three schools does not affect the overall percentage of walkers. Class size is mandated by the Ministry so increased enrolment does not translate to larger classes as may be perceived. In terms of communication, the Board's website will continue to be updated to ensure everyone is well informed on proposals, funding, transition, construction timelines and milestones. Regarding transition, the Advisory Committee will be requesting a public meeting for interim accommodation planning to discuss details around student transitions and provide families with another opportunity to raise concerns and provide input. The proposal for three new schools will be submitted as one business case. If full funding is not approved, the Ministry will indicate which schools are rebuilt. If this occurs, additional public meetings may be needed to discuss schedules, boundaries and transition. The Board would then reapply to fund the remaining school(s). If the entire business case is denied, the Board would reapply the following year and would continue to maintain existing facilities.



Trustee Beattie spoke on the Active and Sustainable School Transportation (ASST) initiative that is underway. Basically, in response to a growing trend over the last 25 years indicating that kids are not walking to school, the long-term health impact is being examined and plans are being developed for schools to promote a high degree of walkability that encourages kids to walk to school. Hamilton is included as a community partner and has participated in the pilot project to promote active and sustainable modes of school transportation. Further information is available on the website through Smart Commute Hamilton at <http://smartcommute.ca/hamilton/schools/> and Metrolinx at <http://www.metrolinx.com/en/projectsandprograms/schooltravel/SteppingItUpReportENG.pdf>.

5. Outline of Final Report to Trustees

The final report will include an executive summary, a section on community consultation, the recommended option and conclusion. The Advisory Committee will have an opportunity at the last working group meeting to review the final report before submission by the end of April 2016.

6. Next Step in Accommodation Review Process

- Final Working Group Meeting #7 - April 20, 2016 6:30 pm at Eastdale Elementary School
- Final Report submitted to trustees - late April 2016
- Public Delegations - May 16, 2016 at Education Centre (information will be posted to the Board website, in local newspapers and in letters home with students)
- Final Proposal to Ministry - June 2016

7. Questions and Answers

Q. If enrolment projections at each of three new schools averages 500 students, why is there a difference in costs between Eastdale and Memorial?

A. Cost is based on the size of the school constructed. The recommended options suggests 3 schools built with a capacity of 460, 520 and 550. The varying size creates a variation in estimated school costs.

Q. Hopefully the proposal is successful. With all the reviews underway throughout the city, how many new builds will be proposed overall?

A. Accommodation Reviews are underway this year for Lower Stoney Creek and for East Hamilton. Lower Stoney Creek will propose building three new schools. East Hamilton will likely propose building one new school.

Q. Are any problems anticipated with bids coming in for so many projects at the same time?

A. No problems are expected with bids. The bidding process is not limited to Hamilton. Several schools have been built simultaneously along with other projects such as the daycare initiative. The projects ahead might appear to be large big but are quite manageable in terms of construction. Many of the current projects underway will be completed by the time these builds are underway.

Q. If building on existing sites, where will kids be placed to ensure safety?

A. Each site is different. Some properties are large enough to allow construction while students remain onsite. Where this is not possible, students will need to be relocated during construction. The plan for interim transition will need to be developed.



Q. Essentially, some kids could experience two or three transitions by the time they arrive at their new school. Hopefully the temporary school locations will be based on home addresses to reduce the number of student transitions if possible. The transfer of students should be carefully considered so kids move only once before moving into their new school.

A. Ideally, students would be moved and uprooted as little as possible. For example, students at R.L. Hyslop would move only when their new school was ready. It would be more of a challenge at Collegiate. This is the reason for a transition committee. Discussion and planning will be essential to determine if students are relocated or put temporarily into portables. Transition details are yet to be determined. In keeping the best interests of the students and safety in mind, the goal will aim for minimal disruption to students.

Q. If only partial funding is approved, how is it decided which of the three new schools gets built? What happens if no funding is received?

A. If no funding is received, the Board would reapply as there are two windows each year through Capital Priorities Funding, which is typically for building new schools and school consolidation. A submission would be put forward each year until funding was received. With partial funding received, the Ministry would indicate which school(s) are to be built. The Board however will be submitting one business case pushing for three new schools as a group. The proposal could even be held back for six months and resubmitted as a group when timing may be better. If only one new school is funded, the Board will push for the next two.

Q. What is the breakdown of the \$750M in available funding over four years?

A. Approximately \$100M was given out in the first year. Currently, in year two, 11 accommodation reviews are underway across the province and two are taking place within the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

With no other questions raised, public attendees were invited to discuss any further concerns directly with resource staff or Trustee Beattie.

Jeff Gillies extended thanks to the Advisory Committee and staff for their continued efforts throughout the process and to public attendees for coming out to the meeting.

8. Adjournment

The session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.