



**Lower Stoney Creek Accommodation Review  
Public Meeting #1  
February 03, 2016 - 6:00 pm  
Orchard Park Secondary School, 200 DeWitt Road, Stoney Creek, ON**

## Minutes

### Attendance

**Committee Members** - Candice Babbey, Patrick Coulter, Jeff Gillies (Chair), Monique Moore, Marilyn Murray, Joelle Narancic, Mubina Panju, Dave Quinn, Denise Rainford, Sarah Solter, Christine VanEgmond, Linda Wallace

**Committee Member Regrets** - Kim Adam, Heather Archibald, Ljuba Lush, Irina Omari

**HWDSB Resource Staff** - Tara Gasparik, Ian Hopkins, Ian Pellizzari, Jackie Penman, Brian Playfair, Pam Reinholdt, Sandie Rowell, Jenny Seto-Vanderlip, Ellen Warling

**Trustees** - Jeff Beattie, Alex Johnstone

**Public** - 22 public attendees - Eastdale (2); Green Acres (5); Memorial (1) Mountain View (4); R.L. Hyslop (2); Volunteer (2); Councillor Doug Conley (Ward 9), Councillor Maria Pearson (Ward 10); Stoney Creek News (1); Affiliation Unspecified (3)

**Recording Secretary** - Kathy Forde

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Jeff Gillies welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided opening remarks. Jeff is responsible for overseeing the Accommodation Review process for HWDSB. Working together is essential for moving forward with the schools that will take our students through the years ahead. The intent of the public meeting is to share information on how we are planning for our schools and to gather community feedback. The format for the meeting was reviewed. Information and updates are posted regularly on the website at [www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews).

Trustee Jeff Beattie extended greetings and thanked public attendees for coming out to the meeting. The session provides a great opportunity to hear about the work underway and to share insight, which is an important task. It will be essential for everyone to dig deep and be honest.

The timeline for the review process was reviewed. The Advisory Committee will examine the options, consider all perspectives and feedback, and will bring information representative of this community to the trustees. A second public meeting takes place April 12 to provide an update. It is anticipated that the final proposal will be submitted to the Ministry by June 2016.

### 2. Overview of Advisory Committee Orientation Session / Initial Report / School Information Profiles

An orientation session was held on January 13 to inform Advisory Committee members on the process, roles and timelines. Minutes and presentation are posted on the website. An accommodation review is the process used by school boards to examine groupings of schools and recommend solutions on issues around excess capacity, enrolment, facility conditions and facility needs. Advisory committees assist in reviewing options and data, sharing information with the community and providing local perspective. Key criteria are focused on conditions that support student achievement, student well-being, financial viability and guiding principles as defined in HWDSB's Long Term Facilities Master Plan.



An overview was provided on the Initial Report, which was submitted to trustees on December 07, 2015. Aspects of the School Information Profile (SIP) were reviewed. Details focus on the facility, 10-year historical facility improvements, 5-year renewal needs, enrolment, floor plans and mapping. A SIP has been completed for each of the six schools involved. Enrolment projections are used as a planning tool in terms of trends and development. The Initial Report Recommendation Option includes current thinking and was developed as a starting point. As part of the Initial Report, an Alternative Option was also developed to provide another possible scenario.

### Recommended 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 - 500 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

### Alternative Option

- Close R.L. Hyslop in June 2018
  - Students residing west of Lake Avenue directed to Green Acres
  - Students residing east of Lake Avenue and west of Gray Street directed to Collegiate Avenue
  - Students residing east of Gray Street directed to Eastdale

Both options were reviewed including enrolment projections and mapping to illustrate new boundaries and walking distances. The intent is to maximize funding dollars and plan for the future. In terms of capital work, remaining buildings would require upgrading and renewal to meet current standards as many items are coming to the end of their life cycle. A cost comparison estimates the Recommended Option with three new builds at \$36.5M and the Alternative Option with renewal at \$27.1M.

Funding will be available over the next three years for new builds to replace old schools, which are prohibitive to maintain and to accommodate schools coming together. Through School Consolidation Capital Funds, \$750M has been earmarked over four years province-wide. In year one, HWDSB received approximately \$19M. Through School Renewal Funding, funds are allocated for renewal needs. Although HWDSB received approximately \$19.5M this year, funds are limited and must be used for all schools within the Board. Decisions for completing work are based on health and safety issues and high needs as first priority.

Jeff Gillies reiterated that the options have been developed as a starting point only for discussion. The intent of the public meeting is to provide information and gather feedback. It is not an easy task and there is no ideal solution. No decisions will be made tonight. Community voice will help to guide the work that moves forward. Attendees were invited to view the options posted and add comments. Participants would then reconvene for discussion.

### 3. Accommodation Options - Discussion

*Q. What kind of new programming will be provided?*

A. To have a better idea about a new build and programming, Advisory Committee members will be visiting a newer school to tour the facility and see what it is like in terms of classrooms and programming.



*Q. Will special programs be offered? I know of one school that has a greenery program.*

A. Mostly, curriculum directs program offerings. Purposeful space such as music rooms or double gyms are sometimes dedicated for specific learning. Special programs are not necessarily funded. Different schools may have programs supported through community partnerships.

*Q. Is there an opportunity to expand French Immersion?*

A. We are looking at French Immersion as part of the Elementary Program Strategy that is currently being written. Stoney Creek is the only area without French Immersion so it is worth looking at through the French Immersion Advisory Committee.

*Q. As far as class size, is there anything historically that indicates students perform better in larger classes?*

A. Class sizes are a provincial standard. There is no statement specifically that qualifies student success in terms of class size or school size. However, from the Ministry there is an intent to have schools within the K-8 school range.

*Q. I can see some differences in kids from schools in sizes of 250 and 850 but overall all kids are doing well. I understand there are pros and cons with split classes. Small schools have good communities but large schools are still personable and have a good atmosphere. Comments?*

A. The difference with the larger school is the experience with specialized programs. Larger schools offer more programming.

*Q. There is only a small difference between plans so why not just fix the schools as status quo. I do not understand why there are two different options.*

A. We recognize the concern - uprooting and change is real. When we get funding through the Ministry for new builds it means we can remove renewal from our budget forecasts and better allocate our renewal funds. The schools under review are reaching the end of their life cycles. A great funding opportunity exists to improve school conditions and start new.

*Q. How do we accommodate students during construction?*

A. A transition committee will be formed to best accommodate students. Students can probably stay on site when building on Memorial property due to its size but for construction on the Eastdale and Collegiate sites students would need to be in portables or accommodated at other schools until the new schools are built.

*Q. Would you open up catchment?*

A. That would be part of the conversation for the transition committee to avoid or reduce transitions if possible.

*Q. If we close three schools and build bigger schools we bus more kids and create pollution. What is the rationale?*

A. In the information provided for the Recommended Option there are numbers to support walking distances. The geographic area is not that large. There are many walkers at existing schools.

*Q. My kid goes to Collegiate and many parents drop their kids off. If enrolment increases more kids will be bussed and dropped off. Are you working with the city to ensure student safety?*

A. New builds mean new drop off zones based on current standards to allow safe drop off.



*Q. By changing what is going on at school you are changing traffic patterns so this needs to be addressed at the same time. Unsafe traffic has already been experienced. With more students, safety must be seriously considered.*

A. Noted - it is a valid point. If we increase capacity we must consider the safe drop off of students. It is another issue for the transition committee to consider. Other communities have heavy traffic so we work with by-law officers to post signs in these critical areas. In the new schools buses and cars do not cross over. The new schools will consider traffic patterns to ensure the safest design for student drop off. Councillors also work with the city to make it safer.

*Q. Between now and new schools in 2019, will there be any facility updates such as paint, grass, etc. to existing schools to improve the student experience?*

A. Annually and daily, the Board ensures school facilities are safe. The Board would not invest in things like a new field but would address anything related to health and safety.

*Q. As a taxpayer, overspending is a concern. We could save money with the Alternative Option.*

A. We have set guidelines and a ridged process so will not overspend. Designs are within parameters and all projects have to come in on budget and include contingencies. We deliver on benchmark and on budget. Traditionally, it is more feasible to maintain a budget when building new rather than renovating existing facilities.

*Q. Can three schools be constructed at same time to meet the 2019 target?*

A. If we are successful with funding then yes that is our intention. We will submit as a package for all three schools and build together. In the transition plan we would find space for kids using temporary accommodation while construction is underway. The three options are only suggested - nothing is prescribed or preferred. All options and insights will be considered.

*Q. Will there be a more defined version of the options at the second public meeting?*

A. Typically, an option is refined based on committee feedback and public feedback then a final draft option is presented at the second public meeting for final feedback. The Advisory Committee provides advice only and trustees make the decisions. Trustees will have a report that outlines concerns and considerations which will help them make their decision. The options presented tonight are provided as a starting point only.

*Q. Regarding the Alternative and Status Quo Options, how long would it take to fix schools and how long would it take to extend their life?*

A. Projects are included on a 10-year timeline. The life span is not specified in terms of an end date. Renewal needs are itemized on a five-year list so come year six there is another list.

*Q. If a student is out-of-catchment at their current school do they follow their classmates?*

A. Once a student is granted out-of-catchment that continues until graduation so the student would travel with that same group of students.

*Q. At what point does the transition committee form?*

A. The transition committee comes on line later in the process. First is Ministry funding then the Board connects with the city for site approvals and construction permits. Generally it takes 18 months to construct an elementary school hence the 2019 target date.



*Q. Rather than uprooting kids twice, is it possible to place them once only?*

A. We strive to limit the disruption and transition for all students as much as possible.

#### Comments

- The sizes of the new schools is a concern
- Increased traffic in the neighbourhoods is a concern

#### 4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

#### Next Meetings

- Working Group #3 - Wednesday, February 17, 2016 6:00 pm - R.L. Hyslop
- Public Meeting #2 - Tuesday, April 12, 2016 6:00 pm - Orchard Park





- New Eastdale - smallest occupancy 460 has largest boundary lines? Largest expansion possibilities residentially
- Can boundaries be altered - north/south opposed to east/west e.g. Collegiate boundary Gray Rd to Barton - Eastdale loses - Memorial gains Queenston to Gray - larger schools get larger boundary

## **Initial Report Alternative Option**

### **Pros**

- No comments provided

### **Cons**

- No comments provided

### **Additional Comments**

- The best option - cost effective - they have existed for 60 years - fix them and keep kids walking to school and keep history alive in the Creek - save some of the old schools, memories, experiences - we let Saltfleet slip away
- Like Alternative Option due to cost effectiveness over Recommended (\$9M savings)
- Pros and cons are on all options

## **Status Quo**

### **Pros**

- No comments provided

### **Cons**

- Split day shift teachers - morning/afternoons - unfair for students

### **Additional Comments**

- No comments provided