



**West Hamilton Accommodation City Review  
Working Group Meeting #8  
Thursday March 30, 2017  
6:00 pm**

**Strathcona  
10 Lamoreaux Street,  
Hamilton, Ontario**

**Agenda**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. Housekeeping Items   | 20 mins |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minutes from WG#7</li><li>• Correspondence</li></ul>  |         |
| 2. Key Considerations from WG#7 round-table discussions   | 30 mins |
| 3. Interim Final Report   |         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contents of the Section 3: Advisory Committee</li><li>• What does the committee want to see in the Advisory Committee Section of the report?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preferred ideas?</li><li>• Considerations from the Committee?</li></ul></li></ul> | 30 mins |
| 4. Dot-‘Mocracy’  | 30 Mins |
| 5. Next Steps   | 10 mins |

# Working Group #7 Minutes



**West Hamilton-City Accommodation Review  
Working Group Meeting #7  
March 22 2017- 6:00 pm  
Dr. Davey  
Minutes**

**Attendance**

**Committee Members:** Joanna Gibson, Rob Fiedler, Tracy Upham, Barbara Stares, Matt Allen, Tanya Ritchie, David Heska, Janine Durajlija, Melissa Crawford, Nadine Bernacki, Shelly Turk, Teri Lantagne, Khantavy Sayavon, Sue Caven, Nicole Poyton, Katherine Graham, Eleni Jalbout, Jennifer Walsom, Katherine Graham, Alison Savage,

**Committee Member Regrets:**

**HWDSB Resource Staff:** – Superintendent/Chair Sue Dunlop, Estella Jones, Steve Johnstone, Tannis Hamill, Karen Koop, Bob Fex, Gerry Smith, Dan Ivankovic, Sue Pasian

**Trustees:** Jeff Beattie, Christine Bingham, Todd White, Larry Pattison

**Public:** Hess (2), Cathy Wever (1)

**Recording Secretary:** Sue Phillips

**1. Housekeeping Items – Sue Dunlop**

**Minutes from WG#5, WG#6, PM#2**

WG#5 – approved

WG#6 - approved

PM#2 – approved with amendments

**Correspondence**

Committee reviewed the correspondence

**Advisory committee mandate**

Sue Dunlop reviewed the committee mandate and referred to the role of the advisory committee as we come to the end of our work.

**Additional meeting**

David Heska requested another meeting due to time, amount of work and the need to hear from everyone on the committee today.

The committee voted to hold another meeting, Working Group Meeting #8, Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. 6:00 – 8:30 (at latest). Request to hold the meeting at Strathcona School.

**2. Public Meeting #2 Debrief**

Data gathered. Summary of consultation findings included with package.

Committee discussed the Public Meeting feedback.

Question to committee – does the committee want to achieve consensus on one or two options? Or do you want something different to happen?

Committee agreed to present individual preference through round table discussion.

Preferences:

- need to know feasibility of all the options before I go further
- agree
- 2 pieces – I would like us to go through all options and see if they are feasible. We need to narrow things down. We could hold an additional public meeting – only if we came up with something completely brand new



- coming up with guidelines.
- agree with others – regarding feasibility. Need to come to consensus as a group.
- Feasibility
- Need neighbourhood schools. Don't need to go with "hubs". If there is a school there – it becomes a hub. We need the family feeling. Walkability. There is an issue of maintenance in schools. we aren't getting enough money to maintain our schools. We need a cushion to accommodate future enrolment. Feasibility is definitely something we need to have. Need consensus.
- Neighbourhood and walkability is important to me. We are providing advice to trustees. We do not need to achieve consensus. Let the trustees decide from there.
- Feasibility still an issue – would have been good to know things as we went along. If the trustees had let us know whether something could work or not
- Undecided – am sitting on the fence. Queen Victoria has a complete lack of green space which is a big concern. More students coming in would create stress. Idea C was the most viable option to me. Combine Hess/Strathcona. French Immersion at Bennetto.
- Strathcona parents find the initial option is not acceptable. It is unfair to close Hess. Keep the important connections. Preferred Option B. Need a playground at Strathcona because students can no longer go to Queen Victoria Park
- All options are important to people in the room. Want to know feasibility. A list of five feasible options would be good – ranked by importance and pass on to trustees.
- Rank the options on the table – the data will shake itself out and it will honour all the options. I don't want to take the job from the trustees – it is their job – a grueling job- but not our job. They do have the flexibility to come up with something new.
- In creating my proposal there were some very important points. Outdoor play space and buildings in good repair are really important to me. I tried to create an option that gave something needed to every school. Feasibility is something we need to know. I would like to know if my ideas make sense
- I don't think consensus is possible. We need to provide detailed options with feasibility being very important. It is a responsibility that we have as a committee – we have heard from the public. This committee needs to be as unemotional as possible and come up with our best thinking.
- Filling in for an absent committee member so have not been at all meetings. Have been staff at Hess for 28 years so emotions are attached. The community has a huge barrier due to language – they have been loud and clear and united in their strong belief that they don't want the school to close. I am still unclear on staff Initial Option still being out there. The community feels it is unfair to not know where they would go if Hess closes. I would be more likely to go with idea A.
- Need a list of every option and go through them with feasibility lens. Whatever is left goes with a ranking. We do owe it to the trustees to provide as much data as we can but most important is the students. I think the merging of Strathcona and Hess is essentially closing two schools instead of one. Until we know where a combined school would be how can we do that?
- Ranked vote – better idea with feasibility.
- Correspondence from Bennetto parents states opposition to closing schools unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Our purpose is to serve our students well. The first job of the school is education. I don't think we need consensus on an option. Suggest a certain opportunity to express to the trustees some well designed suggestions. Express and put on paper the commonalities. We can make delegations to the trustees.
- My thoughts are included in the correspondence of the agenda package. This process has brought our school community together. In principle, I like A & B the best but it is not financially where this process is going. If I was to rank the options B would be first with C 2<sup>nd</sup> best with location being stated. I think we could narrow things down to B, C & D. I think we have consensus that FI at Bennetto is agreed. We should talk about what size of school we want – do we want 4,5 600 or as big as Dr. Davey. We need to put more thought into boundaries. Hess wants a walkable school and no asphalt playground.



Sue – thanked the group for the thoughtfulness and passion around the table. We have heard from most speakers that we want to know the feasibility of what is on the table

.Ellen Warling provided information based on experience with business cases presented to the Ministry.

1. Idea E – from a staff perspective - where would we find the land for this? It is harder in the downtown core. Asking for three brand new builds is very challenging and not feasible.
2. Idea D – concern might be – Jk-5 vs Jk-8 model. Our guiding principals prefer JK-8 but sending grade 6s to Ryerson would be overcrowding. Perhaps less feasible.
3. Idea C – FI at Bennetto is not an issue at the Ministry. Jk-8 is an interesting challenge. There are pupil places at Dr. Davey and Bennetto but we could ask for it. The challenge becomes why didn't you leave Strathcona as is? Possible.
4. Idea B – works – under school renewal grant. Doesn't have to go. Feasible.
5. Idea A – nothing for ministry. Feasible. School renewal and condition grants.
6. Idea H – do the initial option and submit the students to Dr. Davey can fit. Bennetto FI works. Could work/maybe.
7. Idea F – boundary rejigging, Hess/Strathcona.

Staff initial option. (G) feasible in terms of business case.

We need to do more thinking – come to the table at next meeting with what we have in common. We don't have to come up with one option. What is important is further discussion of actual option. We can look at final report – bring back feedback.

### **3. Interim Final Report - tabled**

- a. Contents of the report
- b. How does the committee envision capturing the work they've completed?
  - i. Preferred ideas?
  - ii. Executive summary of committee/public requests?

### **4. Minutes for this working group meeting - tabled**

Adjourned: 8:40

Next Working Group meeting #8 – Thursday March 30, 2017, 6:00 p.m. Strathcona School

# Correspondence







**From:** Joan Cosby

**Sent:** Thursday, March 9, 2017 1:05 PM

**To:** Stranak, Cindy; Johnson, Aidan

**Cc:** Larry Pattison; [jason.farr@hamilton.ca](mailto:jason.farr@hamilton.ca); [mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca); [cbingham@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:cbingham@hwdsb.on.ca); [remulhol@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:remulhol@hwdsb.on.ca); [twhite@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:twhite@hwdsb.on.ca); [ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:ahorwath-co@ndp.on.ca); [mcoteau.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:mcoteau.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org); [cballard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:cballard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org); [mhunter.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:mhunter.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org); Joan Cosby; [sdunlop@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:sdunlop@hwdsb.on.ca); [ejones@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:ejones@hwdsb.on.ca); [cfragomeni@thespec.com](mailto:cfragomeni@thespec.com); [dheska@thespec.com](mailto:dheska@thespec.com)

**Subject:** Hamilton Wentworth District School Board - Potential Closure of Hess Street School

Greetings Aidan Johnson Team,

When Aidan was running for a seat on council, I was among a group of volunteers to accompany him during a door to door meet and greet canvas of two-high rises in the north end of Ward 1, on Oxford and Queen North within my neighbourhood. I was very happy that Aidan had the opportunity to meet and visit with a number of the residents to get a clearer picture of the day to day struggles that some of Hamilton's marginalized citizens including newcomers, people with disabilities, people living with the serious challenges of poverty and people who struggle to communicate effectively in English. The school attended by most of the children living there is Hess Street Public School. It happens to be in Ward 2 however, I believe that more than half of the students are Ward 1 residents.

In addition to their current challenges of getting an education, these kids are facing the prospect having to be bussed to another location as the HWDSB is looking at closing their school. Virtually all of the students at Hess Street Public School currently walk. The proposed solution, if the school is closed, is to bus all of the students to another location. This is one more barrier to education for the children already facing challenges. If they miss the bus, it is likely that they won't find a way to get to school late. If they need to stay late for extra help, they'll miss the bus home. Many families have no car, and walking a great distance could pose challenges for the student and/or the adult responsible for their well-being. Although extremely important, it is not just an issue of proximity to the school that needs to be considered for this student group. What are the other factors that will positively contribute the students' successful educational outcomes?

Years ago I volunteered with Parkview School by Tim Horton's Field. Parkview was a smaller high school where students faced various challenges that would more likely be overlooked or exacerbated in a larger high school setting. Parkview provided them with excellent support to help them overcome their unique barriers to educational success. During its operation in the

years before it closed, some students successfully transitioned to other high school programs after developing specific skills and for others, after graduation from Parkview, went on to jobs in their communities and some went on to post-secondary programming. If a student had a challenge outside of school that required additional support there was someone who they trusted to provide them with direction. There were times students came back after graduation to share their success stories or to ask for guidance navigating their life after high school. When the decision to close the school came about, the school board assured all those who were vested in the students' success that they would track the children being re-directed from Parkview to ensure that they didn't fall through the cracks and moved on to a successful transition from high school. Having to travel further and learn in a setting where they felt like outsiders and different from the norm is difficult for high school students. I expect that it will be even more difficult for the grade school children at Hess Street Public School if that school is closed. Unfortunately, Hess Street Public School's faculty cannot get too involved as their careers could be at risk, as they were at Parkview.

I understand that it is late in the game. There was a meeting last night that apparently did not go well, but I am hoping that Aidan can lend his voice of reason and compassion to those students' families, fighting for the future of their children's opportunities to become good citizens of tomorrow. This is what makes Hamilton strong.

As an aside from the above, but also an important argument, is the short-sightedness and lack of proper long term financial analysis. There is a significant increase in residential development in the area. One site is on Barton Street, east of Locke Street that is nearing completion which will add to the school's enrolment numbers. There are also new builds expected right next door to the Barton location. The second major development, if and when the city moves forward with the planned new social housing development at the old West Harbour stadium site, will have Hess Street Public School, if still standing, easily working at capacity.

All things considered, it doesn't make sense to close Hess Street Public School for a short-term financial benefit when you look at the future costs - both financial as well as loss of human potential for many families of the children attending Hess Street School. We need to make these decisions for the long run.

I am hopeful that Aidan, ***and others included on the CC line***, will be able look into the issue and lend support.

Thank you for your consideration of helping to support this important issue.

Joan Cosby