



**West Hamilton-City Accommodation Review
Public Meeting #2
March 8 2017- 6:00 pm
Sir John A. Macdonald School
Minutes**

Attendance

Committee Members: Eleni Jalbout, Rob Fiedler, Barbara Stares, Matt Allen, Allison Savage, Jennifer Walsom, Melissa Crawford, Nadine Bernacki, Teri Lantagne, Helen Demczuk, John Efthimiadis, Sarah Sirkett, Tracy Upham, Tanya Ritchie, David Heska, Janine Durajlija, Shelly Turk, Khantavy Sayavon, Sue Caven, **Nicole Poyton**, Chantelle Pealey, Katherin Graham

Committee Member Regrets: Jo Anne Cheyne-Miller

HWDSB Resource Staff: – Superintendent/Chair Sue Dunlop, Director Manny Figueiredo, Dave Anderson, Bob Fex, Jackie Penman, Mary Finstad, Steve Johnson, Tannis Hamill, Gerry Smith, Richelle Bratuz, Estela Jones, Sean Malcolmson, Dan Ivankovic, Karen Koop

Trustees: Chair of the Board Todd White, Trustees Christine Bingham, Larry Pattison, Wes Hicks, Dawn Danko, Penny Deathe,

Public: Hess (43), Central (5), Earl Kitchener (9), Ryerson (4), Strathcona (4), SJAM (5), Queen Victoria (1), Bennetto (3), Community (10)

Recording Secretary: Teresa Movre

6:10 Start Up

Interpreter introductions

Welcomed everyone to the meeting

Introductions: Todd White, Christine Bingham, Larry Pattison, Student Tori, Wes Hicks, Dawn Danko, Penny Deathe, Director Manny F, Dave Anderson, Jackie Penman, Bob Fex, Principals and Vice Principals, PAR Committee. Thanks committee for their dedication and hard work.

Why we are here

- To collect your feedback about the 5 ideas we are going to present to you.
- These are ideas only, no decision has been made. It is very important you give us your feedback.
- There is lots of information on this website: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/reviews/>
- Need to review all nine schools in the area for the future
- Brief presentation
- Question and Answer period- 25 minutes
- Group Work to collect feedback
- Facilitators at each table

Role of the Advisory Committee

- Share information about the community

Review of Timelines

- One more working group meeting on March 2
- Report will be drawn up to give to Trustees
- Trustees will review and make a decision



Review of the Five Ideas

- A-E maps on tables
- A- No schools or boundaries change
- B- No schools close, yes boundary change, yes programs change, open a new FI program at Bennetto
- C- Hess and Strathcona combine into a new K-8 school, location to be determined, and new FI program at Bennetto
- D- Hess and Strathcona combine into a new K-5 school, English to Ryerson in grade 6, location to be determined, new FI program at Bennetto
- E- Central, Earl Kitchener, Ryerson combine into 2 new K-8 schools, Hess and Strathcona combine into a K-8 school, New FI at Bennetto, all locations to be determined

Facilitator will take down all your ideas about these five ideas. If you have other ideas, you can share this with your facilitator.

Question and Answer

Q1. Grades being taught at other schools?

A1. Ryerson is a 6-8 school.

Closing schools will result in young people going to jail. No need to close schools this is not a third world.

Q2. All ideas are fake. Think about the future. Give the land away- the City owns. Are you trying to use us to make your work easier? Or are we trying to help?

A2. We are listening to your feedback. We want to know what you think. All of you.

Q3. Options A & B. Is the purpose of the accommodation review just to get funds? Are options A & B really viable options?

A3. Trustees are very interested in what you are saying and they will consider all ideas.

Q4. If Hess Street was to close are we going to get crossing guards where we need them? Will children be safe walking to school?

A4. Crossing guards are hired by the City of Hamilton. We will work with the City. They look at the number of students to have an increase of crossing guards.

Q5. Are the initial ideas still on the table? Why were they not included in the ideas presented tonight?

A5. Yes. We have already gathered feedback at the first public meeting.

Q6. Why are we only talking about five ideas? Can the initial ideas be put on the table for further discussion?

A6. Yes. But we have already gathered feedback on those ideas. There many pages of excellent feedback posted on the website.

Q7. Does anyone think about the children and the stress of moving schools?

A7. Yes. We all want the best possible facilities for the children now and in the future. There are parents as well as staff on the committee. We understand it can be very emotional and hard to talk about.

Q8. Has the potential West Harbour growth been taken into consideration?

A8. Yes – Note: without knowing the true unit types and counts, it precludes us from capturing true values. Development plans are just in the beginning stages. We have factored this information to the best of our ability. City of Hamilton staff have outlined information about future development.

Q9. Regarding idea E- new schools for Earl Kitchener, Central and Ryerson. If we looked at additions to expand these schools would this be funded as a new school or renovation? Gutting and rebuilding an entire school?

A9. This would be considered a renovation.



Q10. How many schools have been closed in Hamilton? Where does HWDSB rank compared to other Boards in closing schools?

A10. I don't have that information. It can be provided to the committee.

Q11. Clarify what no funding means if the trustees choose option A& B. Capital?

A11. The School Board receives funding from the Ministry for school renewal, and maintenance. There is also funding for Boards to apply for new school builds. In order to apply for the money the schools have to hold a Pupil Accommodation Review.

Q12. What was the initial option from the first staff report?

A12. To close Hess Street School and to redistribute the majority of students to Bennetto and some to Stathcona schools.

Q13. Are Central and Earl Kitchener designated historical buildings and how would this effect a new build?

A13. Central is designated a historical building. Earl Kitchener is not but it is an interest. The schools could potentially be sold and the buyer would be required to follow the guidelines from the City. The buildings cannot be torn down.

We need a school community hub.

Q14. Ultimately the decision is up to the trustees. Will they really look at the committee's recommendations? Will this be made public?

A14. The committee gathers all the information and a report is presented to the trustees. The trustees look at all the ideas and make a decision. Yes, all this information is made public. All minutes are posted on the website.

Q15. Funding comes from consolidation and closing schools. Any options for the trustees to change this process.

A15. Yes, trustees can speak to the Ministry.

Q16. How will parents pick up sick children without a car?

A16. Schools work with parents to figure out a plan.

7:53

Next Steps

Public Delegations- Monday, May 8th, 2017

Submit final report to Trustees in May 2017.

Trustees decision – June 2017.