



**West Hamilton-City Accommodation Review
Working Group Meeting #2
January 25 2017- 6:00 pm
Bennetto School, 147 Simcoe St.
Minutes**

Attendance

Committee Members: John Efthimiadis, Khantavy Sayavon, Rob Fiedler, Tracy Upham, Sue Caven, Barbara Stares, Matt Allen, Nicole Poyton, Tanya Ritchie, Allison Savage, Jo Anne Cheyne, David Heska, Jennifer Walsom, Janine Durajlija, Melissa Crawford, Nadine Bernacki, Sarah Sirkett, Eleni Jalbout, Teri Lantagne

Committee Member Regrets: none received

HWDSB Resource Staff: – Superintendent/Chair Sue Dunlop, Mary Finstad, Ellen Warling, Bob Fex

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

Public:

Recording Secretary: Sue Phillips

1. Welcome / Review of agenda

Sue welcomed the group noting that we can always add working group and public meetings if necessary. The provision is that the meetings must be within the timeframe allotted to the process. We can decide along the way.

Housekeeping

City of Hamilton planning staff will be coming to the Feb. 8, 2017 meeting. We thought this was best after realizing the volume of work we needed to focus on at this meeting.

Minutes approved from Working Group Meeting #1, December 14, 2016

It was noted that the minutes from the meetings will be published only after the advisory committee has approved the minutes.

Minutes approved.

Correspondence

Sue noted the correspondence process beginning with a review by the Planning and Accommodation team.

All correspondence / requests for information needs to go through the email address: reviews@hwdsb.on.ca. This is the best way to capture the information. You as a committee will see all the correspondence and decide how to deal with it. Some questions can be answered immediately and some items might need additional time to gather data.

In your agenda package we have eight pieces of correspondence to review.

Q. As a staff rep who receives questions from staff / public - should I be asking them here at meetings or sending them in to the reviews email address.?

A. Yes, the committee can always bring forward questions. Also, we can build in a time to address questions here.

Q. Will the names on correspondence be made public?

A. When a member of the public submits a comment and / or questions we respond with a thank you letting them know their request will be reviewed by the accommodation committee. At that time, we also provide them the opportunity to request their name not be used. If it's a committee member we would use your name – unless you've asked otherwise. It was noted that someone's email address (a committee member) was included in the correspondence (only to committee). Before they are posted online the email address will be removed.

Review of correspondence.

Q. Where are the French Immersion students at Earl Kitchener (82 students) and Ryerson (46 students) bussed from? Can you provide this information?



- A. We can provide it loosely but must be careful that we do not provide data identifying students in any way. It was noted the committee does want the information.
- Q. If all nine schools remained open and if the French Immersion boundary lines were changed so that all JK-8 students who live north of King St. went to Bennetto instead of Earl Kitchener/Ryerson, how would this affect projected enrolment at these three schools?
- A. These types of questions would be examined in future working group meetings. The Advisory Committee will establish themes and then collectively agree on what 'options' they would like to explore involving all schools.
- Q. For each SIP "Attachment 8" instead of just providing a "Student Distribution Map" with one equal dot representing the address of a single house (with one student) and the same size dot representing a high-rise apartment (with 100+ students), can you provide this information showing population density?
- A. Yes, we can provide it, however, it is a large request. Committee agreed to request the data for all nine schools.
- Q. Will the City staff and planners who come to the next working committee meeting be able to discuss the development plans not only at Pier 7/8 but also at Barton-Tiffany and at Jamesville?
- A. Yes. It was noted that it might be best to reach out ahead of time with questions. It was also noted that a request be sent to Edward John/City Planner who may have more specific information on the areas we are looking at.
- Q. Can HWDSB staff bring 100 copies of the 24-page Initial Report to the public meeting so that parents who want a copy can pick one up? Many of the low-income families do not have internet access and are asking for a hard copy to read.
- A. We will send a binder to each school to keep in the office for interested parties.
- Q. On the bottom of page 14 the initial report states, "however in these communities students are given smaller class sizes to accommodate their learning needs". Can you please clarify if it is only Bennetto, Cathy Wever, Dr. Davey and Queen Victoria students who are given the small class sizes? If not, which other schools. Also, on the top of page 15 the initial report refers to the 2016-2017 Learning Opportunities Plan. Can this plan be provided to the working committee?
- A. There are a number of schools, not only those, identified as high needs. This is based on census data and uses for example; income, single parent homes and mobility. As the Learning Opportunities Plan list is sensitive we would need to check on whether it can be shared.
Comment: the 2013 High Needs list is online (from 2006 Census. Sue Dunlop noted this is very dated information and that the current ranking is different. The census data ranks schools on demographics.
- Q. What is the current annual cost to bus a) all 396 students to the nine schools, b) 143 students to Bennetto, c) 50 students to Queen Victoria?
- A. That information is not available at this time. The committee noted they would like the information.
- Q. Based on the SIPs, can staff provide a summary table showing all nine schools (at a glance) and their respective community use total cost and revenue as well as the utility total cost and utility per sq. ft?
- A. Yes that can be provided. It was noted that the committee would like this data for all nine schools.
- Q. Is the Sir John A. Macdonald land a possible location of a new downtown elementary school?
- A. Currently, SJAM is slated to close and will close when the New North Secondary School is built (building has not started yet). It takes two years to build a school. Once the new school is built SJAM/Delta will close. At that point the building will be vacant. No decision has been made at this point regarding that site and it is ultimately a trustee decision.
- Q. What is the approximate cost for the Board to build a new 500 student elementary school? Is this more cost effective than trying to bring some of our current schools up to the benchmark?
- A. Approximate cost is 10 million.



Tabled to a future meeting:

- If Bennetto catchment expanded into Cathy Wever from Dickinson St. N. how many students would be moved?
- If Cathy Wever expanded into Dr. Davey up to Victoria Ave. how many students would be moved?
- With the previous moves how many open spaces would be at Dr. Davey?
- How many students from Gr. 6-8 are in Strathcona catchment?
- How many students from Gr. 6-8 are in Central catchment?
- How many students from Gr. 6-8 are in Earl Kitchener catchment?
- Is the Sage Program movable?
- Is it possible to turn Earl Kitchener into a K-8 school?

Q. What are the Separate School Board's accommodation plans for schools in the West Hamilton city area?

A. Information is available on their website.

Q. Is there a summary of school catchment areas for the West Hamilton City area and how they have been changed over the last 20-30 years for a historical perspective?

A. It is not likely we can get information from that far back, perhaps previous ten years is available.

Comment regarding the need to time agenda items – suggestion that meetings are extended.

Comment regarding LRT and its impact – suggestion that the City Planner/Paul Johnson provide feedback.

Q. People have asked about having a 3rd Public Meeting? Should we be doing this?

A. The 2nd public meeting will be an opportunity for providing feedback on 1st public meeting.

Q. Are the trustees collecting that information when they meet with people?

A. No, the trustees are not collecting feedback, they are question and answer sessions.

Q. Will we be getting the questions and answers?

A. No.

Sue asked the committee if they want to add another public meeting and what the purpose would be? It was noted that there was an information session at Hess St. School with about 100 people that went quite well. We were able to answer a lot of questions and provided cultural interpretation.

Decision to table idea of a 3rd public meeting.

Q. Would it be useful for each school either through their school council or otherwise – to state their opinions through their own meetings and that information could then be shared with committee members? It might be easier to know what each school community wants.

A. That would not be part of the PAR. You could talk to your School Council and bring their information to this committee. We did get a lot of feedback from the 1st public meeting even though we weren't sure what to expect.

Comment: At the next meeting City staff are coming which could take an hour and the next meeting will recap initial option etc. Right now we should decide if we need another working committee meeting as we have so much to cover.

Committee agree to stay until 8:30 p.m. for next couple of meetings.

We will come back on the 8th with a tentative date for an additional WG meeting.

Agenda item Public Meeting January 11, 2017 – Debrief – Deferred to February 8, 2017

Agenda item Identifying Themes heard – Deferred to February 8, 2017

2. Adjournment 8:00 p.m.

Next Meetings : Working Group Meeting #3 – February 8, 2017. Ryerson School
Public Meeting #2 – March 8, 2017. Sir John A. Macdonald School