

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

West Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Education Centre Board Room

June 16, 2011

Working Meeting #6

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair –Superintendent Sharon Stephanian

Voting Members – Christopher Austin, Deborah Beedie, Rosemary Bellefeuille, Phyllis Chasty, Allyssa Horning, Bea Howell, Lori King, Deborah Knoll, Heather MacDonald, Sharon Ricci, Judy Shen, Boris Williams

Non-Voting Members – Gudrun Anderson, Paul Barwinski, Judith Bishop, Jessica Brennan, Krys Croxall, Em Del Sordo, Michelle DesRochers, Rick Hart, Judy Langsner, John Laverty, Brian Lenart, Maria Rikic-McCarthy, Laurie Swackhammer, Dan Thomson, Anne Waldie

Regrets

Voting Members - Lawrie Cook

Non-Voting Members –Lloyd Ferguson, Alex Johnstone, Brian McHattie, Russ Powers

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Don Hall, Jim Wibberley, Ellen Warling, Steve Stirling

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1.0 Call to Order

Superintendent Stephanian welcomed everyone to the sixth working group meeting. She spoke of the follow-up information from the previous meetings that had been included in the handouts and reminded the Committee that microphones were available for their use so that everyone could be clearly heard.

2.0 Agenda

2.1 Additions and Deletions – There was concern expressed that not enough time is allocated to large group discussion following the small group discussions. It was decided that 6.1 would be changed to large group discussion for the evening and 6.2 was cancelled.

2.2 Approval or the Agenda – The amended agenda was approved by consensus.

3.0 Facilities Overview – Steve Stirling

For a look at the Facilities Management Overview Presentation please click on the following link:

http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Item2-WestARC-FM_Presentation.pdf

3.1 Presentation

The Facilities Management (FM) has three divisions working together to provide educational environments:

Operations & Maintenance - Cleaning, Equipment Maintenance, Repairs, Utilities, Regulatory Compliances, Heating/Cooling, Automation, Building Envelop, Site Services, Vandalism, Security, Waste Removals, etc.

Capital Renewal - Life Cycle Renewal of Existing Facilities, New Construction, Renovations, Program Upgrades, Accessibility, etc.

Accommodations & Planning - Property which includes Acquisition, Disposal, and Leasing, Pupil Accommodations, Enrolment Projections, School Boundaries, Portable Allocations, Development Planning, Mapping, etc.

Mr. Stirling spoke of the declining enrolment which is not just a Hamilton phenomena but a Province wide decline in school aged children. He stated that funding is based on enrolments which mean that poor utilization and the age of the facilities compromises the Board's ability to meet the operational and renewal needs. Mr. Stirling showed the Committee an enrolment graph. The spike is the Baby Boomers and the second spike is the children of these Boomers. He referred to this as a Boom Bust Echo Graph. The chart shows the historical secondary enrolments from the early 60's and the number of secondary schools in HWDSB. The Board has historically adjusted the number of schools it has with new construction and closures to reflect the enrolments of the day. There is a peak in enrolments in the early 70's as the elementary students arrive in the secondary panel. The Secondary Schools were all constructed in the 60's which is all 50 years old now and at its natural renewal age. This means that they are all due at the same time. He showed another chart which showed the facility closures and consolidations.

Mr. Stirling stated that School Boards get all of their funding through the Province of Ontario. In Facilities Management there are two primary sources of funding for the Secondary Schools, the Operations Grant and the Renewal Grant. There are additional areas of funding

1. New Construction and Capital Priorities – these are funding sources where School Boards must provide business cases and compete for the limited dollars.

2. "Good Places to Learn" funding, which is ending this year.

3. “School Condition Improvement Grant” –School Boards get allocations to assist with the renewal backlog.

4. Energy Efficient Schools Grant – to assist with projects that reduce utility costs (lighting upgrades, efficient boiler systems, etc.

These additional funding sources are generally short lived and targeted. The main source of funding is the Operation and Renewal Grants. \$200 million dollars per year has been budgeted over the next three years by the Province and HWDSB in projecting that they will receive about five million per year.

Mr. Stirling showed a chart which displayed HWDSB Funding Challenges and the unfunded liability. At present five priorities govern the allocation of renewal funds:

1. Health and Safety Issues
2. Regulatory Compliance Issues
3. The risk that the failure of one or more components might cause a program (i.e. science lab) or the building itself to close, or cause secondary damage
4. High & Urgent ReCAPP Events
5. New Program Initiative Requirements

ReCAPP is a software program that was implemented by the Province. It breaks down the facilities into thousands of components and sets a life cycle for these components. The software does not account for upgrades like a building with heating only being upgraded to air conditioning. This is a planning tool that treats all facilities the same.

Mr. Stirling continued through the slides which showed each of the schools within the West ARC which showed the 10 year renewal needs of the schools as well as a summary of the capital expenses from 2000-2010. He stated that to create sustainability HWDSB needs to:

- Understand the current situation and resources.
- Consolidate or bring together planning approaches.
- Implement a corrective plan.

The Facilities Management Department of HWDSB has developed its own vision statement:

“Facilities Management this involves creating effective environments that stimulate academic achievement”.

The Deferred Capital ReCAPP events do not address:

- Building code upgrades.
- Municipal directed planning and building improvements.
- Academic program requirements.
- Accessibility needs.
- Changes required to implement a new method of program delivery within the overall school system.

Mr. Stirling stated that the status quo is no longer an option. Funding is tied to enrolments and the enrolments are projected to continue to decline. The Board has historically taken action to reduce

accommodation in periods of declining enrolments. He went on to show the long-term Facilities Master Plan which combines the following Planning Strategies:

- 1) Academic Program Planning Strategy: This is the work of Executive Council, which Peter Joshua has shared with the Committee. Facilities Management reviews and provides analysis of the facility needs to support the Program Strategy.
- 2) Accommodation Planning Strategy: This is the work of Accommodation and Planning. They look at enrolment projections and demographics. Facilities Management provides facility planning to support the projected enrolment needs as well as clarity to project priorities and schedules.
- 3) Capital Renewal Planning Strategy: involves reviewing the Capital Program Priorities, setting design standards as well as project scheduling.
- 4) Maintenance & Energy Planning Strategy: Involves developing utility conservation programs, setting design standards, LEED principals, and equipment selections.
- 5) Operating Planning Strategy: This is the work of Senior Facilities Management. They look at department structure, staffing resources and inter-departmental alignments to support organization change.

The Facilities Management Master Plan takes a more holistic approach to Facilities planning:

- Ensures alignment with the Boards Strategic Plan.
- Ensures that individual planning strategies address the goals of the organization.

3.2 Questions and Comments

Q. What are the parameters of “School Condition Improvement Grant” (SCIG)?

A. This is a pool of funding that School Boards might be able to tap into. This is a new stream of funding for at least a year.

Q. Is that part of the prohibitive to repair funding?

A. No this is a separate funding. This funding is used to assist the Board with their renewal needs for the schools.

Q. What was “Prohibitive to Repair” (PTR)? Is there some funding available now that allows a school to be rebuilt instead of being renovated?

A. The term PTR as well as the funding is no longer available. They had to qualify for PTR dollars; however, going forward anything FCI 30% or higher becomes critical – not PTR but critical. The Ministry hangs onto the money and you have to create a business case to get funding and competing with other Boards for the money.

Q. Is all funding 100% Government funding?

A. Other than Small System Funding- Provincial is the only funding that comes to facility. All Boards seek out Community Partners to team with; however, it can not be businesses like MacDonalds or IBM.

Q. When looking at the five priorities – do you have to do all five or can you pick and choose.

At present five priorities govern the allocation of renewal funds:

1. Health and Safety Issues
2. Regulatory Compliance Issues
3. The risk that the failure of one or more components might cause a program (i.e. science lab) or the building itself to close, or cause secondary damage
4. High & Urgent ReCAPP Events
5. New Program Initiative Requirements

A. It is on a per need basis.

Q. When you have accessibility needs how do you pay for that?

A. It comes out of the renewal funding.

C. If you need the money for the first two priorities then there is not money remaining for the other three priorities.

A. We look at critical needs.

Q. It is indicated that the West ARC spent 15.5 million dollars over the last 10 years. Why was the least amount spent on Parkside?

A. The other buildings had a greater need.

C. Parkside is in pretty good shape then.

Q. Funding is under pressure at Facilities Management (FM). Do you agree with the recommendations?

A. Some of the recommendations were based on the input of Facilities Management.

Q. New building versus an addition. Would FM prefer one thing over the other?

A. Utilization is down and we need to close facilities to create a business case. We would all like to see a new building.

Q. Would you be better to build new or an addition?

A. Our preference would be new however it would have to be based on the business case that the Board has to present to the Province.

A. Mr. Del Bianco shared that it would be easier to build new than opening up walls. When you open up walls sometimes it opens a can of worms because we find that it does not meet code or other issues arise.

C. I have worked at Parkside for 16 years and find it very frustrating seeing that nothing has been done at this facility during that time and now it is on the block for closure.

C. Trustee Brennan shared her concern as well and asked if the 10 year renewal need is 2000-2010.

A. The data is from 2000-2010 and comes out of the RECAPP data base.

Q. What will that look like for the next 5-10 years? Can you project what the renewal needs will be?

A. That is what RECAPP software does. It is snowballing because it gets pushed forward.

Q. FCI is above 30%?

A. RECAP identifies anything over 30% as being critical.

Q. Can you quantify what our 2010 needs would be and do the administrative sites fit into the graph?

A. No they are not part of the funding and the renewal dollars can't go against administrative sites.

Q. The Board option is to close Parkside and put the students into Highland. Why close a school that needs seven million dollars less renewal dollars?

A. The size of the site means that Highland can be renovated and the accommodation needs can be met.

C. I think about students in the ARC. If we took the costs to repair two buildings and put it into a new building we could build a state of the art school that would accommodate 1500 students and would save the Board a lot of money. That would create a good business case.

C. A lot of work has been deferred or ignored and costs go up which might work, in a positive way, to build a business case for a new school.

4.0 Summary of School Visits by School Reps – Judy Shen and Allyssa Horning

For the full presentation please click on the following site: http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/ARC_ppt_template.pdf

The questions put forth to the students within the West ARC schools were:

- What makes your school unique?
- What do you enjoy about your school?
- What do you think about the ARC process?

Westdale

Judy and Allyssa were pleasantly surprised to hear the amount of opportunities there are for the Westdale students to get involved and enhance their high school experience. They found it easy to find a staff member or an informed student for help. Hypothetically this school is open ended, giving the students a chance to change as a person throughout their high school years with a fresh start every semester.

The French Immersion and IB programs are some of the key reasons that 48% of the school's population is outside of the catchment area. Through interviewing the students the majority said that they would not move with the program if it was removed from Westdale. The appeal of this school comes from the variety of programs, the teachers and peers participating in the programs and the fact that fewer courses are cancelled.

What the students enjoy are:

- Down town environment
- Variety of courses
- French Immersion and IB programs
- Teachers devotion

- Single lunch

What the students want to see:

- Air Conditioning
- Student Parking
- More IB course selection

The Students:

Westdale Students have a professional view of their school. This is a place where they attend to open doors for the future and learn in an environment that prioritizes academics.

Highland

Highland's track and field team is exceptional and they have gone to OFSA for many years. The Art teacher at Highland, Mrs. Roi, is loved by her students. The art work from her class can be found in the hallways making the school feel very personalized. Both Dundas schools, Highland and Parkside, have a very close connection. Highland students were eager to hear about the possibility of having a new school in Dundas. They feel a need to have more students in the school and become frustrated when courses get cancelled. Music is a strong component of this school and the students would love a new auditorium because currently they use the gym which creates quite an echo whilst they are playing.

What the students enjoy:

- Library
- Large community involvement
- Accepting environment

What the students want to see:

- New school in Dundas
- Better traffic around the school
- Different Cafeteria
- More students
- An Auditorium
-

The Students:

- This is a school with a large community base. A friendly school to visit and join in.

Ancaster High School

This school boasts an amazing student council and school spirit. Athletics play an important role at this school. The students are proud to cheer on the sports teams and have a homecoming dance for the football team. There are two cafeterias that connect two wings, which are a long walk; however, easy to navigate. The gyms are used nightly by the Community. The students enjoy the mid sized school because they get to know their fellow students. They have a special needs group of students and the other students treat them well and they are accepted the school. Bussing is a nightmare and most of the students drive.

What student enjoy:

- Field space
- Sports facilities
- Mid-sized school
- Warm accepting atmosphere
- Partnership opportunities with Theater Ancaster
- SHSM Aviation flight simulators
- Smart boards available to be used

What students want to see:

- Better building (preferably with air conditioning)
- Improved ceilings
- More parking spots
- Better accessibility through bus routes

The Students:

- IB Students prefer the more relaxing environment that offers the same Diploma
- Attached to the sense of community of the school
- Are welcoming of new students but feel that Dundas is a separate community

Parkside Secondary School

Parkside is located in a quiet environment yet sits close to town. The students like their small school because they feel that they are a personality instead of just a number and they all know one another. They feel that if they were relocated to a larger school it would be challenging to know everyone and this could lead to feelings of insignificance. Many of the students have never been to a large school and are afraid of the change. The students at Parkside boast a high participation in the school events such as dances, DECA fundraisers and many of them participate in the drama programs. Their business program has excelled at many competitions.

What students enjoy:

- Location
- Small community
- Feeling significant amongst peers
- High participation/ well engaged students
- Business Program

What students want to see:

- Better classrooms
- Better course selection
- Improved gym facilities for sports teams

The Students:

- Enjoy idea of new school –preferably on Parkside property
- Do not want to see portables
- Majority would choose Highland over Catholic School
- Down size Parkside

Questions:

Q. Did you ask the same questions at each school?

A. Yes

Q. What did Ancaster High say about going to Bishop Tonnos over Dundas?

A. Only two students raised their hand.

5.0 Debrief of the Public Meeting - The Chair thanked Heather MacDonald for her help presenting the Committee's work and commended her on a job well done. Thanks also went out to Ancaster Principal Judy Langsner for hosting the public meeting.

C. Some of the members enjoyed the green school presentation.

C. There was some disappointment expressed due to the public's lack of response to the ARC's suggestions.

C. Some members were extremely impressed by the presentations that were shared. They expressed their feelings of inadequacy in making decisions that would affect so many students and families for years to come.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that it is easy for anyone to make a declaration or cast a shadow on what we are doing – e.g. the projections are incorrect. There are people at the Board who are qualified urban planners and architects. HWDSB has a lot of people in house who are qualified and experts. He stated that enrolment projections are always in question. Mr. Del Bianco shared that the Committee received information in their package today that would support them in feeling more comfortable with the enrolment projections. He stated that we have to look at what is the best solution to accommodate the students and meet their programming needs. 75% of the students lie in between the special needs and high achieving students. Not all students get the programs that they want because there are not enough students to run these programs.

C. Other Committee members shared that this is a unique opportunity to determine what schools of the future will offer.

C. We have overlooked the needs of Ancaster. In 10 years time Ancaster will be at a capacity of 64%.

C. The focus has been on Dundas however we need to remember Ancaster. There are two other schools in the ARC that have needs as well.

C. Ancaster High is the only secondary school in Ancaster and there is 42 acres that could be built on. This is very valuable land.

C. If there is a new school built in Dundas then Ancaster High would be sandwiched between two new schools – Dundas and Bishop Tonnos.

C. Can we bring Ancaster's population up by changing the boundaries?

C. I liked Sally Luke's presentation. Our kids do need 21st Century Learning. Sally's presentation, if implemented, would bring kids back into our schools.

Mr. Wibberley stated that there were a lot of amazing ideas presented; however, they did not speak directly to the things that the Committee asked them to speak to. There were many good ideas but he was not sure how it addressed the challenges.

6.0 Accommodation Options

6.1 Large Group Discussion

Mr. Del Bianco shared that over the summer it is his intention to take the options and assess them against the criteria and look at how these are going to be funded. He is concerned that if they can not fund these what are they going to do? He went on to share that the Board is currently looking for Community Partnerships. He will report back on this in September.

C. Maybe we can do something with the Board option as opposed to eliminating the option.

A. This is a good point. Perhaps we can provide a set of tiered recommendations based on funding.

Q. Are there not other possible options that can be looked at?

A. If it is the will of the group.

Q. Is it even possible to build a new school?

A. The intention is to report back to the group. Once the Committee sees the financials it will support them in making decisions.

Q. What about the traffic issues? When will we know about the traffic issues that could possibly create a challenge?

Q. What has the city said about the traffic challenge if Parkside closes? Have we had clearance from traffic?

S. A site plan application proposal takes place first. We don't get to that level until after the final decision then the City will get involved.

Q. Is there a middle position for a new school?

A. Dan is looking into this.

Q. Why can't we move the people from places like Maple Lane? Why are we renting space on King William or building a new Education Centre even though it comes from another funding.

Q. Moving people into the schools – how does that change enrolment or the programming?

C. Moving Maple Lane into a school comes from two pockets of money but they could share the costs.

Q. Is this even a possibility to share costs?

A. Yes it can be done.

A. Renewal dollars are a big pot but how it is allocated is up to the Board.

C. Maybe we should give a little more thought to the Board option. A new school on one of the three sites is really only one option. What would renewing Parkside or Highland look like? The Board must have a reason for putting that recommendation forward.

Q. If we can't build a new school can we add to the existing schools – e.g. a gym?

Q. What if we put the administration departments together in the new Education Centre won't it save a lot of time and money?

A. The vision is that Maple Lane will be a training centre.

C. Westdale is over capacity and 48% of the students are out of catchment. Maybe we need to move some students and programs.

Q. Does this ARC only get the disposition of money from this closure or can it go to another ARC or area? Where do you see money coming from to build a new school in any ARC?

A. The Ministry can be reasonable however you need to have a solid business case. You could get money from the sale of properties as well.

Q. If none of the options of a new school is permitted can we look at changing the boundaries to build the Ancaster enrolment and a business case?

C. We need a short term and a long term option.

When the student reps asked the students if they would move with the program at Westdale they said that they would stay at the school because they like it there.

C. The students wouldn't want to move. It would have to be the grade 7 & 8's. The kids in Ancaster are going to the shiny new schools opened by the Catholic Board.

C. Have school reorganization and move the older grades (7 & 8) into high schools.

C. I think with any option we have to think big – state of the art –meeting the needs of students, creating environments that kids want to come to. It is time for us to step up and have more than one option. It is very expensive to renovate and not that efficient. If it is very business savvy then the Ministry can't refuse it.

C. If we can't have a new school we should have a fabulous renovated school.

C. I liked what Rick had to say...make it state of the art.

Q. Can we move Waterdown students to Dundas and change boundaries?

C. We need a meeting to say what a perfect new school is.

C. We need to look at all of the schools not just Dundas. We need to draw the students to our schools.

Q. Can we have Ancaster as a small special needs school?

C. Think big does not mean a mega school. We need to be the best and we need to be competitive and have a long term vision. The challenge is it won't happen in three years.

Q. Boundaries have had an impact – who do we talk to about that and how would a boundary discussion work? Who makes the decision?

A. An addition is going onto Waterdown. If we take students it will drop their utilization rate. You can make a recommendation to have a boundary review.

C. We need to make recommendations to renovate the other schools in the West ARC not just to build a new school in Dundas.

Q. Is there opposition to a new school in Dundas and if not can we ask Mr. Del Bianco to look at a new school in Dundas?

Q. If you build a new school in Dundas what will happen to Ancaster 10 years down the line. What is the best long term solution for these areas in the long run?

Mr. Del Bianco shared that he can put together an additional meeting schedule and get general costing ideas for September for the group to work with.

7.0 Minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2011

7.1 Errors or Omissions – there were none.

7.2 Approval of the Minutes – The minutes were approved by consensus.

7.3. Business Arising from the Minutes – there were none.

8.0 Minutes of the meeting of May 10, 2011

8.1 Errors or Omissions – there were none.

8.2 Approval of the Minutes – The minutes were approved by consensus.

8.3. Business Arising from the Minutes – there were none.

9.0 Minutes of the meeting of May 13, 2011

9.1 Errors or Omissions – there were none.

9.2 Approval of the Minutes – The minutes were approved by consensus.

9.3. Business Arising from the Minutes – there were none.

10.0 Correspondence – There were some items in the package that was handed out that evening.

11.0 Other Business

11.1 Facility Partnership - Mr. Del Bianco spoke of Community Partnership.

Community Partnership is something that the HWDSB is currently advertising for in the local newspapers as well as with existing partners. The Ministry has specific guidelines that must be followed so any interested parties will make an application to the Ministry. This is done on a cost recovery basis in order that there would be no expense to the Board. The results of these advertisements will be shared with the Committee when we reconvene in September.

12.0 Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.