

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

South Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Education Centre Board Room

November 23, 2011

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair -Scott Sincerbox

Voting Members - Bill Barrett, Beverly Bressette, Jackie Brown, Alexandra Butty, Ken Durkacz, Margaret Eagle, Alexandra Ewing, Al Pierce, Cheryl Poot, Susan Pretula, John Whitwell

Non-Voting Members - Wanda Bielak, Donna Clappison, Gary Deveau, Patrick Elliott, Angela Ferguson, Manny Figueiredo, Mag Gardner, Wes Hicks, Peter Joshua, Joanna Maull, John Miholics, Laura Peddle, Kevin Robinson, Paul Vukosa

Regrets

Voting Members - Derek Hambly, Anne Pollard, Kim General

Non-Voting Members - Scott Duvall, Randy Gallant, Brian Greig, Tom Jackson, Deb Jukes, Renee Majic, Lillian Orban, Terry Whitehead

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Don Hall, Jim Wibberley, Ian Hopkins

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1.0 Call to Order – Scott Sincerbox

Superintendent Scott Sincerbox welcomed everyone to the twelfth working group meeting.

2.0 Agenda - <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/South-ARC-Agenda-November-23-revised-2011.pdf>

2.1 Additions/Deletions – There were two additions to the Agenda.

4.1 The West ARC invitation to the South ARC.

5.1 Correspondence to be read to the Committee by Beverley Bressette.

2.2 Approval of the Agenda – The Amended Agenda was approved by consensus.

3.0 Minutes of the meeting of November 8, 2011

3.1 Errors or Omissions – There were no changes made to the minutes.

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

3.3. Business Arising from the Minutes -

3.3.1 Update - Presentation from City of Hamilton Planning Staff

The presentation will take place at the next working group meeting.

3.3.2 HWDSB Vacant Property

http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/ARC_South_WG_Meeting12.pdf

Dan gave an update on the vacant property and directed the Committee's attention to the map in the distributed handouts.

This is the total sum of properties and the vacant land that the Board currently owns.

Dan gave an update on the vacant property and directed the Committee's attention to the map in the distributed handouts.

Confederation Beach is displayed with the word commitment beside it which indicates that this is part of the growth schools funding strategies and is in the process of being sold.

Q. Why are they being sold if they are part of the growth schools?

A. This is part of the funding strategy when new schools are being built and they are not fully funded. We support the funding by selling property for the building of the Elementary sites.

Q. Are any big enough for a high school?

A. Yes the Sheldon and Jerome sites.

Q. Why are these committed for the Elementary schools and do we have any commitments for the funding of secondary schools?

A. These funding strategies were developed for the Elementary schools. We would need to create a funding strategy for the Secondary schools in the same way and look at the properties that the Board would be able to sell to support the funding.

There was further discussion on the vacant properties and funding of new schools.

3.3.3 Mountain Secondary Utilization

Mr. Del Bianco shared that Mountain School is loaded at 21 students per classroom according to the Ministry guidelines. As requested by the ARC Mr. Del Bianco showed a slide displaying the numbers with Mountain Secondary School reconfigured as a resource room with a loading of 12 students per classroom.

There was discussion on the loading of classrooms and the number of classrooms. Mr. Del Bianco shared that this was for illustration of utilization purposes only. In the ARC mandate the Committee needs to move toward 100% utilization in the next ten-year period.

3.3.4 Mountain Secondary New School

Mr. Del Bianco shared that the final recommendation from the North ARC would be the closing of Sir John A Macdonald, Delta and Parkview and they will all move on mass to the new school. They are recommending implementing a sub committee for the transition and support of the Parkview students.

The Ministry of Education minimum size of a Secondary School is 300 OTG capacity.

A Committee member shared that the Committee needed to move on since this was for information purposes only and he felt that too much time was spent on this item.

3.3.5 M. Eagle Option Information

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Margaret-Eagles-Option.pdf>

Margaret Eagle reviewed her option with the Committee. There are two versions. Margaret felt that there was agricultural land around the Broughton site and questioned if the site size could be increased.

Mr. Wibberley shared that under Margaret's option he feels that the movement of the Westmount program is outside of the Terms of Reference; however, he did feel that it could still be an additional consideration to the recommendation. He shared that caution needs to be taken with this recommendation.

Mr. Del Bianco thanked Ian for his hard work putting together the information related to Margaret's option.

Mr. Del Bianco spoke to Version 1 and Version 2 and the new utilization rates. These versions can be viewed in the following presentation:

http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/ARC_South_WG_Meeting12.pdf

Al Pierce asked how this could be presented if it involves Westmount.

Mr. Wibberley shared that it could be recommended; however, he shared the need to be cautious. It is now in the minutes and the documentation and the Board of Trustees will be receiving this information. He shared that it could create a challenge because the Westmount community are not involved in the

ARC and if the Committee is changing their placement they would need the opportunity to express their concerns.

A Committee member shared that they are not a community school because they come from far and wide. He understood that all programs are transportable. Mr. Wibberley shared that by community he meant the students and the parents and guardians.

There was consensus to move off of 3.3.5.

3.3.6 Other – There was no other business.

4.0 Accommodation Options

4.1 The West ARC invitation to the South ARC

Mr. Wibberley shared the proposal of the West Arc which is the closure of Sir Allan MacNab and Ancaster and the building of a new school in the Meadowlands. Mr. Hall spoke to last night's West ARC meeting. There is 2700 OTG capacity; however, only about half of those students are in the Ancaster area and the other half are in the Sir Allan MacNab area. Mr. Wibberley shared that the West ARC are aware that this is outside of the Terms of Reference; however, they are interested in exploring this option along with the South. They have extended an invitation to the South ARC to join their West ARC meeting on December 8th.

Susan Pretula feels that it is very late in the process to be exploring this option. Mr. Del Bianco shared that they could come to the South ARCs meeting on December 7th.

Lexy Ewing felt that they are two different cultures and is not sure that this would work.

Al Pierce felt that the Committee should do their due diligence and follow up on this.

Committee members preferred the West ARC members joining their meeting on December 7th.

The floor was opened for discussion. Mr. Del Bianco shared that this would not affect their proposal of a new school south of the Linc and this would be in addition to that. The West ARC is not taking the South's new school from them. There was some frustration shared by the Committee members regarding the timing of this invitation and the fact that the Committee would like to move forward with their own options.

Q. Do we own land in the Meadowlands?

A. The Sheldon site would be the closest or the Board could purchase land. We could sell property and purchase a new site.

Q. What would be the cost to purchase that land.

A. It would be based on 400,000 per acres so it would be between four and six million dollars.

Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Hall shared that the West ARC was looking at this as a whole not simply as an individual. It will require a reconfiguring of the boundaries. He stated that he would create a full report if this is something that they wished to pursue.

A motion was put on the floor to accept the invitation for December 7th with the West ARC. This was seconded. The vote consisted of 2 in favour and 8 opposed so the motion failed.

4.2 Full Committee discussion of the Accommodation Options

The Chair gave an overview of where the Committee left off at the previous meeting.

Joanna Maull shared that she is not comfortable with the options and how the Mountain School is involved with these options. She recommended having the Alt Ed students at Crestwood join the Mountain School. This would increase utilization and create a community for these students and the Mountain students. These students were not included in the numbers in Margaret's option.

How many students are there at Crestwood?

There are currently six classrooms at Crestwood. Superintendent Joshua shared that they are all secondary classrooms. This is the system Alt Ed program and does not include the expulsion program.

Are there other programs that could move to Mountain?

The Elementary Alt Ed programs are housed in the elementary schools.

The Committee had discussion on this idea. Kevin Robinson felt that the Committee should not move the Westmount program, even though he likes it, because he felt that this would not be palatable to the Board of Trustees. He feels that version 2 is similar to Option #5.

Option 5 is realigning the boundaries of Barton and the closure of Mountain, Sherwood and Hill Park Secondary Schools.

There was a group discussion. Some Committee members shared that they were unhappy with the fact that they felt tied in not being able to move the Westmount program. Mr. Del Bianco stated that they could structure it in the recommendation and have rationale to support it.

Margaret shared that there is pedestrian passes on the West Mountain. One is south of the Westmount and the second is south of Sir Allan MacNab. She will not support her option if the Committee can't move the Westmount program. Margaret shared her vision of the option.

The Committee continued to share their views of the options.

John Miholics shared that the Catholic Board has done a really nice job of evenly spreading their schools across the mountain. He liked Concept 4 with some amendments: the boundaries would be similar to version 2 and a new school would be located on the expanded Broughton site and Barton would remain open not Sherwood and keep the existing program at Westmount. He supports Joanna's idea of having Mountain and Alt Ed together. He would like to see a new school in Meadowlands.

There was a motion to add the following option: Keeping Sherwood, Westmount with the existing program, the Mountain school with the Addition of the Alt Ed programs, a new school on the Broughton site and a new school in the Meadowlands. There was not consensus on this motion. This was seconded by Beverly Bressette.

This floor was opened for discussion.

The Meadowlands are outside of the Terms of Reference. Mr. Del Bianco shared the concerns of the West ARC and the Ancaster utilization. The West ARC are wondering where the Mount Hope students would go if a new school is built south of the Linc and the possibility that these students may want to attend this new school. The South ARC would need to work with the West ARC in order to discuss a new school in the Meadowlands.

The motion could not go forward because the Committee are not interested in dialoguing with the West ARC.

The discussion of the Westmount community came up for discussion once again. The word community is not a geographic piece; however, it is a community of students and the parents/guardians.

Where are the Crestwood students going once the construction of the Board office begins construction?

Don Hall shared that this has not been finalized yet and the reallocation is on hold until the ARC decisions are finalized.

The Committee continued to share their personal views of the options on the table and the closures of schools and which schools are the best to close. Mr. Del Bianco clarified that options still on the table are 3, 4, 5 and 6. 86% of the Westmount students reside within the South ARC. Mr. Wibberley stated that it is not that the Westmount program can't ever be moved it is a matter of the process to make this happen. It is ultimately the decision of the Board of Trustees.

Kevin Robinson asked the Trustees to comment on the Westmount program. Trustee Peddle shared the importance of coming to the Board of Trustees with a number of options with a rationale behind it. Trustee Hicks shared that his part as a member of the ARC is to listen to the members; however, it is not his job to create an option with the members. It is important to have a number of options with rationale and he would be open to hearing and learning about all of their options.

Jackie Brown put forth a motion to close Sir Allan MacNab, the Westmount program would move to Hill Park and Westmount would become a composite school, Mountain remains open, Barton remains open as a composite school, Sherwood would close and a new composite school on an unconfirmed site south of the Linc would be built and the school closures would not happen until the new school has been built. Consensus was not given and it was seconded by Al Pierce. Discussion ensued. **A vote consisted of 8 in favour and 3 against so the motion carried. This is an additional option.**

Cheryl Poot indicated that all of the south schools are composite schools and Westmount does offer regular programming as well as self-paced.

Don Hall stated that the Broughton site is a land locked site so it could not be expanded.

This prompted further discussion.

John Whitwell stated “the combining of Mountain and the Al Ed program needs to be discussed with the people who are closely involved in that. In terms of the programming I believe that this is not something that this Committee can go ahead and make decisions around.”

The Chair clarified why the West ARC was inviting the South ARC because Sir Allan MacNab was outside of their terms of reference.

Q. Are the Board of Trustees allowed to make a hybrid decision of the ARC Report and the Staff Report?

A. Yes they can pick one or the other, a hybrid or their own decision.

Bill Barrett proposed a new option to be considered the recommendation for the South ARC. It is as follows: close Mountain and they will go the new school, Hill Park will close, realign the boundaries of Sir Allan MacNab, realign the boundaries of Barton, close Sherwood, and build a new school on the Broughton site with the consideration that we can expand that site. We do not have consensus. John Whitwell seconded this.

There was discussion of this option and there was concern expressed for the Mountain students.

A vote took place with 4 in favour and 7 were against so the motion failed.

There was a motion to eliminate option 3 which was: Close Mountain, Sir Allan MacNab and Barton and construct a new school south of the Linc. There was not consensus. Al Pierce seconded. The floor was opened for discussion. **A vote of 11 in favour and 1 abstained so the motion carried.**

There was a motion to eliminate option 6 which was: Close Mountain, Barton and Sherwood and the construction of a new school on the Broughton site. **Consensus was given to remove option 6.**

There was a motion to eliminate option 4 which was: Close Mountain, Barton and Hill Park and construction of a new school south of the Linc. **There was consensus to remove option 4.**

Option 5 Amendment was proposed by Bill Barrett which was to close Mountain, and they will go the new school built as a school within a school, and build a new school on a site south of the Linc.

Margaret’s proposal – version 2 would include: the closure of Sherwood, Hill Park, and Mountain Secondary Schools. The following schools would remain open Sir Allan MacNab, Barton, the self paced program would be moved to Sir Allan MacNab, the students of Sir Allan MacNab would be moved to Westmount and the Mountain students would move to Sir Allan MacNab and there would be construction of a new school south of the Linc. **There was consensus to keep this option on the table.**

Q. Can we get new packages and rename them A, B and C. **It was agreed to name the option – Option “A” formerly option 5.**

There was consensus to move off of item 4.2.

5.0 Correspondence

5.1 Correspondence to be read by Beverly Bressette

Beverly read a letter from Anne Pollard to share her son's experience with integration in a composite Secondary School. Beverly shared her own recent experience with her grandson at her local school. Superintendent Joshua shared the importance of meeting the needs of the students and he apologized for the situation that Beverly experienced and stated that this is not the direction of the Board. He stated the importance of meeting the individual needs of the students and the responsibility of all Staff.

Susan Pretula acknowledged the sensitivity of this situation and cautioned about speaking about individual students, teachers and personal experiences.

There was consensus to move off of item #5.

6.0 Other Business – there was no other business.

There was consensus to move off of item #6.

7.0 Adjournment

There was consensus to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.