

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

South Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

Education Centre Board Room

November 29, 2011

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair -Scott Sincerbox

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

Non-Voting Members - Wanda Bielak, Donna Clappison, Gary Deveau, Patrick Elliott, Angela Ferguson, Manny Figueiredo, Randy Gallant, Mag Gardner, Brian Greig, Wes Hicks, Peter Joshua, Deb Jukes, Renee Majic, Joanna Maull, John Miholics, Lillian Orban, Laura Peddle, Kevin Robinson

Regrets

Voting Members - Derek Hambly,

Non-Voting Members - Scott Duvall, Tom Jackson, Paul Vukosa, Terry Whitehead

Resource Staff

Daniel Del Bianco, Jim Wibberley, Ian Hopkins, Robert Fex

Recording Secretary

Tracy McKillop

1.0 Call to Order – Scott Sincerbox

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

2.0 Agenda - <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/South-ARC-Agenda-November-29-2011.pdf>

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

Al Pierce asked if there was any will around the table to revisit the invitation from the West ARC. A member from the West ARC, Heather MacDonald, came to the meeting and was willing to speak to this.

There was consensus to add this to the Agenda as 5.1

It was explained that anything could be reconsidered at any point in time. The Chair shared the reconsideration once again which included having Heather MacDonald address the South ARC.

Item 3.0 was deleted from the Agenda. Mr. Robert Fex spoke to this. The City Representative is very busy with OMB meetings and unavailable at this time. There has been no date commitment; however, Mr. Fex is working toward arranging this.

Susan Pretula asked if it would be helpful to have the Councillors make a request to the City Planning department and encourage the City Planners to set a meeting date.

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

3.0 Presentation from the City of Hamilton Planning Department – Postponed at this time.

4.0 Minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2011

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

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

4.3. Business Arising from the Minutes – None were noted.

There was consensus to move off of item 4.0

5.0 Accommodation Options

5.1 Review of the three options.

Heather MacDonald spoke to the South ARC on behalf of the West ARC and shared that both of the ARCs are under a great deal of tension. She stated that the West ARC has recently become aware that there could potentially be some common interest between the two ARCs and the sharing of space between Sir Allan MacNab and Ancaster High. She stated that she would feel upset if they overlooked something that could potentially be a good idea simply due to the time constraints. The West ARC is looking at stepping out beyond the current silo and would like to consider the whole picture and share this with the South ARC.

Q. What do you hope to accomplish?

A. We want to look at Sir Allan MacNab and Ancaster and see what options are available for them. They are 7 ½ km away from each other and they are both subjected to utilization challenges. It is simply a conversation similar to what you experienced with the North ARC.

Al Pierce thanked Heather for speaking. He would like to meet with the West and consider what is advantageous for all students.

Ken shared that a school in the Meadowlands would not serve the needs of the students at Sir Allan MacNab. He stated that the Trustees can make whatever decision they would like to make including this one.

The members of the South ARC shared their perspective of why they feel that this is not a great idea and the main reason was due to some of the South ARC options include the closing of Sir Allan MacNab.

Mr. Del Bianco stated again that the West ARC is not looking to take the school from the South ARC. It would mean a new school south of the Linc on the east mountain as well as one on the west mountain.

Margaret Eagle shared that perhaps the West ARC could research this further and they may find that this may not work for them after all.

Heather MacDonald shared that she was not interested in starting a debate as this is something that would happen if the two ARCs were to meet. She understands if the South ARC does not want to engage in a dialogue with the West ARC and she simply came to the meeting to view the South ARC meeting and had not intended on speaking that evening.

Anne Pollard thanked Heather for speaking at the meeting and for sharing the West ARC invitation and commented that the geographical restrictions of the ARCs make the process difficult.

There was consensus to not engage in the West ARC and to move on with the South ARC options.

Mr. Del Bianco spoke to the 3 options that are currently on the table.

Option A – Margaret’s Option – *Closure of Hill Park, Mountain and Sherwood, Sir Allan MacNab and Westmount switch programs, Mountain Program goes to Sir Allan MacNab.*

Option B – Jackie’s Option – *Closure of Sir Allan MacNab, Sherwood and a new school south of the Linc, Mountain receives the Alt Ed Programs.*

Option C (Amended Option 5) – *Closure of Hill Park, Mountain, Sherwood and a new school South East of Linc with the Mountain Program going to the new school.*

Q. Is there a reason for the 1000 pupil place?

A. They dropped the enrolment to 1000 pupil place to right size the new school due to the catchment area.

Q. Why was 2014 selected as the implementation year?

A. 2014 is tight timelines so it should say 2015.

Q. When are the students moving?

A. They are moving on mass once the new school has been built.

The minutes were reviewed and this is captured in the minutes.

Beverly Bressette shared that they can have more than one option. They can have a primary recommendation as well as secondary recommendations.

The Chair asked the Committee if they would like to speak to each option individually or as a group.

Anne Pollard commented that she was very happy that the South ARC was creative at last week’s meeting. She shared that she attended the last North ARC meeting where the Trustees stated that they are open to hearing more than one recommendation.

Joanna asked if they had the costs available of having a school within a school versus what it would cost to keep the Mountain facility.

Bill Barrett indicated that the Terms of Reference does not state that we have to prioritize our options. We do not have to say which option is first, second or third.

Mr. Wibberley stated that it may be confusing to the Trustees if you do not state which option is Plan A and Plan B. He would recommend that it be set up in that way.

Anne Pollard expressed her concern that the recommendation will need to be very clear especially relating to the Mountain students. She shared what she heard at the North ARC meeting.

Joanna asked to initiate some discussion around the Mountain students in order to come to a decision.

A motion was put forward to consider Mountain Secondary School as a stand alone school, not as part of another secondary school, including the Alt Ed program. There was not consensus and John Miholics seconded it.

Anne Pollard assured Joanna she completely supports a stand alone school and expressed some concerns with the motion because it could affect the options that are currently on the table.

A Committee member shared that he would like to discuss the options that are currently on the table.

Mr. Wibberley stated that at the next public meeting they will have to have their recommendation(s) ready to present to the public.

Joanna amended the motion to be a stand alone school, not part of another school, and include the Alt Ed program.

The floor was opened for discussion. The Committee members shared that this would eliminate two of the three options if this motion was adopted.

Deb Jukes shared her perspective as a parent and a teacher. She feels that we are narrowing these students' educational experiences to learn and grow in different settings if they are not educated in an inclusive school environment. It is essential for these students to have these broadened opportunities while still accessing specialized programming to address their learning needs. Further all students and staff need to learn with and about these special students. Everyone, staff and students, need to learn to trust and to share their strengths and abilities so that we can reach acceptance of our whole student body and community and truly be able to offer a learning environment that supports every student in reaching their full potential.

Mr. Wibberley spoke about the switching of the Westmount program to another school. In his perspective this is outside of the Terms of Reference and this could be cause for an appeal of which the Board might not win. If this is appealed and lost then you are back to square one and starting over.

Mr. Del Bianco shared the appeal process. An appeal does not have to come from someone who is a member of the ARC. Anyone can make an appeal. Mr. Del Bianco stated that if this is something that

the Committee would like to pursue then they will work with them. He shared that once the ARC process has been completed then the Board of Trustees can look at moving the Westmount program.

Joanna Maull shared her perspective on integration and she feels that it needs to be done properly. She spoke of the need to educate the staff and the students so that this can be done right.

Joanna withdrew her motion.

Mr. Del Bianco spoke to the Parkview program and the North ARC feels that they are not qualified to determine the needs of these students. As part of their recommendation the Parkview students will move on mass to the new school and they are recommending a sub committee to support the students with the transition. The Committee will be made up of Parkview students, parents, teachers, principals, etc.

It was recommended by Al Pierce that this ARC also make this a consideration.

Margaret Eagle agreed with the students moving on mass upon completion of the new school. She stated that some of these changes could happen prior to this and if they closed one school this could fund the Mountain facility. The students would only have to move once and she would like to see the changes happen because the building of a new school could be delayed and if the changes were made in advance this could save the Board a lot of money.

This prompted discussion with the Committee.

Ken Durkacz shared his concern about not being able to move the Westmount program. He feels that this is a great option and needs to be considered.

Cheryl Poot spoke about the terms of reference and referred to Appendix A and programming. She felt that the self paced program at Westmount was within the Committee's jurisdiction to move.

Q. Are the Parkview students moving into a new school?

A. They are moving into an annex of the new school.

Q. Will the schools be maintained during the building of the new school?

A. They have to be maintained by law.

Q. Is Sir Allan MacNab closing in 4 years?

A. No

Wes Hicks stated that the Trustees are open to hearing more than one option.

Mr. Wibberley shared that he stated earlier that the Trustees would like to hear what is the preferred option and then the secondary options but without a limit on the options.

Mr. Del Bianco stated that the Ministry of Education will look at the business case and if the Board does not close the Mountain school, after indicating that they would, they could be in trouble.

Q. Can principals choose which school they are placed in?

A. The chair explained there is a process and moves are discussed with the Superintendent's and other staff. In the end it is Executive Council's recommendation and they work toward making the best choice. By the terms of the collective agreement, closing of schools involves seniority rights, surplus, programming is taken into consideration.

Q. When does the current secondary agreement expire?

A. August 2012.

Q. Is the Broughton site land locked and can we buy additional land?

Mr. Del Bianco shared that it is land locked.

Margaret Eagle visited the Broughton site and she has the zoning map. She thinks that the Board owes the Committee a written explanation regarding the Broughton site and whether or not they can build on it. If not what site are they considering on the East Mountain.

It was suggested to have the Facilities department look into sites or find sites on the south east mountain. And if they can't build on the Broughton site then why can't they. Mr. Del Bianco shared that they can look into the pink area south on the Linc.

A motion was made to have Staff report back to the Committee on viable sites South East on the Linc. There was consensus on this request.

John Miholics opened the floor with his perspective of the options and the floor was opened up to discuss John's thoughts.

Superintendent Joshua spoke about the tiered intervention. Some of the programs have been implemented and will be ongoing for the next two to three years. Training, discussions and implementation are already taking place.

Cheryl Poot felt that we should be following the North ARC and look to service and provide for the Mountain students until the tiered models are in place at all schools prior to the closing of Mountain.

The Committee shared their thoughts on this.

Superintendent Joshua spoke of the Wilson reading programs at Mountain and Parkview; eight teachers have been trained on empowered reading and these programs are in place in four schools.

Westmount programming came up for discussion again. Mr. Del Bianco shared that if this came up against an appeal he feels that they would be challenged due to the fact that Westmount has not had a voice during this ARC and these families have not been consulted. He stated that this is strictly his opinion.

Al Pierce agreed with Mr. Del Bianco and indicated that the Committee could make an addendum asking the Board of Trustees to consider the movement of the program post ARC.

Would it be better to remove the switching of the program and add it as an additional consideration?

Mr. Del Bianco shared that this would, in his opinion, generate an additional consideration post ARC.

You would be putting your trust in the Board of Trustees.

John Miholics suggested that they add option “D” without the switching of the Westmount program.

The Committee continued to discuss the options, the moving of the programs, and the Terms of Reference.

John put a motion forward that the Committee adopt option “B” and amend the option to name a specific site for the new school as one of their recommendations.

The Committee discussed this motion. John withdrew the motion and the Committee continued to speak to the options and share their opinions.

Superintendent Joshua clarified that training is currently taking place and it will be a continual process. Training is an ongoing process that will move beyond two to three years.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that we may never know the site because if the Board share that we are interested in a specific site that could affect the sale price.

Ken made a motion to accept concept “B” as one of the recommendations that will be made to the Board of Trustees.

Closure of Sir Allan MacNab, Sherwood and a new school south of the Linc, Mountain receives the Alt Ed Program.

Bill Barrett shared his concern about stating where the Alt Ed program will be going.

An Amendment was made to the motion to add “into Mountain, appropriate and additional programming to increase utilization.”

There was consensus on this option.

Q. Will there be training for staff on the needs of the Mountain students?

A. Superintendent Joshua indicated that there will be training for the students and the staff. Absolutely.

John Miholics spoke to the comments that Deb Jukes made. He shared that these students are involved in the community, they play sports and there are co-op programs for these students.

Al Pierce put a motion on the floor to accept concept “A” with an amendment to keep the Mountain program and keep the Mountain facility open for a five year period from the date of the acceptance by the Trustees.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that the Mountain program could be part of the timelines recommendations.

This was changed to reflect that they are not moving the program to Sir Allan MacNab but remaining at Mountain Secondary School.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that this will affect the business case because this can't be part of the disposition of funds in the strategy.

Al Pierce stated that this can be sold after the students have moved out. You have the potential to move this into a new group of Trustees and this could affect the decision.

There was discussion on this change to option "A". There was not consensus.

The motion was changed to say that the Committee will accept Concept "A" with the only change being the removal of the Mountain program to Sir Allan MacNab as one of the recommendations of the South ARC Committee.

The floor was opened for discussion. This was put to a vote with 3 in favour and 10 against. **The motion failed.**

Alexandra Butty put a motion forward to accept concept "C" which includes the closure of Hill Park, Sherwood and Mountain and the students would move on mass to the new school located south-east of the Linc.

The floor was opened for discussion. **A vote resulted in 7 in favour and 6 against -motion carried.**

Mr. Wibberley shared that the Committee has passed two opposing recommendations. A Committee member feels that if the Committee knows the new building site that could support the ARC in making their final recommendations.

Is there somewhere where we can get research on MID students?

Superintendent Joshua shared that he should be able to provide the research to the Committee.

Mr. Del Bianco shared that option "A" is in limbo and still on the table. He also shared that the Staff can not give a definite site for the new building.

The Committee members shared that they need to sit with these for now. Superintendent Figueiredo shared that the Committee has come up with some criteria so if they could reflect on that criteria it may support them in moving forward.

Margaret Eagle stated that the only difference between option "A" and "B" is the integration of the Mountain students versus a stand alone school.

Jackie Brown shared that the Board is very clear on the direction that they would like to go and that is the direction of integration.

Superintendent Joshua shared that the model of integration is a supported integration. He shared that the profiles will be considered and only when the students are ready will they be integrated.

8.0 Adjournment - There was consensus to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.