

HWDSB

Boundary Review Public Consultation Meeting

Thursday, December 14, 2017

6:00 p.m.

Lake Avenue School

MINUTES

In Attendance

- Jeff Gillies, Superintendent, Student Achievement
 - Jeff Beattie, Ward 9 Trustee
 - Robert Fex, HWDSB Senior Planner
 - Sarah Goodman, Lake Avenue Principal
 - Tara Gasparik, Green Acres Principal
 - Tanya Shaver, Executive Assistant, Recording
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Welcome

Jeff Gillies welcomed all and introduced the interpreters for the audience to sit with if required. It is acknowledged that Chairman of the Board Todd White sends his regrets.

The boundary review meeting is the beginning of a process for change. HWDSB is seeking feedback, concerns and suggestions from our public for the proposed boundary change. No final decisions have been made. Trustees make the final decision, therefore, this committee's goal is to gather feedback from the public and take this information to the trustees for consideration in their final decision.

Questions are invited during or after the presentation.

Boundary Review

On June 6, 2016, Trustees approved the following for Lower Stoney Creek:

- Collegiate Avenue, Eastdale, Green Acres, Memorial SC, Mountain View and R. L. Hyslop will be closed.
- Pending funding from the Ministry, three new JK-8 elementary schools would be built on the sites of Collegiate, Eastdale and Memorial SC

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On June 6, 2016, Trustees approved the following with respect to Lower Stoney Creek and East Hamilton:

- A boundary review be undertaken between Lake Avenue and Green Acres upon Ministry of Education approval of the accommodation review areas of East Hamilton and Lower Stoney Creek.

Ministry Funding was approved on October 28th, 2016 for the following:

- The building of a new JK-8 elementary school for 564 students on the existing Eastdale site.
- The building of a new JK-8 elementary school for 495 students on the existing Memorial SC site.
- The funding for an addition to Collegiate Elementary School to accommodate 213 students.

Boundaries

- Lake Avenue and Green Acres school boundaries are affected by the change
 - Currently the enrolment at Lake Avenue is 482 but has a capacity of 516
 - This allows for the opportunity to have Green Acres students living in the area (identified by the surrounding streets of Queenston Road, Delawana Avenue and Highway 20) move to Lake Avenue School
 - Both schools affected by the accommodation and review are closed to Out of Catchment as this process is going forward
- The Riverside West area needs to be looked at for the boundary review
 - Families living close to Lake Avenue are attending Green Acres School and we are looking at the opportunity to address this as best we can
 - The area is identified by the surrounding streets of Queenston Road, Delawana Avenue and Highway 20
 - Would be effective this coming September 2018
- When the new addition at Collegiate Avenue School is completed then Green Acres and R. L. Hyslop students will be in this catchment area

Questions and Comments

- With an on-going problem with school busing, how will this be solved by putting three schools together?
 - Bus runs will be reduced
- Strong public reaction that the condition of our schools affect the education of our students, therefore, new buildings or upgrades are needed and wanted
- Grade 7 students have built relationships since JK. Are they required to transfer if only one more year until graduation?
 - Requests to stay will be looked at by the Superintendent on a case-to-case basis
 - No guarantee but we recognize the important of peer relationships and wanting to graduate with their friends

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- Will this boundary review make Out of Catchment requests easier?
 - Currently most schools in Lower Stoney Creek are closed to OOC request, however, with a boundary review, there is a chance to look at each case individually
- Will Green Acres School be the holding school for some French Immersion students at Glen Brae?
 - Green Acres is being considered as a temporary holding site for French Immersion in Lower Stoney Creek however, this is separate from the Green Acres – Lake Ave. Boundary Review
- When a school closes and new one opens is there a process for the teachers to get new positions?
 - Teachers have access to positions in an equitable way that has been established between HWDSB Human Resources Department and employee associations
- Older daughter is attending Orchard Park but now with the boundary changes, my younger daughter will need to attend Glendale. I want my children to attend the same secondary school. Is this a possibility?
 - Currently secondary boundaries remain as they are. Secondary students living in the current Green Acres catchment attend Orchard Park and students living in the current Lake Ave. catchment will attend Glendale. A secondary school boundary review may take place following the elementary boundary review to align elementary and secondary boundaries.
- When does Green Acres close?
 - Green Acres will close when construction at the Collegiate Ave. School site is complete and students move to this new location. That is anticipated to happen in approximately 2 – 3 years from now, however, the boundary change will take place this coming September 2018
- Can middle school students choose to stay at Green Acres instead of moving to Lake Avenue so they complete school as well as graduate with their peers?
 - Due to the boundary review, Green Acres will likely be closed to out of catchment requests, however, the SOSA can consider exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
 - A reminder that bus service would not be available for students living out of catchment

Next Steps

- Advisory Panel to meet following public meeting
- If you have any questions please connect with principal who will in turn connect with either Jeff Gillies, Bob Fex or Tanya Shaver
- When the final decision is made by the board it will be communicated to both Lake Avenue and Green Acres Communities

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Noted

- 58 Riverdale shows as Green Acres boundary but actually is a Lake Avenue boundary
 - Bob Fex to investigate and pass information on to Superintendent Gillies, and in turn principals, to connect with families affected