

Tuesday, April 17, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Delta Secondary School

Attendance:

HWDSB Resource Staff: Susan Dunlop, Mark Taylor,

Trustees- Regrets

Delta- Kevin Graham, Elysia Dywan, Shelley Clemence, Ramzi Haddad, Krysta Bucci, Jeff Neven, Marcia Halblander

SJAM- Barry Smith, Cameron Prosic, Judith Bishop, Elaine Burgess, Meredith Strongman, Christine Johns

Sir Winston Churchill- Marco Barzetti, Abigail Boyko

Westdale- Michelle Visca, Maureen Wilson

Adelaide Hoodless- Nanci Simpson, Joanne Souter, Leanne White

Bennetto- Sandra Rowell

Cathy Wever- Steven Johnston

Dr. Davey- Mary Finstad

Hess Street- Estella Jones

Memorial- Regrets

Prince of Wales- Gerry Smith, Susan Neudorf

Queen Mary- Kelly McCrory

Queen Victoria- Kelly Sweeting, Susan Pasian

Public - Laura Laverty, Keneisha Gardiner, Leo Johnson, Diane Crawshaw

SEAC- Regrets

Recording Secretary- Teresa Movre

Regrets: Larry Pattison, Ray Mulholland, Christine Bingham, Jacqueline Johnson, Sherry Del Mastro

Start-Up Time: 6:00

Welcome and Introductions

- Review of slides 1-4
- Superintendent Dunlop welcomed everyone to the New North Transition Advisory Committee meeting
- Land Acknowledgment shared
- Quick review of the Agenda and the Working Agreement
- Minutes from February 20/18 and March 27/18 were approved without changes

- A request was made to receive the minutes/agenda in a more timely manner

Committee Mandate

- Review of slides 5-10
 - Overview of the Committee Mandate
 - To review and advise on transition plans and activities
 - Quick reference to slide 39
 - Secondary Program Strategy-Tier 3 Programs
 - This was passed by the Board of Trustees in 2013
 - Not within our scope as an Advisory Committee to change the Program Strategy
 - Changes in the Program Strategy can only be made by the Board of Trustees
 - Programming is based on data from 2011-2013 data.
1. What would trigger the Board of Trustees to consider reviewing the Program Strategy? *The Board of Trustees can re-open a motion through the rules of order. They might do so if they believed there was a need based on new information coming forward.*
 2. How often is demographic enrolment looked at? *Annually. The Accommodation and Planning department use sophisticated software and current census data.*
 3. Can this committee advise the Board of Trustees to review the program strategy? *Yes. The advice cannot contravene the commit mandate.*
 4. Is the committee comfortable working with data provided 5 years ago? *Up-to-date information is used.*
 5. Is there a way the New North Transition Advisory Committee can ask for a review of Program Strategy and placement of the Tier 3 programs? Is there a formal process for this to happen? *There are two possible ways for this to happen.*
 - *The committee has been operating on a form of consensus. If there is consensus it could be directed back to staff.*
 - *If you want this to be a more formal motion the members of the committee would have to vote.*
- Superintendent Dunlop is here to facilitate this discussion
 - A number of differing opinions were voiced by the members of the committee
 - A member of the committee requested further discussion with the intent to put forward a formal motion
 - A member wanted to concentrate on the New North site and transition matters
 - A member raised concerns about the data and ability to offer viable ESL programs at two downtown schools

- Concerns were raised with the data regarding ELLs at SJAM site
 - What are the benefits of splitting up the ELL population into two sites
- The Advisory Committee was asked to consider the following formal motion put forward by a committee member
 - **Be it advised that the most up-to-date demographic information be used for program decisions for the New North, Westdale and Sir Winston Churchill.**
 - In order to gauge the will of the committee the membership was asked to raise their hands to indicate their vote
 - 12 members voted in favour of moving forward with the motion
 - 9 members voted against moving forward with the motion
 - 6 members abstained from voting
 - Consensus means general agreement
 - The motion was not carried
6. Can you explain the rationale of including the 6 members who abstained from voting? *In total 27 members of the committee were present to vote. 12 members voting in favour does not meet 50% plus 1.*
- The committee was reminded they can contact their ward trustee to share their concerns
 - Superintendent Dunlop will share this discussion/motion and result with staff
 - No guarantee any action will take place, but Board staff and Trustees for Westdale, Sir Winston Churchill and the New North will be made aware of the concerns
 - While the decision for the Program Strategy was made in 2013 the staff know their students
 - The staff know exactly who these students are and their needs
7. Why are some of our families choosing to leave the HWDSB and go to different School Boards? *Families make these decisions regarding their children's education for many reasons that the board isn't always aware of. Some reasons could be:*
- *Perception of a school*
 - *Geographical location*
 - *Specialized programming*
 - *Friends*
- Every elementary principal knows where their grade 8 students are going
 - We work with all of our students

- Grade 9 transition teams visiting schools highlight the positives
- We will provide the information about the number of students from grade 8 this year going to our co-terminus board from affected schools in the transition
- Many students return to HWDSB after a couple of week or the first semester

- Comments from committee
 - If students are leaving HWDSB looking for “excellence in education” we want to know this
 - It’s about the students and staff – not the bricks and mortar

- 8. Is the school appropriately sized if there is an influx of students returning to HWDSB from other school Boards? *Yes.*
- 9. Are we using current data when planning enrolment of the new school? *Yes. The Accommodation and Planning department use sophisticated software and current census data. Historical trends.*
 - Comment from committee - Many assumptions being made such as many portables in first year
 - We don’t believe there will be a large number of portables

- 10. Why do we have to have a public meeting? *To seek feedback for the public is part of the Committee Mandate.*
 - Original plan is to have one public meeting this year and one public meeting next year
 - If the committee feels the timing isn’t right for a May meeting we could reschedule

- 11. What’s the objective of the public meeting and what are the success indicators? *The objective is to seek feedback on the Transition work. To get ideas from the public. It is up to the committee to shape the meeting. E.g. What should we present? What kind of questions might we ask? Engaging the community, collecting and giving information, gathering useful feedback would be success.*
 - *Provide information*
 - *Seek feedback*
 - *Number of people engaged*

- 12. Providing information on what? There is lack of understanding on what we should advise on and therefore what would the public be providing feedback on? *The Transition Advisory Committee is to advice on transitions. Examples:*
 - *Closing two schools and opening one school*

- *Naming*
- *Programs related to transition*
- *Transportation issues related to transition*

Public Meeting

- Review of slides 26-30
- Questions we could ask
 - What are your hopes for the new school?
 - What else might we consider for students in this transition?
- Staff and students are the two major groups effected
- A committee member stated they personally felt the committee is currently not ready for a public meeting in May 2018
- Comment from committee – I feel the committee is divided
- Comment from committee - How do we prepare ourselves

13. How many public meetings can we hold? *We can hold as many as we think we should. Before the school year ends.*

- Comments from Committee
 - Could the first meeting be an information gathering session and the second meeting more of a follow up- this is what we heard- this is what we are doing
 - Holding the Public meeting at Prince of Wales could be valuable
 - Allows everyone to see the new building under construction
 - Showcase student work to build excitement and engage families
 - The more often you meet with the public the better
 - Walk around the site for a visual understanding of the project- staying on the sidewalk
 - High school students getting hours acting as translators that help with the SJAM/Delta parents
 - Suggesting SJAM and Delta students take a field trip to the construction site
 - Committee agreed to move forward with the May 2018 Public meeting at Prince of Wales
 - This is an opportunity to engage with the public and gather initial information
- A quick review of community suggestions
 - Walk around the block to see the build
 - Depends on the number of people- how will we manage that
 - Having students assist at the meeting or showcase student work

- Engaging newcomer parents is very important
- Lots of success in the past at the West Hamilton City PAR
- How are we going to encourage newcomers to attend meeting
- Begin the meeting with a brief presentation- share background information
- Nadeen Shehaiber- Project Manager- Update on the new school build with some slides
- Introduction of the Advisory Committee
- Give an outline of what we have done so far
- Facilities to help facilitate the walk about
- Give the update on transition work, the building itself , student transition, future plans
- Walk around first with Facilities staff in smaller groups followed by the information session
- Provide staff with a fact sheet
- Deeper meaningful conversation- this is why we do small group table sessions
- Into the gym- overview

14. Can a student needing volunteer hours- wear a GoPro device to play on a screen in the gym? *We can look into this.*

15. Can the video of the public meeting and walk about go up on YouTube- Board Channel? *There could be issues with privacy. Will check with our privacy officer. Not sure of logistics.*

- Review of slide 27
- Hi-light the tier 3 program
- Rec Centre- confusion- What's belongs to the City of Hamilton
- Provide an update on new name/and or process
- Programs- uniqueness
- Information about Community Partners involved at the schools
- Nurse Practitioner Clinic will be at located the New North School

- Review of slide 29
- Facilitated feedback in small groups with interrupters
- Committee suggested an additional question
 - What are your hopes for the new school?
 - What else might we consider for students in this transitions?
 - Additional question regarding the hopes for their school closure

16. Can we offer food and coffee? *Will investigate.*

17. Can we have something for people to take home-e.g.? (book mark, magnet etc.) *There isn't a budget for this type of give away. Will investigate.*

- Present a time-line- What has been your road map so far
- Phys. Ed. Field updates- we will provide
- Review of slide 30
- Committee agreed to a Q/A session at the end of the public meeting
- Parking lot format- to collect questions/comments to be answered at the end of the meeting
- Provide a contact for future questions
- A booth or table- for questions- available during the entire meeting
- Prince of Wales gym- back channel- in-house twitter?
- Set up tables to address specific issues/areas- Tech Shops, Boundaries etc.
- Write down questions as they think of them
- We will send out an outline the week of May 6th
- Additional comments can be sent back to us

Construction Update

- Review of slides 12-16
- Construction is on track
- Roofing is about to begin

Review of Transition Plan

- Review of slide 17
- Principals at both SJAM and Delta are meeting with Department Heads to plan for staff learning and help staff manage change
- Leadership Team- What is the role of the Leadership Team, Cabinet, and Principals
- To support staff and students so the change can go as smoothly as possible
- Two sites moving into one- Grow together with skill building and training
- What can we get excited about
- Empower our staff and make this a positive time
- Review of slide 18
- Ongoing professional learning for Westdale staff to prepare for the new ESL program
- System staff is assisting with this learning
- Review of slide 19

- Delta Alumni has met with Archives staff
 - Review of slide 20
 - School Naming Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 24- 6:00 p.m. at Delta
 - Open to the public for viewing only
 - Public Consultation survey has provided us with healthy list of possible names for committee members to review
 - Name recommendations not based on number of times on survey
 - Usually can be done in one meeting- additional meeting if necessary
 - Will recommend three names for Trustees to consider
 - Trustees to select name mid to late May
-
- Review of slide 21
 - In beginning stages
 - Continue to meet with principals and external partners
-
- Review of slide 22
 - Planning a meeting with our John Howard Society and Hamilton Police Services to discuss safety concerns
 - High school across from elementary school- there is a perception this is a safety concern
-
- Review of slide 23
 - Productive meeting discussing the vision of the new school
 - Lots of transition work but it's not for us to decide the vision of the new school
 - School culture needs to build once students and staff come together
 - Bring the communities together and allow the culture to grow
 - SJAM and Delta were gifted the facilities at Dofasco Park- 600 Grade nines and tens from both schools will gather together to make some connections
 - Great opportunity for student voice
 - Mix up groups and break down barriers
 - What's their vision
 - What are they concerned about
18. Can the Public Meeting start later than 6:00 p.m.? In the past it has been at 6:00 p.m. - After discussion consensus was to leave start time at 6:00 p.m.
- Review of slide 26
 - Information about the Public meeting will be

- Posted on School websites, School signs, Synervice messages, Hamilton Spector
- Shared with settlement workers and translated into specific languages
- Information will be sent out to Neighbourhood Associations
- Schools will need to share their top 5 languages with Corporate Communications
- Child care will be available- families must sign up
- Bus tickets are available upon request
- Interrupters will be present

Future Meeting Dates

- Review of slide 31
- May 15, 6:00 p.m. Public Meeting at Prince of Wales
- June 12, 6:00 p.m. at Delta

Adjournment- 8:09 p.m.