

Tuesday, October 23, 2018
6:00 p.m.
Delta Secondary School

Attendance:

HWDSB Resource Staff: Susan Dunlop, Shawn McKillop

Trustees- Larry Pattison, Ray Mulholland

Student Trustee- Cameron Prosic

Delta- Angela Ferguson, Elysia Dywan, Grant Darby, Marcia Halblander, Zoe Neudorf, Shelley Clemence

SJAM- Barry Smith, Meredith Strongman, Amy Smith, Emily Lackie, Judith Bishop, Chantelle Pealey

Sir Winston Churchill- Marco Barzetti

Westdale- Michelle Visca

Adelaide Hoodless- Joanne Souter

Bennetto- Sandra Rowell

Cathy Wever- Steven Johnston

Dr. Davey- Mary Finstad, Tanya Ritchie

Hess Street- Regrets

Memorial- Regrets

Prince of Wales- Regrets

Queen Victoria- Kelly Sweeting

Public- 3 members of the public

SEAC- Regrets

Recording Secretary- Teresa Movre

Regrets: Christine Bingham, Nanci Simpson, Dan Hunter, Susan Neudorf, Abigail Boyko, Maureen Wilson, Dan Hunter, Tawhid Ahmed, Estella Jones, Jackie Johnson, Michael Castellani, Andrea Robertson, Joanne Cooke, Lita Barrie, Paul Denomme, Jane Macpherson

Start-Up Time: 6:04

Welcome and Introductions

- Review of slides 1-9
- Superintendent Dunlop welcomed everyone back to the Bernie Custis Secondary School Transition Advisory Committee meeting
- Confirmed the name of the New North is officially Bernie Custis Secondary School
- The Custis family was honoured to have his name selected
- Land Acknowledgment shared
- Introduction of committee
- A quick review of the Agenda and the Working Agreement
- Questions can be directed to our office at ext. 2673 or emailed to tmovre@hwdsb.on.ca

Committee Mandate

- Review of slides 10-14
- Overview of the Committee Mandate
- To review and advise on transition plans and activities
- Internal Transitions are going on- each school has their own Transition Committee as well as a joint Transition Committee, Central Board Office also has a number of groups meeting discussing facilities, communication, etc.
- The committee is here to provide advice on specific items
 - Culture & Traditions
 - Opening & Closing Ceremonies
 - Transition activities related to staff, students and families
 - Traffic & Transportation
 - Accommodation & Program (space in school)
 - Seek public feedback
- You know the communities best

Review of Minutes

- Review of slide 15
- Check where minutes are posted
- April 17, 2018- Add Marcia Halblander to attendance
- June 12, 2018- Add Marcia Halblander and Elysia Dywan to attendance

Review of Public Meeting Feedback

- Review of slide 16
- Two questions asked
 1. What are your hopes for the new school?
 2. What might we consider for students in this transition?
- Approximately twenty members of the public along with a large number of staff and committee members attended the meeting
- Information gathered at table facilitated groups
- The meeting ran very smoothly
- Walk-About was successful
- Thanked the committee for their suggestions and support

Response to Public Meeting Feedback

- Review of slide 17
- Committee went through the three pages of feedback
- How else might we share information with families and the public?

- Updating the website
- Frequently Asked Questions sheet to go home to families/posted on schools
- Visits to School Councils
- Getting information out to the general public is very important

What are your hopes for the new school?

Community Partners

- Access to Pathways to Education Program
- The program runs out of the North Hamilton Health Centre located near Bennetto
- An external partnership that offers tutoring and other supports to students who live in the geographical area only
- Pathways Tutors have space at SJAM
- Looking at providing Pathways space as necessary
- Pathways have already connected at Westdale to support students from Hess & Bennetto areas

Positive Culture and Wellbeing

- A lot of concern about safety
- Positive Culture and Wellbeing is one of the five priorities at HWDBS- Every school is working on improving positive culture and wellbeing for all students
- Schools currently working on activities that help bring students together
- Perception this is a Mega School- No
- The capacity of the school is approximately 1250 students
- In line with other high schools

Q1) The overall goal for the new school is to be culturally inclusive. Will there be culturally specific programming? Indigenous Language programs? Yes, the intent is to offer these programs on the option sheets. NYA: WEH will be moving to at Bernie Custis.

- Nutrition program- Yes. There will be a cafeteria and a full hospitality program offered
- Taste Buds program run by volunteers
- There were concerns with having an elementary school directly across the street from the high school
- It will be a busy sector- but we don't see this a problem
- Positive opportunities for partnerships
- Students who may be homeless- lots of different supports
- Hospitality – will look at providing the food to the cafeteria

Programming

- Three purpose-built classes- Self-contained classrooms at BCSS

Q2) What additional supports will be offered to support Special Education students? Learning Resource Teachers (LRT) will be assigned to the school.

Q3) Is the school staffed according to the needs of the students? Will there be a cap or will the formula relate to the needs of the schools? HWDSB has guidelines for LRT staffing for every secondary school. High Priority schools may receive additional funding from Urban Priorities High Schools Funding. We are waiting to see what this funding may look like for Bernie Custis. Every year staff reviews the students they have in front of them, the students in their classes and who has an IEP and who might need support. The LRTs work with classroom teachers to provide those supports. All staff enter into these types of support not just LRTS or Educational Assistants.

Traditions and Ceremonies

- More information will come forward by the end of October
- Staff and students will start to build the vision of the new schools once they come together
- We are in the beginning stages
- Time Capsule- Should it be opened now or moved? A new time capsule?
- Decisions have not been made

What else might we consider?

- Construction should be completed by the end of March
- Open House in May based on occupancy permit etc. (nothing firm yet)
- Grade 8 transition activities are currently underway
- Students who are sensitive to transition (Special Ed/Alternative Ed) will be part of the transition activities
- We can't lose sight of the needs of the special education needs students
- What are the current needs in Delta and SJAM and what supports do we currently provide and what will we need for the future
- Bernie Custis and what supports do we offer and what supports will we need for the future
- Looking at Delta and SJAM we should be able to gather this information
- This type of work is internal transition work – Our staff know the students

Q4) The original plan was to include a Special Education Wing. What happened to this plan? The Board motion from June 2013 does not include any wording about a special wing. There will be three purpose-built classrooms along with the Learning Resource Centre. Appendix 5

(page 45 of tonight's package) indicates which Tier 3 Programs will be offered at Bernie Custis, Westdale, and Sir Winston Churchill.

Program

- Cosmetology is moving to Sir Winston Churchill
- Students apply to Specialist High Skills Major programs
- If the program is not offered at their catchment school, they would be granted OOC
- Offered at BCSS
- Students can apply to the program without the Board

Q5) Will OOC Indigenous students be permitted to apply to the NYA: WEH program at the BCSS? Will NYA: WEH be offered at Westdale? We will need to speak to our Indigenous partners. If we see the need for Indigenous Support at Westdale, we will look at different supports.

Parking Transportation

- HSR stops, Bike Hubs, crosswalks, etc. are all City of Hamilton considerations
- Transportation will be provided to in catchment students if they live outside the walking boundary- currently 3.2 kilometres
- Most often through a bus pass
- OOC students do not receive transportation
- Exceptions for students in Tier 3 programs
- Residents have concerns about the parking- congestion
- Parking lot is located across the street on the old Parkview site
- The Board is encouraging students to consider using public transit or walking to school

Q6) Can we invite the City of Hamilton to speak to the committee? Yes.

Q7) Parking lot safety? Will there be an emergency station? Lighting will be an issue. Superintendent Dunlop will investigate.

Facilities

- Yes, there will be air conditioning in the new school
- Bike racks- yes- not sure of number

Q8) Will there be Grade 8 tours? We will see what is possible. It depends on how available and open the school is.

Other Issues

- No current plans for uniforms- this is a school council decision

Any other suggestions on how to share information?

- FAQ
- School Council Visits
- Information on the website- easy to find and up to date
- Provide YMCA Settlement Workers all the necessary information to help facilitate
- Public meeting per individual feeder school
- CH TV- Morning show
- Visit Student Councils
- Platform to gather questions and find answers
- Connect with our community partners

Transition Work Update

- Review slides 18-36

Construction Update

- Review of slides 19-28
- Progressing well and on schedule
- Collaboration Stair is quite grand

Mascot and Colours

- Review of slide 29
- Principals at Delta and SJAM reached out to staff and students at both Delta and SJAM and feeder schools
- Collected suggestions and choose the top five
- Shared the top five suggestions with the current students at Delta and SJAM and they voted on the colours and mascot
- Red and Gold (Red representing Delta and Gold representing SJAM)
- Selected Tigers as a mascot
- Logos are in creation stage

Combined Football Team

- Review of Slide 30
- Delta and SJAM have one football team practising at Tim Horton's Field
- Players already consider themselves Bernie Custis
- Pep Rally bringing students together in friendship

Use of Tim Horton's Field

- Currently working with the City of Hamilton on the plan for the use of Tim Horton's Field

- Sue, Angela and Facilities staff are actively discussing the needs of Bernie Custis and what will that look like in term of using Tim Horton's Field
- Dominion Glass site will be developed by the City of Hamilton- approximately five years away

Student Council

- Currently having joint meetings
- Working well together to plan events to bring students together
- 25 council members from each school attending team building activities

Grade 8 to 9 transitions-Grade 8 info nights

- Grade 8 Info Nights
 - Bernie Custis: Nov 28 @ 6:00 p.m.
 - Westdale: Nov 20 @ 6:00 p.m.
 - Sir Winston Churchill: Nov 27 @ 6:00 p.m.

Bernie Custis

- Student Successful teachers from all three schools met to create a transition plan for the year. Will meet again in December for additional planning.
- Principal of BCSS to go into feeder schools to meet the students to share information, pictured, etc.
- Gather information from the students to drive the design of BCSS option sheets
- Option Sheet night- to share basic information about requirements and programs
- Considering bringing students together in March at Tim Horton's Field for shared activities.
- Four-day Orientation program in August- lockers, timetables, etc.
- Orientation activities during the first two weeks of schools
- ESL- Creating student profiles for current and new students- to know our students better

Westdale

- Westdale has met with Administration, Learning Resource and Student Success staff with all feeder schools to discuss transitions
- ESL Program- Meeting with SJAM to discuss what ESL programming looks like and supporting students coming from SJAM
- Planning Open House night- any students living in the catchment
- Planning Information Night - Option Sheets etc. general information
- Nov 14- "Experience a day at Westdale"
- Spring event for grade 8s
- August Program- Literacy and Numeracy bridging lessons
- ESL students to visit in smaller groups

- Reaching out to new feeder schools
- Grade 9 Tech day
- Student Success leads are meeting
- Student Success funding- Ministry- social, emotional supports
- Personal tours through the schools
- Tuesday, Nov 27th Open House

SJAM

- Working with both schools to help with transitions and to have students placed appropriately
- Very thoughtful process- Student wellbeing is as important as proper placement

Indigenous Program

- Involved with transition work with the feeder schools
- Sir Winston Churchill has a new Mohawk as a Second Language program

Sir Winston Churchill

- Similar activities as already mentioned
- Reaching out to new feeder school
- Lots of activities- Basket Tournament, Grade Nine Tech day, etc.
- Meeting with Student Success Leads and Administrators from feeder schools
- Student Success teachers have been outstanding- great ambassadors

Q9) Is there parent involvement in student transitions? Yes. Both Open House and Option Sheet Nights are for parents. Depending on the needs of the community staff from the secondary school can come to the feeder school and offer a session to the parents. Pathways – Grade 7- Information Nights are open to everyone. Information was given to grades 7s and 8s

Community Partners

- Review slide 36
- Part of the internal staff work
- We regret not having the opportunity to reach out to community partners
- Moving forward to working with our community partners
- Newly hired staff in the Community Engagement Department are now in place to begin this work
- Currently identifying our community partners: e.g., Settlement Workers, Kiwanis THRIVE, Bull Dogs, Ti-Cats, etc.
- Staff will be reaching out to our partners to discuss what supports will look like and prepare for September

- A committee member suggested the Disabilities Social Justice Network of Ontario newly housed in Hamilton might be a great resource
- First priority to reach out to current partners

2019 Enrolment

- Review slides 32-33
 - Current Grade 8s will be directed to their home secondary schools
 - At this time the Board is not considering other options- we need to stabilize the student population
 - We are reviewing numbers very closing of the current SJAM and Delta students to determine what choices we can offer to those students - No decision has been made
 - Capacity of Bernie Custis is 1250 students
 - Combined numbers of current SJAM/Delta students plus Grade 8s is 1700 students- this number includes current grade 12
 - Looking at information to review what choice can be offered to these students
 - Executive Council will make this decision- the decision will be communicated in writing to families
 - As soon as the information is made, we will share with you and families
-
- Review of slide 35
 - Internal Transition Committees are underway
 - We are aware that although it is exciting to open a new school, we are closing two schools with long, proud histories
 - This can be difficult for staff, and it's important to make sure we are supporting both staff and students
 - Central Transition Committee
 - Overseeing operational details
 - Program Division
 - Meeting and planning
 - ESL programs, Specialist High Skills Majors, OPS program, NYA:WEH

Q10) Can we add Special Education on the next agenda and confirm the number of Special Education classrooms in the new school- 2 or 3? Yes. We will discuss further at the next meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

- Review of slide 37
- Tuesday, November 27th at Delta

- Can discuss future meeting location- Prince of Wales is close to the new school
- May 28- potential public meeting

Appendix 5: Tier 3 Programs

- Review slide 45
- These are the programs that will be in these three schools
- Some additional programs have been added

Adjournment- 8:09 p.m.