

SCHOOL TRANSITION INFORMATION SESSION
(New CH Bray / Queen's Rangers)

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
6:30 pm

Queen's Rangers
1886 Governors Road, Copetown

Attendance- 69 Public

HWDSB Resource Staff – Transitions Support Michael Prendergast, Superintendent Jane Macpherson, Mark Taylor, David Anderson, Sean Malcolmson, Tammy McLaughlin

Trustees – Chair of the Board, Trustee Wards 11 & 12 Alex Johnstone

Recording Secretary – Michele Lambie

6:33 pm Start Up

Welcome and Introductions

Superintendent Jane Macpherson shared the Land Acknowledgement and introduced Michael Prendergast former Superintendent/current role of Transitions Support; Chair/Trustee Alex Johnstone; David Anderson, Mark Taylor and Principals.

There are many transitions taking place across our family of schools. Currently there are (3) projects: Beverly site, C.H. Bray site, and Ancaster Senior. Spencer Valley will be underway shortly now the funding model has been worked out. All of these projects are interconnected and when we move students there are ripple effects.

Purpose of the School Transition Information Session

- The purpose of this public meeting is to provide information on the preliminary plans and next steps of the transition process
- This is an important opportunity for the school communities to voice their concerns during a question and answer period
- Questions raised at this meeting, that the Board members are not able to address, will be taken away for further follow up

Board Decision

- As part of the Ancaster Accommodation Review, the Board of Trustees approved the closure of Fessenden, Queen's Rangers, pending Ministry of Education funding for (2) new JK-8 elementary schools on the CH Bray and Rousseau sites, as well as an addition at Ancaster Senior
- In March 2015 and March 2018, the Board received total Ministry of Education funding of \$14.4 million for a 511 pupil place, **K-8 elementary school on the Beverly Community Centre site**. Construction has started on this school and completion is expected in the 2019-20 school year
- In addition, in March of this year, HWDSB received Ministry of Education funding for a new \$12.25 million, 495 pupil place, **K-8 elementary school on the current C.H. Bray site**. The new school construction is currently awaiting Site Plan Approval. Once Site Plan Approval is received, the school will be tendered with the intention of starting construction in the summer of 2019. Construction of an elementary school usually takes 12-16 months

Transitions – Slide Presentation

- Michael Prendergast presented slides that reviewed: School Renewal process; Ancaster Transition Map; Projected enrollments; Site plans; Construction/facility highlights; and Overview of Project phases.
- As part of the transition plan, Queen's Rangers will close in June 2019
- In order for construction to begin, C.H. Bray will close at the end of June 2019
- The new schools to be built on the C.H. Bray site and the Beverly Community Centre site will be named in 2018-19 in accordance with the HWDSB Naming Policy and the majority of Queen's Rangers will be members of one of these school communities
- The slides presented tonight will be posted on the Board website:
<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/upcoming-school-transitions/>

Transition Maps - Queen's Rangers students

The presentation includes an Ancaster Transition map that shows the new school boundaries and the co-ordination of school closure and consolidation planned for Ancaster over the months/years ahead. As can be seen in the map, **current Queen's Rangers students are in Zones 1, 2 and 3**

- **Zone 1** students who live on, and north, of Powerline Road West **will attend the new school on the Beverly Community Centre site** when it is complete. Starting in September 2019, these students in **Zone 1 will temporarily attend Dr. J. Seaton** until the new school opens

- **Zone 3** students who live south of Powerline Road West will attend the **new school on the CH Bray site** when it is complete. Starting in September 2019, these students in Zone 2 will be temporarily accommodated as follows:
 - **K-Grade 6:** at the current Queen's Rangers site
 - **Grades 7-8:** at the new school on the Ancaster Senior site
- **Zone 2** students will attend the new **school on the Greensville site** when it is complete. During the construction period, these students will have the *option* of **joining the Zone 3 students or attending Spencer Valley**

Transition Maps – C.H. Bray students

As can be seen in the map, **current C.H. Bray students are located in Zone 4** and will be accommodated in the new school on the C.H. Bray site.

- During the construction period, the new school students **Zones 3 and 4** will be temporarily accommodated as follows:
 - **K-Grade 6:** at the current Queen's Rangers site
 - **Grades 7-8:** at the new school on the Ancaster Senior site

School Renewal

- Process: Ministry funding - design, receive regulatory approvals and permits, tendered within budget (Time period: can take up to 18 months)
- Construction (Time period: 12-16 months)
- Ministry does not always approve all proposals
- In most cases, building a new school requires moving students to another location, short term solutions are needed
- Board is always looking for ways to minimize transitions for students and acknowledges short term relocations are necessary and will work with their communities

School Transition Committees

- Parents and community input is essential and this is achieved through the creation of the Transition Committee, beginning in January 2019
- The purpose of this Transition Committee is to formulate a plan at the school level to ease transitions

Projected Enrollments

- The Queen's Rangers site for 2019-2020, will have 332 students on site

Question & Answer

Q1. Can we all fit on the Queen's Rangers site?

A1. Yes as 3 or 4 portables are required, use of office, library and computer lab as classrooms.

Q2. Will the septic system be overtaxed?

A2. No. We are not adding any fixtures to the system and have low flow efficient fixtures which significantly reduces the load on the system.

Q3. Are there enough washrooms?

A3. Yes. We are within the building code for fixture counts

Q4. Water concerns: well water has high level sodium and has been an existing concern for the last (3) years; the use of water bottles for students is bad for our environment.

A4. Queen's Rangers Principal Tammy McLaughlin confirmed that students are currently not on bottled water. However, water will continued to be monitored, as the Board follows the regulations for high sodium levels.

Q5. C.H. Bray parents are concerned for their children's bussing.

A5. There are no other viable options to accommodate C.H. Bray students during construction in Ancaster. They must vacate the school; the surrounding schools do not have space for additional students.

Q6. What will transportation look like during this transition period?

A6. Scheduling of buses will be determined in February 2019. However, it is important to note that Transportation is currently under critical review, investigating ways to maximize the buses/drivers, to minimize the strains that the provincial driver shortage is having upon our families and schools. Consequently, the Board and HWSTS are examining Bell Times across the Board, as it is a key factor that directly impacts bus pickup/drop off, in order to avoid duplication and reduce student ride times. Also, hoping for more provincial solutions and sharing of buses with other Boards.

Q7. Why are the Transition being rushed, why not wait until we have all the site plan approvals and the tenders awarded,? Before moving students and demolishing schools, and working on a plan of what the Board "anticipates"?

A7. This may result in a mid-semester closure and transition of students from C.H. Bray to Queen's Rangers; and Queen's Rangers to Dr. John Seaton. It is easier to plan a transition and commence at the start or mid-point of a school year. Furthermore, once we get site approval we want to start as soon as possible because of the funding formula that grants only so much

time to spend it and therefore we must be ready to start the process immediately. Alex Johnstone said the Board of Trustees will provide an update in February 2019.

Q8. Prior to the Transition, will there be an opportunity for students to visit their temporary school?

A8. Yes, this will be an essential role of the Transition Committee, to create opportunities such as Open Houses to make students feel welcome and alleviate concerns of transferring to another building. Transition Committees are an integral piece during the process of schools coming together, by planning activities that include both communities.

Q9. Has the C.H. Bray site been approved?

A9. Senior Manager of Facilities, David Anderson said that site approvals are dependent upon Environment and Climate Change. There was a wildlife issue that delayed the process, however we received approval March 2018 and submitted the site plan through the City of Hamilton in July 2018, which typically is a year wait. Facilities met on December 7, 2018 to advance our timeline and hope to get full approval by February 2019. The intent will be to tender in the Spring to start construction as soon as possible.

Q10. What happens if the new school on the Beverly site is not ready as planned?

A10. Dr. J. Seaton has lots of space if construction is delayed, and therefore can house students for a longer period of time. Queen's Rangers will have 3-4 portables as a backup plan.

Q11. What grades will be using the portables?

A11. This is a school based decision, however predominately grades 3-6 are in the portables. Considerations for easy accessibility to washrooms for younger students is the reason their classrooms remain in the school building. This will be part of the school organization process.

Q12. Parents are concerned that the computer labs are being used for classrooms during the transition stage.

A12. Currently the focus is on iPads, and therefore the Ministry does not support computer labs but rather portable technology in classrooms.

Q13. Parents are concerned about the private daycares, such as Little Gems where students are dropped off by the bus there, will this practice continue?

A13. At this point, Michael Prendergast does not foresee a change, however as this is an important concern for both parents and the daycare this will be a *'take-away' for further information item.*

Q14. For C.H. Bray students who attend Ancaster Senior for grade 7, if the new school opens in Grade 8, will they have the option to stay at Ancaster Senior?

A14. Yes, they will have the option to attend Grade 8 at Ancaster Senior or go to the new site.

Q15. With C.H. Bray and Queen's Rangers merging together, will the Bell Times continue on the Queen's Ranger's schedule? When will parents be notified?

A15. Bell times are predominately determined by Transportation. However, the school Administration will make contributions to the decision making, including recommendations from the Transition Committee. Parents will be notified of the Bell Times well in advance (mid April), being respectful of families' schedules, before/after care, as well as daycare establishments.

Q16. How will the Administration be determined?

A16. The Superintendent works with each of the Administration teams, discussing their career paths in January 2019. Principals need to be assigned to schools, prior to the staffing process, as this will impact teachers' decision making on their school choices. Most likely, parents will be notified of the Administration team by March Break.

Q17. Will there be Before/After care?

A17. Yes, Before/After care, and the Board will work with our community partners to ensure there is enough space.

Q18. C.H. Bray parents concerned when they will know the Bus schedule prior to the traditional notification in August, as it will impact making arrangement with their daycare provider.

A18. Understanding that this is a concern for parents to schedule their children's daycare, the Superintendent will request for earlier notification from Transportation, this will be a *'take-away' for further information item.*

Q19. How will the Board manage the traffic in regards to the increased number of parents who will be driving their children to and from school?

A19. There will be a review of the parking lot on where buses will be picking up and dropping off students, in relation to the increased parent traffic to ensure safety. Furthermore, this will be managed in co-ordination with the City, by-law officers, Facility department, school Administration and staff, with recommendations from the Transition Committee for planning strategies to assist with the flow of buses and traffic for student safety.

Q20. Will there be many split classes?

A20. This is a school based decision, and therefore the initial step is to have the Principal established before this can be determined. The advantage of split classes, is that it provides some flexibility when loading classes, to avoid re-organization later in the fall, while adhering to the Ministry's cap restrictions.

Q21. With the two schools merging, how will staffing be determined? When will parents be informed?

A21. Once the Administrator has been established, the Principal will take the lead role in building a staffing model that will be reflected in the new school, as essentially the staff at the transition school will be the model used in the new school. Parents will be informed of the staffing by June.

Q22. Where will the portables be placed?

A22. The Facilities department will work with school Administration before locations are finalized, with determining factors being optimal visibility for supervision and student safety. The Principal will review the number of students outside at a time, and will determine if rotating Nutrition Breaks is necessary. The Transition Committee will be consulted for their recommendations as well.

Q23. How will do we promote a positive student experience through the transition period?

A23. There will be opportunities created prior to the transition, such as arranging Open Houses to visit each other's schools with transportation provided, allowing students to become familiar and recognizing staff from both schools which will be beneficial in preparing children for the future school amalgamation. There are funds through the Board, dedicated to supporting students through transitioning periods.

Q24. In regards to assemblies, will the Fire Code regulations at Queen's Rangers be surpassed for assemblies with the increased population?

A24. Fire Codes will be adhered to, and may result in having staggered assemblies which is a common practice in many schools.

Q25. During this transition period, will schools be open for Out-of-Catchment?

A25. No, schools will be closed to Out-of-Catchment during the construction period.

Q26. How is the Transition Committee membership determined? What is the process?

A26. School letters will go home in early January, to define the roles and required participants that comprise the Transition Committee. Members are Principals/Vice-Principals of the transitioning schools, including their teaching staff, parents, School Council Chairs, student

reps, and the Superintendent. Although their number of members is limited, these Transition Committee meetings are open for the public to attend to lend their voice, share concerns and contribute ideas. Typically, the Committee meets on a monthly basis prior to the school transition and after.

Q27. Will there be any more Boundary changes?

A27. No, there will be no changes to the Ancaster boundaries, nor will programs be moved. Boundaries have already been established through the decision of the Board of Trustees Ancaster Boundary Review process.

Q.28 Some of the Queen's Rangers students who live in the Governor's Road and Binkley Road, do they have choice of where they attend?

A.28. This affects three families and four students that reside in the new portion of Sir William Osler's boundary that attend Queen's Ranges or Ancaster Senior. The approved Board of Trustee reports states that, "Current Queen's Rangers residing in the area recommended to attend Sir William Osler to be given the choice to attend the New School on Beverly Community Centre Site or attend Sir William Osler." The few students involved in these families from Ancaster Senior fall into the approved motion from the Trustees that indicated all grade 8 graduates from Ancaster Senior in June 2018, 2019 and 2020 have the choice to attend Ancaster High with transportation.

Q29. What are the long term plans for vacant school property?

A29. The Board does not have plans for this property at this time.

Q30. Will there be a resource area for library materials at Queen's Rangers?

A30. There is a process of going through the library collection to see if there are any duplicates and outdated items that will start in January 2019. In regards to a designated space, this may be a challenge, however this will be a *'take-away' for further information item.*

Q31. Will there be a 'Kiss & Ride' at the new school?

A31. It is doubtful there will be a 'Kiss & Ride'. Most likely there will be a designated parking area marked by pylons and supervised by staff, which will identify when parents have access. The Facilities Department and Transportation will develop a plan to ensure student safety. However, the Kiss & Ride question will be a *'take-away' for further information item.*

Next Steps

- The goal of the Board is to minimize the disruption to both schools by remaining open until the construction phase is complete, while seeking positive solutions so that students feel supported and safe during this transition period

- Your questions and concerns will be taken back to the Board, and unanswered questions will be followed up for further information
- In January, families can expect to receive communication, in the form of letters that will be posted on your school's website
- Information regarding the formation of the Transition Committee that serve to support the transition of students, staff and families involved in school relocation/consolidation, including on how parents can become involved in this important process
- Transition Committee information can be found on the HWDSB's website:
<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/school-renewal/transition-committees/>
- Please visit the Construction Updates section on the HWDSB's website for updates and more information about school consolidation plans:
<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/school-renewal/construction/>
- If you have further questions and concerns, please contact your school's Administration
- Minutes from this evening's School Information Session will be posted on the Board's website

8:35 pm Closing