

SCHOOL TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING #2
(Ancaster Senior / Fessenden)

Tuesday April 9, 2019
5:30 pm

Ancaster Senior
295 Nakoma Road, Ancaster

In Attendance:

Trustee – Chair of the Board, Trustee Wards 11 & 12 Alex Johnstone
Superintendent – Jane Macpherson
Executive Assistant, Recorder – Michele Lambie
Principal, Ancaster Senior – Jenny Seto-Vanderlip
Principal, Fessenden – Laura Subonovich
Vice-Principal, Fessenden – Caitlin Evans
Teacher Rep, Ancaster Senior – Gurdeep Gill
Teacher Rep, Ancaster Senior – Janet Fairley
Non-Teaching Rep, Ancaster Senior – Joanne Lewis
Parent Rep, Ancaster Senior – Erika Leake
Home & School Rep, Ancaster Senior/Fessenden – Andrew Hawryluk
Teacher Rep, Fessenden – Kristin Ortwein

Regrets:

Non-Teaching Rep, Fessenden – Donna Todoric
Teacher Rep, Fessenden – Lori Horvath
Home & School Rep, Fessenden – John Scime
School Council Rep, Fessenden – Melanie Skrlac

5:37 pm Start Up

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Superintendent Jane Macpherson extended her appreciation to the Transition Committee members for their dedication in engaging both school communities to ensure a smooth transition
- Minutes from these Transition Committee meetings will be posted on the Board's website

2. School Closing and Celebration dates

Principals shared the School Closing and Celebration dates with the Committee:

- Ancaster Senior – *TBD* Proposing: June 4 or 5 at 9:00 am (Closing Ceremony)
- Ancaster Senior – May 8 at 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm (Open House/Closing Celebration)
- Fessenden – June 18th at 9:00 am and 9:45 am (Closing Ceremony)
- Fessenden – June 21 at 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm (School Closing Celebration)

3. Working Group time

- The goal of this meeting is to generate ideas for transition activities to develop concrete plans, based on the feedback received from our first Transition Committee meeting on February 26th
- Currently, Administrators are collaboratively reviewing activities that will benefit their respective school communities, and set dates that align with their varied schedules
- A chart was provided in the agenda package to all Committee members that outlines the items brought forward
- A group discussion was initiated to determine which transition activities are relevant for this school year, and items more suitable for the following year

Ancaster Senior

Open House and Closing Celebration

- Celebrating 51 years
- Ancaster Senior band to perform
- Posters posted throughout Ancaster community
- Different decades represented in classrooms and areas throughout the school
- Activities: checkers; karaoke, “Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader?”; memorabilia display boards; grad composites; BBQ; Open Mike
- Suggestion to reach out to Corporate Communication for old newspaper articles (etc); and HWDSB Archives & Heritage Centre for historical information from former Wentworth schools to illustrate events/items of interest from the past
- Date: May 8th (5:30 pm – 7:30 pm)

2nd Annual Career Day

- This activity combines Grade 1’s from Fessenden and Ancaster Senior’s Grade 8 students
- Date: March 6th

Orientation

- This event will assist transition students in becoming familiar with the building/staff/students
- Many activities throughout the school, including a scavenger hunt
- Teachers to collaborate on planning activities with student input
- Leadership role opportunities for older students
- As gym will be closed due to construction, students will meet and organized outside
- Date: June 24th (duration of 1 ½ hours)

French Immersion Culture Project Presentations

- Event occurs in the Spring

Courtyard

- Currently in the process of working with students to create a learning space with plants that are indigenous to the Ancaster area and represents the different cultures
- Opportunities for both school communities to come together and can be tied into the curriculum
- Striving towards having the preliminary Courtyard plans on display at the Open House
- Investigation of grants for this initiative, including Environment Hamilton
- Discussion on incorporating the statue at Ancaster Senior into the design (Planning Committee is investigating the statue's historical background)
- Discussion of a commemorative plaque for the naming of the new school
- Contemplation of a dedicated space for a Bee Pollinator garden and memorial tree
- Board guidelines to adhere to when planning this area, including consultation with our HWDSB Technological Education & Program Safety Consultant; Outdoor Design Manual

Fessenden

Welcome to Kindergarten Night

- Date: May 22nd from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Shared Activities

- *Ancaster Senior's Band* will continue to be an important shared activity between the campuses
- *Eco Systems* and "*Team Up to Clean Up*" provides opportunities for both campuses to work towards a common goal of cleaning up the environment and striving to maintain our Eco School Platinum status
- Plans already in progress with Principals in creating future mutual events to build community

Agendas

- Agendas are an essential communication tool, that are being ordered for the fall (English/French)

Monthly Assemblies

- Continuing the tradition of celebrating student successes with assemblies, e.g. “Believe in Achieving”

Teaching Staff

- Planning for joint staffing opportunities will continue as this school year progresses and more to come in the fall
- Suggestions: combined curriculum planning; social activities

Farewell Ceremony

- Date: June 25th at 9:30 am

Following School Year - Planned Activities:

Uniforms/School Name/Logo/Marketing

- The use of uniforms is an item to be discussed when both school communities come together, and following the Board of Trustee’s announcement of the new school name
- Transition Committee to consider school colours and mascot, in accordance with the Board’s policies and procedures
- Future discussions regarding team jerseys for sports that will begin early in the fall; and purchasing/branding portable tents for sporting events

Auditorium Speaker

- Future consideration for purchasing an auditorium speaker system for assemblies that will accommodate an increased school population

Kindergarten Dismissal Plans

- Safe Kindergarten dismissal practices will continue: students dismissed and parent pickup from the Kindergarten pen; hand delivered to buses by duty supervisors; seating behind the bus driver; back pack stickers/tags for information/identification purposes

Mutual Invitations

- Planning future events/activities to encourage partnerships between the two campuses: Open Houses; Carnival; Career Day (Gr. 1 and Gr. 8); Pen Pals; Reading Buddies

Playday

- An activity to amalgamate school families and staffs
- Create teams that are inclusive of both schools
- Teachers to collaborate on planning activities with student input
- Leadership role opportunities for older students
- Proposed time: fall activity

Playground Activities and Structures

- Future Transition Committee discussions on playground activities and structures
- Playground structures are not included in the Ministry funding, and are decisions based upon recommendations of the Administration team, School Councils/Home & Schools and Transition Committees
- Currently the focus of the Ministry and schools are to encourage the development of 'natural playgrounds'
- Prior to planning, this will require follow up with our Facilities Department for rules/regulations/procedures

School Council/Home & School

- Principals will create opportunities for the collaboration of School Councils/Home & School to discuss shared fundraisers (e.g. Pizza Days)
- Joint School Council/Home & School meetings to form connections

Question & Answer

Q1. In September will both campuses be following the Balanced Day schedule?

A1. Both campuses will have a Balanced Day schedule. Details will follow, as times are determined by the number of students that may include rotating Nutrition Breaks. The Administration at both campuses will co-ordinate their Nutrition Breaks to effectively manage the number of students outside at a time, to ensure safety and staff supervision

Q2. What will be the permission process for senior student excusals at lunch breaks in relation to the building and the length of time for lunch (Balanced Day versus Traditional)?

A2. *Items to taken away for further follow up*

Q3. Which Bell Times will be followed In September? (Ancaster Senior or Fessenden)

A3. Administrations are considering Fessenden's Bell times, however this decision is predominately determined by Transportation. Parents will be notified well in advance

should Bell Times change being respectful of families' schedules, before/after care, as well as daycare establishments.

Q4. Will the practice of a rotary schedule continue with Grades 7 and 8? And will Grade 6's be involved in the rotation?

A4. Administrators are not anticipating much of a change to the intermediate/senior schedules, however we cannot assume the format as the board is currently working on staffing assignments. At this time, we are not planning on putting Grade 6's into the rotary schedule, however we are working towards including them into the key specialty courses (e.g. instructional music; phys-ed; art) - *Take away item for further follow up*

Q5. Has there been any further development in the construction?

A5. Construction fences have been erected. For further building updates please continue to visit our Board website: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/school-renewal/construction/>

Q6. What is the date that the Board of Trustees will making the final decision on the new school name? Is this a public meeting?

A6. This is a public meeting that will be held on May 13th

4. Next Meeting:

- Agenda items for upcoming meetings: Transition Committee members are asked to reach out to Principals Jenny Seto-Vanderlip, Laura Subonovich and Vice-Principal Caitlin Evans
- Transition Committee #3 -- Tuesday May 7th (6:00 pm – 7:00 pm) at Ancaster Senior

6:14 pm Closing