

Tuesday, January 22, 2019
6:00 p.m.
Delta Secondary School

Attendance:

HWDSB Resource Staff: Susan Dunlop, Amber Aquin, Peggy Blair, Michele Moore, John Manzin, James Troisi, Melissa Biederman

Trustees- Chris Parkinson, Christine Bingham

Student Trustee- Cameron Prosic

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

SJAM- Barry Smith, Meredith Strongman, Emily Lackie, Judith Bishop, Tawhid Ahmed

Sir Winston Churchill- Abbie Boyko

Westdale- Michelle Visca

Adelaide Hoodless- Nanci Simpson, Joanne Souter

Bennetto- Regrets

Cathy Wever- Steven Johnston

Dr. Davey- Mary Finstad

Hess Street- Estella Jones

Memorial- Regrets

Prince of Wales- Regrets

Queen Victoria- Regrets

Public-

SEAC- Regrets

Recording Secretary- Teresa Movre

Regrets: Jeff Neven, Amy Smith, Chantelle Pealey, Marco Barzetti, Sandra Rowell, Andrea Robertson, Tanya Ritchie, Jackie Johnson, Joanne Cooke, Michael Castellani, Susan Neudorf, Kelly Sweeting, Lita Barrie, Ray Mulholland, Paul Denomme, Jane Macpherson

Start-Up Time: 6:06 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

- Review of slides 1-3
- Review of agenda
- Superintendent Dunlop welcomed everyone to the Bernie Custis Secondary School (BCSS) Transition Advisory Committee meeting
- Land Acknowledgment shared

Transition Advisory Committee Mandate

- Review of slides 4-8
- Quick overview of membership

- Welcome extended to the new Ward 3 Trustee- Chris Parkinson
- Introduction of Amber Aquin- Community Engagement Supervisor who is representing Communications and Community Engagement

Working Agreement

- Review of slide 9
- If you have any questions between meetings, reach out to our office at sjdunlop@hwdsb.on.ca, tmovre@hwdsb.on.ca or 905 527 5092 ext. 2673

Review Minutes

- Review of slide 10
- Review minutes from November 27, 2018
 - Approved without changes

Support for Students with Special Needs Presentation- Superintendent Peggy Blair

- Review of slide 11
- Introduction of the team from Specialized Services
 - Peggy Blair- Superintendent of Student Achievement – Specialized Services
 - Michele Moore- Principal of Special Education
 - John Manzin- Principal of Special Education
 - James Troisi- Consultant- Special Education
 - Melissa Biederman- Consultant- Special Education
- Slide Presentation #2
- Review of slides A-K

Goal

- Review of slide B
- Update on the transition planning for students with exceptional learning needs over the next number of months
- An average of 5-8 months for transition planning- with small changes along the way
- This is always happening in our schools- all of the time
- We want to ensure the whole process of moving to the new school is a positive one for the students and their families

What is a Transition Plan

- Review of slide C
- Special Education in Ontario is heavily governed

- Special Education in Ontario- Kindergarten to Grade 12- Policy and Resource Guide- a great resource document our staff use to guide the workaround transition planning
- Plans can vary from short term goals such as transition from period to period or long term goals such as applying for a disability pension

Transition Plan Development & Review

- Review of slide D
- Students with an IEP should have a transition plan
- Transition Plan is part of the IEP
- Developed in consultation with the student, parent/guardian, a community agency representative to name a few
- When the IEP is reviewed the Transition Plan is also reviewed- typically a couple of times a year

Elements of a Transition Plan

- Review of slide E
- Transition plans includes specific goals and include strategies to be used and actions required to achieve that goal, who will be responsible for carrying out the plan, and the timelines for implementation

Development of the Plan

- Review of slide F
- School principal is responsible for ensuring the coordination and development of the plan

Sample

- Review of slide G
- Many samples of IEPs posted online by the Ministry of Education
- Some plans have big goals and will go on for an extended period – perhaps over a number of school years
- Some plans are very short goals and maybe for a semester or one school year
- A student may need to go and physically see the school or classroom- this could be part of the transition plan

Additional Supports

- Review of slide H
- Additional resource people may provide support- Special Education Staff, Social Workers, Program Staff, ESL Teachers etc.

Examples of Transition Work

- Review of slide I
- Specialized equipment may need to be relocated
- Scheduled meetings or phone conversations with parents may be necessary
- Additional supports can be offered if school administrators feel it is necessary

Next Steps

- Review of slide J
- Staff will review the current IEPs and transition plans for students attending Delta and Sir John A. Macdonald
- Identify and communicate school placements
- Involve support staff where needed
- Implement the transition plan
- Purposeful planning to ensure a seamless, smooth transition
- Superintendents Blair and Dunlop Superintendent Dunlop will continue to meet with school administrators to discuss required supports

Questions

Q1) When will students have confirmation of their class placement? Within two months class placements will be known. We know students will feel better when they know where they are going. We can use technology to help prepare students.

Q2) How many students are involved in the transition? Approximately 400 students in total that have an IEP. Approximately 200 students per school in grades 9-12. Some students have an IEP only, and some also have an identification.

Q3) Will the tier 1, 2, 3 supports be in place? What will that look like? Yes, tiered supports will be in place. Currently being discussed. Tier 1- generally students with fewer needs are supported in general education. Tier 2- more support required. This could be LRT or maybe Special Class placement. Tier 3- Full-time special class with additional supports. Works as a pyramid- with a smaller number of students receiving more intensive supports. We are looking at how we support our young people and the staff that support them with the use of technology.

Q4) What about students who don't like change but aren't identified? If the school is aware of the challenge, they will work with these students. Schools recognize change is difficult for some students and are currently working with student transitions.

Q5) With the number of students requiring special education support will there be an adequate number of Learning Resource Teachers? The 400 students will be split between Bernie Custis, Westdale, and

potentially other sites. Currently working on these plans. Some of these students require accommodations only- such as longer test taking times or a quiet place to work. We will continue to work with the school teams to understand what the students are requiring and then what resourcing we can provide.

Q6) Will you be able to say to parents that things will be in place for their students in September? Yes.

Q7) Will parents have a contact number if they have concerns? Yes. Parents can always contact the school administrator with their concerns. Families would already have a contact person at their current school. It may be the LRT or VP. According to our protocol, the families would start at the school and then reach out to the superintendent's office if they need further support.

Q8) Will the schools be staffed at a higher number of Learning Resource Teachers because of the higher number of students with special needs? There is a protocol around staffing. Once option sheets come in we will have a better idea of the number of students coming to BCSS and will be able to address this. Decisions still need to be made around LRTs, EAs and mentoring EAs.

Q9) Can you provide a breakdown of students at the next meeting (especially students with special needs) and dates to tour Bernie Custis? We won't have a firm number by the February meeting, and we want to be mindful we don't share information at a public meeting that could potentially identify students- I will follow up and get back to you. If individual parents have any concerns, please encourage the parents to reach out directly to their current school. We are hoping for a tour in May- based on occupancy permit. Tour date would be widely advertised.

Transition Work Update

Construction Update

- Review of slides 13- 18
- Construction is proceeding well- on schedule
- Some highlights include
 - Elevator complete
 - Installation of lockers
 - Gym floor installation has begun
 - Lighting and windows in the main foyer quite impressive
 - Hospitality area has state of the art walk-in fridge and freezer

Review of Transition Work

- Review of slide 19

- Recognizing the extra work of all elementary and secondary principals involved in the transitions

Delta Update- Principal Angela Ferguson

- SJAM and Delta Student Services offices working well together
- Letter went home informing families of the choice students have in selecting their school for September 2019
- SJAM and Delta ESL Head and Assistant Heads met to discuss ESL and ELL and the creation of option sheets
- Option sheet templates are complete- based on student voice
- Option sheet parent information night was held on January 17, 2019
- January 28-30 option sheets will be shared with students in the six feeder schools
- February 11-13th - English and Math teachers will visit the six feeder schools and meet with students
- February 25-27th - Student Services will be going back to the six feeder schools to assist students in completing their option sheets
- Student Services meeting with students who are OOC for BCSS to get an idea of what their choice of destination will be
- Student leaders from both schools meeting- Bean Stock Project work with 250-300 grade 8 students to help them get to know each other
- Working with staff - Reviewing letters of agreement to help staff understand the process

SJAM Update- Principal Barry Smith

- Focusing on the whole student- both elements that are curricular as well supportive to help with a healthy transition
- Information sheet was created on Google Drive on every student
- Every student with an IEP has been identified
- Mentoring EAs are making notes on likes, dislikes, triggers, next steps, etc.
- Letter was sent home explaining the two options and asked families to select which school they would like to attend
- Two meetings- one with translators
- Crossed referenced where kids are going- we have a picture of where kids are going
- One last verification- a letter will be sent home verifying the families choice - "According to our records this is the school you have selected"
- Westdale to come to SJAM on February 13th, 2019
- One more shared team- Water polo

Q10) Can you clarify which students have a choice of the secondary school they will attend? If you are a current SJAM living in the BCSS catchment, you will attend BCSS. If you are a current SJAM student living in the Westdale catchment, you have a choice to attend either Westdale or BCSS. All current grade 8s are being directed to their home secondary school according to the new boundaries.

Westdale Update- Principal Michelle Visca

- An estimated 265 current SJAM students planning to attend Westdale
- Expecting approximately 400 grade 9s next year
- Hess and Bennetto students are undergoing regular transitions- currently involved in option sheet presentations
- Going to SJAM for an additional option sheet presentation
- ESL students have come for a special visit and an open house
- Preparing the entire staff for a new program which includes complete departments reorganization
- The first floor of Westdale will be a complete language learner floor as well as community support room
- Once option sheets are back we will have a better idea of enrolment numbers

Q11) Do you have numbers of how many current SJAM students will go to BCSS and the numbers from Delta to SWC? We will have a better idea once the option sheets have been returned. The on-the-ground capacity is of BCSS is 1250; however, secondary schools can carry a much higher load depending on the way the classes are structured. We should have a good idea by the end of March

Community Partnership Update

- Review of slide 20
- All current community partners have been met with by Learning Services staff and Community Engagement staff to hear what their hopes are for the future
- Continuing to work with City of Hamilton on a schedule and use of Tim Horton's Field
- Student nutrition programs at the new school – Food4Kids and Tastebuds
- Thrive (currently at SJAM) - provides trauma-based counselling would like to work at and potentially expand into Westdale
- Hamilton School Health Network- runs a student clinic at SJAM- hoping to move to BCSS if funding continues
- Looking at where there is space at BCSS and if not other locations
- Trustee Parkinson requested a copy of a list of community partners

Program Update

- Review of slide 21
- Three Specialist High Skills majors at BCSS 2019-2020
 - Hospitality and Tourism
 - Arts and Culture: Digital Media
 - Health and Wellness
- In 2020-2021 program staff will review and potentially apply for new SHSM's

Q12) Is Arts and Culture: Digital media currently offered at SJAM? No- but it will be offered at BCSS.

Q13) Will students currently enrolled in Cosmetology at Delta be able to attend the program at SWC? Cosmetology is a Tier 3 program, not a SHSM. Students who wish to take cosmetology (Hairstyling and Aesthetics courses may apply to Sir Winston Churchill and if they live outside the walking boundary of 3.2 km they would be eligible for transportation.

Q14) Will it be possible for students to go to the school offering the SHSM beginning in grade 9 to avoid changing school in grade 11? If the school is open to out-of-catchment students, they can apply to the school. Transportation would not be provided to out-of-catchment students. Students grade 11 accepted to the SHSMs would receive transportation if they are eligible based on the Transportation Policy.

Q15) Are we concerned we may lose students to the Catholic Board if transportation is not provided? BCSS will be an amazing facility with excellent staff which we hope will attract students. In the past, there has been some assistance with bus tickets through Urban Priority High Schools Funding. It is not clear how much of a difference that makes with student attendance. Students can apply for OOC if the school is open. OOC students are not eligible for transportation.

Q16) Is there an Indigenous worker at SWC and Westdale? SWC has a Nya web worker. At present there is not a Nya web worker at Westdale, but we will look at offering this type of support if there is a need.

Q17) Do students in SHSMs qualify for transportation? Students accepted in SHSMs receive transportation if they live outside the walking boundary based on the Transportation Policy.

Q18) The Board website does not include information on programming etc. at BCSS. Will this be updated soon? Yes, the website will be updated.

Q19) Memorial bursaries were once available to students who needed help with transportation. Is there similar funding available? Yes, funding through the Foundation for Student Success can be applied for.

Future Meeting Dates

- Review of slide 22
- Next meeting to take place on February 26th, 2019 at Delta Secondary School
- A representative from the City of Hamilton will attend this meeting to discuss the LRT and potential impact on this area of the city
- Tuesday, May 28th is the tentative date for a potential public meeting

Adjournment- 7:18 p.m.