

SCHOOL TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING #3
(Ancaster Senior / Fessenden)

Tuesday May 7, 2019
6:00 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
School Council Rep, Fessenden – Melanie Skrlac
Home & School Rep, Ancaster Senior/Fessenden – Andrew Hawryluk
Teacher Rep, Fessenden – Kristin Ortwein
Home & School Rep, Fessenden – John Scime

Regrets:

Non-Teaching Rep, Fessenden – Donna Todoric
Teacher Rep, Fessenden – Lori Horvath

6:05 pm Start Up

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Superintendent Jane Macpherson thanked the Committee for their commitment and contributions through these initial stages of our transition process
- Tonight will be our final Transition meeting for this school year, and will recommence in the fall 2019
- Minutes from these Transition Committee meetings will be posted on the Board's website

2. School Closing and Celebration dates

Principals confirmed School Closing and Celebration dates with the Committee:

- Ancaster Senior – Closing Ceremony on June 6th at 9:00 am
- Ancaster Senior – Open House/Closing Celebration on May 8th at 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm (Open House/Closing Celebration)
- Fessenden – Closing Ceremony on June 18th at 9:00 am and 9:45 am
- Fessenden – Closing Celebration on June 21 at 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm

3. Topics of discussion brought forward by Transition Committee:

Assemblies

- Committee suggestion for big assemblies (key times of the year) to include both Ancaster Senior and Fessenden; however smaller assemblies (monthly assemblies, age appropriate) be separate
- Consideration required on incorporating FDK students in the primary assemblies and activities; implementing safe practices for FDK's walking to the different campuses for assemblies/activities (Terry Fox Run; Eco Clean Up)
- Consideration required for Gym capacity, as may not be conducive to holding over 850 students and therefore will require purposeful planning for events

Communication – website; newsletters

- Ancaster Senior's experience has determined that newsletters are not an effective communication tool, as students typically don't take them home
- Most parents are on social media and are receptive to receiving communication this way
- Posting to the website allows for timely information, as opposed to the delay of newsletters arriving home via backpack
- Ancaster Senior has a school calendar that is posted online under 'Events' for the whole school year and is updated on a regular basis
- Fessenden currently uses the following communication tools: posting information on school website; staff use various methods to interact with parents such as 'See Saw' and 'Look Ahead'
- New Principal will make operational decisions on school communication, based on the information and effective practices shared by both school communities

Managing student cell phones in school - procedure

- Defined cell phone procedures in schools are critical in ensuring student safety in the prevention of negative social media issues

- Ancaster Senior students are required to have cell phones in their lockers from the start to end of the day. There is a 40 minute time period where they are permitted to have their phones mid-day. There are times when teachers allow students to use cell phones for instructional purposes only
- Fessenden worked through School Council to establish a cell phone policy: there is no cell phone usage unless permitted by the teacher for instructional purposes; cell phones are not permitted on the school yard; students are given passes that allows them to go to a determined space (office) to connect with parents on cell phone if needed; students and families have been very respectful of this procedure
- Chair/Trustee Alex Johnstone informed the Committee that there is a new provincial directive that cell phones will be banned from schools in September except for instructional purposes – currently awaiting formal policy

Update on renovation plans for parking lot

- Currently, there are active planning parking lot discussions underway
- Parents have safety concerns with buses lining up onto the adjoining roads; cars parked on both sides of the road as parents drop off their children
- A resolution to the parking safety issues are not dependent on the City, but rather planning discussions with the Board. There will be communication prior to the end of the school year
- Snow plowing that takes away parking spots, and this will be addressed by the Principal meeting with the Area Supervisor in the Fall, to include creating a map to plan adequate snowplowing procedures

Ancaster Senior Theatre Show

- Traditionally this takes place once every (3) years and is run by a teacher at Ancaster Senior school
- Discussions to take place to determine if this show could include the younger students.
A take-away item for the fall

Bell Time: 8:25 am – 2:45 pm

- This is Fessenden's current bell time that has been set based on transportation

School Council

- This will be constituted according to Council Policy/Procedure
- The initial meeting will take place over the first 30 days
- Principals will connect the two Council Chairs together prior to the end of the school year, including on setting a date for the first Council meeting
- A new constitution will be developed next year

- Both Fessenden and Ancaster Senior have a Home and School Association

New School Name

- The Board of Trustees will make their final decision at the Board meeting on May 13th

Colours/Branding/Mascot

- To be determined in the Fall following Board policy and guidelines, and including support from Corporate Communications

4. Next Meeting:

Transition Committee – *TBD* in September 2019

7:05 pm Closing