



Sue Dunlop
Superintendent of Student Achievement
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558
Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1
905.527.5092 ext. 2673

April 23, 2019

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers

RE: Update Regarding Potential Replacement Elementary School for Hess St. and Strathcona Elementary Schools

As you may be aware, HWDSB conducted a review of nine elementary schools in the city's west end in 2017, called the West Hamilton City Accommodation Review. The schools reviewed were Bennetto, Cathy Wever, Central, Dr. Davey, Earl Kitchener, Hess, Queen Victoria, Ryerson and Strathcona. The review looked at the future needs of the students in these neighbourhoods.

As part of the Board of Trustee approval of the West Hamilton City Accommodation Review, Trustees approved that HWDSB seek partnerships to redevelop the Sir John A. Macdonald site as a Community Hub centred around a new JK-8 elementary school for Hess St and Strathcona Elementary Schools. This approval also included that if HWDSB did not get money for a new elementary school at the Sir John A. Macdonald site, that all schools stay open.

Around this time last year, we received notice from the Ministry of Education about our request for Capital Priorities Grant Funding for the new elementary school as part of the Community Hub. The provincial funding announcement did not give us the funds for a new school to replace Hess St. and Strathcona elementary schools. However, we remain committed to this project and are continuing to work with our community partners as we await further funding opportunities.

We are working with our five partners – The City of Hamilton, East Kiwanis Non-Profit Homes Inc, Hamilton Community Foundation, Hamilton Health Sciences, and YMCA Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford – to finalize the business case to present to the provincial government, when the opportunity presents itself.

We will keep both school communities aware of any progress made towards the creation of a community hub on the Sir John A. Macdonald site. We appreciate your patience as we work to renew our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Dunlop".

Sue Dunlop
Superintendent of Student Achievement