

# HWDSB

## Waterdown Accommodation Strategy Public Meeting

Thursday January 22, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Waterdown Secondary School

### Resource Staff in Attendance:

Matthew Gerard	Associate Director of Business Services
Nicole Lee	Superintendent of Student Achievement
Stephen Yull	Principal Allan A Greenleaf
Matthew Reid	Vice-Principal Allan A Greenleaf
Kristi Keery Bishop	Principal Balaclava
Nancy Kucic	Principal Flamborough Centre
Josie Dalley	Principal Guy B. Brown
Lindsey Sheahan	Vice-Principal Guy B. Brown
Paula Thomas	Acting Vice-Principal Mary Hopkins
David Anderson	Senior Manager
Robert Fex	Senior Planner
Ellen Warling	Manager, Planning Accommodation and Rentals
Sally Landon	Manager, Research and Analytics Department
Kathleen Hussey	Executive Assistant to Superintendent of Student Achievement

### Welcome and Introductions:

Superintendent Lee welcomed the public, reviewed the agenda, and identified the Advisory Panel members and the Resource staff. The power point presentation was used throughout the presentation.

The Mandates of both the Advisory Panel and Resource Staff were reviewed, and the Policy and Procedure for the Advisory Panel and Public meeting was outlined noting the intent of the public meeting is to receive the most feedback from the most voices.

### Purpose:

Superintendent Lee highlighted the purpose of the Public Meeting to receive feedback from the community to address the short-term accommodation pressures in Waterdown. The format for the public meeting was outlined and attendees were advised of the 2 options available to them to provide feedback after the meeting in addition to the opportunity being given at the meeting.

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## **Background:**

Thanking the Panel for their continued engagement, Ellen Warling spoke to the background highlights leading up to the public meeting including the Trustee approval of December 4<sup>th</sup> which expanded the number of schools involved in the accommodation strategy beyond Mary Hopkins and Flamborough Centre to include Balaclava, Allan A. Greenleaf, and Guy B. Brown. Noting that there had been suggestions that Waterdown Secondary School be considered an option to accommodate grades 7 and 8s from the area staff shared that HWDSB does not have a model that has Elementary students accommodated in Secondary schools. This consideration would require Trustee review and approval and Waterdown as a consideration in the Accommodation Review would also require Trustee approval. The timeline involved in this would not align with a Strategy being in place for September 2024.

## **Long Term Accommodation Strategy and Projected Timelines:**

Staff shared the Boards Long-Term Accommodation strategy of building a new school advising that the funding would come from the Ministry of Education and offering that HWDSB made the 3<sup>rd</sup> Capital Priorities submission October 2023 and is awaiting their decision. Staff noted that HWDSB is competing with all 72 Boards across the Province and that Boards need to reflect enrolment exceeding capacity when making their applications which results in Temporary Accommodation processes. Once approved HWDSB anticipates completion of the new school in September 2027 meaning we require a 3-year solution to the accommodation strategy with the knowledge that there will be a boundary review for the new school opening. In the short term HWDSB is looking to impact as few students as possible recognizing the challenge given there is little capacity in all impacted schools.

The projected timelines for this Temporary Accommodation Review was shared and staff advised that the feedback obtained from this Public Meeting will be shared with the Advisory Panel on February 8<sup>th</sup> with the goal of the Final Report being provided to the Board of Trustees for their Final Decision on March 4 2024 allowing implementation in time for September 2024. Facility data for each of the 5 schools was provided and a map reflecting the schools and Waterdown area was shared.

## **Original Proposed Strategy and Waterdown School Enrolment Projections:**

The original proposed strategy by staff (Scenario 1) was shared along with the map highlighting the geography of the new students to be directed away from Mary Hopkins. The status quo enrolment of the five Waterdown focusing on 2026 was reviewed highlighting the impacts on each school community if there are no changes.

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## **Guiding Principles Enrolments Projections and Scenarios:**

The Guiding Principles for the Temporary Accommodation were reviewed noting that some must be complied with, and others are considered good practice. The guidelines are intended to help create good programs and minimize the stresses on families and facilities. Staff advised that a matrix has been created for each of the Scenarios being considered to assist in evaluating the impact of the scenario.

Enrolment projections were reviewed, and staff discussed how projections are determined and spoke to the accuracy of the projections noting that a three-to-five-year average is considered paired with the knowledge that a board-wide average student yield for single detached dwellings equates to one new student to the HWDSB for every four homes. In identifying the anticipated enrolment of students that the process is looking to be directed away from Mary Hopkins staff shared that the numbers look a bit different than when presented in the initial Temporary Accommodation Review noting that when numbers were reviewed and refined a previous under counting of new JK enrolment was identified and corrected. It was highlighted that the Temporary Accommodation Review is typically trying to look at the new students to HWDSB while minimizing the impact on existing HWDSB students.

An overview was provided for 11 Scenarios. Staff shared that all 11 have been reviewed and Scenarios 7 to 11 have been deemed to not be viable. The specific rationale for each was shared and staff advised that the committee received both a data chart and scenario matrix for each of these scenarios.

Staff identified that each of the 6 remaining Scenarios are being shared for community feedback at the meeting with accompanying data and a Guiding Principles Matrix.

## **Feedback:**

Sally Landon provided direction to attendees regarding the process for sharing their feedback advising that 6 tables were set up around the meeting room. Each table provided the details of one of the scenarios and included the scenario, the matrix, and a paper to allow individuals the opportunity to provide their thinking in writing. Staff were to be available at each of the six locations in the room to transcribe comments and color-coded dots were made available to allow individuals the opportunity to identify the school they are associated with. The ability to provide feedback using Engage to share either publicly or directly was also shared. Sally Landon advised that staff were also positioned around the room so that questions could be posed and advised that they had clipboards to ensure they had the ability to record questions and comments. Resource staff including Associate Director Gerard and Superintendent Lee were identified.

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## **Questions:**

Question- What is the plan if the new school is not built?

Response – When HWDSB receives the approval we will be closer to delivery of the new school. A Boundary Review will be completed once the new school is closer to delivery. Everything tonight is considered temporary.

Question- When can the next application be made if we are not successful in obtaining funding?

Response- Annually

Question- Will staff summarize the feedback from committees.

Response- Superintendent Lee offered to discuss further with the individual.

## **Conclusion:**

Superintendent Lee clarified the feedback process for the meeting advising that feedback would not be obtained through a large group. Superintendent Lee shared that in an effort to receive the most feedback from the public meeting the tools and approach being used were intended to ensure as many attendees as possible would have the opportunity to share their voice.