

## April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 – Transition Planning at Gatestone

### **Purpose of the Transition Committee:**

- Representing the school community, providing input, advice, and recommendations.
- Giving the school community an opportunity to voice their collective thoughts.
- Making the final decisions by Superintendent Smith.

### **Background:**

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – The Board of Trustees approved the Accommodation Strategy Schedule which included two boundary reviews.

### **Committee Structure:**

Chair: Superintendent Smith

Members: up to 2 representatives from each school

School Administration

Student Representative

Trustees invited.

\*Resource staff – any board specific staff for certain areas (e.g. Transportation)

Not a voting committee

Communication with Families: emails, letter, & school website.

How many transition meetings? - one in April, May and June 2024 if required.

Resources Staff will attend if needed.

Structure: In person, 5 pm and open to public to observe.

### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

A parent raised an issue that the Trustees did not post the date of the meeting when the vote would occur. Parents asked to be present to state their concerns at the meeting where the vote would occur. Indicated that himself and other parents would be pursuing. It was stated that the parents did not hold Superintendent Smith or Principals responsible but cautioned parents to remember this when voting for trustees.

Q: My son has special needs and there are significant consequences to leaving Shannen Koostachin. We have started a formal process to get my child to stay. Know that you can do this if your child has needs.

A: Please reach out to Superintendent Smith.

Q: What happens if the population of this community gets too big? Will our children be able to stay once they move over?

A: We understand your concern and uncertainty regarding additional boundary changes, but it is not our past or current practice to move the same community multiple times.

## **Transition Topics:**

Traffic Safety – we have been in contact with ASST (Active and Sustainable School Transition) and DSR (Daily School Route) - They will come into school and map out routes for student travel with students.

Traffic Management sites – crosswalks, bus stop etc. – If needed someone from transportation will come.

### Transportation Planning (Bussing)

- Information will be shared with families as it comes out.

### Portables:

- Four portables will be added to Gatestone.
- Placed out back on right hand side.
- Currently we do not know what classes – It will be based on school and student's needs.

Q: If some children have a special arrangement for bus with equipment.

A: Superintendent Smith – If it is an existing request, it will be in place as part of the transition.

Q: Bussing for students.

A: Bussing for students in Kindergarten – Gr. 5 will come straight to Gatestone. Transportation will not be provided to Shannen Koostachin.

## **Other Topics:**

End of May – Student Ambassadors from Gatestone doing student assembly at Shannen Koostachin. Based on questions asked by Juniors at Shannen Koostachin.

Early June – Welcome Night at Gatestone – families invited to meet staff, see school and learning spaces.

Q: Will our students need to re-register?

A: No need to re-register.

Q: What if I have trouble reading and writing?

A: Information about you will be shared with the school.

### **Transition planning in schools:**

- School to school sharing and planning.
- Special education staff sharing – student to student.
- Facility related changes.
- Student files, spec ed planning, medical planning, equipment.

### **Transition activities:**

- Opportunities for students to meet/participate in new school activities.
- Opportunity for families to see new facilities, administration, learn about student life.
- Family school specific communication.

### **Out of Catchment Requests:**

- The out of Catchment is closed now - only siblings of previous out of catchments allowed in.
- Schools built for multi-year cycles.
- Aiming for 90 – 110% capacity at Gatestone.

### **Staffing Changes:**

- Ongoing situation due to many different collective agreements.
- Will see a decrease at Shannen Koostachin and an increase at Gatestone.

### **Before and After School Care:**

- Understanding a small waitlist.
- More information to come.

### **Next Steps:**

- School to school student transitions begin.
- Gatestone staff and students connect with new students.
- Website updates.
- The staffing process finishes in May.
- Portables are coming in August.
- The May date for public meeting will be issued at the beginning of May.

- Conversation with City of Hamilton.

## **Final Questions:**

Q: Ms. Wilson – We are working on at Gatestone at what Being You Being Excellent looks like at Gatestone (see poster from Gr. 1).

Q: Curious if we may see staff from Shannen Koostachin at Gatestone?

A: Depends on collective agreement and various employee groups.

Q: Is there a deadline by which accommodation requests for staying at Shannen Koostachin should be submitted? And when will we find out.

A: Based on staffing timeline – next communication to families will provide when request would need to be in by – families time would know by the end of May.

Q: Can I see the map that shows the specific area from where to where needs to move to Gatestone?

A: Yes, any new students that move into the selected area will be going to Gatestone.