

Waterdown Transition Committee Meeting

May 2, 2024

4:30 p.m.

Waterdown Secondary School

In Attendance:

Nicole Lee	Superintendent of Student Achievement
David Anderson	Senior Manager
Sherry Roswell	General Manager HWSTS
Nancy Kucic	Principal Flamborough Centre
Leah Young	Flamborough Centre School Council
Susete Bloom	Principal Mary Hopkins
Paula Thomas	Acting Vice-Principal Mary Hopkins
Carley Casey	Mary Hopkins School Council
Mohamed Khamis	Mary Hopkins School Council
Stephen Yull	Principal Allan A. Greenleaf
Matthew Reid	Vice Principal Allan A. Greenleaf
Matthew Lingard	Allan A. Greenleaf School Council
Josie Dalley	Principal Guy B. Brown
Lindsey Sheahan	Vice Principal Guy B. Brown
Kelly Kokerus	Guy B Brown School Council
Laura Hamilton	Guy B Brown School Council
Kathleen Hussey	Executive Assistant to Superintendent Lee

Regrets:

Graeme Noble	Trustee Ward 15
Jason Murray	Flamborough Centre School Council
Glen Spry	Allan A. Greenleaf School Council
Callaway Johnson	Program Coordinator, Schools and Community, City of Hamilton

Welcome and Introductions:

Superintendent Lee welcomed the Committee and reviewed the Agenda for the meeting. Sherry Roswell, General Manager of HWSTS was introduced and Superintendent Lee shared Callaway Johnson's regrets, noting that he has committed to connecting with each of the school Principals to begin planning.

Purpose and Timeline:

Superintendent Lee reviewed the purpose of the Transition Committee and advised that information would be shared providing updates from each school regarding the student transition activities, and questions posed since the last meeting would be addressed.

Minister's Announcement and New School:

The Minister's announcement from April 12, 2024, was shared. It was announced that \$22.1 million in provincial funding was approved to build a new elementary school in Waterdown. The new school specifics and location were reviewed, and an anticipated opening of September 2027 shared.

Portable Timelines and School Travel Plans:

The timelines for the arrival and installation of the new portables were reviewed. The School Travel Planning process that each of the schools are engaging in was described and Callaway Johnson's role, as the Program Coordinator from the City of Hamilton, was shared. An emphasis was placed on the encouragement of students within walking distance to walk to school and examples of past solutions to travel challenges were shared.

A question arose asking if parking is considered as part of the process.

Response indicated that all options are reviewed at all sites noting that not all solutions work at every site.

The next step is for Callaway to connect with each of the schools.

School Updates

The School Principal and Superintendent Lee provided updates to the Committee.

Mary Hopkins:

Administration shared their updates regarding their Transition planning to date.

- Staff are working closely with Allan A Greenleaf to support JK registrations that are moving to Allan A Greenleaf. Letters were sent to families welcoming them to HWDSB and communicating their accommodation at Allan A Greenleaf.
- Plans are being finalized for student visits to Flamborough and Guy Brown. May 13th is the tentative date. Transition meetings are to occur in June.
- Lifetouch was onsite at the school May 1st to do Grade 4 and Grade 5 group photos.
- There are a variety of activities planned for the last week of June including a walking trip to Joe Sam's Park, a Talent Show and 2 celebrations of combined Grade 4 and 5s for June 25th. There will be a full group reception held between the two ceremonies on the front lawn to celebrate and honour the friendships.

Superintendent Lee advised that a Transportation Plan has been initiated with Callaway and shared that 2 portables will be removed, noting that one will remain to allow for extra usable space due to the construction at the school.

Community concerns that were raised since the last Transition meeting were addressed.

Superintendent Lee acknowledged concerns raised about parents now having multiple drop off times with students at different schools and advised that there are no solutions and no work arounds available. Staff empathize with this adjustment for families and will continue to monitor. Concerns regarding Before and After School Care are being looked into by that Department Manager who will work with the daycares regarding wait lists.

The school is not open to Out of Catchment consideration. That process closed and we are moving forward with the Accommodation Plans agreed on.

Data is being collected regarding bus routes and HWSTS will be working on planning routes over the next few months for students who qualify for bussing.

A question was asked regarding what replaces the area where a portable is removed.

Staff offered that it depends on which of the portables is removed and that they will replace what existed prior to the portable placement.

Allan A. Greenleaf:

Administration shared updates on their Transition planning to date.

- New Kindergarten Registrations are the focus with a Welcome to Kindergarten Orientation Event on May 30th.
- Office staff continue to ensure the correct students are registered for kindergarten.
- One portable will be added out back.
- There will be two kindergarten classes next year that will be adjacent to washrooms, and they are currently looking at the potential to add fixtures.

Superintendent Lee advised that the school is initiating a Transportation Plan and will be working with Callaway.

In response to concerns raised since the last meeting, Superintendent Lee offered that all the students East of Main Street will be bussed and advised that the Facilities Team is monitoring the field drainage concerns.

Guy B. Brown:

Administration shared updates on the Transition planning and action to date.

- Staff are working with Flamborough Centre and Mary Hopkins to plan a Transition Day. Looking at May 13th as a potential date. Student led planning includes a scavenger hunt.

- Currently revisiting the parent night date.
- Funfair will be held May 29th and they will be inviting the families who are to be new to the school in September.
- Active Transportation Plan has been initiated.
- Three portables will be added, and they have met with the Team and completed a walk-through of the area.

Superintendent Lee shared that data is still being collected to determine who will be transported and offered that it is anticipated that most students that are outside of the original Guy B Brown boundary will be eligible for a bus.

Flamborough Centre:

Administration shared update to the Transition planning occurring at the school.

- They will be welcoming Mary Hopkins' Grade 4 and Grade 5 students to a Flamborough Centre Orientation on May 13th.
- Open House is being held May 9th. Noted the challenge of coordinating due to the overlap of families at different schools.
- In-school student transition to school meetings will be held in June. Dates to be determined.
- Two portables are going to be added and the location has been identified.
- Planning is underway for a farewell to the Grade 6 and 7 students in June. Activities are being planned.

Superintendent Lee shared that there will be staff transition meetings with all schools.

She advised that she has visited at the school three times to observe the drop off conditions in the morning and witnessed the blind spots that exist as a result of the traffic. A plan is being initiated and an email update will be shared with families. Families will be asked not to park within 5 meters on either side of the exit. Visuals will be put in place to assist with the adjustment in practice.

Grade 8 students have been working on a Playground Inquiry Project, creating a 2-scale design of the playground. This has involved financial and survey considerations, and the Team of students will be working with the Facilities Team. Suggestion is that these same students be involved in the traffic safety initiative as an extension of their Inquiry Project. Dave Anderson also shared that he raised Committee traffic concerns at Flamborough Centre with the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Committee for consideration. The Committee is comprised of City staff, Police, school boards and others.

Dave Anderson shared that the City had no objection to the proposed parking stalls being

added to the front of Flamborough Centre. Work is expected to be completed in July and will introduce 4 net new parking spaces but may increase to 7 to maximize opportunities. Leah Young requested that additional parking be considered where the garbage bins are located. Facility Services will review and provide 2 additional spaces, if feasible, although previous concerns shared relating to grading may prevent the addition.

Dave Anderson shared that the Operating and Maintenance manual prepared by the 3rd party consultant has been submitted to the MECP as of April 19 and is awaiting comment/approval from Jessica Foo (MECP). Once approved, Facility Services can share with the Committee for information.

Questions:

Committee members were invited to share questions or recommendations.

School Specific Questions:

Mary Hopkins:

Q - When will we have details about bussing?

R - It is in the works and Sherry Roswell and her Team are working on collecting data.

Q - Can HWSTS provide a timeline?

R - Mid August is the normal timeline. The kindergarten information will be out a bit sooner.

Allan A Greenleaf:

No school specific questions posed.

Guy B. Brown:

Q - Will there be bussing for students that are out of the Guy B Brown boundary?

R - The map used by HWSTS will be used to determine eligibility. Outside of current boundary and based on distance would qualify.

Comment – With parents that have day care drop off times bussing is critical.

R - If parents are uncertain they should call HWSTS to determine their eligibility as it is based on a walking path calculation. Identified that phone number is on the HWSTS website.

Flamborough Centre:

Q - Concern raised that cars stopping to drop students will back up Centre Road.

R - Staff indicated that there is space and the number of cars was monitored which is why they decided on 5 meters of no stopping/parking.

Q - How will families be notified that the concerns with traffic are being addressed?

R - Communication will be shared promoting bus use. If using buses, it eliminates the challenges being experienced. Hope to have students help in sharing that messaging with families as well.

Q - Do you foresee risk being minimized?

R - Parents were observed being cautious.

Q - What about the community?

R - The more students we have riding the bus the less challenges there should be. Flamborough is expecting a next increase in their population of approximately 34 students, and we are hopeful that we will not need to add another bus and will be able to accommodate these students on routes that already run. Plan to support a Traffic Safety week with the Community before year end and again in September.

Q - Can the Board use strong wording in their communication?

R -Yes. We are planning on a series of communications and partnering with our students to share the message.

Q - Specific to the schools that are rural, Can the system reserve specific bus drivers to ensure consistency and safety for the rural routes?

R - HWSTS advises they will work with their Operators and emphasized that Doubling Up should not be happening.

Q - Offered that this often happens that a driver advises that they will return after doing a second route.

R - HWSTS shares that there sometimes really is last minute staffing issue that needs to be accommodated and clarifies that this should not be occurring on an ongoing basis.

(Guy B Brown offers that this occurs with their school as well)

HWSTS asks that they be notified by the schools if this is occurring.

Schools can call HWSTS 905-523-2318 and hit #2 to get to an Officer for the Public Board. They are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Website is hamiltonschoolbus.ca.

Dave Anderson shared that they regularly meet with the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Committee which includes City Staff, Police, Bylaw and indicates Callaway Johnson is involved as well.

Q - There is a lot of outreach to the City and Police and we want to be certain everyone is on board.

A - The Board has followed up and they are planning a Traffic Study. Callaway has also confirmed that he has been given the community messages that have been submitted.

Comment from Committee member that they love that they are doing something before a critical incident occurs.

Conclusion:

Superintendent Lee thanked the Committee for their engagement and asked that they continue to share any questions received by the community.

Last Transition Committee meeting to be held on June 5th at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 5:20 p.m.