

The East Hamilton/Lower Stoney Creek Boundary Review

Advisory Panel #3

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Orchard Park Secondary School

Present:

Chair: Paul Denomme, Superintendent of Equity and Student Achievement, Family of Schools 1

Matthew Gerard- Associate Director

Trustee: Todd White

David Anderson- Senior Manager, Facility Services

Ellen Warling- Manager, Planning, Accommodation and Rentals

Ian Hopkins- Senior Planner, Planning and Accommodation

Sally Landon- Manager, Research and Analytics

Karolina Grochowska- Executive Assistant to Superintendent Denomme

Collegiate: Principal: Lisa Barzetti

Eastdale- Principal: Stephen Yull, Vice-Principal: Laura Murray and Karen Gervais

Lake Avenue- Principal: Kelly Mccrory

South Meadow: Principal: Jennifer Harvey

Winona: Principal: Charon Buck

Representative from Collegiate School Council: Kelsey Clohecy and Kenny Cheng

Representative from Eastdale School Council: Brianna Dunn and April Chiro

Representative from Lake Avenue School Council: no representatives.

Representative from South Meadow School Council: Sohail Bhatti

Representative from Winona School Council: Ateeka Khan

Regrets:

Simon Goodacre, Superintendent of Equity and Student Achievement, Family of Schools 3

Jeremy Koop- Research Officer

Sherry Roswell- General Manager, Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services

Lake Avenue- Vice-Principal: Wendy Tyrrell

South Meadow: Vice-Principal: Nasim Assadian

Winona: Vice-Principal: Belal Ahmad, Saira Waseem

Representative from South Meadow School Council: Cheryl Martinez, Juliana Mrkobrada

Representative from Winona School Council: Nitu Jhuty

Meeting Start Time: 6:05 PM

Land Acknowledgement- David Anderson

The Superintendent welcomed everyone.

Superintendent Denomme began the presentation by outlining the main goals, which included reviewing feedback received, and addressing additional questions from the public meeting as well as discussing initial options in a round table format and reviewing the next steps.

Panel members then spoke about one main theme they took away from the feedback on the scenarios presented at the public meeting:

- It is a temporary solution, and it is not going to solve our problem long term.
- We hope for the least number of transitions for families.
- There will be interruptions for families and siblings at different schools.
- The least impacted schools received positive feedback from the public; it was okay to move schools.

Sally Landon, the Manager from the Research and Analytics department, provided an overview of the feedback from the public meeting. Sally discussed the main concerns and priorities, such as:

- Switching Schools
- Bussing
- Child care
- French Immersion
- Safety

Additionally, Sally discussed the feedback concerns regarding proposed scenarios for Option 1&2, Option 3 and Option 4, as well as other comments and suggestions. Lastly, Sally shared some of the concerns and priorities that we have received through the Engaged HWDSB platform and via emails. For example:

- Keeping the French Immersion students in one school or start a single stream French Immersion school.
- Portables are not a solution. A new building is needed.
- Concerns regarding the logic behind how zones were chosen.
- Concerns regarding new housing development.
- Redirecting new enrolment vs. relocating current students.

Ian Hopkins, the Senior Planner from the Planning and Accommodation department, explained why Sir Isaac Brock cannot be a single-track French Immersion school. Sir Isaac Brock is not available for use as an elementary school, it is not within the current study area and creating a new school is outside of the scope of a boundary review. Ian revisited the initial options by showing the maps to the four options.

The Superintendent asked all the participants to create two groups to have round table discussion considering the following questions:

- From what you have learned from the advisory meetings, heard at the public meeting and/or seen from Sally's feedback; are there some options we can eliminate in your opinion?
- Is there an emerging option that is the best fit to meet the objective, knowing there is no perfect option?

After further discussion the community came to a consensus on option number four.

Ellen Warling, Manager of Planning, Accommodation and Rentals department, talked about the timelines. The next step is a staff report with recommendations submitted to the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting followed by the Board meeting for final Trustee decision. Additionally, Ellen concluded that the work of advisory panel is complete. A letter will be sent home to families outlining the preferred option as chosen by the advisory committee and information about an Open House on January 14, 2025. Ellen also talked about the notification of final decision by Trustees and the next steps for forming the Transition Committee.

The Superintendent walked us through the next steps. On January 14, 2025, an Open House to support the proposed option and transition.

Participants were thanked for attending.

Meeting End Time: 7:20 pm.