

## Aldershot Focus Exploration Committee Record of Action - Meeting #3

**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2018

**Location:** Aldershot High School

**Committee Members:** Kaitlyn Hale and Abby Stevens - student reps Aldershot High School, Maria McLellan - Principal, Aldershot High School; Luisa Botelho - Vice Principal, Aldershot High School; Steve Cussons and Kathy Berglund - parent reps Aldershot High School; Kerry Sagar and Wade Richardson - staff reps Aldershot High School; Leah Reynolds - Trustee Aldershot High School; Gord Truffen - Superintendent Aldershot High School; Julie Hunt-Gibbons - Superintendent, Secondary Program; Jacqueline Newton - Superintendent, Innovation; John Pennyfather - Superintendent, Partnerships; Terri Blackwell - PAR Coordinating Superintendent

**Regrets:**

Note: This document is not a verbatim transcript. Questions and answers have been paraphrased for the sake of clarity and brevity.

Item	Discussion	Action/Responsibility
Welcome Back and Mandate Refresher	Superintendent Blackwell welcomed everyone back and reviewed the committee mandate (i.e., This committee will be tasked with investigating and considering viability of a variety of innovative approaches and making recommendations.)	Report to the Board for Feb. 21, 2018, with a final recommendation for an innovative concept.
Communications Update	<p>Board: FAQ section has been updated based on questions brought to our last meeting to re: grade 7 &amp; 8 and options for students who may not want to participate in program. Student Focus Groups report also posted and shared with Senior Team and Board PAR Steering Committee.</p> <p>Committee Members were asked how they are sharing to respective stakeholder groups. Student reps stated that they had heard students asking about the level of integration and used comparisons to programs already at Aldershot (e.g., DANO and CanFITPro)</p> <p>Students indicated that they have heard concerns that some courses will be for certain groups only (ie can only take Kines if in SHSM) and that if you aren't part of new concept you can't stay in the school.</p>	<p>Superintendent Truffen will connect with the principals at Maplehurst, King's Road and Glenview to provide an update. Aldershot School Council will reach out to the School Councils at the feeder schools.</p> <p>Staffing projections are shared with schools as per our Board processes (first projection Feb 9, second projection Feb 26). This dictates staffing for 2018-2019 in</p>

	<p>Parents shared that they have found a continuum of knowledge and understanding regarding the whole process and the ideas to date in their interactions with the community. Trustee/Parents heard concerns from feeder schools regarding the school staying open. Parents indicated that rumour that you are “in” or “out” re concept. Parent reps offered to go to Glenview, King’s Road, and Maplehurst. They reiterated the importance of sharing in parent friendly language vs. “edu-speak”. Superintendent Truffen offered to support this process by connecting with Principals and attend if available.</p> <p>Staff are discussing jobs, potential professional learning required to support the changes, and are wondering about the scope of potential program change; will the essence of the school change, etc. “Many are taking a wait and see attitude.”</p> <p>Students shared that there is some discussion of “losing the small school feeling” and the close relationships. The committee wants to see a concrete orientation/welcome program that builds community (cited BCHS inclusion/school orientation for English language learners as a good example). Discussion also included an awareness of the need for welcoming activities for parents.</p>	<p>Aldershot High School (grades 9 - 12).</p> <p>Staff will be sharing updates with colleagues at the upcoming January staff meeting.</p> <p>As part of any potential program development, there is a recommendation to include opportunities for inclusionary planning for new students and families.</p>
<p>Design Workshop and iHUB Update</p>	<p>Principal McLellan, incoming Vice Principal Dawson and the Superintendents on this committee met with staff from McMaster, Mohawk and University of Guelph to engage in a Design Thinking workshop process (i.e., Concept Development: a. Empathize, b. Define the Problem, c. Ideate, d. Prototype (just started). This was an opportunity to refine some of our thinking to date in the development of a potential concept/theme.</p> <p>Superintendent Blackwell provided an overview of the design thinking process (<a href="#">link</a> to graphic) and the discussions that ensued in the process, including the perspective of the post secondary participants.</p> <p>The post secondary participants were provided with an overview and input provided to the committee and shared at the Board website (e.g., Student Focus Groups report, Open House themes). As well, they engaged in discussions with committee members with respect to the themes heard from the engagement processes to date.</p>	<p>The development of a potentially approved program would require a continuation of this process and include testing phase. This will occur pending an approved recommendation.</p>

The group was presented with the question, “What are the key things to keep in mind when designing from the perspective of the people we are trying to reach?”. They then worked through an activity to frame/ identify the problem and articulated low enrolment, as well as engagement and “how we do school” within the parameters of Ministry of Education curriculum and graduation requirements. Discussion of what was heard from parents, community members, students and staff and the interwoven themes. The group spoke to the term “entrepreneurship” and the importance of referencing this in a broad sense vs. strictly \$\$\$. An Aldershot staff participant added there was the discussion regarding the importance of curiosity and engagement and when/if students start to lose this.

This led to a discussion re: upcoming changes to learning skills on the provincial report card (see [Toronto Star article](#) highlighting the changes). This led to tangent conversation about marks and learning skills and sharing of what parents/students read first (from the perspective of the committee members).

There was also mention of *Tools at Schools* video series that reflected some of the design/entrepreneurial thinking processes at a classroom level with grade 8 students presented with a problem, engaged in a design process, building prototype and high tech high exhibition style.

iHUB Visit update:

Principal McLellan and the Superintendents on this committee toured the iHUB facility in the District School Board of Niagara. They shared the purpose of iHUB (i.e., “The Educational Research & Innovation Hub (ihub) is a dynamic incubation entity focused in the Educational Technology (EdTech) sector. ihub facilitates collaboration amongst educators, students, parents, researchers, industry leaders, and ihub Portfolio Companies to enhance and innovate the modern education experience and foster local economic development and growth.”) source: <https://ihubniagara.ca/>.

The Ed Tech start-up space is housed in a grade 6-12 school - all students have access to the space, also used for professional learning. Students solving real world problems that reached outside the school. Julie Hunt-Gibbons compared and contrasted the work happening in the space with HIEC (<http://www.hiec.on.ca/>). There was discussion about facility and the iHUB space looking modern and corporate. The group wondered about the process of enticing money and partnerships of iHUB and sponsors? Facility needs and costs for any determined theme/concept was also discussed. The committee revisited the connections to input received regarding curriculum connections and

	<p>community partners/learning from and with others. There was discussion of the <a href="#">Learning Partnership</a> and <a href="#">CityLAB</a>. Aldershot staff shared that some are already using the Learning Partnerships' WICKED problems.</p> <p>A parent member of the committee asked about the potential of community partners, given there had been little uptake in the past. Superintendent Pennyfather, who has responsibilities for Community Partnerships, shared that though some groups wanted to use the space, they are not interested in paying a rental fee. Discussion about interest from the community in this process and the potential to work with the development of a concept ensued.</p>	
Spark, Pedagogy, Concept Frame	<p>The committee revisited the frame (i.e., Spark, Pedagogy and Concept) and discussed the purpose of a concept as a product for the recommendation. A parent proposed the need for a statement to support a potential name of the program/concept for branding purposes and understanding. Pending approval, there is a need to go back to the Design Lab process to revisit the "ideate" stage to keep moving our thinking forward.</p> <p>The Aldershot staff identified work that has been occurring in the school in keeping with what was discussed today. People Places Halton was given as one example that is running well at Aldershot.</p>	
Criteria for recommendation(s)	<p>The group revisited our thinking with review of <a href="#">Global Competencies</a> and the Committee's guiding criteria. A previous version of the Global Competencies has been revised to this one. Each element of the criteria for consideration was discussed/reflected upon for consideration in the final recommendation. The members of the committee discussed how a themes/concepts might look for students entering a program from multiple pathways. Superintendent Hunt-Gibbons spoke to the program and curricular opportunities and that the course details would be part of the development of the concept. She also reviewed the staffing process and the number of students in classes (e.g., courses in regular classrooms, specialty course classes and maximum number of students).</p> <p>This committee would like to be kept in the loop moving forward and help with the communication (Facebook updates, marketing, branding) as well as other opportunities to be involved. The committee discussed the importance of developing a marketing strategy and communication.</p>	Report with a recommendation will be presented to the Board of Trustees in February, 2018.
Next Steps	The committee asked about communication following the meeting.	Superintendent Blackwell shared PAR Update to the Board on January 10, 2018

	<p>The Coordinating Superintendent, Superintendent of Program and/or the Superintendent responsible for Aldershot High School will bring a report to the Board with a recommendation. The work will continue at the Board to consolidate a concept based on the criteria established, engagement from stakeholders, and feedback from the committee.</p> <p>The Superintendents shared that they have worked with the other Family of Schools Superintendents and engage in further discussion with respect to the learnings from this work. There will also be sharing our learning with system leaders this spring, as so many of the generated themes and thinking are exciting. It was also highlighted that schools throughout the system are continuing in pursuit of innovation.</p>	<p>video <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Committee members may refer to the mandate, processes and timelines at the Board website (or via Aldershot website). There is also an opportunity for questions to be sent directly to <a href="mailto:PARimplementation@hdsb.ca">PARimplementation@hdsb.ca</a>.</p>
Adjournment	Superintendent Blackwell thanked the committee members for their input, time and involvement in the process.	