

Aldershot Focus Exploration Committee Record of Action - Meeting #1

Date: October 24, 2017

Location: Aldershot High School

Present: Committee Members: Maria McLellan - Principal, Aldershot High School; Luisa Botelho - Vice Principal, Aldershot High School; Kaitlyn Hale and Abby Stevens - student reps 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 and Introductions	Superintendent Truffen welcomed and thanked the Committee for volunteering. Committee members introduced themselves and were familiarized with meeting materials including the agenda, HDSB Multi-Year Plan and examples of a variety of theme/magnet/incubator concepts existing provincially, nationally and internationally. Further resources included definitions (e.g., Project/Problem-Based Learning, Inquiry-based Learning, etc.), information of programs offered (e.g., The Learning Partnership, McMaster Educational Opportunities for Youth,)	Exploration Committee Members were provided with resources to further their understanding of some of the ideas generated via the "Suggestion Box" to review, as needed.
Approved Motion, Committee Mandate and Decision-making	Superintendent Blackwell shared the motion approved by the Board of Trustees on June 7, 2017, the mandate of the Exploration Committee and the decision-making process in developing a recommendation to the Board. A final decision is that of the Board of Trustees.	The Coordinating Superintendent, Superintendent of Program and/or the Superintendent responsible for Aldershot High School will bring a report to the Board February 2018.

<p>Overview/Timelines/Processes</p>	<p>Superintendent Truffen shared an overview of the timelines for this committee's work this year and discussed timing for the potential implementation of a concept would be 2019-2020. Given the February, 2018 recommendation would occur beyond the course selections for students and staffing, the 2018-2019 school year would be spent refining/developing the concept, marketing this, course selection and staffing processes, etc.</p> <p>2017-2018 - ideas and ideally the recommendation to the Board in February 2018 2018-2019 - potential development of concept 2019-2020 - potential implementation</p> <p>Further discussion involved an over of this year re: community feedback, Open House, Focus Groups includes all of Halton, exploration meetings, Board report for our recommendation for Board of Trustee decision.</p> <p>The committee also heard of the work that has been happening since the Board's decision (prior to this meeting). This included meetings/discussions with community members, staff meeting sharing at Aldershot, idea generation via the Suggestion Box, website information (HDSB and Aldershot HS), School Council meeting information sharing, research of themes/concepts and programs.</p> <p>Driving our Thinking ... sharing of questions generated to guide our thinking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will this concept attract students from Halton and beyond? ● How will the students, staff, parents and community be included? ● What is already out there? ● Are the opportunities to connect with post-secondary institutions? 	<p>Next steps in the process: Open House event on Mon. Nov. 13 (5 - 7 pm) at Aldershot High School</p> <p>Student focus groups will be conducted the week of Nov. 20 2017 and feedback will be shared with the committee</p> <p>Further committee meetings to occur Dec. 7 and Dec. 11.</p>
<p>"Suggestion Box" results</p>	<p>216 responses received and sorted into themes by the HDSB Research Department. A committee member asked for details re: respondents. There were responses from students, staff, parents, community members within and outside of the Aldershot community. Themes with greater than 4 responses were shared with the committee, as were themes that occurred less than 4 times. Frequencies of responses of each theme were not shared. There was discussion regarding some of the themes shared for clarity, as well as the sharing of some of the comments received via the survey that were not necessarily ideas.</p>	

<p>Current Opportunities/Programs</p>	<p>Superintendent Hunt-Gibbons reviewed opportunities & programs existing in Halton. These were provided to the committee. Discussion of an opportunity to bring further awareness to the great programs Halton offers that were suggested by respondents of the survey (i.e., SHSM, OYAP, Specialty, Gary Allan). These programs currently at Aldershot were brought to the committee for awareness and perspective of what is in place.</p> <p>Discussion of what the concept could be and what it should not be. Will the concept bring students to the school without significantly impacting a program at another school? How can we move beyond what we already have in Halton, to address Aldershot's enrolment.</p> <p>Committee members shared that there are a number of students in the area that do not attend public school. How might a new opportunity impact this? Principal McLellan stated that there was not an decrease in enrolment because of this.</p>	
<p>Proposed Criteria</p>	<p>Superintendent Newton reviewed the proposed criteria for evaluating possible concepts. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student interest/engagement - Reach of potential students (from across Halton and beyond), ● increase of overall enrolment (grades 9 - 12), ● Alignment with Ontario Curricula, Multi-Year Plan and Global Competencies (Ministry of Education), ● Equitable (7 Equity Lenses), ● Staffing considerations, ● Pedagogically sound, ● Continuity of regional and specialized programs within Burlington, ● Viable numbers to support existing English and French programs, ● Cost effectiveness of program development, ● Fiscal responsibilities (e.g., facilities), ● Other criteria recommended by the Exploration Committee <p>Superintendent Newton highlighted that we must adhere to the Ontario curriculum and the 18 compulsory credit requirements. The concept should aim to be barrier free, with inclusion of students of all programs and pathways as a key lens. What are the staff training/support considerations that may be required?</p>	<p>Review of criteria for additions from the committee to be presented at Dec. 7 meeting.</p> <p>Superintendent Blackwell to share with SEAC.</p>

Superintendent Newton invited committee members to suggest other criteria.

Parents:

- needs to be “resilient” (parent sees value in the concept and one which helps their child(ren) access multiple opportunities beyond high school)
- needs to be integrated with Aldershot programming, offers more choice for all Aldershot students, keep kids from the community coming to Aldershot

Students:

- student interest is key
- they emphasized the criteria of drawing from across Halton

Staff:

- ensure considerations are in place for the current students and improve their opportunities

Trustee Reynolds asked us to consider “Are we tapping into what parents want for their kids? Spoke to the need to identify the market and go after it

Administration:

- emphasized awareness of the current facility and potential budget implications

A committee member asked about the ability to fund the concept. Fiscal responsibility will be part of the selection criteria and include facilities.

There was further discussion about ensuring that the program is not a segregated program, the importance of enriching the current culture as one school community.

Superintendent Blackwell shared that the Superintendents had reviewed the themes suggested, compared these with the criteria and existing program offerings (e.g., all secondary schools now have self-paced learning) and removed the following themes: culinary, skill trades, self-paced, German, Mandarin, political science, sewing, International Baccalaureate, Gifted High School

Some of the themes removed, may live in remaining themes and or morphing of current themes (e.g., political science in a school focused on the Human Arts)

The remaining themes were shared with the committee members (including statements from the respondents). Committee members spent time reviewing and familiarizing

	themselves with the submissions and identified “What do I need to know more about?”	
Open House Planning	<p>The Committee was asked for feedback(What do they want to know from attendees?) they would like from the Open House.</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the “Guide to the Public Meeting/Open House” brochure used previously by the board and suggested that this be used for this evening. Members expressed that a format similar to New Street format for PAR would be good (e.g., stations with staff to answer questions, provide information); with general overview at 5 pm and 6 pm.</p> <p>Questions/comments considered by the committee included: What do we want to get out of the open House? A committee member preferred the phrasing of “themes” Feedback to be collected following the meeting - via Google form Do we need to inform parents about transit to Aldershot early in the process? What would I want to know as a parent, student and/or community member? Big question: What do we want to know from people who come to the open house when they are leaving? Important to get contact info on people who came - to continue the conversation Short presentation at open house - do it twice Information desk at entrance Collecting participants’ email and where they reside Idea to send an email to thank participants and acts as a database to continue the dialogue when we launch a program</p> <p>Having committee members at the Open House is seen as valuable</p>	<p>Planning for the Open House with School Program and Research Department staff</p> <p>Creation of brochure for the evening</p> <p>Survey development</p>
Open House Communication	<p>Build on the success of “suggestion box” (e.g., Twitter, facebook, ALD website, HDSB website, Instagram, Newspaper ad, email Messaging to School Councils, all Board staff, etc.)</p> <p>Suggestion to include: Voice invitation, Hamilton Spectator (e.g., to extend beyond Halton) Students say they will use Social Media to promote</p>	<p>Development of communication strategy and timelines by Board staff</p> <p>Superintendent Blackwell to connect with Student Trustees to message to Student Senators</p>

	Superintendent Hunt-Gibbons suggested sharing with Student Senate via Student Trustees	
Student Focus Groups	These will occur the week of Nov. 20 and will be Facilitated by Research Dept Grade 10 civics classes from all areas of Halton to provide a range of pathways Further discussion regarding elementary students (in final year of elementary school) What would make you come here?? What does your ideal school have?	
Next Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open House - Nov. 13 (5 - 7 pm) @ Aldershot High School (cafe) ● Exploration Committee Meeting #2 - Dec. 7 (3 - 5 pm) @ Aldershot High School ● Exploration Committee Meeting #3 - Dec. 11 (3 - 5 pm) @ Aldershot High School 	
Adjournment		

Resources:

HDSB Pathways Programs <http://www.haltonpathways.ca/pathway-programs/all-programs>

Gary Allan High School <http://garyallan.ca/high-school-students/>