



Acton Schools Boundary Review Committee

Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 7:00-9:00 pm
Acton District HS - Library

Notes

Staff Present:

Scott Podrebarac, Domenico Renzella, Jeanne Gray, Leah Reynolds, John Pennyfather, Laureen Choi, Mitchell Gundy

BRC:

Bonnie Brake, Michelle Mattocks, Kathleen Bevan, Anita Valvasori, Gina Adema, Maria Duckett

Regrets:

1. Welcome to the Boundary Review Committee 7:03 pm
 - Reintroductions
 - Superintendent Pennyfather welcomes back the BRC.
2. Why a Boundary Review?
 - At the September 18, 2019 Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees passed the motion below to start the process to examine school grade level boundaries for the three Acton Schools.
 - “Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board direct staff to undertake an elementary and secondary school boundary review for the Acton community in the Town of Halton Hills, which will include schools in ERA 126 (McKenzie-Smith Bennett PS and Robert Little PS) and SRA 107 (Acton District High School) with an expected completion date of no later than June 2020.”
3. Boundary Review Process
 - The process is currently on Step 4.
 - The next meeting is the public meeting (Step 5) taking place on January 14, 2020.
4. Option 1
 - There is currently 1 option.
 - Make ADHS a 7-12 school dular track school (FI and ENG). Robert Little PS becomes a JK to 6 school and offers FI in Grades 2 to 6. Mackenzie

Smith Bennett PS becomes a JK to 6 school, offering English program only.

- Robert Little PS
 - Sept. 2020: The school becomes JK-6 Eng. and 2-6 Fl.
 - Sept. 2021: The school remains JK-6 Eng. and 2-6 Fl.
- McKenzie-Smith Bennett PS
 - Sept. 2020: The school becomes JK-8 Eng. and 7-8 Fl.
 - Sept. 2021: The school changes to JK-6 Eng. only.
- Acton Elementary
 - Sept 2021: Grades 7-8 moves from McKenzie-Smith Bennett PS to Acton DHS.

5. Rationale for the Acton BRC

- Fewer and better transitions for Robert Little community
- Optimize enrollments at ADHS; improved course offerings at ADHS
- Aligns K-6 schools to Primary/Junior curriculum
- Enhanced community supports co-located within MSB (explore EarlyON Centre, Child Care options and other supports)
- Diversity of supports and learning options for Intermediate students at ADHS
- Balances enrollments at the two elementary schools.

6. Top 6 Criteria for Acton BRC

- Student experience -Limiting # of school transitions, sense of belonging
- Stable, long term boundaries
- Fiscal responsibility
- Viability of program
- Balance of overall enrolment
- Community supports available

7. Previous Questions and Concerns

- Special education programs.
- Elementary at Acton DHS - background data for the 7-12 model.
- Before and after care at both elementary schools.
- Start times & Bussing.
 - McKenzie Smith-Bennett PS:
 - 9:25 - 3:45
 - Robert Little PS:
 - 9:15 - 3:35
 - Acton HS:
 - 8:45 - 3:15
 - H.S.T.S is looking into the ramifications of changes to start and end times.
 - All bussing routes are connected.
 - Bringing in the rural students impact the timing.
 - Changing school hours requires adding more vehicles and therefore increases cost.
 - A principal can also request a bell time change.

- Space availability in McKenzie-Smith Bennett PS - how could it be used
8. Addressing safety - Data
- Data taken from the “Have your say” survey that is done annually.
 - Superintendent Podrebarac goes over the data regarding student safety in 7-12 schools.
 - “Have you say” survey is done from grade 4 and up.
9. BRC Work Group
- BRC breaks into working groups of two from the same school from 7:30 -8:00 pm.
 - Six stations were set up with each of the five criteria chosen by the BRC and the groups were asked to rotate through the five stations and write down their comments under each of the criteria. Comments were divided up into Positive (+), Negative (-) and Interesting (as in other questions or issues that need further discussion/exploration)
 - i) Stable Long Term Boundaries
 - Interesting: How do you plan on student retention?
 - Answer: Students experience leads to the students wanting to stay within the school.
 - ii) Community Support available
 - +: Access to local support and services.
 - Interesting: What new community support would be available?
 - Answer: There are several potential partners that are interested.
 - ii) Viability of Program
 - +: Viability of ADHS (increase programs).
 - -: Under current option FI program is declining.
 - Interesting: Options for workshop, technology and other trades at ADHS.
 - iv) Student Experience
 - +: Opportunity for positive interactions/mentors.
 - +: Less difficult transition for all schools.
 - +: The current option provides a small school environment.
 - -: 1st group through as no frame of reference
 - -: current option has more number of transitions for Robert Little PS
 - Interesting: Students will miss grad trips.
 - Answer: This can be worked on with the integration committee so that opportunities will not be missed.
 - v) Balance of overall enrolment
 - +: More choices.
 - +: Older kids can mentor.
 - -: Exposure to bad habits.
 - -: Current option has exposure of grade 7 and 8 to the younger students.
 - vi) Fiscal Responsibility
 - +: Partnership opportunity for MSB.
 - -: Transition cost

- Interesting: How does budget get broken down between 3 schools?
 - A: resources such as computers and furniture would be a negotiation between the schools.
- The working groups came back together and discussed the points made in each station
- The BRC makes the decision to combine some of the similar criteria such as Balance of Overall Enrolment and Stable Long Term Boundaries.

10. Public Meeting

- Both the current and option 1 will be presented.
- The BRC are encouraged to come to the Public Meeting.

11. Meeting ends 8:49 pm

12. Timeline

- The next meeting is the Public Meeting on January 14, 2020 at 7:00.