

Acton Schools Boundary Review Committee

Tuesday, November 26, 2019, 7:00-9:00 pm
Acton District HS - Library

Notes

Staff Present:

Scott Podrebarac, Domenico Renzella, Jeanne Gray, John Pennyfather, Lauren Choi, Mitchell Gundy

BRC:

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

Regrets:

Leah Reynolds

1. Welcome to the Boundary Review Committee 7:03 pm
 - Introductions
 - Superintendent Pennyfather introduces himself to the BRC.
 - BRSC members are introduced.
 - BRC members are introduced and thanked for stepping forward.
 - Two members from each of the impacted schools.
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. What to expect as a BRC member.
 - The process of the Steering committee is gone over
 - The role and mandate of the BRC is explained.
 - The Steps of the Boundary Review Process are introduced to the BRC and explained.
 - The Criteria that the BRC are to use when evaluating the option(s) are explained.

- Is there something that could be added to the criteria? And what are the important ones to the BRC.

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.

5. Included in the binders;

- Table of contents
- Boundary Report (HDSB Board Report Number 19109)
- School Boundary Administrative Procedure
- School Boundary Review Process Flowchart
- Maps of School Locations
- Current Boundary Maps – English and FI
 - McKenzie-Smith Bennett PS ENG and FI boundaries
 - Robert Little PS ENG and FI boundaries
 - Acton District HS ENG and FI boundaries
 - ENG boundaries JK-5 for Acton urban area
 - ENG boundaries 6-8 for Acton urban area
 - FI boundaries 2-5 for Acton urban area
 - FI boundaries 6-8 for Acton urban area
 - ENG boundaries JK-5 for Region of Halton rural areas
 - ENG boundaries grade 8 for Region of Halton rural areas
 - ENG boundaries 9-12 for Region of Halton rural areas
 - FI boundaries 2-5 for Region of Halton rural areas
 - FI boundaries grade 8 for Region of Halton rural areas
 - FI boundaries 9-12 for Region of Halton rural areas
- Detailed Maps
 - Urban Acton
 - North Halton Hills/Milton
- Glossary of Terms
- “How to Read” Maps and Projections
- Options (Boundary Maps and Enrolment Projections)
 - Current Boundaries and Programs
 - Projections for the status quo (nothing changes)
 - Option 1
 - Robert Little PS
 - Sept. 2020: The school becomes JK-6 Eng. and 2-6 FI.
 - Sept. 2021: The school remains JK-6 Eng. and 2-6 FI.
 - McKenzie-Smith Bennett PS
 - Sept. 2020: The school becomes JK-8 Eng. and 7-8 FI.
 - 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.
 - Grade Breakdown of Current Projections and Option 1 Projections
 - Movement of Students in Current and Option
6. Why this review?
- The BRSC are looking at this review from the academic perspective.
 - This review grew from the administrators that have had deep experiences in Acton.
 - Fewer transition for Robbert Little PS kids.
 - Helps enrolments for Acton DHS, enhancing programs and curriculum.
 - Creating space at McKenzie-Smith Bennett PS for potential partnerships such as Links2Care, Child Care, or the Town of Halton Hills.
 - Diversity of support and learning opportunities for intermediate students.
 - Improved academic performance and improved student well-being.
7. BRC are given approximately 20 minutes to look at the option and criteria.
8. Questions & Concerns
- Option 1 has great promise providing a better learning environment down the road with programs and sports etc...
 - There may be space availability in McKenzie-Smith Bennett PS to also include programs such as ROCK.
 - Special education programs could stay at Robert Little PS or they could move.
 - Life Skills is currently at McKenzie-Smith Bennett PS but given the opportunity to stay or move depending on parent choice for Life Skills student.
 - Having an elementary wing at Acton DHS should be considered.
 - It is requested to provide some background data for the 7-12 model.
 - Follow up on the opportunity to expand before and after care at both elementary schools.
 - Start times are a concern.
 - Staff indicated that start times are part of HSTS responsibility, and will follow up with them to provide feedback on potential changes.
 - Bussing for JK-8 is 1.6km.
 - The Board will be bussing approximately 20 more students if the grade 7s and 8s move to Acton DHS.
9. Criteria Ranking
- BRC members were asked to identify the criteria most important to them in this study. The following were chosen:
 - Student experience
 - Limiting # of school transitions, sense of belonging
 - Stable, long term boundaries
 - Fiscal responsibility
 - Viability of program

- Balance of overall enrolment
- Community supports

10. Communication

- The boundary review page on hdsb.ca is updated with any new material, powerpoints and notes.
- The public can email actonboundaryreview@hdsb.ca

11. Timeline

- The next meeting is December 3, 2019 at 7:00.

12. Meeting ends 8:58