

Alton School Boundary Review Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

7:00-10:00 p.m.

Theatre, M.M. Robinson High School

Present: Kim Sedor-Dorder, Tracy Davis, Michelle Stone, Susan Rankin, Jeff Cockshutt, Roula Sousa, Shazia Syed, Chris Roszell, Jeff Peeters, Jaymz Cossitt, Tricia Hammell, Mark Cernjul, Karen Hobbs, Remy Campbell, Ying Wang, Ersan Alper, Steve Naylor, Karen Hill, Denise Nacev, Jen Nielson, Amy Collard, Tricia Dyson, Rob Eatough, Dianna Bower, Dane Tutton, Domenico Renzella, Michelle D'Aguiar, Jennifer Hlusko, Jeff Blackwell, David Euale

Absent: Mark Zonneveld, Lucy Veerman, Michelle Paradis, Simona Rosenblood, Sohail Iqbal

Welcome. Rob Eatough will be chairing tonight's meeting in Mark Zonneveld's absence this evening.

Explanation of email conferences set up on the HDSB web site. There is no way for members to be identified by e-mail addresses even though you are receiving the messages are being rerouted to you. Conference questions for each school go directly to their representatives. The Alton conference questions and remarks are rerouted to all eleven members. We have still kept the general button for Q & A to the Board.

Review of Minutes

We apologize for the lateness of delivery of the Minutes. But due to time constraints ask that everyone review the minutes for errors. Please contact Mark Zonneveld by Thursday, November 24, 2011 in the morning, with all errors and omissions.

Review of norms

Norms were trimmed down to 6 that were chosen by the group. They are now on the back of your name cards for reference.

- Be prompt
- Listen generously and critically to others
- Ask questions
- Confine your discussion to the topic.
- Only one person should talk at a time
- Provide constructive feedback and receive it appropriately

Thank you all for your hard work to make the best decisions for all children involved. 2 members unavoidably absent

For those in the gallery, please no interactions with the working committee as they concentrate on their task at hand..

David Euale shared some points about process. He is an observer. He will be writing a report to board taking into account all the recommendations from this committee. However the report to Board may be somewhat different than what you recommend. The committee was formed to find out who should go to new school. David then looks at the preferred scenarios to decide if the children in the area it is being built are being served properly and the what impact or effect it has on the surrounding schools. Primary reason for this is new school is the Alton students. He will be looking for the best solution for these students. He's at the BRC meetings to watch and listen so that he is better prepared to make the final decision.

Rob Eatough explained that the steering committee will make recommendations to the director.

- Q.** Do you get back to participants with the Director's final decision before it goes to the public.
- A.** No. The decision is brought first to Board for consideration and 2 weeks later for decision. There will be time in the interim 2 weeks for parent and community delegations to the Board.
- Q.** What is process?

- A. Staff from the steering committee make recommendation to director. He then chooses a final scenario given the rationale and possible changes necessary. A simple majority of trustees present decides. There will be time for delegation to the Board after the Director's final choice has been presented to the Board.
- Q. Talk of groups of parents lobbying with specific requests, and petitions starting for extra consideration. Parent wants total transparency.
- A. Rob Eatough said that at the Superintendent level he is not aware of this. Jennifer Hlusko explained that as a Trustee she is lobbied daily. What the parents and community members need to do is trust your trustees to vote impartially. Each parent in every Boundary Review has a personal opinion and is also representing their given school or boundary.

Rob does not see this impeding the committee's work.

Top 4 criteria

Remember that this does not mean the other criteria cannot be used to enhance scenarios along the way.

- Proximity to schools (walking distances, safe school routes, natural boundaries)
 - Balance of overall enrolment in each school in the review area to maximize student access to programs, resource, and extra-curricular opportunities. (Clarification on balance of enrolment does not mean even the numbers in each school. It means strive for program viability in all related schools. Making sure that the Alton school is viable without affecting student access to program elsewhere)
 - Accommodation of students in permanent school facilities and minimal use of portable classrooms.
 - Stable long term boundaries (How long are we looking at? Not looking for 25-50 years but do not want to be back at the table in 5 years.)
- Q. Is our first priority what is best for the new school without impacting other schools.
- A. David Euale said that he will look at the area the new school serves. How many can the new school accommodate. If withdrawing students from other schools for Alton depletes their programs, he must take into consideration their needs as well.

Last week ended up with 3 clusters in scenario selection. # 22; #s 20 & 21; #s 19-11-13

Since that time other scenarios have been added. 24 through 32 came in since last meeting. Some more came in today but we have not been able to review them or prepare the hard copy. Members given 5 minutes to review new scenarios.

- Q.** Is grandparenting still an option for consideration in all scenarios.
- A.** Yes. That consideration has to take into account how many students in each school and how it will affect program and capacity.

Steering Committee had the opportunity to meet and we will explain their preferences, dislikes and the reasoning.

Scenario	Reasoning
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee likes this one • Would like it kept on table. • Parent questions rational about putting F.I. student at Florence Mears. • It is one way to address the need to place the F.I. students. 3 of 4 area F.I. schools have absolutely no room for further capacity. • Saved to be place with 20/21
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed to keep the gifted but hurts CRB in long run • discarded
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FI gradual entry Clarksdale, Florence Meares opens to fi st com. Preferred to 19 and needs further conversation • parent – puts a lot of kids in portables. • Too many changes to Florence Meares itself. • It will present CRB students with their 4th move. Would affect teacher librarian. • All schools will make adjustments. • Proximity – too far from Clarksdale. • Not overwhelming support but will through it up in group of 11/13/19
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee saw as similar to 21 but incorporates grad entry of FI

Scenario	Reasoning
	from Clarksdale to Rolling Meadows – very similar to 21.
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves gifted out of CRB to RM. Helps RM • can't support because it does nothing to help Alton students. Gifted program is a separate program and does not count in viability. Is moving gifted program something we should not be considering. Explanation of moving any Special Ed. class was explained giving all the parameters considered. As you move kids out of the program, phase out 1 grade at a time and open elsewhere. Culture of school, would it be accommodating, students are more vulnerable, what are resources like, hard built facilities (kitchens). This BRC is looking at these 6 schools only not all of Burlington. Steering Committee looked at all numbers and is very cautious in boundary and program reviews to move Spec. Ed. students. That does not meet BRC guidelines to consider moving gifted programs.
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to 19 and 26. • Half as many students to Florence Meares. • Expands FI to CRB and ensures balance between these 2 schools. • Q – does it really affect CRB population. CRB is very close to max capacity with this scenario • looking for health of FI program. If CRB has fewer students then FM has too many
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee finds this one similar to 26 but moves primary gifted. Hurts CRB and does nothing to help Alton
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • saw this send gifted to Orchard Park • long term viability at CRB does not work • discarded
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other scenario trying to eliminate portables. • Splits Alton community. • Limits number of portables but in the first 5 years the school will not be full. • Keep in mix since it is only one of a kind.

Scenario	Reasoning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-starter. Other schools offer better options. • Author of scenario explained utilization of space after 2015. 2014 out it is total over capacity. Big green square cant exist over time. Mark and Rob I didn't catch this part. • Has steering committee decided the school is going to be English only or what scenario for dual track? • Parents moved to Alton to have all their kids back in a neighbourhood school together. • Schools are designed OTG and will be overcapacity during the bulge time. • FI parent saw high bussing costs in all scenarios • Keep # 32 for further discussion.

Task

Placement of stickers on preferred scenarios. Maximum of 4 stickers to be used in total. Only 1 can be used in a cluster. But only use 1 sticker per choice. If you don't like either of the single scenarios then do not use a sticker. Each group coming through will not see what previous group chose as the staff will take the stickers off before another group comes along.

15 minutes of discussion and rotation to different stations.

Results of choices with totals shown.

Scenario	Reasoning
<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>(chosen by 16)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant number going to alton with the fi split • Proximity to schools • Less portables • Grandfathering more liveable

Scenario	Reasoning
<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>13 chose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alton in big rectangle eng • Triangle going to fm • All fi kids to fm. • Kids only to 2 kids • From alton standpoint they want 2 schools not 3 • One parent thinks that enrollment is high at meares and beaudoin • Op benefits
<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>9 chose</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stand alone scenario • Entire FI to OP • Surprise it got as many votes • Eliminates extra schools for FI • FM keeps Headon Forest kids • Doesn't make sense to bring triangle kids down • CH Norton numbers going down • Makes no sense to have children walking across large streets to get to schools
<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>4 chose</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">32</p> <p>4 chose</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>2 chose</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">20 & 24</p> <p>1 chose</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">11, 13, 19</p> <p>No one chose</p>	

- Most scenarios are filling up OP
- Walkers Line is a natural boundary

- Concern is nice to fill up op, undetermined area will be built
- Can conclude that there will not be a second school in the Alton area. Undetermined lands. Burlington council to look at a couple of suggestions – west of Tremaine – all industrial or mixed use. Until that is approved we can't decide or plan. Triangle could be another 100 kids as mixed use.

Time to send this information back to Steering Committee. While we have landed on 3 main scenarios, we should meet next week. Parent would like to see grandparenting plugged into next week's discussion. Agreement was reached that we should meet next week with these 3 scenarios.

Discussion of renumbering scenarios with the new tweaks. Steering Committee will determine this process.

Open House

Rob as Chair feels that Tuesday December 6 gives enough time to complete tweaks needed. It also gives planning time to correct and complete paperwork. Representation up front, community members stand up, walk through each scenario and also talk about process. In past we have found if one or two members of BRC would like to speak it was highly successful. Staff will be at each station. Feed back forms in hard copy and on line. Look for – did we miss anything big.

Jeff talked about process and how important it was that the parents on BRC speak about the scenarios. Important for public to know how valuable the BRC has been.

What needs to be communicated? We have landed to the point of having chosen scenarios and times for feedback. Highlight web conferences.

Email will come out about next week.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2011
7:00-9:00 pm
Board Room,
J.W. Singleton Centre,
2050 Guelph Line, Burlington ?????