

Alton School Boundary Review Committee

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

J.W. Singleton Centre, Board Room

Present: Amy Collard, Mark Zonneveld, Jennifer Hlusko, Dianna Bower, Rob Eatough, Dane Tutton, Tricia Dyson, Jeff Blackwell, David Euale, Dom Renzella, Michelle D'Aguiar, Mark Cernjul, Shazia Syed, Steve Naylor, Jen Nielson, Michelle Stone, Jeff Cockshutt, Karen Hill, Susan Rankin, Tracy Davis, Denise Nacev, Michelle Paradis, Karen Hobbs, Simona Rosenblood, Liz Lambe, Jaymz Cossitt, Jeff Peeters, Tricia Hammill, Ersan Alper, Kim Sedore-Dorder

Absent: Lucy Veerman, Ying Wang, Roula Sousa, Remy Campbell, Lauren Houghton, Sohail Iqbal, Beverly Bernart

Introductions, agenda review and materials: Mark Zonneveld & Amy Collard

Welcome. We are very excited that you are all here to join us for this valuable discussion. We will strive for collaborative results to bring us to consensus. Please bring your voice to the table.

Showed map of area sending children to other schools now. There are simply too many kids to just send them to the new school. That is why we are here tonight. The Board staff will maintain the right balance between saying how this will happen with the merits of having this committee deciding how you want things decided as we go along.

Steering committee has already looked at scenarios and methods to do this. They have looked at who will be impacted, the geographical areas and distances between schools

Introductions of Superintendents. Implications for programs, planning, people's roles,

Minutes will be a record of opinions. Mark and Amy will read and send on to the committee. The committee consists of:

- 2 reps from each of 6 schools = 12 reps. Remember that you represent your entire school.
- Alton reps represent community.
- Trustees to listen and learn to find out what community wants.
- Support staff to answer questions and provide data
- school staff not here in order for them to remain impartial.
- Co-chairs are to keep everyone on target and on task

Please encourage your neighbours to not ask school Administrator and staff “what they think” regarding program issues for the new school. (FI, dual track/single track, gr K to Gr 5 or to Gr 8) Staff have to remain impartial to the process and therefore it puts them in an awkward position.

Product goal is to make recommendations to go to steering committee and admin council. We will be deciding what the criteria are. These criteria are what factors are most important to you. You might have other suggestions to different scenarios. **Process goals** are fair & transparent, best needs of students, do the best job to place students where they will be welcomed and learn.

Meeting norms: 15 minutes for table work. Mark and Amy will take away to create a list from the commonalities. We realize that you are passionate about your kids but we are here for all kids.

Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen generously • Ask questions • Be prompt / Attendance • Only 1 person talks at a time • Come with questions
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen generously (listen with the intent to hear) • Don't monopolize the discussion • Provide constructive feedback and receive it appropriately • Ask Questions • Give freely of your experiences
Group 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen generously • Regular attendance • Ask questions – clarity of information • Stay on topic • Provide feedback and receive (respectively)
Group 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen generously • Provide constructive feedback and receive it appropriately • Only 1 person should talk at one time • Confine your discussin to the topic • Ask questions
Group 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen generously • Keep confidences and assume others will • Enter into the discussion enthusiastically • Be prompt and regular in attendance • Confine your discussion to the topic

Desired Timelines:

Timeline is very fast in order to get decisions to the Board meeting for decision by January 25, 2012. Projected enrollments need to be at schools beginning of February for class sizes and staffing. We would like to stick to this timeline but could go longer if need be remembering it would affect the staffing scenario.

Possible criteria could include but should not be limited to:

Balance of overall enrolment in each school in the review area to maximize student access to programs, resources, and extra-curricular opportunities.

Most important: what are the most important criteria in your opinion in deciding the boundaries for the new school? i.e. Stable long term boundaries, viability of dual-track. When we hold up boundaries, we have to hold up to certain criteria. Go through and talk about top choices

- Enough students to make things work. ie 15 children per grade will create a lot of split classes. 20 children in intermediate classes would not allow for a lot of rotary. If school is too large (1000) you have hard time with class timetabling (gym, science lab, music, application room)
- Gifted, PLC, disabilities, life skills - can accommodate all the kids if one of the regional classes is bumped
- Primary Gifted is new at CRB. What about growing programs? Full day kindergarten-will Alton open with it? Alton school not on list yet. That decision will not be made by this committee because of ministry funding.
- 500 kids with dual track does not offer enough children/classes for dual track
- Distance to travel – bussing and costs of bussing etc
- Accommodation & portables – not for bulge years but sustainable level 10 or 15 yrs down the line. Numbers projected down the line
- Make good choices that will last for good long time. Stable long-term boundaries
- How many students to bus at \$40,000 per bus
- What costs more money, what do you want, fiscally responsible
- Grandparenting – most new schools open JK-Gr. 7 with the present Gr 7 students left to graduate with present school. Watch for any bubble issues of grandparenting over the years.
- Moves – consider how many different children have had to make moves already
- Cohorts? Remember this group is not deciding high school boundaries.

Mark and Amy will take these away to collate top 3. Need good dialogue. Need to decide criteria first before looking at scenarios.

From here, what you decide will be taken:

- to the Steering Committee to narrow further,
- then to Senior Admin. for discussion.
- To David Euale, Director of Education will make the final decision about what goes forward to the Trustees. He may modify or trim down the final consensus.

Group 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to schools (how to manage everyone statistically to satisfy to the best of ability) • Accommodation in perm school facilities • Balance enrollment in each of schools to accommodate programs for all
Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance overall enrollment in schools and balance program opportunities • Proximity of schools • Grandparenting issues for grade 8 and other grades too
Group 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance enrollment – overall experience of student. • Fiscal responsibility – maximize the money that goes to student learning • Continuity to placement to maximize the student’s placement
Group 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to school – sense of community • Balanced enrolment • Stability – long term stability - spot for all kids and those who come after our kids down the years
Group 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance enrolment – equal access to program • Viable numbers • Proximity to schools – reduces costs of transportation • Continuity to numbers • Balance enrolment- equal access to program

Tally of Criteria

Proximity (4)

Balance of enrollment (5)

Continuity of placement (2)

Permanent Facilities (1)

Grand parenting (1)

Stable long term boundaries (1)

Fiscal responsibilities (1)

In moving forward we may find 2 issues that go together i.e. proximity and balance. Would they go together? May find other choices.

Question the preliminary analysis to come up with top 3. Experience has shown that too many choices does not work. Don't rush process of choosing criteria, as it is the most important part of the process once you settle on them. Adding more does not work because it stalls process.

Decision made not to vote on criteria at this point since there are missing Alton committee members.

Scenarios and Maps

Planning team explained:

- the 21 scenarios
- how to read and interpret maps
- the colour coding
- Projections and how to interpret

Homework

Homework for the week is to study all the maps and understand the reasons it has been offered as a scenario. Hold up to criteria lists

Communication

- We will be creating and growing an FAQ page.
- Draft message to all your schools for the home notification saying process started, and there is representation from all schools
- Newsletters – must all have common, consistent information at the same time
- Steering committee – email at end of process to all affiliated parties – Halton Catholic District School Board, Transportation Consortium, day cares, community residents

Going forward:

- Be consistent, supportive, transparent,
- Balance showing everyone tonight's information and staying transparent
- Continue to ask parents to feed questions and concerns to their school representative or Alton community representative
- Don't offer process analysis, conclusion will be rendered as a group to the steering committee.

- Retain gallery for open meetings.
- We do know some of the scenarios are not viable.
- We can achieve what we want through this process and honor all our commitments and each other.
- Can only communicate process but not what has been said. Be open-minded to be fair.
- Decided that committee member's names and contact information will not be posted on the website.

Questions

- Can IT set up a website where committee members can check questions sent to them and answer for their areas. **Answer** We will look into this.
- Could we find some data that shows proximity to schools for comparison? **Answer** It is not available but we can do a circle on map to indicate busing areas and walk-to areas for all the school sites.
- At what point in population is a school viable before losing services and specialty teachers? **Answer** We can bring a staffing cut-point data form to next meeting.

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