



**STUDENT ENROLMENT/SCHOOL CAPACITY COMMITTEE (SE/SCC)
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 2016**

- Present:** M. Brant, J. Cobb, B. Danes, M. Hall, L. Kyle, D. Patterson, J. Williams
- Regrets:** T. Binaris, J. Bray, D. Inch
- Resource:** C. DeMille, K. Donnell, M. Fisher, T. FitzGibbon, K. Horrigan, K. MacQuarrie, N. Pfeiffer, C. Portt, C. Reid, D. Rutherford, M. Savery-Whiteway
- Minutes:** S. Smith

Delegations

Public Feedback: Draft Long-Term Capital and Accommodation Plan

Wendy Riley, School Council Chair, Bayside Public School

Wendy Riley thanked trustees for the opportunity to present feedback on behalf of the School Council. Ms. Riley expressed concern about the timelines and process for public input. She referred to the process for soliciting public feedback into Policy 15 in November 2015, noting that no similar messaging was provided for this process. In addition, minutes of the Student Enrolment/School Capacity Committee meetings did not detail conversations related to long-term planning, where the public would expect the facts to be laid out.

Ms. Riley spoke to the long standing commitment of the School Council, staff and students to improve the French Immersion experience and create a cultural learning centre at the Bayside campus. The School Council believes that French Immersion education is best served by being housed in a dedicated centre of excellence such as the Bayside complex. Due to capacity issues at the school, students are currently housed in three separate and distinct buildings. The obvious solution would be to construct a new public school, possibly in conjunction with the adjacent secondary school. The property on the Bayside Public and Secondary School campus is the largest campus in eastern and central Ontario, and provides plenty of space for construction of a new school. With the recent work on the new sewage plant on Highway 2, all the necessary infrastructure is now in place to provide an ideal setting for an educational hub, in an easily accessible location within the school board.

Ms. Riley stated that the School Council is extremely concerned that the success of the cultural learning centre is not appropriately represented in the draft long-term plan, and believes that the closing of Bayside Public School referred to in 7.7.3 of the draft Long-Term Capital and Accommodation Plan should be removed.

Brad Beale, School Council Chair, Bayside Secondary School

Brad Beale thanked trustees for the opportunity to speak, and expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication put into achieving excellence for the children and young people in HPEDSB schools. Mr. Beale spoke on behalf of the School Council, to the following areas related to the draft long-term plan: process; flaws and errors in data presented; and physical plant and school environment at Bayside Secondary School.

Mr. Beale referred to the process for development of the plan, and indicated that timelines for public input were inadequate for proper review. Mr. Beale noted that it is also unclear in the draft document what information was authored by Watson and Associates, and what has been authored by board employees. If the scenarios were authored by board employees without dialogue with the affected school communities, then the guiding principles in Policy 15, specifically open decision-making and public participation in planning, have not been honoured. Mr. Beale also expressed concern about the summary of public input provided to the Student Enrolment/School Capacity Committee for review, and suggested that all documents should be reviewed by the Committee to show respect for the time and input provided by the public.

Significant concern was expressed regarding data presented in the draft long-term plan. Mr. Beale referred to discrepancies in past and present reports regarding projected and current enrolment numbers at Bayside, Frankford and Stirling schools. In addition, no scenarios or considerations were presented to address current boundary problems in West Trenton and the Bayside area. The School Council felt that it was premature to adopt a document of this importance, based on erroneous, historical data, presented in a way that could be misinterpreted.

Mr. Beale shared information specific to Bayside Secondary School. Bayside is a school to be proud of with respect to excellence and achievement, excelling in academic standards and school environment and climate. In addition, Bayside has the largest campus in North America in terms of property, with infrastructure in place for public utilities. It is also the newest secondary school in Hastings and Prince Edward. The advantages of its physical property allow for outdoor and experiential learning and other diverse programming, and for expansion.

The School Council expressed concern about scenarios presented in the draft plan that would threaten to dismantle or close Bayside Public School or Bayside Secondary School, and possibly disperse the French Immersion program to several locations. Strong support was expressed for the K-12 school model.

On behalf of the School Council, Mr. Beale suggested to trustees that the long-term plan stay in draft until more accurate data can be added and more adequate time provided for public input. Mr. Beale also requested that a vote on approval be a recorded vote, to enhance openness and transparency.

Chair Hall thanked Wendy Riley and Brad Beale for their presentation on behalf of the Bayside Public School and Bayside Secondary School Council, respectively.

Call to order

Chair Hall called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

Approval of agenda

Moved: J. Cobb
Seconded: J. Williams

That the agenda be approved.

Carried

Approval of minutes

Moved: B. Danes
Seconded: L. Kyle

The minutes of the May 9, 2016 regular meeting be approved.

Carried

Recommendations

Draft Long-Term Capital and Accommodation Plan

Director Savery-Whiteway referred to report B-1, approval of the Draft Long-Term Capital and Accommodation Plan. The director referred the HPEDSB vision All students prepared and empowered for the possibilities of today and tomorrow. In order to achieve this, the school board has to have excellent programs and modern learning environments. Two large capital projects are underway now and include construction of a new school in Trenton and the new addition to Marmora Senior School in Marmora. Past initiatives include a new school in Stirling and Tweed and new replacement school for the Harmony Public School community.

The director explained that the Ministry of Education requires school boards to develop new or revised capital plans to effectively right-size and manage excess capacity in schools, and address the future needs of their students. The ability to sustain effective programming for students and continued declining enrolment, as well as surplus space, aging facilities and the phasing out of top-up funding by the Ministry of Education over the next three years, are the driving forces behind the development of a new long-term plan for HPEDSB.

A draft Long-Term Capital and Accommodation Plan for HPEDSB has now been developed. The long-term capital and accommodation plan reflects a review of all school groups and outlines possible considerations for the activation of standard or modified accommodations reviews. It does not contain any formal recommendations for school closure or consolidation and is intended to serve as a road map over the next 10 years. It is a framework for decision making, and will be monitored and updated as required.

Kim Horrigan, Manager of Planning, referred to a power point presentation and provided a brief summary of the Long-Term Capital and Accommodation Plan. She explained that school boards are responsible for managing their school capital assets in an effective manner. They must respond to changing demographics and program needs while ensuring continued student achievement and well-being, and the financial viability/sustainability of the school board.

Kim Horrigan reviewed the accommodation strategies for development of the long-term capital and accommodation plan and spoke to various components of the draft plan. The plan includes an Executive Summary, Introduction, Program Considerations, Demographics/Enrolment, School Facilities, Transportation, Community Use and Partnerships, Accommodation Scenarios, Glossary of Terms and Appendices. The plan is a framework for decision making, and is based on the principles contained in Policy 15: Student Enrolment/School Capacity – Pupil Accommodation Review,

Director Savery-Whiteway thanked Manager Kim Horrigan for the overview. The director explained that the draft plan has been posted on the school board website and the public was invited to provide written feedback until Friday, June 10, 2016. A response has been provided to all those who provided feedback and a formal response will be provided to those who presented to the Student Enrolment/School Capacity Committee. The director referred to Appendix B of Report B-1, a summary of the public feedback received to date. The summary captures the key points from each submission, in alphabetical order by school group.

Trustee Patterson referred to the public input received, and in light of the comments presented, proposed the following motion:

Moved: D. Patterson
Seconded. B. Danes

To postpone the recommendation to September 30, 2016, enabling staff and the community to fully respond to the draft plan

Trustee Patterson recognized staff and the director for their ongoing work in trying to bring the plan to a level where we can begin to do analysis. He stated that public perception is inadequate, and suggested that the summer months, and coming into the Fall, will provide more time to review and lay the groundwork for a well-informed plan.

Director Savery-Whiteway provided clarification regarding the timeline for public input and explained that the draft plan was posted on the web site as of May 20, 2016. Three days to provide input is misinformation and not accurate. Kerry Donnell, Communications Officer, explained the process for posting documents on the web site. Kerry Donnell noted that, as a new article is added, the latter article falls off and has to be reposted. The new date reflects date of reposting the article, not the original date of posting. For this reason, the date the article was originally posted, is reflected in the body of the messaging.

Discussion followed regarding the process for public input. The director explained that public consultation will take place once a formal recommendation is activated, in accordance with Policy 15: Student Enrolment/School Capacity – Pupil Accommodation Review. The long-term capital and accommodation plan needs to be in place before the school board can move forward with discussions with municipalities and community partners.

Trustees Danes added that the public has indicated that they have not had adequate time to review and provide input, and that it was fair, as trustees, to err on the side of caution and provide time to absorb the input received, and review the draft plan in more detail.

Support for the motion was noted, and Chair Hall called the motion.

Carried

Information

None

Correspondence

None

The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.