

- 1. Class location – we need to look at having Life Skills Programs built into every school; especially at the secondary level where our students are currently in the oldest, dingiest schools in Halton. The Board needs to realize what message this sends to the student, their family and other students. If the Board puts the only option available to some of our students in one place, it may give the impression that they are not wanted in their home high school. This deprives the student from going to school with the mainstream students they knew at elementary and with the students in their neighbourhood. If our children are to be a part of the community, they need to be valued members of their neighbourhood school community. As well, by congregating our students in the Life Skills program in one school and definitely not one of the nicest schools, what does this do for their self-esteem? For others to see our children as being valued, the Board needs to provide more options within their home community that are warm, welcoming places to learn. On the flipside, our children have a lot that they can teach others and it's just as vital that other students are taught acceptance and differences and that all people make a community.***

We see all of our schools as viable sites for student learning, not just the new schools. Placement of programs is done using a number of criteria, demand for the program, space availability, cost, transportation options, compatible programs etc.

- 2. Class size – we need to base the class size not on how many we can fit in a class based on the number of students that will actually fit, but how many we can put in a class where the teacher can effectively teach the students. With the increase in students with IEPs and the expectation that teachers will use differentiated instruction to teach a wide range of students, it is imperative that we look at limiting the class sizes in order that the teacher can implement the necessary modifications, accommodations and alternate programming?***

Class sizes are provincially mandated and as such School Boards must be compliant with the existing standards. The Ministry of Education implemented the

Primary Class Size (PCS) initiative in 2004 to lower the student/teacher ratios. PCS requires 90% of Primary Classes (Grades JK-3) to achieve a 20:1 ratio and the remaining 10% to achieve a 23:1 ratio. According to the Ministry of Education staffing and funding guidelines, the average class size in grades 4 to 8 for the Halton District School Board should be 25.4 for 2010/2011.

3. *Can you address the Alton timeframe? What has changed from previous opening date and the new opening date?*

The 2007 LTAP had originally identified a 2010 opening. The 2008 and 2009 LTAP subsequently deferred the opening. The delay was a result of the slow down in the economy and anticipated reduction in new home sales. As a result developers were not processing the plans of subdivision, which included the school site. Therefore, the Board could not get access to the site, since the lands were not registered. As well, the site consists of two parcels owned by two developers, Mattamy and Burl9. The Mattamy portion of the site was registered in the fall of 2009, while the Burl9 portion was registered in January 2010. The Board is currently in the process of closing the deal.

4. *Does the Board have the funding to build Alton elementary school now?*

Not at this time.

5. *Did the Board ever have the funding to build Alton elementary school?*

No.

6. *What are the requirements for the business case to be developed?*

The Board needs to own the site.

7. *Where is the site located?*

School is located between Steeplechase Drive & Palladium Way.

8. *What are the grades for the Alton elementary school?*

JK-8, but the Board is still looking at other options.

9. *How do we as a community pressure the Ministry of Education for funding? How can the Board help support us? Alton seems to be lacking a community.*

It is recommended that Board staff work with trustees and will continue to inform the community via the web, newspapers & backpack flyers.

10. *Does the projection account for students currently in other schools?*

Board planners must use enrolled students as a base in creating Long Term Projections; growth is built into grades through retention rates.

11. *What are the factors for delaying the Alton elementary school?*

- A. The Board was looking at English only projections
- B. The full site had not been acquired. The province will not fund a school unless there is ownership.
- C. No sign of impact on area schools.
- D. In 2008/09 the Board was required to pick 10 priority projects. Alton was not one because the site was not owned. All 10 projects were funded.

12. *What can be the earliest date to open Alton elementary school?*

A motion to accelerate the school was approved by the Board to open the school in the fall of 2011 and directing staff to submit a business case to the Ministry of Education by March 31, 2010. Construction timelines indicate the earliest opening is early 2012.

13. Why did the Board originally say the Alton elementary school would open in 2010?

Enrolment projections indicated that there was sufficient demand to warrant the school and the expectation was that the Board would have access to a site to construct the facility.

14. There is a concern with the lack of community.

If the Alton elementary school were built it would provide a sense of community.

15. Why is the Board not supporting / organizing a parent committee? Millcroft and Orchard have one and received new schools?

Millcroft and Orchard did not receive Alton's funding. They are communities, which were established earlier than Alton and as such were generating students sooner.

16. Dual track will increase enrolment at Alton elementary school?

Yes.

17. Will CH Norton P.S. (Alton) students be asked to attend another school prior to building Alton?

No.

18. What will happen to Paul A Fisher PS with full-time JK/SK?

The Board will review each school on a case-by-case scenario; these enrolments have been included in the 2009 LTAP.

19. Who selects which schools will have full-time JK/SK (Board or Province)?

Halton has been allotted 36 classrooms for full-time JK/SK. The Board is required to work with the Region, municipalities & the Halton Catholic District School Board to determine the most appropriate sites for year 1. This will be repeated for year 2.

20. When will the new Alton secondary be opened?

School will open 2012.

21. Is this a realistic time frame?

Yes, based on discussions with the Board's Facility Services Department.

22. What is the impact on other schools?

This will be determined as part of the boundary review.

23. Has Alton secondary been funded?

Yes

24. CH Norton PS and Clarksdale PS are full – will there be full-time JK/SK?

The Board will review each school on a case-by-case scenario in terms of timing. Based on the Ministry's position all schools are to offer Full day JK/SK within 5 years.

25. How can we as community pressure to advance Alton opening? HDSB minimum timeline:

- A. 4 month to design the school
- B. 6 month for approval
- C. 13 months for construction

26. Can the Board reuse other school designs in order to speed up the design process?

This is standard operating procedure. To design a school it normally takes 6-7 months. The Board will reuse a design established by a newer school in another area, with a 4 month timeline to modify it to site specifications.

27. Concern over the population of Alexander's P.S., with the need for portables and the lack of access to libraries and gyms.

The Orchard #3 elementary school will alleviate the number of portables needed at Alexander's. The Board is willing to work with parents and develop innovative ideas to access programs. Speak with the principal first.

28. Does the building of Alton high school depend on the City of Burlington community centre?

The Board and the municipality have a process they must follow. The Board, City and Library Board are formalizing the agreement; it would be beneficial to work jointly with all parties.

29. How will the Alton secondary boundary affect the feeder schools?

At this time the impact is unknown. This will be determined through a boundary review.

30. *Can Nelson H.S. students attend the Alton School?*

This will be determined through a boundary review.

31. *When will the boundary review occur?*

The boundary review will likely commence in the Fall of 2010 with a decision finalized by June 2011.

32. *What is the date for the Orchard #3 boundary review?*

This boundary review will begin after March break (March 16-19) and be completed in June.

33. *Can we sign up for the boundary committee for Orchard #3?*

Staff will prepare several boundary scenarios that will be presented to parents in the boundary review process. The Board would like to hear how these proposed scenarios will affect your family.

34. *What is the capacity of the Alton high school?*

1200 people places.