

Boundary Review Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, April 3, 2012
7-9 p.m.
Board Room, JWS

Staff Present: David Euale, Jeff Blackwell, Dane Tutton, Rob Eatough, Dom Renzella,
Michelle D'Aguiar, Kristen Lochhead

Trustees: Amy Collard, Jennifer Hlusko, Dianna Bower

BRC Parent Members: 18 members present

Introductions and Review of Agenda

Co-Chair, D. Tutton, welcomed members promptly at 7 p.m. A new member representing Kilbride (rural Burlington) was introduced. D. Tutton also introduced the co-chair, Dianna Bower, at tonight's meeting. D. Tutton reviewed the agenda for this evening and stressed the importance of the first task of prioritizing selection criteria.

Review Group Norms

D. Tutton briefly reviewed the Group Norms introduced at the first meeting.

- Promoting a Spirit of Inquiry
- Pausing
- Paraphrasing
- Probing
- Putting Ideas on the Table
- Presuming Positive Intentions

Focus on Selection Criteria

The committee was divided into four groups to prioritize the top three criteria to use to measure the impact and effectiveness of the scenarios. The Halton Board's twelve itemized criteria were distributed to members at the last meeting and members were reminded that additional criteria not mentioned on the Board list could be recommended.

After 30 minutes of group discussion, groups reported to the committee as a whole. Each group prioritized their top three criteria. Results were as follows:

- Balance of overall enrolment in each school in the review to maximize student access to programs, resources, and extra-curricular opportunities. (4 groups)
- Proximity to schools (walking distances, safe school routes, natural boundaries) (2 groups)
- Stable long-term boundaries (2 groups)
- Keeping cohorts together (2 groups)
- Viable numbers in a dual track school to support English and French programs (1 group)
- Accommodation of students in permanent school facilities and minimal use of portable classrooms (1 group)

Discussion followed on the criteria prioritized and clarification was provided.

- Changing boundaries affects a community negatively (from past experience) So much negativity was harmful to the community as a whole and was lasting.
- Students have been together 10 years – big jump from elementary school to high school, keeping cohorts together eases the transition. This is equally important for FI students.
- It was noted that the new high school has a capacity of 12 portables.

All groups chose “Balance of overall enrolment in each school in the review to maximize student access to programs, resources, and extra-curricular opportunities.” Discussion followed on school(s) being underutilized. The Director spoke to this item and clarified that this particular criteria is included to prevent **significant overcrowding in a school**. The Director clarified that the PARC policy which is currently under review is the Board policy that clarifies the process for underutilized schools. A trustee spoke to the issue and reinforced that the Board has a mandate to populate the new high school (1200 students) and that the role of this Committee is to decide who attends the new high school.

D. Tutton advised the Committee that the rules for building schools and closing schools are constantly changing. A trustee reminded members that a fresh perspective is one of the reasons for this process allowing for community input.

Scenarios and Maps

There are currently two scenarios in place. Discussion on the two scenarios followed and staff provided background and clarification.

D. Tutton suggested that members might like to suggest alternative scenarios.

Rural Burlington representative advised that the rural area would like to be included in the new high school boundaries. Reasons are as follows: Rural Burlington is closer to the new school; bussing would be shorter distances; driving distances would be shorter for parents with students in extra-curricular activities since no public transit is available.

A member asked for more scenarios. The response was that the Steering Committee only produced and considered the two scenarios that have been presented to the BRC. Planning explained that areas and details have to be specified for more scenarios to be created. Planning has lots of data available and welcomes any suggestions from BRC members. If any Committee member has a suggestion for a new scenario, Planning needs to get the ideas so that these ideas can be mapped out on paper with appropriate data. Members were encouraged to review the maps and send in suggestions electronically to Dane Tutton, Rob Eatough or Dom Renzella as soon as possible. (Reminder that Board will be closed for Good Friday and Easter Monday.)

Rob Eatough closed the meeting by reminding members that in order to provide more scenarios for discussion, staff need to get the scenarios on paper.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 2012
7 p.m. Board Room, JWS