

Halton District School Board

Report Number: 16148
Date: October 17, 2016

FOR INFORMATION

TO: The Chair and Members of the Halton District School Board
FROM: Stuart Miller, Director of Education
RE: **Communication Information re: PAR (Burlington)**

Background

On October 19, 2016, the Board of Trustees will consider the motion from Report 16132 regarding initiating a Program and Accommodation Review process (PAR) for all secondary schools in Burlington.

As part of this process, there is a formal program and accommodation review consultation plan. This plan outlines the consultation process the Board is required to follow (as outlined in the Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline, *Appendix A, Report 16132*). The Halton District School Board will adhere to this process.

The intent of this process is to create a committee (PARC), also prescribed by the Ministry of Education guideline, which will examine all relevant data pertaining to the accommodation review. The committee will also be the conduit for providing input from the community into both the process and any recommendations.

Following its deliberations, the committee will provide accommodation options and feedback to the Director of Education for consideration. The Director of Education will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The final decision is made by the Board of Trustees. There will be no deviation from this process.

Due to the respect the Board has for its school communities, the students who attend these schools, and students who will attend in the future, there will be additional information sharing.

Purpose:

The purpose of this process is to provide the communities with the information and data that has prompted the initiation of the PAR process. The Ministry of Education outlines five (5) criteria, only one of which has to be met to initiate a PAR. (*see Report 16132: Background*)

Two of the criteria, and possibly a third, has been met for the secondary schools in Burlington. It is the Board's contention that Burlington secondary students may be impacted by the two criteria which prompted the PAR:

- The school or a group of schools has/have experienced or will experience declining enrolment where On-The-Ground Capacity (OTG) utilization rate is below 65%; and
- Reorganization involving the school or group of schools could enhance program delivery and earning opportunities.

The Board and the secondary schools in Burlington are facing a significant challenge in providing equity of opportunity for the current students of these schools, and for those who will attend in the future.

It is our intent to provide the communities with the information and data that has led to this perspective.

Halton District School Board

The following outlines the actions the Board will employ.

INFORMATION Sessions ONLY – There will be no Q&A at these sessions:

DATE	SCHOOL	TIME
Tuesday, November 1, 2016	Robert Bateman High School	6 - 7 p.m.
Tuesday, November 1, 2016	Nelson High School	7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 3, 2016	Aldershot High School	6 - 7 p.m.
Thursday, November 3, 2016	Burlington Central High School	7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Monday, November 14, 2016	Lester B Pearson High School	6 - 7 p.m.
Monday, November 14, 2016	MM Robinson High School	7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 15, 2016	Dr. Frank J Hayden Secondary School	6 - 7 p.m.

NOTE: The presentation will be posted on the Board’s website. Additional information throughout the process will be shared with parents, students and the community via email, the Board’s Twitter account, the media, and other communication vehicles.

QUESTION and ANSWER Sessions:

DATE	LOCATION	INFORMATION
from October 21	Halton District School Board website	Ongoing information regarding the PAR; data and timelines as well as resource materials
Evening of Monday, November 21, 2016	Live on-line Q&A with Director of Education and HDSB staff (Staff will be included as required)	An additional question and answer session may be considered

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

DATE	LOCATION	INFORMATION
Thursday, October 24, 2016	Burlington “Supercouncil” (school council chairs) This is an <i>invitation only event</i>	
Monday, November 7, 2016	City of Burlington, Community and Corporate Services Committee	Halton District School Board delegation regarding PAR information/process

PUBLIC INPUT

An additional opportunity for public input will be provided during the PAR process. Information collected from public input will be shared with the Program and Accommodation Review Committee (PARC).

Halton District School Board

STUDENT FEEDBACK:

The Halton District School Board will survey secondary students in Burlington schools.

STUDENT SENATE:

A presentation to members of the Student Senate will be scheduled for January 2017

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC):

A presentation to members of SEAC will be scheduled for January 2017.

FEEDBACK/INPUT:

The Board values feedback and input from the community. The intent of the supplementary sessions is to provide information to the community. At a later date, opportunities will be made available for community input/feedback. The community's input will be shared with the PARC for its consideration.

CONCLUSION

This communication plan is independent of the formal PAR process in so far as its intent is to demonstrate to the community the information that prompted the initiation of the process.

It is further hoped that the community, through its feedback to the PARC, will assist in finding a solution that addresses the underlying issue of equity of opportunity for students of Burlington's secondary schools.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stuart Miller
Director of Education
Halton District School Board*