

Centretown, Glebe & Old Ottawa South Accommodation Study

May 30, 2011 Working Committee Meeting

Glashan Public School Library

7:00 – 9:15 pm

Draft Meeting Notes

The meeting commenced at 7:00pm with the committee chairs welcoming all to this evenings meeting. Various administrative items were noted.

Program Discussion

Jennifer Adams, Executive Superintendent, former Superintendent of Curriculum, was introduced to the committee as a guest speaker regarding Board programs.

The following main points were made during her overview presentation and subsequent question and answer period.

- The OCDSB has a wide variety of program offerings which can be a challenge both in terms of school organization and pupil accommodation
- In general, it would be preferable for each program to have at least 2 classes per grade level, which we know cannot occur across the district
- The Board has recently faced new challenges including the primary class size cap and full day kindergarten initiative now being phased in by the Ministry of Education
- It was noted that many schools have split classes which is becoming increasingly common place and that these classes operate very successfully
- As a result of declining program enrolments at some schools, triple grade splits are possible.
- Sometimes, additional staff can be assigned to address these triple grade classes; however she noted that staffing resources are limited and that there are no guarantees that additional staff will be available to respond to these situations.

- Concerns were expressed about the recent shift in program choice to immersion programming and resultant small English program enrolments.
- It was noted that the OCDSB is an English language School Board which offers a regular English program with core French as well as French as a Second language program with different entry points.
- It was emphasized that the Board is working to implement new initiatives to increase the awareness of the excellence of the regular English program (such as focus on language labs; oral French emphasis in the core French program and use of technology – 21st Century Learner)
- The Board is working to improve its communication of its strong support for the regular English program
- It was noted that there is no evidence to support any particular program delivery model (eg single vs dual track) for student achievement. Rather, it was emphasized that the number one factor affecting student achievement is the classroom teacher
- In dual track schools, principals ensure that resources are allocated as equitably as possible (eg team teaching – language of instruction may be different but the curriculum is the same)
- It was noted that while an immersion certificate remains desirable for students, the OCDSB has developed a French language proficiency test that demonstrates in a very tangible way to all FSL students, including core French, how proficient they have become.

Working Committee Scenarios

Karyn Ostafichuk, Manager of Planning provided a brief overview of the 2 working committee scenarios. (Scenarios that were not feasible were not discussed further by the committee) Each of the 2 scenarios was subsequently reviewed in a small group discussion format.

The following points/comments were raised by the participants

Scenario 1B

- EFI remains in the Glebe (Mutchmor dual tracked)
- Glebe intermediate students attend Glashan- meets neighbourhood needs
- Support expressed for Elgin as dual track
- Support for EFI at Glashan
- Enrolments are balanced in this scenario
- Enrolment pressures reduced at area schools
- Mutchmor was disadvantaged; concern that EFI will weaken English program.
- Concern about relocation of Gifted program
- Gifted needs a destination
- Low 7/8 english program at Hopewell
- Elgin disadvantaged due to lower EFI program enrolment

Note: Elgin, First Avenue and Hopewell at capacity

Scenario 2

- Stronger program enrolments at Centennial
- With gr 6's at Glashan, students will have 3 years at the school and be able to walk to school
- Support for EFI at Glashan & MFI at Mutchmor
- Glashan MFI program strengthened
- Enrolment pressures reduced at most area schools
- Elgin concern with loss of English program
- Hopewell concern with loss of MFI program and more transitions for MFI students
- Concern with EFI students walking to Hopewell

Note: First Ave & Hopewell exceed capacity (-1, -2)

Public Question Period

During the public question period, queries were made regarding the possibility of reopening McNabb Park School. Another comment was made that suggested that relocation of the gifted program should be open for consideration.

The next meeting will be held on Monday June 6th, 2011