

## **Glebe, Centretown & Old Ottawa South Working Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – Mutchmor Public School (Lunchroom) 7pm

### **Present:**

#### **OCDSB Staff**

Karyn Ostafichuk  
Marc Labelle  
David Suriano  
Susan MacDonald

Trustees Rob Campbell & Jennifer McKenzie

### **Working Group:**

Cindy Kirk	Barb Massey
Jenny Haysom	Joan Spice
Mike Stewart	Gerry Ohlsen
Blair Tucker	Sandra Derby
Sharon Chartier	Kelli Landers
Gisele Durocher	Daphne Ducharme
Scott McKenzie	Mary Young
David Barr	

The committee chairs welcomed members to the meeting; there were no changes to the Agenda items.

- The committee discussed changes/comments on the meeting notes prepared from the last meeting

#### *Agenda - Comments*

- The committee discussed the format of the proposed work groups for review of the scenarios given the attendance at the meeting.
- Scott McKenzie suggested that a recent survey and its results of Elgin Street PS students be added to the discussion; he noted the following:

Scott discussed the survey results which had a 29% response percentage:

- Elgin EFI - 28%

- Elgin Dual Track – 64%
- 3 parents wanted no change
- 1 parent had no opinion

### **Staff Report – Second Alternative Solution**

- Karyn Ostafichuk provided a brief overview of Scenario 2 to the group
- Karyn advised the committee of the Board’s recent correspondence to the Ministry of Education advising of the Board’s interpretation of the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines; noting that it was the Board’s stance that a formal ARC process would not be required with a proposed “swap” of school populations between First Avenue and Mutchmor Public School. However the introduction of an MFI program at the same time would necessitate an ARC .
- Karyn noted that the committee could make recommendations such as the phasing in of programs in a subsequent year. This would be in keeping with the intent of the pupil accommodation review guidelines – where no formal ARC process would be required.

### *Questions regarding an addition at First Avenue PS*

- A. Karyn Ostafichuk gave an overview of the possibility of building an addition to First Avenue P.S. Although with enough time and money an addition can be built, there are significant hurdles to overcome including City of Ottawa heritage issues, Federal ownership of land to the north, setback, parking and lot coverage issues. An addition would severely compromise the site functionality which is already constrained.
- It was mentioned that an addition to First Avenue did occur in the were allowed in the 1980s

### *If it is possible to build onto the gym, would the Board have a look at this?*

- A. Facilities have had a look at this school to see what is reasonable but could not find a way to build feasibly onto it.
- An addition does need to be built with more space – accommodation is very tight (all day learning) and dependant upon enrolment choices, space would be limited.
- It was mentioned that FA parents will wonder why they cannot have an addition onto their school – why at Mutchmor ?
- Parents at FA have had business professionals analyze the site location and have stated that an additions are in fact possible at this school
  - Karyn further states that facilities can better answer these questions to back up this discussion which will be forthcoming.

**Members agreed that their will need to be more explanation to make this case to the FA community.**

- Karyn further reinforces that facilities will be asked to look at this again however MM is the better option even though there are hurdles with that school; the encroachment onto the NCC property at FA is huge.
- A further question for FA – where does the money come from for a site addition?

**Other Questions....**

*Does splitting MFI across 3 schools not run contrary to the idea of “strong programming”?*

- A. MFI is new to Centennial so it is not worth removing at that school; MFI enrolment is also very difficult to predict as it is a school by school process (more popular in some areas than others); trends cannot be observed because it varies so much in neighbourhoods; it is also not desirable to keep shifting the MFI program students

*Enrolment in MFI at FA is low,(7-6-6) would this result in triple split classes?*

- A. No

*Has MFI been introduced into communities where EFI is thriving?*

- A. Yes. 22 additional MFI sites have been created in the past - some are doing better than others with respect to enrolment.
- It is mentioned that although this group has argued for strong programs, people are still reluctant to deal with boundary changes.

**At this point the groups split up to work on a review of the two scenarios**

## Scenario 1

Positives	Recommendations
Keeps the majority of Glebe in community (not MFI)	Since ENG program may be detrimentally impacted then add MFI to Mutchmor
Optional area – status quo, leave as is - Elgin reps Old Ottawa East what do you want? – a SIC public at consultation (ask Elgin if people want MFI; can ENG area be optional Centennial; same question for MM)	Timelines – add ENG MM and EFI to Glashan by 2012
Balances students overall	Area in Glebe feeding to Hopewell for English – keep as optional either Glashan or Hopewell
Dual/triple track allows for easy transition	Amend transfer policy for more flexibility with MFI program
Adds capacity – large space in Glebe	English program still small – recommend ‘study’ to ameliorate program
No programs leave any of the schools	Share designs with community – show plans

## Questions

- Money to MM to support new EFI program? Resources?
- What is the time and how will you build without disruption?
- Will teachers transfer?
- Where will best start centre be?
- 7/8 Hopewell English current feed splits Glebe.. Can this be made optional?
- If 2013 – Can EFI at Glashan start in 2012? And MM English feed?

## Scenario 2

Positives	Negatives
Adds capacity to the Glebe	Is there enough MFI demand to create vibrant program? - Are we splitting MFI too thinly - Combine Hopewell & Mutchmor MFI
Strengthens Glashan – adding EFI	Mutchmor School yard – taken up by addition – where do students go before bell in am?
Keeps cohorts together (Glebe/OOS)	Mutchmor over capacity in future years, where do EFI students go
Strengthens existing programs - EFI all together - ENG/ENG gifted together	Can we afford to move EFI east of the canal to Hopewell? Move some or none
Relieves some Hopewell pressure	Okay to move staff from one physical location to another? Union issues?
If MFI added, no Glebe elementary students leave neighbourhood	Magnitude of physical requirements to swap
Glashan already known, no new school environment	Swap unprecedented in our Board

## Public Consultation Meeting Discussion

- Best methodology for public is a presentation of pros and cons of a few options/solutions
- Keep people focused on the realm of possibility
- Presentation followed by a question and answer period
- Handout with questions for parents to ask/respond to online or at meeting
  - Will help to make recommendations
  - Email system open for 2 weeks to submit comments
- Staff should be present alongside chair committee members
  - Introduction to process, what we looked at, other scenarios that were not feasible, then discuss why we chose scenarios 1 and 2
- Sign in sheet at the meeting that lists school and affiliation

Further discussion:

Some members believe that Elgin Street PS has been overlooked in the process and not provided with a chance in this study – need more feedback regarding Elgin

\* Keep Elgin at status quo \*

- Numbers look okay for the next 3 years?
- could be dealt with later on
- FDK 2014 @ Elgin Street could result in changes
- Rebuilding Elgin is also on the radar for sometime in the future

The committee chair sought 3 volunteers to draft questions for use at the upcoming public meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:45 pm