

Thanks to all for coming.

Hopefully these notes will be of benefit to those who were able to make it, and especially to those who were not. Superintendent Carson has reviewed the notes below for accuracy and his suggestions have been incorporated. This mail is sent to all actual meeting participants who provided their e-contact info and is also copied to the normal Zone 9 Council list of Council Chairs and designated others.

Such Zone Council meeting notes may not always be taken and circulated but these in particular may be of real interest. I note in particular that staff questions to Zone 9 school communities still open to further input re general accommodations directions are at the end of the notes below.

Also, I sensed that there might be interest in inviting designated liaison reps from school councils or school communities not necessarily located in Zone 9 to also attend Zone 9 meetings if they are interested. Can you please indicate to me if you are open to this idea and, if so, which schools / school communities might be most naturally invited that way and perhaps on what basis?

Finally, please all congratulate Paul Levey as the new School Council Chair at York Street! ... Paul can be reached via jdkacg@rogers.com

As always, feel free to contact me ...

Best,
Rob

Rob Campbell
OCDSB Trustee Zone 9 - Rideau-Vanier / Capital
613 323-7803
rob.campbell@ocdsb.ca (board)
rob@ocdsbzone9.ca (constituency)

Zone 9 Council Meeting Notes for March 29th, 2010

Present:

- Lady Evelyn (2)
- Hopewell (1)
- First Avenue (1)
- York Street (1)
- Glashan (1)
- Viscount (2)
- Mutchmor (2)
- Glebe Community Assc
- Action Sandy Hill
- Other (Glashan?) (1)
- Principal Kirkwood (York Street)
- Superintendent Carson
- Trustee Campbell

Superintendent Carson's Presentation re Accommodations Pressures Affecting Zone 9

- there are accommodation pressures and issues throughout the District
- some factors staff consider include:
 - French-as-a-second-language (FSL) and other program retention rates
 - FSL's rates were lower but expect to improve

- full-day early learning program (ELP)
 - will be need to find 3500 to 4000 spaces once all phased in
 - will soak up a lot of space now in schools
 - will affect programs / boundaries in some areas
 - Province providing no capital \$s for this Year 1 of 5
 - criteria for initial site identification include no capital needs, but also readiness to learn, etc.
- lots of downtown sites have no or limited additions potential due to site issues, parking needs
- there is some accommodation review fatigue amongst some communities, staff, and perhaps

Trustees

- are not a lot of easy solutions now to many accommodation issues
 - 10 years ago one could often move a school 300-400m as a whole but of lot of spaces since disappeared
 - rebalancing school populations will be more difficult now
 - in Kanata, for example, also tight on space
 - can't keep up with growth
 - some families have had to move schools 3 or 4 times amongst all of their children
 - might have to do this downtown
- Zone 9 has 2700 elementary spaces for 2300 FTE (full-time equivalent students where kinder currently 1/2 time)
 - will require 2600 with full ELP phase-in
 - not all spaces available in the right spots for ELP and this alone then means quite a shuffle
 - for instance 260 kids on 330 spots rated capacity at Lady E but ELP will not use up all 70 excess spots

- one option might dual-track both First Avenue and Mutchmor but then what about Gifted program at Mutchmor

- R.E. Wilson is in Zone but placed such that will need to look at schools outside the Zone also
- indeed for many Zone 9 schools will need to look N-S and also E-W outside the Zone
- moving away from Grades 7-8 Intermediate only schools is not in any Board motion
 - however, there is a view that should reduce # of school-school transitions
 - problem is previously many schools built assuming middle schools
 - one option might be having more 7-12 schools
 - stopping dedicated elementary at Gr6 might encourage more to leave the Board at this break point
- First Avenue, Mutchmor, Viscount and others don't have high rated capacity
 - hard to run two decent program in schools of 200 or 300
- don't want to always change decisions and need to get it right if looking at options
- expect no huge population changes in the area now, is pretty stable
 - saw expected population declines 1998-2006/7 but has now levelled off
 - though may be some slight shifted up and down
 - if are any closures going forward will not be spaces-driven but also no \$ for new school builds either really

- need to deal with existing awkward stock for the most part
- may be some Provincial \$ for additions but not much
- portables may not even be realistic for buffer room due to yard space
- so, will be by and large limited to boundary changes, grade reconfigurations, program shifts
 - staff recognize importance of community support for a program and ties to success at particular

sites

- Board decision on alt ed schools has been helpful in order to clarify how to deal with them
 - clear Board vision and direction in other areas would be helpful also but may not easily happen
 - in any event many schools and programs in them built or evolved over time organically
 - for example, in Barrhaven and Bells Corners, due to space issues have several JK-5 schools seen now as normal there
- need maintenance dollars not funded for schools, only have \$8-9m per year
 - difficult to find money to fit up unique new Intermediate facilities
- some programs at schools now were put there years ago as those were places with extra space and not necessarily because they were best places to put them and not sure the best now
 - perhaps such as Mutchmor Eng Gifted though in fact a lot of their students do come from nearby

- in part a question of where people are being drawn from
- want to discourage quick fixes
 - are working towards a multi-year road map and this not always apparent to Trustees and others
 - road map not built or determined yet but is an aspiration
- in past when did limited accommodation reviews were always one or two schools just past the line drawn
 - better accommodation review committee (ARC) processes might include interim reporting
 - for instance, interim decisions by Board to help narrow the focus for drill down options later in process
 - need to consider city traffic flows
 - need to consider natural student flows between schools
- Province likely will have more \$ at some point if not now
 - however \$s not the key element really
 - mostly needed is flexibility from both parents and staff to consider maybe novel solutions
 - need this and it has been provided before
 - however no question next 2-3 yers may be challenging
 - no escaping this due especially now to ELP phase in but to other pressures certainly also

Q&A with Superintendent Carson

Q - Can ELP space for JK / SK be found and sited offsite along with other colocated care?

A - possible to have JK./SK along with daycare though not a Ministry favourite

- do have Kanata Research Park example and mixed reactions..challenging for teachers and principal

Q - How will the ELP phase-in be coplanned with ARC process?

A - goes to projections for demand and spaces available; all part of same picture

- will be integrated planning

Q - How do Planning staff do their projections?

A - in several ways

- for the short-term can look at historical model of grade to grade movement
 - for JK./SK need to go though to births and in-migration / out-migration data
 - also need to estimate market share splits based on demographics
- elementary projections are usually <1% off system wide but error can climb if looking at just one school
 - past 5 years and further out is hard to predict as some births have not occurred yet and there can be new developments planned

Q - How closely do staff work with the City? Are new Sandy Hill in-fill single family homes and we need to jointly plan recreation and community use of schools needs and combine Board and City budgets for access and use and in builds?

A - work closely with the City Planning and also Recreation departments

- different unit types generate different # students also based on unit price and layout
 - more affordable units with family-friendly location and layout generate more kids
- always look at potential City partnership on any school build
 - re gyms nature and fittings especially
 - City stopped cofunding partnerships about 4 years ago due to \$ concerns
 - both institutions public but City plays more hardball in negotiations
 - Board first priority must remain having school clean and ready to open in morning
 - are some wear and tear factors
- work on hub projects with City has been slow but may be picking up again
- some community service organizations using the schools actually have a problem increasingly with operating dollars and cannot use the space even if virtually free

Q - Have mentioned having an ARC 'get it right' more than once - what is 'getting it right'?

A - need 'off-ramps' built in in case something changes ...
- for instance Board closed SJ Woodsworth as well as Laurentian but staff only recommended one
- could have led to space pressures and staff tend to be conservative
- need to be conservative as don't control all factors such as unexpected influx into school, changes in program registration splits, etc
- would be happiest is not all schools at 100% capacity so is some flex
- are slowly moving towards defining and tying strategic plan together with vision for accommodations road map and a 3-4 year plan
- ad hoc arrangements are not best way to go generally whether generated by Trustees or staff

Q - Mutchmor had a survey of its parents (compiling results now) and most like it as it is now. Wonder about its role as an all-english school in context of fragile english program numbers in OCDSB?

A - English program not fragile but has seen some recent decline and is a concern
- most lower enrolment schools are single track english
- if survey at First Avenue (all EFL) might find similar survey results

Q - What is impact of the school principal in making a program a success?

A - can be a large impact
- some school administrations parents and teachers have gone out and advertised to the community to build a program

Q - If we plan for five years generally then why did First Avenue get caught having to make a next year decision recently?

A - was some question internally as to whether it was a special education or an accommodations question
- this is now resolved for the future
- primary class size cap (PCS) has created real difficulty since introduced not that long ago
- before if over not a big deal to have a class of 23 but now new classrooms get needed and schools reorg
- always some unforeseens that impact such as transfers etc

Q - This presentation has been useful, the issues are clearly complex and not as simple as we might imagine, and maybe school communities would benefit from and be made less anxious by greater communication like this more often?

A - agreed that communication can be improved
- have tried different communications modes and ideas in the past
- happy to come to Zone or to School Council meetings if no conflicts
- a lot will clarify for school communities and trustees and others if we can complete a road map are working towards

Q - When will a road map for the Zone 9 area be provided; is there a timeline?

A - we are working towards both the road map and a timeline now
- hopefully will be formed up before the end of June but not be able to do it by then

Q - If we put of an accommodation review will we still get \$s for windows repair and other upgrades or could still; get a small new program?

A - don't postpone needed maintenance or refit programs because a school under review
- has meant some "spent" \$ in the past but also don't want to close schools through neglect
- is a windows replacement program generally on the go
- York Street, for example, has had part of roof replaced, mechanicals too, windows started and yet not sure what doing in the end with it

Q - Intermediate schools have advantages for the kids involved, could avoid loss to Immaculata and if maybe got some Hopewell MFI or EFL students at Glashan - have staff thought about this?

A - mixing MFI and EFL together not usually so bad if can balance the classes
- might be challenges with EFL at Glashan as well

- also need to consider the future of 7/8 schools and see how that is working
- loss to Immaculata and others may have a lot to do with Grade 6 breakpoint

Q - First Avenue is under pressure but there is no date set for an ARC yet? Are all scared of one certainly but seems to be no reason for further delay in having one?

A - may be able to address pressures with split classrooms short term but may continue to be pressures

- staff need to look at all areas fo the District and are pressures everywhere
- the ELP implementation is really the big driver ultimately

Q - If don't go for Intermediate schools option then what?

A - could have JK-8 schools or JK-6 and then 7-12 schools

- however large portion of some areas built with assumption of middle schools and may take many years to unwind
- not clear will ever entirely do so ... need to consider viable cohort sizes

Q - When will the Schools for the 21rst Century document be made available?

A - is primarily an internal document for discussion purposes only

- will be made available if consultation on it

NB: - Trustee Campbell noted that this was early days with respect to any accommodation process, if there even is one soon

- he noted that nevertheless has been advising school communities for some time now to start to vision various options which might work for them

Superintendent Carson's Questions to Zone 9 School Councils / School Communities

1. Are communities willing to support solutions where, given tight space and limited facility options, 70-80% of the students move somehow in order to get it right?
2. How would you feel in general terms about various grade configuration options in concept?
3. How would you feel in general terms if programs had to shift?
4. Do you have a preference for, or what is your opinion on, dual track, split grades, etc? (ie. various mix options)
5. What would you advise with respect to specific to street boundary changes, program changes, grade configuration changes?

NB: - Input additional to that received at the meeting could be directed to Mike via:

michael.carson@ocdsb.ca

- Please CC me at rob.campbell@ocdsb.ca

- Staff suggest that their receipt of any additional Zone 9 input in the next 2-3 weeks would be optimally useful to them in formulating directions to suggest to Trustees before year end

Budget Overview (Trustee Campbell)

- specialist teacher cut decisions recently made with diffuse but real impacts
 - regular non-discretionary teachers are up in #s due to enrolment being up and early learning but it is 'discretionary' teachers such as spec ed, ESL, intermediate overlay, etc, which have been cut
- more budget cut decisions to come and input from school councils on where and what to cut, or not to cut, certainly welcome at this time
- just about all options being looked at
- to a question: finding FI teachers not so much a problem as other Boards, EFI does not cost the Board money as have volume efficiencies other Boards may not