

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Planning and Facilities Committee Meeting DATE: November 20, 2013

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee Deb Butler STAFF CONTACT: Alan Cumbers, Director of Operations

Board Attendees:

Trustee D. Butler - Chairperson
Trustee R. Cacchioni - Committee Member
Trustee J. Fraser - Committee Member
Trustee J. Brinkerhoff
Trustee M. Baxter
Trustee M. Pendharkar

Staff:

L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
A. Cumbers, Director of Operations
H. Gloster, Superintendent
T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent
E. Watson, Planning Manager
B. Bertram, Executive Assistant (*recorder*)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC	Vivian Evans, Member at Large
COPVPA	Jill Voros, Executive Member - Social
COTA	Evan Orloff, Second Vice-President
CUPE	Darcy Egeland - CUPE Representative
DSC	No representative

Agenda - Additions/Amendments/Deletions

November 20, 2013 Agenda – approved.

Reports/Matters Arising

October 16, 2013 Committee Report - received as presented.

Recognition/Presentations/Delegations

1. Westside Elementary School Catchment Recommendations

The Superintendent provided background information on the Westside Elementary School Catchment area process which will culminate in recommendations from the Planning and Facilities Committee to the Board of Education for a final decision at the November 27, 2013 Public Board Meeting. The process included option development, information review, stakeholder engagement, community engagement (May/June 2013 and September/October 2013), an online survey (191 responses were received to the survey, which represented 295 students), and a subsequent survey directed to families living on Westside Road.

Feedback received was summarized and included requests for grandfathering of certain students, fairness in transition to new catchment areas, an interest in the future administration, staffing and operation of Mar Jok Elementary School, transportation concerns, social and educational implications for making children change schools, economic impact and disruption to families, division of existing communities and questions regarding the registration process.

Public Question/Comment Period

Comments were received from the following Shannon Lake Elementary School parents:
Tanya Lister, Marnie Douglas, Michaela Giang and Kristine Vodarek.

Committee Members Queries/Comments

Vivian Evans, COPAC Representative

Requested information on how Westside middle school catchment areas/feeder schools would be affected by the changes to Westside elementary catchment areas.

The Superintendent responded that, at the October 23, 2013 Public Board Meeting, the Board approved amendments to the Westside Area Workplan which included a future recommendation to the Board in January 2014 regarding the feasibility of establishing a French Immersion Middle School Program on the Westside. The timeline for potential recommendations for changes to elementary feeder schools for Constable Neil Bruce Middle School and Glenrosa Middle School will be established following the outcome of the French Immersion middle school decision.

Trustee Fraser

Queried what the registration procedure would be for the three schools, how the enrolment would be handled, and the timeline for informing families as to the school their child(ren) would be attending for the 2014/15 school year.

The Superintendent responded that contacting families in terms of their status and school for the 2014/15 school year will be driven by their address on file and where the new catchment areas are drawn, once approved by the Board. Registration dates for the 2014 school year will be approved by the Board at the November 27, 2013 Public Board Meeting. The dates will be communicated to media outlets and schools. Families across the District have often registered their child(ren) at two schools (both their catchment area school and their school of choice) and clerical staff have processes in place for both situations.

Trustee Fraser

Queried whether parents must physically register for their catchment area school and their school of choice.

The Superintendent responded that students will be automatically registered at their catchment area school and if they choose to register at a second school of choice, parents would physically have to attend that school to register.

Trustee Cacchioni

Requested information on how catchment changes would affect staffing at Rose Valley, Shannon Lake and Mar Jok Elementary Schools and how teachers declared as surplus would be ranked for priority for newly posted positions.

The Superintendent advised that teaching staff would be downsized at Rose Valley and Shannon Lake Elementary Schools and new teaching positions would be posted for Mar Jok Elementary School in the usual manner. All continuing contract teachers would have the same priority ranking when applying for the available positions at Mar Jok Elementary School.

Trustee Baxter

Requested whether families living on Westside Road have been informed that their new catchment area school is Mar Jok Elementary and that, while busing will be provided to Mar Jok Elementary, busing will no longer be provided for those students wishing to continue attending Hudson Road Elementary School in the 2014/15 school year.

The Superintendent responded that families living on Westside Road were contacted by letter and asked to respond to a survey regarding the potential move for their child(ren) to the Mar Jok Elementary School catchment area.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Westside Elementary School Catchment Recommendations

Outcome

The Planning and Facilities Committee recommended that the Board approve the following:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the elementary catchment areas for the Westside, as shown on the map in Figure 5 of this report, for implementation in the 2014/15 school year.

THAT: The Board of Education suspend Board Policy 405(2) and Regulation 405R(1) – Student Placement, for Rose Valley Elementary School and Shannon Lake Elementary School, for the 2014/15 student registration process only;

AND THAT: A new set of registration priorities be established for both schools for the 2014/15 student registration process.

THAT: Out-of-catchment students of Rose Valley Elementary School (based on the proposed 2014/15 catchment area map) who attended Rose Valley Elementary in 2013/14, automatically be enrolled in their catchment area school (based on the proposed 2014/15 catchment area map) prior to the start of the 2014/15 student registration period.

THAT: Out-of-catchment students of Shannon Lake Elementary School (based on the proposed 2014/15 catchment area map) who attended Shannon Lake Elementary School in 2013/14, automatically be enrolled in their catchment area school (based on the proposed 2014/15 catchment area map) prior to the start of the 2014/15 registration period.

THAT: The Board of Education suspend the enrolment priorities in Regulation 405R(2) – Student Placement, for the 2014/15 school year only, and prioritize student registration at Rose Valley Elementary School using the following priorities:

- *catchment area students who, in the previous year, attended the school;*
- *catchment area students who, in the previous year, were ‘placed’ by the district in a different school;*
- *siblings of catchment area students;*
- *new catchment area students;*
- *students who are catchment area students in 2013/14 who attended Rose Valley Elementary School in the 2013/14 school year but will be non-catchment area students for 2014/15 (based on the proposed 2014/15 catchment area map);*
- *students who are non-catchment area students in 2013/14 who attended Rose Valley Elementary School in the 2013/14 school year and who remain non-catchment area students for 2014/15 (based on the proposed 2014/15 catchment area map);*
- *siblings of non-catchment area students currently enrolled in the school;*
- *non-catchment area students who request to attend the school which is other than their catchment area school;*
- *non-district area students;*
- *international students.*

OPPOSED: Trustee Cacchioni

The Committee discussed the above recommendation and requested that information be provided at the November 27, 2013 Public Board Meeting regarding the direct influence of the recommended priority ranking on enrolment numbers in order to ensure that numbers are fairly balanced at each school.

THAT: The Board of Education suspend the enrolment priorities in Regulation 405R(2) – Student Placement, for the 2014/15 school year only, and prioritize student registration at Shannon Lake Elementary School using the following priorities:

- *catchment area students who, in the previous year, attended the school;*
- *catchment area students who, in the previous year, were ‘placed’ by the district in a different school;*
- *siblings of catchment area students;*
- *new catchment area students;*
- *students who are catchment area students in 2013/14 who attended Shannon Lake Elementary School in the 2013/14 school year but will be non-catchment area students for 2014/15 (based on the proposed 2014/15 catchment area map);*
- *students who are non-catchment area students in 2013/14 who attended Shannon Lake Elementary School in the 2013/14 school year and who remain non-catchment area students for 2014/15 (based on the proposed 2014/15 catchment area map);*
- *siblings of non-catchment area students currently enrolled in the school;*
- *non-catchment area students who request to attend the school which is other than their catchment area school;*
- *non-district area students;*
- *international students.*

OPPOSED: Trustee Cacchioni

THAT: The Board of Education direct staff to manage the implementation of the new catchment areas and the 2014/15 registration process as follows:

1. Communicate new catchment areas to parents and the community at large.
2. Provide direct communication to families who currently attend Shannon Lake Elementary School or Rose Valley Elementary School who are out-of-catchment for Rose Valley Elementary School and Shannon Lake Elementary School (based on the proposed 2014/15 catchment area map) and indicate that:
 - a. for the 2014/15 school year, the students have been automatically registered at their catchment area school;
 - b. if the student's catchment area school is not Mar Jok Elementary School, parents will be provided an opportunity to preregister their child(ren) at Mar Jok Elementary School by responding to the communication (without having to line up);
 - c. if parents wish to register their child(ren) at Shannon Lake Elementary School, Rose Valley Elementary School or any other elementary school (except Mar Jok Elementary School) they must register at that school during the District's established registration period;
 - d. the timelines and details of the registration process.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:23 pm in order to accommodate two additional recommendations:

Recommendation No. 1 - Trustee Fraser:

THAT: The School District wave the fees to the eligible areas in the catchment that qualify for busing, such as Tallus Ridge, Shannon Woods and Cornerstone Drive for a one year period.

The Committee discussed the recommendation and the approximate cost to the District.

**THE RECOMMENDATION WAS DEFEATED.
OPPOSED: Trustee Butler and Trustee Cacchioni**

Recommendation No. 2 - Trustee Fraser:

THAT: Wherever possible, ensure that several students from Shannon Lake Elementary School and Rose Valley Elementary School are grouped in the same class in Mar Jok Elementary School, to aid in the transition.

Committee members discussed the recommendation and the existing procedures that are in place at every school when students transition from grade to grade or school to school. The process includes meetings involving staff, counselors, CEAs and administrators in order to determine the best "fit" for every student.

**THE RECOMMENDATION WAS DEFEATED.
OPPOSED: Trustee Butler and Trustee Cacchioni**

Recommendations/Referrals To the Board/Coordinating Committee/Other Committees

Future Public Board Meeting Action Items:

- Westside Elementary School Catchment Recommendations (*November 27, 2013 Public Board Meeting*)

Meeting Schedule

2014 Meeting Dates To Be Determined.

Questions - Please Contact:

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