



Our Task:

At the January 15, 2013, regular meeting of the Board, Trustees approved the following recommendation regarding the Tecumseh Family of Schools:

- 1. THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITATES AN ACCOMMODATION REVIEW OF THE TECUMSEH FAMILY OF SCHOOLS TO ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES AND THE MODELS OF PROGRAM DELIVERY.**

Present: Tecumseh Vista Academy, Joan Rankin, Paul Bisson, Simona Baggio, Diana Fratarcangeli, Heather Emery, Doug Marshall; DM Eagle School, Arlene Bryce Hanson, Natalie Hatch (arrived 6:10 p.m.) Rachel Bulmer, Shelly Hodare; Victoria School, Dave Simone, Jody Lamb, Marsha Tterlikkis; and AV Graham School, Wayne Samwell, Brenda Fletcher; Community representative, Daniel Hofgartner

Regrets: Sharon Pyke, Amanda Dibbs, Bill Murray, Eileen Fournier

Absent: Helen Papanastassiou,

Chairperson: Terry Lyons, Superintendent of Education

Recorder: Lynne Hornby

- 1. Call to Order and Welcome**

Superintendent Lyons again apologized for being absent at the last committee meeting, it was the first one he has missed in four years and it was unavoidable.

He stressed the need for the committee to focus on the task at hand. A large amount of data has been requested and he explained how the process works. We simply do not have the man hours or resources available to have other departments work on data for eighteen different hypothetical scenarios. The only way to move forward as a group is to examine all the scenarios and determine which of those we will continue to explore in depth and which will be eliminated. Please remember, in moving the process forward, this is not about you as an individual but what is best for our board and all of our students. Tonight's goal is to make sure we examine all eighteen recommendations and determine the advantages and disadvantages for each one.

At the next committee meeting we will work diligently on developing the guiding principles. Guiding principles will assist the committee in eliminating some of the ideas. There will be no criticizing anyone else's comments at this stage; each idea will be debated later. A committee member commented that some of the recommendations aren't viable but it was explained that it is necessary to show that they have been considered and why they are not being carried forward. All eighteen ideas are now posted on the website as part of the minutes from the last committee meeting.

- 2. Review of minutes/previous considerations**

The minutes of the April 8 committee meeting have been circulated to the committee via e-mail. There being no changes, they are now posted to the Board website under the Student Accommodation icon. Copies were provided to the committee.

3. Continuation of brainstorming ideas; advantages and disadvantages

The committee was given 60 minutes to develop advantages and disadvantages for each of the recommendations.

The committee was then given a half hour to review all of the ideas.

4. Additional brainstorming ideas

Committee members were asked to share any additional ideas they might develop with all the committee members prior to the next meeting on May 1.

5. Development of Guiding Principles

Some initial ideas were shared:

- Tecumseh Family of Schools maintains a high school
- Importance of dual track high school?
- Neighbourhood schools (walking to school)
- Must address capacity issues
- Should have the least amount of impact on students
- A long term solution; don't transfer the problems to another area
- Consideration of grade structuring
- Student programming is a priority; programming > buildings

6. Questions and Clarifications

Clarifications were made during the meeting as the groups worked on the brainstorming ideas.

There was discussion regarding the development of the Report Writing team. The following members volunteered to be a part of the sub-committee:

Joan Rankin, Brenda Fletcher, Diana Fratarcangeli, Simona Baggio, Wayne Samwell, Dave Simone, Arlene Bryce-Hanson.

7. Requests for information

The Superintendent explained that once the ideas have been reduced at the next meeting, he will meet with Transportation and I.T. departments in order to provide appropriate data to the committee.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next committee meetings are May 1, at AV Graham Pubic School and May 15 at Tecumseh Vista Academy

The third community meeting is May 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda items:

Elimination of some brainstorm ideas

Development of Guiding principles

TECUMSEH PARC
COMMITTEE'S BRAINSTORMING IDEAS
Meetings of April 8 and April 17, 2013

1. Victoria closes; students transition to AV Graham; AV Graham grade restructuring to become JK- grade 8

Not a solution in isolation

Advantages

- Siblings together in one school
- Fills empty student spaces at AV Graham and Victoria
- Fewer student transitions
- Reduces transportation costs, more students able to walk to school
- Opportunities for peer mentoring
- Leadership opportunities
- Reduction in operational and administrative costs
- Schools are in close proximity to each other
- No boundary changes required

Disadvantages

- Renovations necessary at AV Graham to accommodate early years and primary students
- Partial solution only
- Property values in Victoria area may decline
- School climate change
- May not meet Board mandate re DM Eagle, Tecumseh Vista

2. Grade restructuring at DM Eagle to become JK- grade 8

Not a solution in isolation

Advantages

- Consistency of program delivery through the Board
- Lessens transitions
- Reduces the amount of intermediate students at AV Graham
- Reduced transportation costs
- More mentoring possibilities

Disadvantages

- Creates additional space at AV Graham
- Additional costs to the board; renovations required; not yet FDK
- Size of property is challenge
- Creates additional traffic around DM Eagle area

3. Adjust Tecumseh Vista's French Immersion western boundary; transition affected students to McCallum/ or Forest Glade community

Advantages

- Alleviates capacity at Tecumseh Vista for French Immersion
- May reduce some transportation costs

Disadvantages

- Tecumseh Vista secondary population may be affected
- Some students have already transitioned from McCallum
- McCallum already at capacity
- Increased operational costs
- Viability of programming – F.I. at Forest Glade?

4. Tecumseh Vista becomes French Immersion only at elementary level, English students return to DM Eagle, Victoria and AV Graham (as per boundary prior to opening of Tecumseh Vista)

Advantages

- Alleviates capacity issues at Tecumseh Vista, reduces empty student spaces in DM Eagle, AV Graham and Victoria
- Would become a single track elementary school
- Better utilization of resources; more robust programming for English students
- More balanced student distribution and class sizes (French Immersion and English)

Disadvantages

- Not a solution in isolation
- Switching tracks may be a challenge
- More transitions for families
- Secondary would be dual track and elementary single
- Doesn't address buildings
- Students have been previously transitioned

5. DM Eagle, Victoria and AV Graham become dual track schools

Not a solution in isolation

Advantages

- Encourage appropriate program choices
- May alleviate capacity challenges
- Track changes are seamless

Disadvantages

- Not enough critical mass for viable programming
- Boundary challenges
- May not generate any savings
- Costs would be involved

6. Adjust Tecumseh Vista's eastern boundary and transition English track students from Lakeshore Discovery

Not a solution in isolation

Concerns/to be addressed:

Effect on Belle River DHS capacity

Advantages

Increased English population at Tecumseh Vista

Provides a balance between English and French tracks

Disadvantages

No space at Tecumseh Vista to accommodate additional students

Doesn't assist DM Eagle, AV Graham or Victoria

Not much in cost savings

7. Victoria remains JK- grade 3; i.e. early years and primary
AV Graham remains grades 4-8; i.e. junior and intermediate
DM Eagle closes

Advantages

Addresses capacity issues at AV Graham, DM Eagle and Victoria

Victoria is walking distance to AV Graham

Victoria has a larger property and more parking

Reduces renewal needs

Disadvantages

Displaces more students

Increased costs for busing students to DM Eagle, AV Graham and Victoria

Renovation costs involved

Doesn't address grade restructuring

Property cost/value is higher for Victoria due to size

Doesn't address Tecumseh Vista

Loss of a community east of Manning Road

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8. DM Eagle grade restructuring to become JK- grade 3;
AV Graham remains as grades 4-8;
Victoria closes

Advantages

- Requires little or no renovations
- Eliminates the costs of fixing one school (renewal etc)
- Addresses capacity issues at AV Graham, DM Eagle and Victoria
- Value of Victoria property
- Allows for expansion to take place at Tecumseh Vista
- Reduces renewal costs
- Addresses some grade restructuring

Disadvantages

- Does not full address grade restructuring concerns
- Doesn't address Tecumseh Vista capacity issues
- DM Eagle becomes over capacity
- Displaces many students

9. Victoria becomes a primary French Immersion site with grade restructuring for JK/SK only;
Victoria's English track students transition to DM Eagle and AV Graham with grade restructuring for both schools to become JK- grade 8

Concerns/to be addressed:

- Transportation costs
- Doesn't address grade restructuring

Advantages

- Addresses capacity issues for Tecumseh Vista and Victoria

Disadvantages

- Status quo for buildings
- Transitions to start school, then a new school two years later is difficult at a young age (JK-grade 1)
- Defeats the cost and planning of JK/SK rooms and yard for Tecumseh Vista
- Transitions students who moved already to Tecumseh Vista

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10. AV Graham grade restructuring to become JK- grade 8 French Immersion;
Tecumseh Vista becomes English track JK- grade 8;
Victoria closes; DM Eagle status quo as JK- grade 6 English track

Advantages

- Addresses some grade restructuring
- Fewer grade transitions
- Reduces renewal costs
- Addresses capacity issues at Tecumseh Vista

Disadvantages

- Transitioning French Immersion students again
- AV Graham needs renovations to accommodate early years and primary students
- Increases travel time for some French Immersion students
- Increased transportation costs
- AV Graham doesn't have the capacity to accommodate French Immersion students
- Creates capacity issues at DM Eagle

11. Close DM Eagle, AV Graham and Victoria

Build a new JK- grade 8 school

Concerns/to be addressed:

- Consider phasing
- Transportation costs? Longer distance?
- Lots of students in one building
- Move English from Tecumseh Vista too?

Advantages

- Renewal and operational costs savings
- Solid grade structure
- All students and administration in one building
- Lessens transitioning between schools
- AV Graham site could accommodate
- No boundary changes
- Solves capacity issues
- Choosing program over building

Disadvantages

- Funding i.e. cost
- Time delay – funding approval, building etc
- Doesn't assist Tecumseh Vista capacity issues
- Empty real estate costly

12. Close DM Eagle and Victoria;

renovate AV Graham to accommodate all students of those three schools

Concerns/to be addressed:

- Consider phasing
- Transportation costs? Longer distance?
- Lots of students in one building
- Move English from Tecumseh Vista too?
- Transportation costs
- Increased distance to school
- Lose the transitions – can be a disadvantage

Advantages

- Addresses renewal costs
- Bigger property
- AV Graham would be larger therefore solving capacity issues for DM Eagle, AV Graham and Victoria
- Addresses grade restructuring

Disadvantages

- Doesn't help capacity issues at Tecumseh Vista
- Possibility of a decrease in enrolment due to travel distance to one school
- Renovation costs

13. Grade restructuring:

DM Eagle becomes JK – grade 5;

Victoria becomes JK- grade 5;

AV Graham becomes grades 6-8;

Tecumseh Vista's English elementary boundaries revert to old boundaries

Concerns/to be addressed:

- Transitions
- What happens to the former Maidstone students whose previous school is now closed?
- Doesn't close schools

Advantages

- Will solve capacity issues
- AV Graham has room

Disadvantages

- Transitions students who moved already
- No real cost savings
- Tecumseh Vista Elementary would be French Immersion only (single track)

14. Adjust Tecumseh Vista's secondary eastern boundary and transition students to Belle River DHS

Not a solution in isolation

Concerns/to be addressed:

- Renewal costs?

Advantages

- May alleviate Tecumseh Vista's capacity

Disadvantages

- Transitions students who moved already to Tecumseh Vista

- Puts future capital for Tecumseh Vista at risk

- Possible loss of students and programming

- Elementary and secondary students attend different schools

15. Add dual track to Victoria from Tecumseh Vista's French population; restructure grades according to capacity

Concerns/to be addressed

- Grade restructuring

Advantages

- Addresses capacity issues at Tecumseh Vista

- Reduces transportation costs

- Students are closer to school

- Addresses capacity issues at Victoria

Disadvantages

- Renovations costs

- Doesn't fix FCI issues (renewal)

- Insufficient critical mass

- A further transition for many students

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16. Adjust DM Eagle's western boundary, transition affected students, JK to grade 3 to Victoria and grades 4-8 to AV Graham;
grade restructuring at DM Eagle to become JK- grade 8;
AV Graham remains grades 4-8 and Victoria remains JK- grade 3.

Not a solution in isolation

Advantages

- Addresses capacity issues at DM Eagle and Victoria
- Lessens transitions for DM Eagle students
- Eliminates some grade restructuring issues

Disadvantages

- Doesn't address FCI issues at DM Eagle and Victoria
- Some grade restructuring issues remain
- Doesn't address Tecumseh Vista capacity issues
- DM Eagle facility will require renovations to accommodate intermediate students (Gr 7 and 8)
- No economic benefit

17. Close Victoria and transition students to AV Graham for a JK- grade 8 school;
Close DM Eagle upon completion of new school and transition students to a new dual track school to alleviate Tecumseh Vista and Lakeshore Discovery's capacity issues.

Concerns/to be addressed

- Becomes feeder to which high school?
- All dual track schools in same geographical area
- New school to be English; Tecumseh Vista becomes all French

Advantages

- Addresses capacity issues in schools
- Addresses grade restructure
- Addresses FCI costs

Disadvantages

- Additional transitions for students who have already been moved once
- Funding

18. Adjust Tecumseh Vista Elementary northern boundary to Tecumseh Road for both French and English students.

Not a solution in isolation

Concerns/to be addressed:

Transitioning

Where do F.I. student north of Tecumseh Road attend?

Where do students from Tecumseh Road to Riverside Drive attend?

Double boundary adjustment – English and French

Advantages

Moving more English kids to Tecumseh Vista to provide a more balanced population

Disadvantages

Doesn't address renewal or grade restructuring

Less to DM Eagle, AV Graham and Victoria and more to Tecumseh Vista