



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, Simona Baggio (arrived at 6:15 p.m.) Paul Bisson, Helen Papanastassiou, Diana Fratarcangeli, Doug Marshall (left at 6:45 p.m.); DM Eagle School, Arlene Bryce Hanson, Natalie Hatch, Rachel Bulmer, Shelly Hodare; Victoria School, Dave Simone, Jody Lamb, Marsha Tterlikkis; and AV Graham School, Amanda Dibbs, Bill Murray, Wayne Samwell, Brenda Fletcher; Community representatives, Daniel Hofgartner, Eileen Fournier (left at 6:30 p.m.)

Regrets: Sharon Pyke, Heather Emery

Chairperson: Terry Lyons, Superintendent of Education

Recorder: Lynne Hornby

1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Samwell at 5:50 p.m.

2. Review of minutes/previous considerations

The minutes of the April 17 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, as well as copies of the minutes of the second community meeting of April 10.

3. Group Work – discussion and evaluation of ideas for Guiding Principles

Examples of previous sets of Guiding Principles from other PARCs were distributed to assist the groups in developing their own set.

Discussion took place on the following ideas. Some were eliminated by consensus of the committee.

The Tecumseh Family of Schools PARC strives to:

- Maintain a dual track secondary school at TVA
- Status quo is not an option, necessity to close or consolidate schools must be considered
- Address over or under capacity issues at all four Tecumseh schools
- Minimize student transitions
- ~~Not to move students a second time~~

Removed by consensus as it was felt that this prevents to committee from affecting a boundary change

- Provide long term solution
- ~~Consideration of grade restructuring~~

Removed by consensus, not really a guiding principle

-
- ~~Maintain sense of community and neighbourhood schools~~

Removed by consensus, not really a guiding principle

The finalized Guiding Principles determined by consensus of the committee are,

The Tecumseh Family of Schools PARC will strive to:

- Maintain a dual track secondary school at Tecumseh Vista Academy
- Address over or under capacity issues at all four Tecumseh schools
- Minimize student transitions
- Provide a long term solution

Status quo is not an option, the necessity to close or consolidate schools must be considered.

The committee then considered these principles, along with the mandate, when reviewing the brainstorming ideas in an effort to arrive at their draft recommendations.

4. Any additional brainstorming ideas

Nil

5. Discussion: evaluation and shortlisting of brainstorm ideas

The committee determined that each idea would be explored with a view to either:

- Eliminate
- Keep
- Or put it aside for further consideration

Please note that all decisions were made by consensus of the committee.

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

Not a solution in isolation

KEEP – The committee determined this addresses grade restructuring and assists capacity issues at three of the schools.

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

Not a solution in isolation

FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION – The committee resolved not enough space will not be available for JK-8 once Full Day Kindergarten is introduced. It is not a long term solution.

DETERMINED TO ELIMINATE AFTER SECONDARY DISCUSSION

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

FOR RECONSIDERATION - There is no room at McCallum to accommodate these students. By using McCallum as the destination, it shifts the Tecumseh family of schools' problems to another family of schools. This could be part of a phased solution.

It was determined the site should probably be Forest Glade. T. Lyons will meet with Transportation to review natural boundaries and bring back more data on possible boundaries etc.

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)~~

Not a solution in isolation

ELIMINATED - Discussions determined that Maidstone students don't have a school where they can return as Maidstone has been closed. Concerns were raised about the effect as projections move forward, as this option may not provide enough relief for Tecumseh Vista. This removes only a small portion of Tecumseh Vista's population.

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

Not a solution in isolation

ELIMINATED – The committee determined that this was not feasible.

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

Not a solution in isolation

ELIMINATED – The committee determined that although this provides balance between the French and English populations, Tecumseh Vista cannot accommodate more students. This affects Belle River DHS in a negative manner.

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, primary students go to Victoria and junior and intermediate go to AV Graham~~

Not a solution in isolation

ELIMINATED – The committee agreed that this affects more students than (1). It is not cost effective; increased transportation costs. There would be no elementary school east of Manning Road in a fairly densely populated residential area. It is not a long term solution. DM Eagle is on a small site. This does not address grade restructuring, as mandated. It would be difficult to rationalize closing a full school, i.e. D.M. Eagle.

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

ELIMINATED – The committee concluded that this option splits families.

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~~

ELIMINATED - The committee determined that this is not feasible.

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~~

ELIMINATED - The committee concluded that AV Graham does not have the capacity to handle this amount of students. It could create discord between English and French Immersion families.

11. ~~Close DM Eagle, AV Graham and Victoria~~

~~Build a new JK grade 8 school~~

ELIMINATED - The committee agreed that the Ministry of Education would not provide the necessary funding for a new school.

12. Close DM Eagle and Victoria;

renovate AV Graham to accommodate all students of those three schools

KEEP - The committee agreed that this addresses the mandate of the committee.

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~~

ELIMINATED - The committee decided that this is almost status quo. This option affects almost the whole student population of the Tecumseh family of schools.

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

Not a solution in isolation

ELIMINATED - The committee agreed that this boundary has already been adjusted and it was determined to try and avoid doing so again.

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

ELIMINATED – The committee concluded that the capacity of the school is not large enough.

16. ~~Adjust DM Eagle's western boundary, transition affected students, JK to grade 3 to Victoria and grades 4-6 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

ELIMINATED – The committee resolved that while this removes some students from DM Eagle, at the same time, it moves another group in so achieves nothing. It was felt that there is no natural boundary line west of the school to make a significant difference to DM Eagle's population. It does not assist Victoria significantly as a minimal amount of students would be transitioning there. It keeps all three schools open.

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 K-grade 8 school to alleviate Tecumseh Vista and Lakeshore Discovery's capacity issues.

KEEP – The committee concluded that while providing a long term solution, it also addresses capacity concerns.

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

Not a solution in isolation

ELIMINATED – The committee determined that this is not feasible. Which school could accommodate the students? It does not address the mandate of the committee.

After lengthy debate, not in any particular order at this time, the recommendations moving forward are:

Option 1 and 3 combined

Close Victoria Public School; transition students transition to AV Graham Public School;

Grade restructuring at AV Graham School to become JK-grade 8

Adjust Tecumseh Vista's French Immersion western boundary;
transition affected students to Forest Glade School

Option 17

Close Victoria Public School and transition students to AV Graham School for a JK- grade 8 school;

Close DM Eagle School upon completion of new school and transition students to a new dual track K-grade 8 school to alleviate Tecumseh Vista and Lakeshore Discovery's capacity issues.

Option 12

Close DM Eagle and Victoria Public Schools;

Renovate/add to AV Graham Public School to accommodate all students of those three schools.

The committee will move forward with further exploration of these three options, possibly ranking in order of preference.

6. Questions and Clarifications

Clarifications were made during discussions of (5).

7. Requests for information

Superintendent Lyons will meet with Transportation personnel to review natural boundaries and bring back more data on possible boundaries etc. to implement option (1).

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next committee meeting is May 15, at 4:30 p.m. at the Essex Civic Centre, 360 Fairview Avenue West, Tecumseh in room B

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

Agenda items:

Further discussion of three options moving forward

Draft presentation for third community meeting