



WESTERN AREA ACCOMMODATION REVIEW

INTERIM REVIEW OF FEEDBACK

Bell High School Family of Schools

Original Proposals

1. THAT D.A. Moodie Intermediate School be closed and that its Grade 7 and 8 students be relocated to Bell High School effective September 2017.
2. THAT Bell High School become a Grade 7 to 12 secondary school effective September 2017.
3. THAT Bayshore Public School continue to be a single track English Program school but keeps its Grade 6 students and expands to a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 structure.
4. THAT the Bells Corners Public School building become an Early French Immersion program school with students relocated from Lakeview Public School for September 2017.
5. THAT Early French Immersion program students attending Lakeview Public School in 2016-2017 be relocated to the Bells Corners Public School building for September 2017.
6. THAT the Lakeview Public School building become an English and Middle French Immersion program school with students relocated from Bells Corners Public School for September 2017.
7. THAT English and Middle French Immersion program students attending Bells Corners Public School in 2016-2017 be relocated to the Lakeview Public School building for September 2017.
8. THAT Grade 5 students attending both Bells Corners Public School and Lakeview Public School in 2016-2017 remain for Grade 6 and be relocated to their respective new school buildings with fellow students. Both of these schools would expand to a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 structure.
9. THAT the D.A. Moodie Intermediate School Developmental Disabilities (DD) program class serving intermediate division students be relocated to Bell High School effective September 2017.
10. THAT the D.A. Moodie Intermediate School Developmental Disabilities (DD) program class serving junior division students be relocated to an elementary school further to discussions with Learning and Support Services Staff.
11. THAT the Bells Corners Public School Language Learning Disabilities (LLD) program classes be relocated to the Lakeview Public School building effective September 2017.
12. THAT the D.A. Moodie Intermediate School General Learning Program (GLP) program class serving intermediate division students be relocated to Bell High School effective September 2017.

Background Information

How to consider options

At the November 9th Advisory Committee meeting, criteria were provided to help guide the discussion around options. These same criteria were used by staff in the generation of the original proposals. The discussion framework started with three primary considerations which the advisory committee was requested to consider:

1. Options should be restricted to the schools in the review area;
2. Options can include any of the types of changes which were possible in the proposed plan; namely, school closures and/or consolidations; changes in program offerings, changes in program configuration or changes in school boundaries;
3. Options have to be assessed using the same key principles which were used to assess the options presented in the staff proposed plan.

Key Principles Used to Assess Options

The review of any alternative options or proposals for change should support:

- more equitable access to program offerings;
- greater consistency in school size;
- school configurations of grades JK-6, 7-12 and grades JK-8, 9-12;
- enriched program offering wherever possible;
- enhanced capacity to delivery special education programs using the geographic model;
- alignment of schools to support the Secondary School Program Framework and the draft Elementary School Program Framework; and optimization of available resources.

At the last meeting of the advisory committees, it was stated that for an option to move forward for further detailed analysis by the staff, there would need to be widespread community feedback in support of looking at the alternative option and that analysis would need to be undertaken prior to staff making their final recommendation. This timing would ensure that any affected school community is aware in advance of the final staff recommendations. The following captures trends in what we have heard to date through advisory committee discussion, email feedback and ThoughtExchange dialogue and provides initial staff comment. Some of the identified issues are alternate options that have been brought forward by many in the school community and some are implementation issues tied to the staff proposal. In some limited circumstances, where a community has had a widely adverse reaction to the staff proposal, staff has brought forward another option for feedback.

In all families of schools within the reviews, recommendations have been made on the relocation of special education system classes where needed. Staff will continue to review these locations based on the projected needs of the students in the classes, the geographic model of system class distribution and the feeding patterns of the students' enrolment.

What We Have Heard During the Consultation Period: Bell High School Family of Schools

1. Concerns from the Lakeview Public School community about having their children bussed out of the community for their French Immersion program.
2. Concerns from the Bells Corners Public School community about having their children bussed out of the community for their English or Middle French Immersion program.
3. Concerns about the implementation readiness and management of adding Gr. 7 's and 8's to the Gr. 9-12 environment at Bell High School.
4. Bells Corners Public School should offer Early French Immersion.
5. Close Lakeview Public School and relocate current JK-5 EFI students to the closed D.A. Moodie Intermediate School building – D.A. Moodie IS would become a Grade JK-6 EFI school.
6. D. A. Moodie Intermediate School should become a Grade JK-8 school.

Options Considered

Bells Corners Public School and Lakeview Public School Proposal

Two options have been considered to address what we have heard during the consultation period to date.

Option #1 – Introduction of Early French Immersion (EFI) at Bells Corners Public School

- a. Bells Corners PS would become a JK-6 ENG, EFI, and MFI triple track school
- b. The new EFI boundary would be coincident with the southern portion of its current ENG boundary - south of HWY 417
- c. The program would be phased in starting with a JK-1 structure and adding one grade per year, reaching full implementation in 2022
- d. Lakeview PS's 2017 projected enrolment of 363 would be reduced by approximately 38 students bringing it down to 325 students with a utilization of 113%
- e. Bells Corners PS 2017 projected enrolment would be approximately 363 with a utilization of 74%
- f. At full implementation (2022) the enrolment at Lakeview PS would be 301 (105%) and at Bells Corners PS it would be 402 (82%), Bayshore PS (49%).

While this option reduces enrolment pressures at Lakeview PS over time and improves access to EFI for local area students, it does not address the criteria of consolidation of program. The District's history with EFI enrolment shows that over time, enrolment in the ENG program at Bells Corners PS may be reduced as a result of families making different program choices. This might result in a further relocation of program from the school to a site where the ENG program could be consolidated in the future – possibly at Bayshore PS.

Siblings at Lakeview PS would not be able to be grandfathered as the EFI class enrolments would be too low at Bells Corners PS to allow for that program to be viable in its first few years. If the ENG program enrolment decreases significantly, area ENG programs may have to be consolidated at one location which may also result in the relocation of the MFI to remain co-located with the ENG program. For these reasons, **this option does not align with the criteria** for serious consideration.

Option #2 - Introduction of Early French Immersion at Bayshore Public School

In reviewing the concerns heard during consultation, staff has provided a second option for consideration to address the future enrolment pressures predicted for Lakeview Public School.

- a. Bayshore PS would become a JK-6 ENG and EFI dual track school
- b. The new EFI boundary would be coincident with its current ENG boundary
- c. The program would be phased in starting with a JK-1 structure and adding one grade per year, reaching full implementation in 2022
- d. Lakeview PS's 2017 projected enrolment of 363 would be reduced by approximately 55 students bringing it down to 308 students with a utilization of 107%
- e. Bayshore PS's 2017 projected enrolment would be approximately 375 with a utilization of 63%
- f. At full implementation (2022) the enrolment at Lakeview PS would be 260 (90%) and at Bayshore PS it would be 423 (71%), Bells Corners PS (64%)

Note:

- The numbers above are based on the projections in the Western Area Review binder, however, actual October 31, 2016 JK numbers at Lakeview PS have come in much stronger at 67 versus projected 54.
- The number of JK students choosing EFI from Bayshore PS has been steadily increasing, 18 in 2014, 21 in 2015, and 25 in 2016. This increase could result in higher EFI numbers at Bayshore PS than projected above.
- Depending on the growth of the EFI program, space concerns (due to leased space – LINC, Adult ESL, etc.) could develop.

This option reduces enrolment pressures at Lakeview PS over time and improves access to EFI for local area students. This option also means that there would be no change to the program offerings at both Lakeview PS and Bells Corners PS.

This option does present issues; most notably the potential concern of space utilization.

Bayshore PS is used extensively as a community hub for a number of programs (LINC, Adult ESL, etc.) and with the projected growth in EFI, facility pressures could increase with time. This option is **more closely aligned with the evaluation criteria.**

D.A. Moodie Intermediate School becomes a Grade JK-8 School

This option would have D.A. Moodie Intermediate School become a dual tracked Gr. JK-8 school by redrawing the boundaries for all of its feeder schools (Bells Corners Public School, Lakeview Public School and Bayshore Public School).

The school would require considerable retrofits to make it an appropriate learning space for Gr. JK – 8. In redrawing the boundaries for schools in the area, the remaining school populations would be negatively impacted by the loss of potential English programming. As this option takes the same number of students and redistributes them amongst the same number of schools, excess pupil spaces are not addressed. Ultimately this option could result in the closure of one

or more of the other feeder schools (Lakeview PS, Bells Corners PS and/or Bayshore PS) in the future based on the inability to provide long term, practicable enrolment.

This option does not meet the criteria as outlined as it does not strengthen area school populations and does not consolidate programs. The option also does not address excess pupil spaces in this family of schools which is one of the guiding principles of all area reviews (planning for the future within available resources).

Staff does not see the closure of Lakeview Public School as a viable option given its geographic location for future programming within the family of schools.

Moving to a 7-12 Grade Structure at Bell High School

Implementation Strategies

Considerable work has been done to provide a smooth transition for Grades 7 and 8 students from D.A. Moodie Intermediate School to Bell High School should the proposal be approved.

- a. Numerous site visits have been completed by the administrations of both the sending and receiving schools with facilities staff to determine where optimal instructional areas of the school for intermediate students will be located and what types or retrofits will be needed to facilitate those changes. Instructional spaces for intermediate students will, for the most part, be apart from the general high school population with separate yard space and entrance to the school.
- b. Planning meetings with the administrations of all schools in the area reviews with the potential of becoming Gr. 7-12 schools and central staff have taken place regularly since September. The focus of these meetings has been to plan for staffing, timetabling, asset distribution and other general organizational tasks that would accompany a transition of this nature.
- c. A Transitions Guide has been developed to outline the structures and processes that will need to be followed for teams of staff, students and the communities in the schools to support the moves.
- d. Improvements to the Bell HS facility have been identified (Learning Commons addition, room adaptations, etc.) and the lead up planning has been done in order that work can begin immediately upon potential Board approval and work can be achieved by September 2017.

Next Steps

December 6th marks the last scheduled Advisory Committee meeting. The advice, suggestions and concerns raised in those meetings are reflected in the formal notes from the meetings and are available for the public and the trustees for consideration. The last Western Area Accommodation Public meeting is scheduled for January 10th. That meeting will provide another opportunity for school communities to provide input and feedback on the original proposals and the options that have been outlined herein. Staff will be reviewing all consultation feedback available (advisory committee meetings, public meetings, email submissions, ThoughtExchange dialogue) and will formulate final recommendations for Board consideration in a report to be released on Friday, January 27, 2017. Committee of the Whole will discuss the recommendations on February 13, 2017 with a final Board decision scheduled for March 1, 2017.