

Accommodation Review

Meeting #1

- What we were told...
 - reduce surplus space (i.e. eliminate one school)
 - minimal/reasonable cost
 - ensure all students continue to have access to the best programming possible in quality school facilities

- **Our Question:**
What about providing a safe, nurturing environment that will contribute to positive learning outcomes?

Meeting #2 – Public Input (What is...what could be)

- Keep Lively DHS in the community
- R.H. Murray and Copper Cliff need to stay
- A boundary review needs to be done
- Move G7-8 from George Vanier and Jessie Hamilton to the high school

Meeting #3 – Our Options

The ARC presented options highlighting that >80% usage would mean full funding to that school.

Only one option was presented that had >80% usage at LDHS and would be at a reasonable cost.

What was it?

- Move George Vanier JK-G8 children in with the high school students at Lively District High School. (total # students approx 800)
- Move G7-8 from Jessie Hamilton into the High School
- Copper Cliff and R.H Murray stay as is

Has this been done before?

- Yes, however in a much smaller scale. The precedent has been set.
- They have done it before, they will do it again.
- Do you want this to happen?
- We need to know the real facts!!!!

Smooth Rock Falls Public School

- Smooth Rock Falls Public School has been a combined school for over 20 years.
- However, enrollment is only 70 students TOTAL from JK to Grade 12.
- The only other school option is also a combined French Catholic School.
- The principal was hesitant to speculate on how well a combined school would translate with 800 children.

Diamond Jubilee Public School

- Diamond Jubilee Public School has a combined school with 311 children total. They are segregated completely with different entrances, buses, gym and separate playground. The elementary children have a complete wing of the building with a physical lock.

Diamond Jubilee continued.....

- Usage is low
- There are other school options for parents to enroll their children.
- No comment from the principal

- Meeting #3 we were told our buses would be integrated (JK-G12)
- Is the high school building and grounds in Lively capable of being renovated to provide our children with a sense of security and safety?
- What about our daycare in George Vanier that services preschool children and provides an option for before and after school care?

What do the experts say?

Cook P, et al.: Should 6th grade be in elementary school or middle school? An analysis of grade configuration and student behaviour. Research Brief for ASCD 2007

- 6th graders placed in a middle school setting had triple the office referrals compared to 6th graders in an elementary setting
- In addition, they were 1-3% more likely not to graduate, twice as likely to have a violent infraction, and 4.8 times more likely to have a drug related infraction

Leatherdale S, et al. The influence of friends, family, and older peers on smoking among elementary school students: Low-risk - students in high-risk schools. Division of Preventative Oncology, Cancer Care Ontario, Canada; Preventative Medicine. 42(3): 218-222, 2006

- The influence of older students on younger students on the initiation of smoking is very significant. Low risk Grade 6 & 7 students (no family or friends who smoke) were found to be 3 times more likely to try smoking if they attended a school with a relatively high prevalence of senior students who smoke.

- Individuals are not likely to do very well, or be very motivated, if they are in social environments that do not meet their psychological needs.
- A smaller class size that has more personal and friendly student-teacher relationships, more student decision making/control, increased small group/individual instruction, are all necessary for an optimal social environment.
- Finally, it seems likely that teachers will resort to more controlling strategies when they have to supervise such a large number of students.”

Other Issues....

- Bullying – associated with lower achievement scores, unsafe/sad feelings, and the sense that they don't belong

(Glew, G et al. Bullying, Psychosocial Adjustment, and Academic Performance in Elementary School. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*: 159, 1026-1031, 2005)

Will the frequency increase with the larger variation in age groups, increased number of students, the possible negative influence of older peers and more impersonal student-teacher relationship?

- Overall School Spirit and Community Involvement

Is that possible in a combined high school environment where segregation of students is necessary?

- Growth to our community

Will there be growth to our community when many people buying new homes consider the “value of nearby schools” as one of their deciding factors?

So, what are we to do?

Options for Concerned, tax paying Parents

- Send present George Vanier Students to Jesse Hamilton (more overcrowding for JH)
- Switch to Separate School Board –St.James has both English and French Immersion programs (a further decline in enrollment for the public school board)
- Lively high school continues to have a low enrollment rate!!!!
- Will we end up losing our high school down the road?

Lets make a plan that will positively influence our children's/communities future.

- Only move G7-8 from Jessie and George Vanier to the high school
- Renovate Jessie to accommodate George Vanier children JK-G6
- Change catchment area to increase the usage at R.H Murray

- Lively District will have increased enrolment, and more capital dollars will be obtained
- Usage/full funding at Lively District still won't be maximized but it will allow for the potential growth for our high school.
- Capital dollars can be invested into increasing programming at LDHS, to bring back our students that have left, and retain the students already in Sudbury West.

Thank-you