



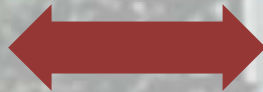
A Partnership For The Future

***Presented By: Queen Elizabeth
School Community
November 5th, 2008***

Preamble

- Queen Elizabeth Public School is pleased to have this opportunity to present its recommendations on the consolidation and construction of a new FI school
- We fully support the accommodation objectives, subject to assurance that *Value to Students* above all is better than the status quo

Preserving the past...



shaping the future!

Benefits

- 1) Cost savings from lower operating/plant costs of one school vs. three can partially be used to fund in-class resources**
- 2) By having a Principal & VP, there is an opportunity to segregate/share duties; thus allowing these school leaders to be better focused**
- 3) Having a healthy student enrollment with full classes will eliminate or reduce split grades**

Benefits

- 4) Better facilities to support student achievement and success from JK to 6**
- 5) Combined experience of more teachers will benefit the entire school community**
- 6) Dedicated specialty areas such as a Library, Music Room, Special Education Rooms, Computer Rooms, and Multi-purpose Room will help support the School Improvement Plan**
- 7) Potential opportunity to “engage” parents versus “involve” by sharing in the decision making process of the new school.**

Challenges

- 1) Integration of three different school cultures might potentially have adverse consequences on student achievement**
- 2) How will the playground equipment from each school be preserved into the new school? (a lot of \$'s fundraised & time invested by parents to support these projects)**
- 3) Bigger schools face more logistical challenges in terms of parking, traffic, use of facilities, etc.**
- 4) How specifically will the reduction in staff be handled?**

Challenges

- 5) Parents must be genuine partners, not simply recipients of pre-determined outcomes and policy**
- 6) Where will the new school be located and what are the options?**
- 7) Can W.E. Miller, Pinecrest, and Schumacher Public reasonably accommodate all of the JK English students. Will portables have to be used on a permanent basis at Miller & Pinecrest? How will it be determined on who goes where and how will parents of the 2011 class be advised of this accommodation?**

Recommendations

ISSUE:

Board wants to accommodate three schools in isolation of options for the new school location.

RECOMMENDATION:

As part of the ARC recommendations; possible school locations should be specifically addressed so that the process is more accountable and transparent. Whether or not the Board wants to recognize this as the proper forum is irrelevant; this is part of the Value to the Students framework!

Recommendations

ISSUE:

Board is completing the business plan for the new school parallel to the accommodation review process.

RECOMMENDATION:

Allow stakeholders the opportunity to be part of the business plan process. Monthly status reports should be made available to the public.

Recommendations

ISSUE:

Public has not been informed of the allocation of grants for the schools on a line items basis and corresponding annual expenses to run the schools.

RECOMMENDATION:

Board should share and present funding/cost structures of these schools for the last 3 years and project what the annual savings will be under the one school scenario. We recommend 25% of cost savings go back into the classroom?

Recommendations

ISSUE:

Many dollars and volunteer hours have been invested into playground equipment. What specifically is going to happen to this equipment?

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board needs to commit to parents that 100% of the costs of these recreational structures will be incorporated into the new school. If not, value to the students is being diminished.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a modern school building with large windows and brick accents. A flagpole with a flag is visible in the distance against a blue sky with light clouds.

Recommendations

ISSUE:

Other than casual dialogue, stakeholders need more assurance that the Board will formally involve the school communities to be part of the final site location and design of the new school.

RECOMMENDATION:

Central region trustees should bring forward and support a motion where the Board formally establishes a committee whereby the school community members can provide input/feedback.

Recommendations

ISSUE:

Board is suggesting the English JK student will be accommodated at either Miller, Pinecrest, or Schumacher Public without specific details on how this will be executed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) ARC committee should tour facilities and see if they have the capacity/resources to accommodate the extra students without affecting value.
- 2) Board should deliver detailed plan on how the students will be accommodated.(i.e. expand Miller, upgrade Schumacher Public, etc)

Recommendations

ISSUE:

When considering Value to the Students; site and facility factors of new school should be disclosed to the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- School site should be a minimum of 3.5 Hectares (Miller is slightly under this amount & space is tight)
- Gymnasium, Computer labs, Library, Music Room, etc. should be adequate enough to add value to the students (again Miller's facilities are too small for the population and we should learn from the past)

Recommendations

ISSUE:

Composition of the ARC, selection of the ARC Chair, and development of the Valuation Framework are not transparent and accountable.

RECOMMENDATION:

In future accommodation reviews, the valuation framework, selection of ARC members, and selection of ARC Chair should be more inclusive. (i.e. ARC Chair was not selected by the committee members themselves but rather the Board.

Critical Questions?

Questions #1

- Why is the location of the new school such a secret with the public?
- If 70% of the valuation framework is Value to Students , how can a proper valuation be completed without taking into consideration where & how the new school will look?

Critical Questions?

Question #2

Why would the Board consider the current Coronation site in light of the following factors?

- 1) There is no residential expansion in the south end.**
- 2) The west side of Coronation is surrounded by a gravel pit & former scrap yard.**
- 3) It is the least populated area of Timmins and bussing costs would be the greatest.**

Critical Questions?

Question #3

Can we get a level of assurance, that a portion of the cost savings (say 25%) from the combined schools goes back into the classrooms?

Critical Questions?

Question #4

Can we get a level of assurance that the Board will formally establish a school site & construction committee open to all stakeholders?

Critical Questions?

Question #5

Have any of the schools under accommodation review been tagged as Prohibitive to Repair as per the Ministry?

Critical Questions?

Question #6

Why are we not customizing the generic Valuation Framework to the schools being accommodated ?

Critical Questions?

Question #7


Why isn't the Accommodation Review data presented at the October 15th meeting not posted on the Board website yet?

Critical Questions?

Question #8

On the Board website, there is a posting that suggests the Board presented information to parents at the September 8th information session at QE, when in fact that never happened. Why?

[0908-info-session-QEPS.pdf](#)



Follow Up Questions From Other Parents?