



St. Marys Transition Committee Meeting

Monday, December 14, 2009

7:00 p.m.

St. Marys DCVI

MINUTES

Welcome – Ralf Mesenbrink. Please sign in on the sheet being passed around. On your table: agenda, facilities decision, school maps, transition process update, enrolment update, questions

1.0 Update on Facilities – Ralf and Janet Baird-Jackson

- 1.1 Facility review process considered and decision has been made (see school floor plan map with bold marking). The first three classrooms for the 7 and 8 grouping are marked 'A' in the classrooms to the east, off to the left of the library on the schematic. The spec ed DD classroom will remain in place. The exit door at the east is not well used; this will be the entrance and exit for intermediate students. A playground will be established near this east exit.
- 1.2 The washroom nearby is for girls, the boys' washroom is upstairs, directly above the girls washroom.
- 1.3 Space 'C' is the fourth classroom which has been identified for use, if required. Note: we are monitoring enrolments in the event we need to plan for use of this classroom.
- 1.4 Storage space 'D' for textbooks, etc. - storage is adjacent to Space 'C'.
- 1.5 We are looking at spaces to facilitate creation of a second set of changerooms for school use, which will in turn, provide for changeroom access for the intermediate students. This is marked 'E' (girls') and means a conversion from the current Phys Ed department offices and lounge back to a changeroom/washroom. The creation of a boys' changeroom (and chair storage, phys ed storage, etc.) is accomplished through the removal of the stage in the double gym, since there are only a few times that the stage is used. Commencement, for example, is held on the floor (side) of the gym and Drama presentations occur in the small gym. There would be a portable stage and the large screen would remain.
- 1.6 We would like to create workspace for teachers.
- 1.7 Other: reconfiguration of the front office (an elementary secretary will be in place for the duration of the transition); the library space will be reviewed/ reorganized; there is a hope that there will be a sign facing Queen Street.

2.0 Janet Baird-Jackson: Overview of thinking behind the facility plan

- 2.1 The segregation of the 7s and 8s was the preferred option from community feedback sessions and that is why we chose the classroom space at the east end of the school.
- 2.2 Beyond identifying classroom space for the 7s and 8s, the goal was looking at the creation of a second set of changerooms, specifically for the 7s and 8s' use. There was not the money to do significant renovations.
- 2.3 The original girls' changeroom can be returned to use without major cost. The drama room used to be a boys' changeroom – cannot be changed back at this point as it is too costly, in terms of the collateral cost to create appropriate drama space.
- 2.4 Therefore, consideration was given, and discussions with school admin held on removing the stage in the double gym. The stage was removed at Central Huron. Commencement is held on the floor in other schools as well as on the floor at DCVI. Structurally, the stage can be removed without a significant expense. This change provides for a boys' changeroom and storage in close proximity to the double gym and could be a great solution at DCVI.
- 2.5 The portable, modular stage will be similar to that which is planned for Little Falls – and since it is portable, the potential exists for mutual sharing of components to create larger stages at each site for different events.
- 2.6 We have a longer range vision for the school (i.e. creation of an updated physics lab) but due to financial restraints, such changes are not possible in the current timeframe. The Facilities Team has always said that we have an overall plan, but the speed of achieving it is dependent on the funding available.

3.0 Janet Baird-Jackson: Little Falls Progress

- 3.1 The recycled clear, blue and green glass is ready for crushing and will be placed in the concrete floor (and ground) in the front foyer by the library doors, with downlighting to highlight the colours.
- 3.2 Southside Construction from London is the general contractor. They are approaching the construction work in three phases – the north wing, the centre area and the south wing, with different teams working in each phase and moving through the whole building.
- 3.3 In the north wing – metal roof deck complete, engineer coming for inspections this week, roofing is to start before Christmas, window frames installed and glass to arrive on site, face brick to begin within two weeks.
- 3.4 In the centre area – structural steel near complete, roof deck started, blocking for window frames underway.

- 3.5 In the south wing - masonry is ongoing, mechanical and electrical rough-ins are ongoing.
- 3.6 Other - Union Gas expected next week, cistern tie-ins happening now, water service has been stubbed into the building. A revised schedule should be available early in the new year.
- 3.7 The construction will cease on Dec. 24th at noon and reopen Tuesday, December 29th.
- 3.8 Permission granted from Collin McQuirk, a local artist, to use his ink sketches of the old schools.
- 3.9 Helen continues to share questions with us and we are working on responses.

4.0 Overview / Questions – Helen Brockman

- Who do 7s and 8s belong to? This is not established yet – we are still waiting to hear.
- How would the principal know where to go? VP in both buildings and principal will travel.
- Who would they prefer to do the assemblies with? With K-6 or high school? They say the high school. If there is something at Little Falls that would benefit you, you would come back but you are invited to be part of all activities at the high school as well.
- Where is the play area? There are going to be basketball nets, tarmac areas outside, gym time at lunch hour.
- Who are the teachers? This will be determined through the staffing process in April. Prior to that, the SOs will look at the model and the implications for staffing. Once they know numbers, they will know what is required for staffing.
- Where will 7s and 8s spend class time? You will be in your classrooms. You will be able to utilize some of the other rooms too, but you have to wait until timetables are worked out. The schedule isn't worked out yet. Mrs. Brockman is going to work with Mr. Mesenbrink over the holidays to look at some options.
- How will social successes and complications be tracked? You will have a VP here and Mr. Mesenbrink and Mrs. Brockman at Little Falls will be watching too. We want to make sure your time is successful.
- The principals meet regularly on Friday mornings for breakfast. (See SmartBoard presentation) We have established a calendar of expectations. We want people to take the lead on closing ceremonies for both schools. Sketches of both schools will be auctioned off to raise money for the Little Falls transition. We want to establish a transition committee (lockers, team colours, etc.) tonight. See calendar of events - subject to change!

5.0 Enrolment Update

- 5.1 The magic number is 94 to trigger a fourth classroom. Spread the word – we need to know new registrants now so that we can plan accordingly. If we are close to the trigger of 94, will the renovations be completed anyway? If the need is there to use the extra space, we could use it and if not, the secondary could still use the room. If the fourth classroom is being used, the SERT room has to move, the computer room has to move and there will be laptop computers instead.

5.2 The students really want to be part of the high school. At GPS, with the small numbers, we thought maybe it was better to be connected to the K-6. We continue to monitor and hope to make a decision about the school structure in January/early February.

6.0 Additional Questions / Planning

6.1 Students and adults are requested to sign up for participation on committees and fundraising. Part of the money for fundraising will come to DCVI (for iPods, Smart Boards, computers to accompany SmartBoards, geography resources)

6.2 Janet Jamieson contacted the Museum and they will sit on the Homecoming committee/closing committee. Marg Glover – associated with Central School for many years. Library staff might be involved. People are needed to take the lead on these projects and we are hoping for leadership beyond this group.

6.3 We will focus on Little Falls' transition in September after the intermediates are settled in at DCVI.

6.4 March Break is likely the earliest block of time for movement to the new school. It may be more logical to wait until the summer and start up in September. One concern is doing the closing this June but still having a full year there and another June at St. Marys Central. However, this summer is Homecoming and it doesn't come around again for ten years.

7.0 Next Meeting Date: Feb. 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. (Transition)