



CITY OF KINGSTON
INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

Report No.: 12-264

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services
RESOURCE STAFF: Same
DATE OF MEETING: July 17, 2012
SUBJECT: Information on the Limestone District School Board Program and Accommodation Review Committees (PARC) and Partnership Discussion with the City of Kingston

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On March 6, 2012, Council endorsed the following motion:

WHEREAS the mandate of the Near Campus Neighbourhoods Advisory Committee speaks to the need for “creating safe and sustainable neighbourhoods; and

WHEREAS the Limestone School Board has established a Program and Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) for the purpose of examining schools in neighbourhoods within the defined area of the Near Campus Neighbourhood Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS it is widely believed in the community that the PARC may recommend the closing of one or more schools; and

WHEREAS the Near Campus Neighbourhood Advisory Committee believes that schools are an essential part of the fabric of any and every “safe and sustainable neighbourhood”; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education guidelines for schools being reviewed include the requirements that the value to the community and the value to the local economy are factors that must be considered; and

WHEREAS the City of Kingston does not appear to be studying the mandate, process or time line of the PARC, notwithstanding the enormous potential impact that an action as severe as a school closure would have on the city’s planning and economic development; and

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WHEREAS it is understood that the PARC is to present its recommendations to the school board in June;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City Council give direction to the Chief Administrative Officer that staff be directed:
 - a) to acquaint themselves with the mandate of the PARC and the issues it is required to address that the City may have a full understanding of the context in which the PARC has been established;
 - b) to review the PARC process to determine the optimum and other points where the City of Kingston might usefully represent to the school board matters that the City of Kingston deems to be of related interest;
 - c) to study the role of schools in “safe and sustainable neighbourhoods” and the impacts of school closures on those neighbourhoods, that the City might be better informed in any presentation it might chose to make;
 - d) to identify options of interest to the city for sharing space in schools that are otherwise under capacity, such as housing, or other community services; and
2. Staff be directed to bring forward either an information report which may be the basis for determining a position the City of Kingston may wish to adopt; or a report with recommendations for a presentation or other representation that the city may wish to consider, and that such report be available in a timely manner, (as determined by the review of the time line required above) for consideration by a committee or other public forum prior to its consideration by council.

The Limestone District School Board (LDSB) recently received final reports from its North Kingston Area PARC and its Central Kingston Intermediate and Secondary Schools PARC. This information report is to provide Council with an update on the process and discussions that have taken place with the LDSB in the past months.

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is for information only.

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AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner. Community Services

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer
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CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

Cynthia Beach, <i>Sustainability & Growth</i>	N/R
Denis Leger, <i>Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services</i>	N/R
Jim Keech, <i>President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</i>	N/R

(N/R indicates consultation not required)

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OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:**1. Background:**

In the spring of 2011, the Limestone District School Board (LDSB) passed a motion to re-establish the Program and Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) for Kingston North Area and to establish a PARC for the Central Kingston Intermediate and Secondary Schools.

The North Kingston Area PARC was to include Central Public School, First Avenue Public School, Frontenac Public School, J.G. Simcoe Public School and Rideau Heights Public School in its review and its mandate was:

1. In working toward solutions that meet the criteria below, the PARC should consider the overall impact on all students in the review area and the Board. Recommendations put forward should also reflect the legislative requirements and the Board's commitment to full accessibility for people with disabilities.
2. Develop recommendations to address the following:
 - a. the enhancement, where possible, of the program and learning opportunities for students;
 - b. the reduction of building maintenance and operating expenses and the need for major capital improvements;
 - c. the reduction of excess student capacity at the schools within the review;
 - d. the clarification of the boundaries for each school in order to:
 - i. ensure that all schools will have sufficient capacity to accommodate the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten program, as well as any future projected enrolments; and
 - ii. adjust the catchment areas where more than one school is identified for attendance purposes to ensure that each school has only one English and one French Immersion catchment area.

The Central Kingston Intermediate and Secondary Schools PARC was to include Calvin Park Public School, Module Vanier, Kingston Collegiate and Vocational Collegiate (KCVI), Loyalist Collegiate and Vocational Collegiate (LCVI), Queen Elizabeth Collegiate and Vocational Collegiate (QECVI) and the Limestone Community Education Centre and its mandate was:

1. In working toward solutions that meet the criteria below, the PARC should consider the overall impact on all students in the review area and the Board. Recommendations put forward should also reflect the legislative requirements and the Board's commitment to full accessibility for people with disabilities.
2. The PARC recommendations need to address the following criteria:
 - 2.1 The enhancement, where possible, of the program and learning opportunities for students;

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2.2 The reduction of building maintenance and operating expenses and the need for major capital improvements; and

2.3 The optimization of excess student capacity at the schools within the review.

Both PARCs were established in accordance with the Ministry of Education guidelines and are composed mainly of parents, school staff and school council representatives. Councillor Jeff Scott was assigned as the municipal representative on the Central Kingston Intermediate and Secondary Schools PARC and Councillor Rob Hutchison was assigned as municipal representative on the Kingston North PARC.

2. City and LBSCB Partnership Discussions

Both accommodation review processes were initiated in late 2011 and held a number of public meetings during 2011 and 2012. Options, through the PARC process, were being identified as early as October 2011. The public minutes of the PARC meetings indicate that the Memorial Centre site was identified as one possible location for the construction of a new consolidated school.

Partnership discussions between the City of Kingston staff and the Limestone District School Board staff have been ongoing for a number of years and have led to the completion of projects such as the Caraco Home Field and grade 9 students' transit passes.

General discussions about further integration of programs and services on LDSB and City properties have occurred during 2012. These discussions included topics such as integration of affordable housing on various sites, shared use of sports fields, integration of community centre programs with school programs, etc. In early 2012, it was identified that depending on the outcome of both PARC processes and funding from the Ministry of Education, it was possible that the LDSB might be interested in building new schools (elementary and secondary) and could require additional land to enable this process. City owned sites, including Cooks Brothers and Memorial Centre, were mentioned in discussions. There were no commitments made by either party in regards to any of those sites.

As per the Council motion approved in March 2012, City staff had additional meetings with the LDSB, which focused mainly on the potential partnership at the Wally Elmer site, Shannon Park and Rideau Heights Public School. This partnership option is being presented at Council on July 17th for further direction.

It is important to note that the discussions that have taken place between the LDSB staff and City staff did not favour any specific options being considered by either PARC. Discussions were strictly based on what the outcomes might be through the PARC process and taking all potential scenarios into consideration. It is management's role to be able to provide comprehensive information on various options to facilitate appropriate decision making by the elected bodies. The intent of the discussions was always focused on maximizing access and use for both students and the general public.

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3. PARC Recommendations

3 (a) Kingston North PARC

The Kingston North PARC submitted its final recommendation report in late May 2012. One of the three (3) option preferences is to build a new elementary school to accommodate the consolidation of the students in the catchment areas for Frontenac Public School and First Avenue Public School. This report further recommends that four sites be considered for this potential new school and includes the Memorial Centre grounds as one possibility. This information was shared with City staff once the recommendation report had been completed by the PARC.

3 (b) Central Kingston Intermediate & Secondary Schools PARC

The Central Kingston Intermediate and Secondary Schools PARC submitted its draft report in early June and then its final report in late June. The early June draft report had nine (9) options which included the construction of a new secondary school with one possible site being the Memorial Centre grounds. The final report submitted in late June, narrowed it down to three (3) options which still includes an option to build a new school on a site identified only as "to be determined."

Considering the public interest in the construction of a new elementary or secondary school on the Memorial Centre site (as captured in both PARC reports), it was important for both LDSB and City staff to have discussions in order to gain an understanding of some of the potential impacts surrounding this option.

4. Next Steps:

The LDSB will continue its process and its staff will be reviewing reports presented by both PARCs and reporting back to the Board with recommendations in the Fall of 2012. City staff will continue to maintain open communications with the LDSB and report back to Council any recommendations that may require a partnership with the City.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:

Brenda Hunter, Director of Education, Limestone District School Board

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

N/A

NOTICE PROVISIONS:

N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

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FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

CONTACTS:

Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services

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OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

Hal Linscott, Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

N/A