

Auburn, Cole Harbour Family of Schools – School Options Committee Meeting Notes

Dec 19, 2016; 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
 Cole Harbour Cafeteria

**Purpose**

- Engage students and community to gain insight
- Finalize communications for invitation
- Begin working on our frameworks for decision making and report writing
- Group work

**Notes**

Agenda Item and Discussion	Actions
Overview of agenda and purpose: LaMeia	
Check in On Agreements: Linda	Produce a tangible copy of the agreements for easy access by SOC members as we move into decision - making process. <b>Facilitators to produce and circulate.</b>
Review of Notes from SOC6: Corrie  Notes from previous meeting were discussed and approved on a motion by Margaret and Adele. Discussion was left for end of meeting.	
Student Panel: LaMeia Hannah – Grade 10 at CHDH: Keen interest in the arts, came to Cole Harbour specifically out of that interest. Reflected that review indicates some schools are under capacity but that is not her experience. Maia – Sir Robert Borden Jr. High: classes are not large, Likes having a small school, everybody knows everyone, Worries that larger classes in her future (high school) will be a concern. Noted that students are talking about the review meaning that schools will close. Kardeisha – CHDH: Student athlete, formerly from Nelson Whynder, everyone was from her community, an all black school, Was in Ross Road in French Immersion, was the only black student in her class. Cultural pride found in elementary served her well later. CHDH is like family, it is not so big that you don't know everyone. Found the progression of her school experiences from small and exclusive to larger and more diverse to be helpful	

Both the idea and language of a school review is scary for students. "Review" equals closure. Suggested equating "review" to a search for a better use of school space, and better futures for students might work better. There is a fear of larger schools and loss of community. Find a way to message this work to students that is less frightening if you want student input. Also make the talking place a comfortable spot for students. Maybe come to the students, don't bring them to an adult meeting

Suggestions re how to communicate with students in the absence of the traditional means impacted by the work to rule:

- simple posters,
- Speaking to the student body, maybe at lunch or a booth
- a suggestion box
- social media

Student's general comments.

- (Re a two campus high school model) if we had the option of both buildings without having to leave one school (identity), that might work. It maybe good in the long run for students and the community.
- Bigger classes are not the answer.
- Diversity is a good thing within the student body.
- Find a way to improve the learning experience without diminishing the social experience.
- Don't isolate communities from each other.
- If you want student input, ask the questions in a way that makes sense to students.

These students are willing to act as ambassadors to other students. (There are also other students who have been part of this and just couldn't make be here tonight.)

The SOC asked that students tell it what they value about your education and what they want lifted up as success.

It was noted there is a communications committee and the student input tonight will be considered there.

**Student Ambassadors**

**Communications Committee**

Loreli Nicoll, HRM Councilor

– Ms Nicoll joined the meeting for a few minutes, provided her background and perspective on the work in front of the SOC. She advised using our networks to get the word out about the upcoming public engagement opportunities.

**SOC members**

Group Work:

<p>Decision Making Framework: Linda  This group drafted a list of seven criteria against which it felt it would be important to weigh operating decisions and recommendations. The first one would be the operating principles approved by the SOC and it is suggested this is a gateway criteria: it must be met to advance to consideration against the remaining criteria.  This groups need to reconvene to complete it list before advancing it to the larger Committee.  Three questions were formulated, to be forwarded to the HRSB for response.</p> <p>Invitation and Communications: LeMeia</p> <p>Data Options and Final Report: Robert</p>	<p><b>Linda and Group  Linda to prepare and forward to Robert for sharing with the Bd</b></p>
<p>Other Committee Business</p> <p>.1 Public Meeting Schedule:  The final schedule for public meetings on the following dates was confirmed by the carried motion of Amanda Lowery and Gina Conrad.  Meeting #1 – January 12  Meeting #2 – Feb 1  Meeting #33 – Feb 23</p> <p>.2 Outcome of the proposed letter to the AG:  It was reported that the vote by email response did not garner enough votes to determine a clear direction. As a result, no letter was sent. This does not preclude individual SOC members from writing their own letters of concern to involved parties.  This experiment in decision - making by email was reviewed and deemed unworkable for many reasons. As a result, it was moved by Margaret and seconded by Heidi that “while Committee work may proceed at any time, all votes of the full SOC will take place at sanctioned SOC meetings”. Motion carried.</p> <p>.3 Co Chair Shannon reminded members to use agreed upon communication messaging when speaking for /about SOC business to ensure consistency to the public.</p>	<p>SOC members</p>
<p>Adjournment:  AT 9 PM on the approved motion of Margaret and Dwayne</p>	