

GCA Education Committee

Report to the GCA Board

May 24, 2011

Background

- GCA Education Committee (GCA-EC) considered the accommodation issue for Glebe schools during 2010
- GCA-EC hosted Nov 4/10 Community Education Forum:
 - 120+ participants, area schools (Glashan, First Ave, Hopewell, Mutchmor, Corpus Christi, Lady Evelyn, Franco-Jeunesse and GCI), OCDSB, Trustees.
 - Community Priorities identified at that session:
 - Students should have access to the programs they need within their community
 - Schools should not be overcrowded to the point where student learning is compromised.
 - English program should be maintained in all communities.
 - If changes to schools are required to resolve accommodation issues, the least disruptive option should be considered first.
- Several meetings held with OCDSB, the schools and community associations to discuss school accommodation issue with clear need for short and long term solutions demonstrated.
- **Short term solution:** Sept 2011 FA JK re-directed to Mutchmor. Return to FA for SK Sept 2012.
- **Long term solution:** to be developed through Centretown, Glebe, Old Ottawa South (CGOOS)Accommodation Study

CGOOS Accommodation Study

- Working Committee established to “develop recommendations to the Board which support the goal of improving student achievement through the provision of strong educational programming in safe, healthy, secure, and accessible learning environments. In doing so, the Working Committee should have regard for alternatives which, where possible, provide long-term accommodation stability to students and the larger community, make effective use of District facilities, and improve student access to viable programming and appropriate instructional resources. “ (Terms of Reference, CGOOS Accommodation Study)

- Schools included: Cambridge Street Community Public School, Glashan Public School, Centennial Public School, Hopewell Avenue Public School, Elgin Street Public School, Mutchmor Public School, First Avenue Public School (2 reps/school)
 - Community Associations included: GCA, Centretown Citizens Community Assoc, Ottawa East Community Assoc, Old Ottawa South Community Assoc, Dalhousie Comm Assoc (1 rep/association – Sharon Chartier (rep), David Baar (alternate rep))
- 2 “conversation starter” scenarios presented by OCDSB at April 26th meeting (see attached ppt for reference) to engage Working Group in discussion of possible solutions. Neither option will be selected in its current form.
 - Responses/comments provided by schools and community associations, discussed at May 9th/11 mtg (see attached GCA-EC input)

Current Status:

- Schools have differing preferred options
- GCA-EC remaining neutral to specific school options, presenting community-wide concerns, minimizing risk of being caught in the middle of 2 community schools’ views.

Discussion:

1. How should GCA-EC participate in Working Committee? Neutral observer bringing forward community issues eg safety or active facilitator engaging other community associations to try to find solutions?
2. What issues/guiding principles should GCA-EC bring forward?
 - a. Program choice in community eg English, EFI, MFI, Gifted English is key
 - b. Is walking to school (e.g. to Hopewell from the south part of the Glebe) more important than keeping students in the Glebe?
3. Should there be a community preferred option and if so, how would it be developed?
4. More diverse membership is needed on GCA-EC. Today, schools are well represented but in current process it is difficult to add value since school views are presented by school delegations. How can we attract new members to GCA-EC?

Sharon Chartier

GCA-EC Representative to CGOOS Accommodation Working Group