

GCA Education Committee

Report to the GCA Board - November 22, 2011

Update: On October 27th a Community Information Session was held to provide parents and other interested parties with an opportunity to comment or ask questions about 2 options (see below) to address accommodation issues in Centretown, the Glebe, and OOS. About 100 people attended and close to 30 participants offered comments about the options or directed questions to the Accommodation Working Group (AWG) Co-Chairs or the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) Planning Staff. Additional input was solicited by the OCDSB during the evening for those who preferred to provide their input via email.

The AWG (including the GCA Education Committee as a voting member) met on November 8th to discuss the 2 options and all of the input received either orally at the Oct 27th public session or via email to the OCDSB or members of the Committee directly. At that meeting, we voted on Option 2 as our recommendation to the OCDSB Trustees. Hopewell School Council and the Old Ottawa South Community Association were opposed to the solution favoured by First Avenue P.S., Mutchmor P.S., Glashan P.S., the GCA and others. We anticipate that they will make a delegation to the Trustees that proposes an alternative approach.

On November 17th, the AWG presented their recommendations to the Board and entertained Trustee questions.

Timelines: On **November 30th** members of the schools, community groups, and other interested parties are invited to present their views to the OCDSB Trustees as final input to their decision. At that same meeting, OCDSB Planning Staff will present their recommendation which may be different from the one presented by the AWG.

A final decision will be made by Trustees on **December 20th**. They may select the option presented by the AWG, the one presented by Planning Staff or develop their own scenario. This is a major milestone for our community.

November 30th GCA – EC Delegation: At the November 30th delegation meeting, I plan to speak on behalf of the GCA – EC and have several key points to make:

- Additional capacity is necessary in the Glebe, pleased to see additional classrooms added
- If Option 2 is selected, in addition to the 11 classroom addition, funding should be approved for concurrent complementary renovations to the current school structure, which has already been identified as an OCDSB priority for upgrades and renovations. Upgrades to existing basement spaces could provide relatively low cost capacity in the event that local enrolment continues to grow.

- The yard across 4th Ave from Mutchmor, which belongs to the OCDSB, will be used more intensively since the number of students at the school will rise substantially. The field must be upgraded since it is too wet to be useful for many months of the year. Perhaps the OSCDSB could seek matching funding from the City of Ottawa since the field is the primary outdoor recreational space in the Glebe.
- With students crossing 4th Ave several times each day, new traffic restrictions or other safety measures must be implemented.
- The addition of MFI to the Glebe answers a need expressed by many in our community that this program be added to existing EFI, English and Gifted programs.
- The GCA EC supports the recommendations of the AWG with respect to strengthening the Core English program.

Option 1 - Construct 6 Classroom Addition at Mutchmor Public School, open for September 2013

This Scenario redirects approximately 37% of the Early French Immersion program currently at First Avenue P.S. to Mutchmor P.S.

- Mutchmor P.S. would then offer a dual track program consisting of a JK-6 regular English program and a new SK-6 Early French Immersion program. With a six classroom addition, Mutchmor P.S. would continue to offer a Grade 1-6 Gifted English program.
- Centretown & Glebe area 7/8 students directed to Glashan P.S.
- First Avenue JK's would continue to be sent to Mutchmor PS for 2012 as an Interim Measure.

Option 2 (recommended by AWG): Construct 11 Classroom Addition at Mutchmor Public School, open for September 2013

This Scenario proposes the exchange of the entire school populations & programs of First Avenue P.S. and Mutchmor P.S. with each other in order to maintain a strong early French immersion centre and an English centre with a new middle French immersion option.

- Mutchmor P.S. would now offer a JK-6 Early French Immersion program.
- First Avenue P.S. would offer a JK-6 Regular English program, a 4-6 middle French immersion program, and the Grade 1-6 congregated Gifted English program.
- Centretown & Glebe area 7/8 students directed to Glashan P.S.
- First Avenue JK's would continue to be sent to Mutchmor PS for 2012 as an Interim Measure until addition at Mutchmor was complete.