

Community Input for LMST New School Meeting Minutes

10 February, 2016

Le Marchant St. Thomas gym, 6:00 – 8:15 pm

School Steering Team (SST) Members Present:

Agnes Greer	HRSB Supervisor
Peter Howitt	Department of Education
Tim Schaus	HRSB Facilitator
Jeanne Boudreau	Principal
David Jakeman	SAC Chair, Parent
Judy Obersi	SAC Co-Chair, Parent

Guests Present:

Joachim Stroink	MLA Halifax Chebucto
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School Advisory Council (SAC) Members Present:

Monica Stoilov	Vice Principal
Laura White	Secretary, Parent
Andrew Boyne	Parent
Nancy Beck	Community Representative
Claire O'Donovan	Community Representative

50-60 parents and community members in attendance.

1. Presentation & discussion (DJ):

-This is the first time that the community has been consulted for feedback before a draft design has been completed for a new school build in the province.

-Exterior – do we want it to look old or new?

-A “raised classroom” (stage) is not a standard feature. It must have a well used purpose to be included i.e. music room, art room, classroom. It can be positioned between a gym and a cafeteria so it can be used from either side.

-We currently have 410 students enrolled at LMST. The new school will be built to a capacity of 414. Many voices of concern were raised regarding the capacity. The capacity is determined by software that uses demographic information etc. to forecast student populations out to 2024. JS is involved in demographic issues. The francophone school board is looking for space on the peninsula. This could result in downward pressure on LMST enrollment.

-Will the HRSB maintain school enhancements? The school and gym are maintained by HRSB and the field by HRM (JB).

-New school budget is \$13 040 000 (\$241/sq ft).

-Currently have 37 parking spaces. New design is for 51 spaces.

-Cafeteria 1656 sq ft, designed to accommodate 40% of students. Concern raised over the fact that nearly 100% of students stay for lunch and staggered lunches are required to accommodate everyone. Since 2009, it has been every student's right to stay for lunch, so why build a cafeteria for only 40% of students?

-Current classroom size is ~750 sq ft. New classroom size is 850-900 sq ft.

-Must be LEED Silver certified. Goal is to be LEED Gold certified (PH).

-An outdoor classroom and bleachers are examples of enhancements that are not included, and would require extra funds. A larger library is an example of an enhancement that can be provided at no cost, if the classroom sizes (for example) are reduced.

-An internet search revealed that the new school will be 37% larger than the current school.

-We could design the school with no hallways to use the extra space for enhancements.

-The design consultants are required to meet once with the community to discuss the draft design.

-The design will be completed in Dec/16.

- The school construction will be completed by July/18.
- Concern was raised that if HRM approves funding for an enlarged gym, that provincial funding for the school will be reduced (not likely).
- Even with no enhancements, we will get a really nice school.
- We can challenge the short time lines provided (one week) to secure additional funding commitments for enhancements, but that will slow down the process. We have waited 13+ years for this process to begin, so let's keep it moving and make the most of it (JS).

2. Instructions on how to provide feedback & discussion (JO):

- Examples of enhancements we must prioritize: music room, technology, environment (green roof, outdoor classroom), gardening, cafeteria, learning street (cafeteria, library, seating)
- Provide comments on all design feature posters. Rank them in order of priority.
- There is no space specifically dedicated to the Excel program. At other new schools this program is offered in the cafeteria and/or raised classroom.
- Kingswood elementary is a new school in Hammonds Plains.
- Park West school has an Evos accessible playground.
- A natural playground is an option.
- Two parents in Lunenburg lead fund raising initiatives and raised \$150 000 for their new school (Bluenose Academy, PH).
- A widened drop off lane is required to get cars off of Watt street for drop off. Yes, there will be total separation between vehicles and people (PH).

3. Integrated Learning (MS):

- Grades P-2 have an integrated curriculum. An integrated curriculum is coming for grades 3-6.
- Spaces can be enhanced to facilitate the integrated curriculum i.e. hallway meeting spaces, indoor courtyard, science area, comfortable library nooks.

Further parent/community input can be provided to DJ via email ASAP: David.Jakeman@Dal.Ca
 Teacher input on the new school is provided to the SST via JB.