

## Public Consultation Meeting Discussion Notes

April 26th, 2023

Steve MacLean Gymnasium

**Meeting Commenced at 7:05pm**

**Introductions**

**Overview & Background**

**Presentation of Slideshow**

**Questions:**

1. Would you please provide clarification of minimal, moderate and significant impact?
  - The impacts refer to the number of students within that catchment in relation to the capacity and utilization factor of the school.
    - Minimal – a handful of students.
    - Significant – will affect a major population of the school.
2. How can we provide quality education with a block move of 7-10 students?
  - In time we would anticipate that quality education programs, such as Specialist High Skills Major's, will be developed in a similar depth of comparable courses and programs to Longfields-Davidson HS.
3. What is a SHSM?
  - Specialist High Skills Major program
  - Approved by the province. These are generally created by passionate individual teachers or staff.
4. Capacity is around 1500 – by 2028 it is over capacity according to the projection numbers. Will this school open with portables?
  - Yes, there will be portables. The OCDSB plans for the population 20-25 years out, not the initial influx of students.
  - Can anticipate portables and potentially an addition to the school itself.
5. This individual's son is at Farley Mowat PS – they are wondering if the move to Steve MacLean PS is a choice.
  - We will be happy to discuss this individually.
6. This person is asking about the consideration of including the area west of the bridge or river into the RSSS boundary.
  - We have not considered this area. The main idea for this boundary was to try and get students into what they identify as their own community.
  - Additionally, if we take anymore from Farley Mowat PS it can be problematic. What we are taking from them now should be a sustainable school population.
7. Construction timelines – how soon can we get a confident timeline?
  - We are as confident as we can be that this school will be opened in 2025.

8. This person gave their opinion: son went to Steve Maclean PS up until last year and is going to Merivale HS for next year, while a bunch of his friends decided to go to South Carleton. It is 30 minutes to Merivale HS and 30 minutes to South Carleton HS from their location. They are strongly voting for opening the new school with grade 12 because it is so much closer.
  - In our experience, grade 11's and 12's don't want to move from where they are because they have a course package to sort out.
  - They may not be able to offer them the depth of teaching at those levels because the numbers for those grades may not show up for the opening year.
  - We will bring this to the Trustees and discuss this with them, but typically we rarely see sufficient numbers for 7-12 opening.
9. This person's daughter will be in grade 12 when the new high school opens, and she wouldn't mind her staying at the high school she is currently attending, but she is interested in the SHSM programs and wants clarification on transportation options. Will yellow buses be offered to Merivale HS and South Carleton HS once the new school opens?
  - Bussing will be available but OSTA determines what type of busses the school will receive (OC vs. yellow).
10. If grade 11 and 12 students are looking for electives, SHSM's, sports teams, etc. at the new school will there be enough momentum in a new school for them to get these activities?
  - It depends. One of the reasons we typically open without 11's and 12's is to allow the school to grow and electives to establish on their own.
11. Stittsville HS: what was their opening grade structure?
  - 7-10.
12. Summerhill community parent wants to provide a comment: her son will be in grade 11 when it opens. She is interested in opening at grade 11 because it is down the street from their location.
13. There is an overcrowded Catholic high school nearby – do we anticipate to get students from other boards?
  - Some may come, but generally we find that once students begin at a particular school they stay at the school if they aren't already well established there. Usually grades 9 and 10 aren't overly established, which is why we typically open with a 7-10 structure, but it is always cohort dependent.
14. For students entering grade 10 when the school opens, will they have the option to attend?
  - We would anticipate a block-move.
  - For individual circumstances, there is a transfer process in place that may address this.
15. Kids that are going into kinder and grade 1 at Farley Mowat PS next year – is it possible to transition kids into Steve sooner so they can be established sooner?
  - They would have to go through the cross-boundary transfer process, but it is not likely they will be approved based on this reasoning.
16. If construction is delayed will whole classrooms be moved from Farley Mowat PS to Steve MacLean PS?
  - No.
17. In 2025 will the grade 7 and 8 from Steve MacLean PS go to RSSS? Do the teachers move to the high school with them?
  - Yes, the students will go. With regard to the teachers, they will follow the OCDSB's HR policies.

- Not going to be any different than staffing any other school.
- 18. How do you determine if there is transportation?
  - This is OSTA's responsibility.
- 19. What about a 7-9 opening?
  - We prefer 7-10.
- 20. This individual mentioned there are hazards within their walk-zone to the new school and asked if this could be considered when doing transportation.
  - This is taken into account when OSTA does their routes.
  - We can compile these comments and pass them along to OSSTA.
- 21. What would be the issue of not allowing grand-parenting of Farley Mowat PS's students?
  - Staff would prefer 7-10 block move, but give us your feedback on grandparenting at Farley Mowat PS. There may be a one-time option to remain at Farley Mowat PS.
- 22. This is a question about the RSSS boundary – did we consider including island of Manotick?
  - Yes, we can consider this, but we are concerned with taking too much from other schools, and overloading the capacity of the new secondary school.
  - We will let Trustees know we are interested in incorporating Manotick in the boundary.
- 23. What about staffing? How does this work?
  - Staffed the way any other school is staffed.
  - Staff is hired before the doors open.
- 24. Will SHSM programs be present at this new school?
  - We hope to have some by the time the grades 11 and 12 are phased in. But we don't know.

**Closing remarks**

**Adjournment at 8:45pm**