Joint City Board Relations Committee  
Thursday, April 23, 2009  
1:30 p.m.  
Room 1  
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board  
100 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present:  
Judith Bishop, Wes Hicks, J. Brennan  
Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillor Terry Whitehead

Absent with Regrets:  
Councillor Margaret McCarthy – Illness

Also present:  
Darryl Sage, Chris Murray, Paul Mallard, Neil Everson, Keith Extance, Mary Devorski, Carolyn Biggs

1. CALL TO ORDER

Judith Bishop called the meeting to order.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 October 30, 2009

(Eisenberger/Hicks)  
That the Minutes of October 30, 2008 be adopted as presented.  
CARRIED.

The Committee was distributed with a copy of a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in reference to Item 6.2 on the agenda, and agreed to discuss this item in conjunction with Item 5.1.

3. DELEGATION REQUEST

Request from Brenda Johnson, Project Manager, Environment Hamilton, to present the “Woodward Story”

(Eisenberger/Hicks)  
(a) That the request from Brenda Johnson, Project Manager, Environment Hamilton, to present the “Woodward Story” be forwarded to City and Board staff as an issue to be added to the list of considerations in terms of how this type of activity can be moved forward;
(b) That the City Manager follow up with the Director of Waste Management in terms of how is this being replicated throughout the entire Board; is there a plan to carry this forward; what is the cost to implement. CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION

4.1 Active and Safe Routes to School Program

Suzanne Brown, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention, Child and Youth Program, and Sharon Mackinnon, Public Health Nurse, provided a presentation to the Committee outlining the Active and Safe Routes to School Program (ASRTS), including initiatives and activities in Hamilton, the ASRTS Steering Committee, opportunities with ASRTS, the “Stepping It Up Project” and Next Steps.

With respect to next steps, the Committee was advised that staff are in the process of putting a formal application together to submit to the HWDSB E-Best Committee in May, 2009. Staff will be connecting with the HWDCSB around the same time. Presentation will be done at the June School Board meeting; anticipated to start the pilot in September, 2009.

Comments during the presentation included, but were not limited to the following:

- May want to expand the program to provide an opportunity for transported students to be bused to a certain point, and then walking to school
- Two School Boards have entered into a consortium, with one general manager to service both Boards; this individual may be a good person to be on the ASRTS Steering Committee
- Councillor Whitehead commented that there may be some synergies in context of some of the poorly-designed drop-offs, creating situations where buses are in the way; design drop-off zone that is not in the area of traffic congestion
- Jessica Brennan commented that she participated in a neighbourhood walkabout in Dundas and found it to be very informative and an important piece of community work; she asked how many walkabouts are done around schools, and how does a walkabout get activated i.e., is it school based. Staff responded that more work can be done for walkabouts around high schools. In terms of activation, in many cases, parents identify concerns and work with the principal.
School travel planning should be viewed as a global umbrella piece.

The presenters requested that a representative from the School Board be formally appointed to sit on the ASRTS Steering Committee.

Jessica Brennan requested that a formal request, in writing, be forwarded to her, together with the Terms of Reference and current membership.

Copies of the presentation material were distributed to the Committee and a copy has been retained in the Office of the City Clerk for the public record. The Clerk was also provided with the briefing notes.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 New Disposition of Properties/Memorandum of Agreement (Item 6.2)

Chris Murray, City Manager, provided an overview of the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the HWDSB. At the last meeting, the Committee raised a good idea to put down, in writing, how to collaborate on work and more importantly, what is defined as “the work”, and to begin the process of forging a relationship that is critical.

The theme is to collaborate much more on a number of items, which would mean that resources must be assigned to the work in some formal fashion, with some predictability to tackle various important topics.

With respect to the “potential areas of focus”, Mr. Murray distributed correspondence which he had received from the Board at the end of March which makes clear the long-term capital plans of the School Board, and speaks to the future.

Darryl Sage advised the Committee that it is the intention to begin secondary school review in the Fall of 2009, which will involve each high school at the same time. Looking at potential of 5,000 to 7,000 empty seats in the secondary schools, which could mean a reduction of 5 to 7 high schools. Will be bringing plan forward to the Board in May or June. The full system review may take up to 1 year.
The Committee was advised that the potential areas of focus will be a growing, evolving list; however, individual issues may require attention very quickly.

Chris Murray commented that from an administration standpoint, he has been speaking with individuals whose work will involve issues from the potential areas of focus.

With respect to the strategic planning section in the potential areas of focus, the Committee requested that “long-term planning” be amended to “short-, medium- and long-term planning” to accommodate issues that are at the forefront, so as not to lose focus on short-term needs.

With respect to the “Objectives”, specifically “to be accountable to the City/Board Relations Committee”, Jessica Brennan asked if this process is being duplicated by the HWDCSB. Staff responded that no interest has been expressed on their part, as yet. The Committee discussed whether their Terms of Reference should be reviewed and amended to reflect the “Joint City/Public Board Relations Committee”.

Chris Murray advised that he and Darryl Sage will translate the MOU and the potential areas of focus into a work program, which will include a work plan, costs and deliverables. Hope to have more information in terms of what resources will be required for the next meeting.

(Hicks/Eisenberger)
That the proposed work plan be approved, in principle.

Councillor Whitehead requested that the MOU also include a protocol document as a reference or appendix in terms of what has already been approved. Staff indicated that this will be referenced in the “Objectives”.

5.2 2009 HWDSB Capital Plan

Discussed in conjunction with Item 5.1 (Correspondence from HWDSB respecting long-term capital plans)

6. ISSUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

6.1 Strategic Directions
6.2 Memorandum of Agreement

See Item 5.1
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 18, 2009

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Bishop, Chair