THE JOINT CITY OF HAMILTON/HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TASK FORCE PRESENTS REPORT 12-002 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Relocation of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Main Office

   (a) That in order to ensure the integrity of the Task Force mandate to retain the Board staff downtown, the City will expedite all planning matters at the Crestwood site to make up for time that may be affected by the Ministry’s position to withhold further approvals with respect to the Crestwood site;

   (b) That subject to Council approval, the City will cover any incremental swing space costs resulting from a slow down in the process due to the City’s request that the Board consider downtown office locations, should the space be required past August 1, 2014.

General Issues Committee – May 16, 2012
FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE:

(a) **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

On a motion, agenda was approved as presented.

(b) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)**

None

(c) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)**

Councillor McHattie shown as both present and absent. Minutes to be amended to reflect that Councillor McHattie was absent from the April 16 meeting.

On a motion, the Minutes of the April 16, 2012 meeting of the HWDSB were approved, as amended.

(d) **CONSENT ITEMS (Item 4)**

None

(e) **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

(i) **Further Discussion on Possible Scenarios and Timing Implications**

John Malloy advised that the purpose for the calling of this meeting was to make the Committee aware of new information which he received recently from the Ministry of Education, prior to meeting with the Board’s Committee of the Whole on Monday, May 7 to advise them of the same as it impacts the work of the Task Force, as follows:

(a) Until the Board of Education passes a formal motion landing this whole process, the Ministry of Education are no longer going to approve anything for the Crestwood site, which means that all along, the strategy has been that while the Task Force is Working, the Board would continue with their plan e.g., site approval, demolition permits, etc. so that if another scenario is not arrived at, the work at Crestwood could still continue.
Contacted the Ministry to ask why and what are the ramifications for the Ministry to keep the approvals moving forward, realizing that they have approved the Board’s case; the Ministry’s response was that in light of what has been reported in the media i.e., discussions with the City, they (the Ministry) will be withholding approvals.

Mr. Malloy indicated that this could have challenges in pushing to the end of June; without approvals to do certain things impacts the Board’s abilities to move forward on the requirements required by the City. The Ministry provided a list of items that have to stop happening because they will not approve issues dealing with building permits, demolition permits, etc.

(b) Mr. Malloy asked the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, Finance Branch, to set out what the Ministry would be willing to hear in terms of a business case from the Board as parameters may assist.

The Assistant Deputy Minister responded that for the entire project, three conditions must be met:

(i) Firstly, the cost per square footage must be the same as the cost per square footage of the present site

(ii) For any agreed-upon price per square foot, if exceeded, there would have to be an agreement that the developer will cover that portion

(iii) Need to show that the operating and maintenance over time that is built into the present Crestwood Business Case would be the same or better in the scenario that is being potentially explored.

One is timing related with concerns around implications; the second is the requirement of a proposal that would at least be considered.

Timelines would suggest that starting work on the Crestwood site by August 1 would be absolutely necessary to meet the timeline of leaving the swing space in 2 years. Also an issue that the Ministry does not have a full complement of staff during July and August, and the media reports that the Ministry has huge issues with labour – may not be able to expedite approvals. If the process is delayed, then this will jeopardize the swing space part of the puzzle.
Trustee Turkstra indicated that in terms of clarity, more specific information is required at the earliest opportunity with respect to cost per square foot; discussions need to be expedited because of new parameters and some type of commitment for the swing space, should the August 1, 2014 deadline be exceeded.

(f) MOTIONS

None.

(g) GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS

None

(f) PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

(i) Closed Session Minutes – April 16, 2012

On a motion, the Closed Session Minutes of the April 16, 2012 meeting of the Joint City of Hamilton/Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Task Force be approved. These Minutes will remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with the exemptions provided in the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

On a motion, the Committee move In Camera at 9:31 a.m. pursuant to Subsections 8.1(c) and (g) of the City’s Procedural By-law and Sections 239.2(c) and (g) of the Municipal Act as the subject matter pertains to (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board; and (g) a matter in respect of which a Council, Board or Committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act respecting the relocation of the HWDSB main offices.

The Committee reconvened in Open Session at 10:20 a.m.

(i) Further Discussion on Possible Scenarios and Timing Implications

No action to be reported.
(g) **NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday, May 22, 2012
9:00 a.m.
(to be confirmed)

There being no further business, the Task Force adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Trustee T. Simmons, Co-Chair
Joint City of Hamilton/Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Task Force

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Co-ordinator
May 4, 2012