

## TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING

Byng Public School, Clearview Meadows Elementary School, Stayner Collegiate Institute

Thursday, November 9, 2017  
1:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

The Byng Public School, Clearview Meadows Elementary School and Stayner Collegiate Institute (SCI) Transition Committee held their first meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 1 p.m., at Stayner Collegiate Institute.

#### **PRESENT:**

##### Committee Members:

Byng Public School	Mae Senick, Principal Dave Richter, Teacher Alysia White, Parent Tori Collicutt, Student Linnea Donkers, Student Jaycee Gibson, Student
Clearview Meadows	Jacqueline Linton, Principal Kevin Goode, Teacher Matthew Laker, Parent Amelia Dutka, Student Luke Lightheart, Student
Stayner Collegiate	Mark Keating, Principal Janice McLeod, Teacher Sebrina Westbrooke, Parent Evan Marriott, Student Brittany Michalchuk, Student Christina Rawn, Student

Community Representative: Christine Tjeerdsma

Student Success Teacher: Chris Chater

Administration: Jackie Kavanagh, Superintendent, Area 5  
Rita England, Executive Assistant, Area 5

**ABSENT:** Grace Baker, Student, Clearview Meadows

Chairperson Mark Keating, Principal of SCI called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

#### **1. Welcome and Introduction – Who Are We?**

Principal Keating welcomed the Transition Committee and asked members to introduce themselves. Principal Keating emphasized the need to hear from all stakeholders (students, parents and SCDSB staff), to make the transition to SCI a positive experience for current grades 6, 7 and 8 students from Byng and Clearview, but also for the grade 9, 10 and 11 students currently attending SCI. Principal Keating emphasized that as principal of SCI, his goal is to work with the committee to help ensure a successful start-up in September 2018 for students, parents and staff.

## 2. Why Are We Here?

The committee divided into school groups to discuss the committee's purpose.

Students from the SCI group commented that they wanted to be involved in the process because they have family members who will be going through the transition and they wanted to make the move to SCI easier for everyone.

*Statement of Purpose: Champion for a smooth and positive transition.*

Students from the Byng group identified their need for more information and suggested a "6-7-8 Transition Day." Students questioned what the structure of teams and clubs would look like within the combined schools model.

*Statement of Purpose: We are here to support a smooth transition and learn details.*

A student from the Clearview group provided the following statement:

*Statement of Purpose: Creating positive opportunities to recognize individual voices, while working together to shape a new school community.*

## 3. What Do We Think?

SCI students facilitated an information gathering activity to focus the discussion on transition. Committee members were asked to break out into groups and share their concerns, excitement and wonderings related to the movement to the 7 to 12 model. Comments and questions from each group were written on post-it notes and organized using distinct coloured papers: Concerns, Excitement, and Wonderings.

### Concerns

(pink)

- How will space at SCI be shared with older students?
- Will (the) community support the new 7 – 12 model?
- Will this (model) push high school students to switch to Collingwood Collegiate?
- Larger school
- Substance abuse
- Mixing larger schools with smaller schools
- New timetable and teachers
- Getting lost in the new school
- Will grade 8s still have a graduation?
- Will new (grade 7 and 8) students have gym space?

### Excitement

(green)

- Lockers
- New friends
- Clubs for everyone
- Opportunities in special classes/programs – art, music
- Opportunity to walk home with someone
- Larger gym
- More students, more opportunities
- Meeting new students and staff
- New classes and different learning space, as well as access to new learning spaces
- Trying something new
- Going to school with friends from Clearview, more partnering

**# HERE WE COME**

Wondering (white)

- Will we see siblings?
- Will we eat in the cafeteria?
  
- What will our school name be: Broncos, Wolf Pack, Spartans?
- How many children will be in the classrooms, clubs?
- Are grade 9 students going to be forgotten about?
- Will there be multiple classrooms for the younger students?
- Security
- Safe arrival program
- Bussing
- Transition activities
- Age differences
- Space at SCI for younger students
- Older students, will they be nice about the transition?

**4. Planning Transition Actions - Where Do We Go Next?**

Principal Keating encouraged committee members to brainstorm, discuss and suggest possible transition activities to support a smooth, positive transition.

Discussion and ideas included:

- 6/7/8 Open House
- Grade 8 Open House – Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>
- 8/9 Open House – Separate/different from a 6/7 open house
- 6/7 Open House
- Buddy system – pairing high school students with elementary students to introduce younger children to SCI
- In-school teacher exchange i.e. elementary teachers teach a grade 9 class and secondary students teach a grade 7 or 8 class
- Increased opportunities to get 6 and 7s into SCI after SCI dismissal, i.e. participate in specialty classes (music and dance)
- Invite secondary students to complete volunteer hours by taking on leadership roles in above transition activities

Superintendent Kavanagh responded to questions and concerns regarding the methods of communication and sharing of school facilities. It was reiterated that every student attending SCI will have the same ability to use all of the school's facilities, as was indicated in the ARC 2015:01, Pupil Accommodation Review.

The committee discussed ways to ensure communication is received by the entire community. It was felt by parent representatives that although board employees have used various methods of communication to get the message out to the community, i.e. board website, synervoice, tweeting, minutes and community meetings, a more unique approach is required to provide the community with information. Suggestions included: recording video clips, announcements at the school level and the possible use of resources provided by the board's communications department.

Communication will be added as an agenda item at the next transition meeting. The SCDSB Communication Manager will be invited to assist the community in exploring other options.

**5. Closing Comments**

Principal Keating thanked the committee members for attending and providing their extensive input on making the transition of SCI to a grades 7-12 school a positive one for everyone involved.

**6. Adjournment**

The Transition Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at Stayner Collegiate Institute, Library 1:00 p.m.