



**Southeast Galt Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation
Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 4
November 11, 2008 - 4:30 pm**

The fourth meeting of the Southeast Galt Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Stewart Avenue Public School, on November 11, 2008.

Committee Members Present:

Jim Kirchin, Director of Planning Operations – City of Cambridge, Sue Thorne-McCaffrey, Principal of Alison Park P.S., Allan MacKay, Principal of Manchester P.S., Cindy Benedetti, Principal of Chalmers Street P.S., Geoff Suderman-Gladwell, Principal of Central P.S., Leslie Tinning, Principal of Stewart Ave. P.S., Heather Forman, Vice Principal of Chalmers Street P.S., Brian Beney, Vice Principal of Lincoln Avenue P.S. (attending on behalf of Linda Rogers – Principal), Amneh Hamdan, Immigrant Services, Cambridge YMCA, Terri Nikolasevic, parent – Stewart Ave. P.S., Muhammad Arif, parent – Alison Park P.S., Colleen Cade, parent – Chalmers St. P.S., Ann Quenneville, parent – Central P.S., Colin and Jennifer Kevan, parents – Manchester P.S., Janis Doran, parent – Central P.S., Linda Roechner, parent – Chalmers Street P.S., Tracy Wegener, parent – Central P.S., Michele List, parent – Stewart Avenue P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, Lauren Manske, Planner and Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Diane DeCoene, Superintendent, Jim Berry, Assistant Superintendent – Special Education, Wendy Daley, Vice Principal of Stewart Ave. P.S., Brian Ward, Principal of Avenue Road P.S., Linda Rogers, Principal of Lincoln Avenue P.S., Koula Malatches, parent – Avenue Rd. P.S., Margaret Montague, parent – Alison Park P.S.

1. Welcome

- Chris Smith, Manager of Planning opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

2. Meeting # 3 – draft minutes attached

- Mr. Smith asked if there were any comments or corrections on the draft minutes from our October 28, 2008 meeting. Mr. Kirchin advised that he would like to make some comments regarding the draft minutes, and he will send them to the Planning staff. Updated minutes will be forwarded to the committee for review, then approved at the next meeting: November 25, 2008.

3. Questions or comments

- None raised

4. Public Meeting Feedback

- Mr. Smith advised that there were approximately 75 members of the public present, where he introduced the accommodation review process.
- A question was asked about which school was most represented at the Public Meeting.
- Mr. Smith commented that he thought Alison Park had the most representation at the meeting. Concerns were raised by them, regarding the temporary arrangement that they have.
- Sue Thorne-McCaffrey was pleased with the turn out from her school, but thought that more people should have been represented from other schools.
- Mr. Smith commented that when scenarios are developed, more will get involved; people tend to respond when there is something to respond to.
- At future Public Meetings, break out rooms will be provided to discuss scenarios in smaller groups, then brought back to the whole group.

5. Ongoing Discussion: Draft Objectives/Valuation Templates

- The current set of draft objectives are posted on the Board website.
- Mr. Smith asked if there were any comments, he added that the objectives could be re-visited at any time during the process, or added to, it is always open during the ARC process.
- It was advised that most of the Valuation Templates have been returned to the Planning staff, at this point we are waiting for Plant Maintenance to return their copies.

6. Preliminary Scenario Development

- Mr. Smith introduced the scenario development piece of the process, advising that consensus was that the Planning staff would bring forth some scenarios as a jumping off point for the ARC. We will be working on the scenario development during the next ARC meetings. These are 'blue sky' scenarios, a place to start; however some information is sensitive, (example – partnering with the Catholic Board).
- Three scenarios were presented:
 1. Status Quo – Reconstruct Alison Park (Scenario One)
 2. Convert Lincoln Avenue and Avenue Road to JK-8 (Scenario Two)
 3. New School South of Myers Road (Scenario Three)
- **In Scenario One**, regarding capacity, with the primary cap at twenty, and all day JK/SK, Stewart Avenue would have to add 3 rooms.
- We want to keep a healthy JK-8, for example we don't want to be too heavy in either the primary division or the intermediate division, we need to keep a balance.
- Where would the Chalmers Street students go in the year 2013, if the built capacity were exceeded?

- Possibly an addition, or portables. The built up areas are remaining steady with their enrolment, the new areas are where the larger enrolment numbers are generated. For example, in Scenario One, if we keep the Alison Park population there, partnering with the Catholic Board could work provided both Boards are willing to commit to a partnership. There is lots of land, the properties abut, St. Anne is a small school with approximately 150 students, with a built capacity of 250. Add our numbers to that and you would have a school in the low 300's. This type of joint project could be a challenge; it has not yet been done in our region.
- Other regions have had success with joint sites, some are: York Region, Thames Valley, Avon-Maitland. Issues that have come forward from this: administrations would need to work together. You might have separate entrances, but may mix the recesses and field use. Some share only one parking lot. It would be easier for us to do the facility than for the administrators to make it work.
- Are the high schools in the study area at full capacity? Could a grade 7-12 program work?
- Yes, the high schools are at full capacity. The trustees are reluctant to go to a grade 7-12 model in discussions to date.
- **Discussion regarding Scenario Two**, and converting both Lincoln Avenue and Avenue Road to JK-8 schools, centered on the senior school being a strong model for high school.
- In a JK-8 school, you have the older students being role models for the younger students.
- In all of the scenarios, does bussing increase or decrease?
- Scenario One – would stay about the same
- Scenario Two – bussing would decrease
- Scenario Three – bussing would decrease
- The decrease in transportation would be better for the environment, and having students stay in their own neighbourhoods to attend school is preferable.
- **In Scenario Three**, do the Alison Park students go to Chalmers Street?
- The response was yes, they would.
- In Scenario Three, why not build a JK-8 school instead of a JK-6?
- It could grow to a JK-8; they are built for that, with double gyms for example. But with Stewart Avenue and Lincoln Heights still operating, and the potential for a new school on Hwy. 8, we only need capacity for a JK-6 school.
- Why not build a new senior elementary school, to address the over crowding issue at Chalmers Street and Stewart Avenue?
- The Ministry does not support that construction cost. The funding model supports the JK-8 program. We have existing strong senior schools which we have kept, but this might change.
- In Scenario Three, if the new school is JK-8, it would mean having three schools going to grade 8, why not look at closing Lincoln Avenue? Or incorporate part of Scenario Two, and convert Lincoln Avenue to JK-8?
- We will develop this idea, and look at the numbers.
- The schools will feed into Glenview Park Secondary and Galt Collegiate; there would be no change to the high school boundaries.

7. Roundtable

- Mr. Smith advised that there is a lot to work with, we must look at the objectives, and do the scenarios address the objectives? Please email any suggestions, we can share the preliminary scenarios with school council, but advised to talk in general terms (especially regarding partnering). The scenarios will go to a Public Meeting, and decisions will be made.
- Discussed logistics of the school tour scheduled for Friday December 5, 2008.

8. Future Meeting Dates

- The future meeting dates were displayed on the presentation.
- Chris Smith thanked all for coming; meeting ended at 6:00 pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday November 25, 2008 – 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Stewart Avenue P.S. Library
Tuesday December 9, 2008 – 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Stewart Avenue P.S. Library