



Waterloo Region
District School Board

Southeast Galt

Elementary Schools Pupil
Accommodation Review

Accommodation Review Committee Meeting #1

September 23, 2008

Lincoln Avenue P.S., 4:30 – 6:00



1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Role of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)
3. Background/Explanation of the Accommodation Review Process
4. Objectives
5. Valuation Templates
6. Future Meeting Dates:
 - Tuesday September 30, 2008
 - Tuesday October 14, 2008
 - Tuesday November 4, 2008 Public Meeting #1
7. Questions/Other



The ARC consists of:

- At least 2 parents from each school
- The principal from each school
 - Sue Thorne-McCaffrey, Alison Park
 - Brian Ward, Avenue Road
 - Cindy Benedetti, Chalmers Street
 - Central, Geoffrey Suderman-Gladwell
 - Manchester, Allan Mackay
 - Lincoln Avenue, Linda Rogers
 - Stewart Avenue, Leslie Tinning
- The school area superintendent
 - Diane DeCoene
- Planning Staff
 - Chris Smith, Manager
 - Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner
 - Lauren Manske, Planner
- Study area municipal representation
 - City of Cambridge
- Up to 2 community representations
 - YMCA of Cambridge
- One other representative as the Board deems appropriate
 - Jim Berry, Assistant Superintendent Learning Services (Special Education)



The ARC is responsible for:

- School Valuation Framework
- Public Information and Access
- Community Consultation and Public Meetings
- School Valuation Report and Recommendations



- The ARC may to customize the board’s generic School Valuation Framework to the schools under review. The School Valuation Framework must include the four considerations: value to the student, community, school board and the local economy



- ARCs are to ensure that all information relevant to the accommodation review is to be made public by posting it in a prominent location on the school board's website or making it available in print on request

<http://www.wrdsb.on.ca/accommodation-segalt.php>

- All information that is used to determine the value of a school must be publicly available
- Where relevant information is technical in nature, it is to be explained in plain language



Community Consultation and Public Meetings

- Consultations must be based on the customized School Valuation Framework in order to elicit input from the various perspectives around the value of the school
- The ARC must seek input and community feedback on options for accommodating students who would be affected by a school closure
- At a minimum, ARCs are required to hold four public meetings to consult and to present the School Valuation Framework report and recommendations
- Minutes reflecting the full range of opinions expressed at the meetings are to be kept, and made publicly available



School Valuation Report and Recommendations

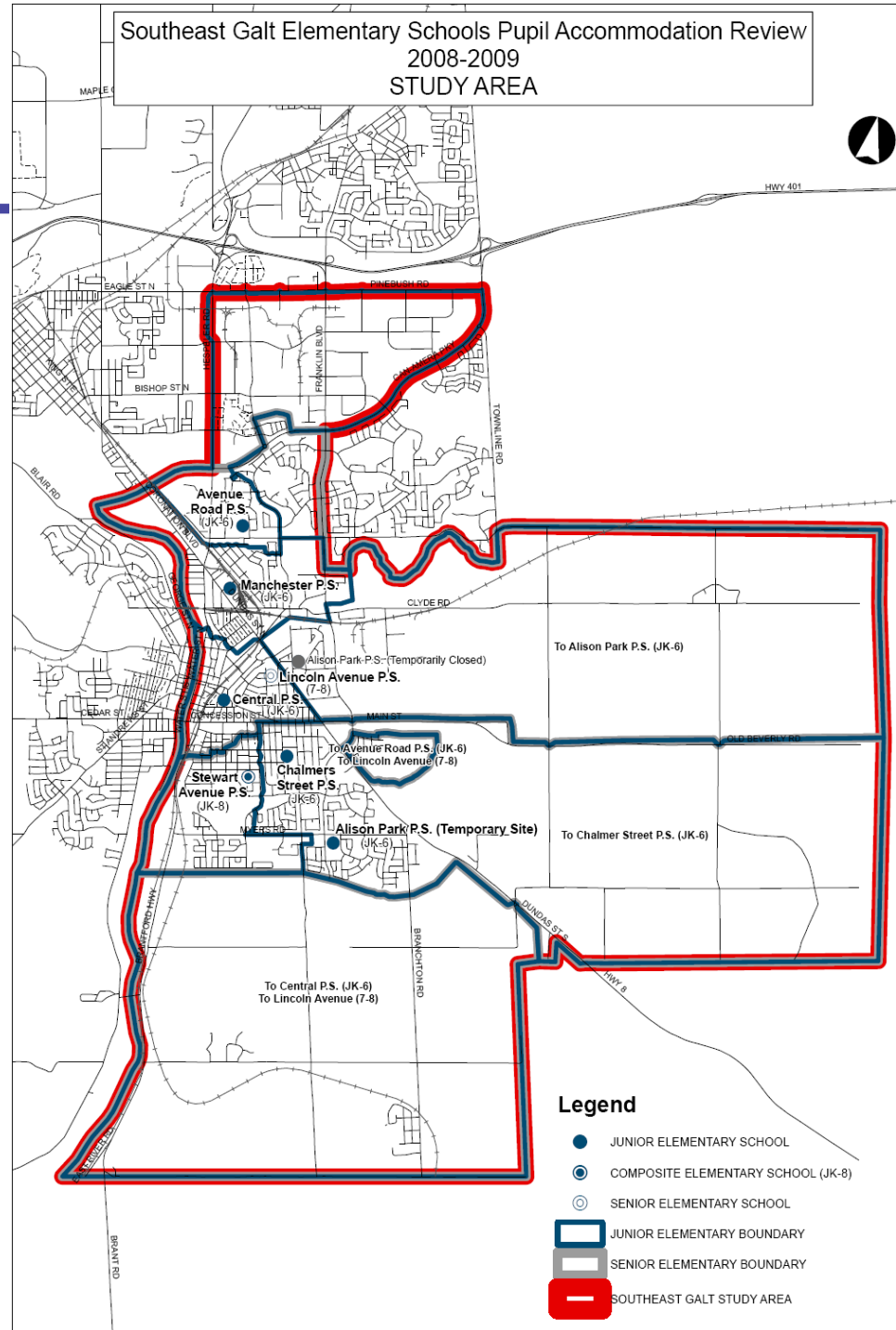
- ARCs must complete a School Valuation report for each school reviewed, using the customized School Valuation Framework, that will make recommendations regarding the future of the schools being considered and submit the report to the school board administration
- The needs of all students within southeast Galt study area are to be considered
- ARCs must share the School Valuation report, in plain language, with the community at a public meeting



- **November 19, 2007** – Board’s Capital Plan identifies East side Galt schools including Alison Park, Manchester, Lincoln Avenue, Chalmers Street, Central and Stewart Avenue identified as a community to be considered for possible consolidation of schools
- **November 2007 to May 2008** – pupil accommodation review in east Galt area considered to be of moderate urgency because residential development in area stalled
- **May 10, 2008** – A fire at Alison Park P.S. causes irreparable damage to the school, displacing staff and students, and accelerates the urgency of an accommodation review
- **June 23, 2008** – Board approves staff recommendation to commence a Pupil Accommodation Review in the East Side Galt Community including Alison Park, Avenue Road, Manchester, Lincoln Avenue, Chalmers Street and Stewart Avenue Public Schools.
- **September 2, 2008** – 60 day period between Board announcement of Accommodation Review and first public consultation begins.



Southeast Galt Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review 2008-2009 STUDY AREA





Current Enrolment and Capacity

School	Built Capacity (2008)	Built Capacity with Portapack (2008)	Enrolment - Sept 12, 2008 Unofficial		% Capacity
			Total	FTE	
Alison Park	-	-	148	126.5	N/A
Avenue Road	282	282	280	250.5	89%
Central	236	236	242	207	88%
Chalmers Street	222	360	465	401	111%
Lincoln Avenue	423	423	420	420	99%
Manchester	256	256	310	267.5	104%
Stewart Avenue	483	621	586	541	87%

FTE refers to Full Time Enrolment – Kindergarten students counted as half a student because they only use the facilities half the time
 % Capacity = FTE/Built Capacity with Portapack



Why an Accommodation Review?

- The potential exists within an area under the jurisdiction of the Board to accommodate existing and projected students in fewer educational facilities;
- Due to declining enrolment, a school or group of schools is unable, or projected to be unable to:
 - Provide a suitable and equitable range of learning opportunities for students;
 - Under normal staffing allocations, organize with split classes of no more than two grades;
- Reorganization involving the school or group of schools could enhance program and learning opportunities for students;
- Teaching and learning spaces and the site are not suitable to provide the programs and accessibility needed to serve the community, and retrofitting and/or enlarging the facility may be cost prohibitive;
- One or more of the schools is experiencing higher building maintenance expenses than average for the system and/or is in need of major capital improvements;
- The Board has received a formal request from a school community or communities requesting a review of their pupil accommodation facilities



The need to consider the possible consolidation or closure of a school within Southeast Galt exists because of:

- Overcrowding
- Facility condition
- Site limitations
- Enrolment decline
- New development
- Financing



Sample Study Objectives

- Where possible, keep Alison Park students together
- Review current elementary schools organization
- Address size of schools with respect to enrolment and having regard for the Good Schools Standing Committee Report of 2007 guidelines on school size and organization
- Determine need for new school in Southeast Galt
- Determine permanent option for Alison Park facility and students
- Establish mid to long-term boundaries and viability of all schools involved in the study area through valuation templates
- Support optimal use of facilities, capital and operating resources
- Support equitable program opportunities and that program be key to the solution and continue high standards
- Address facility issue at existing schools
- Address community schools/transportation that is within reasonable travel time, distance and cost
- That facilities support programs by providing safe and secure environments for students and staff
- Maintain/develop equitable facilities – school, site and condition – that are financially feasible
- Address student transitions where changes are proposed



- Review generic school valuation framework as approved by the Board on November 19, 2007
- Customize template as necessary
- Review information already completed on templates, any errors, omissions, questions?



- ARC to complete valuation framework
- First public meeting – November 4, 2008 (will need to hold 4 public meetings total)
- ARC meets to discuss existing conditions, options, and recommendations
- ARC prepares School Valuation Report and Recommendations



- Website: www.wrdsb.on.ca
 - » Boundary Studies and Accommodation Reviews
 - » Southeast Galt Elementary Schools Accommodation Review
- E-mail: boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca
- Phone: 519-570-0003 ext. 4419