



**Southeast Galt Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation
Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 5
November 25, 2008 - 4:30 pm**

The fifth meeting of the Southeast Galt Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Stewart Avenue Public School, on November 25, 2008.

Committee Members Present:

Sue Thorne-McCaffrey, Principal of Alison Park P.S., Allan MacKay, Principal of Manchester P.S., Brian Ward, Principal of Avenue Road P.S., Geoff Suderman-Gladwell, Principal of Central P.S., Wendy Daley, Vice Principal of Stewart Ave. P.S., Heather Forman, Vice Principal of Chalmers Street P.S., Brian Beney, Vice Principal of Lincoln Avenue P.S., Amneh Hamdan, Immigrant Services, Cambridge YMCA, Terri Nikolasevic, parent – Stewart Ave. P.S., Colleen Cade, parent – Chalmers St. P.S., Ann Quenneville, parent – Central P.S., Linda Roechner, parent – Chalmers Street P.S., Tracy Wegener, parent – Central 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, Area Superintendent, Jim Kirchin, Director of Planning Operations – City of Cambridge, Jim Berry, Assistant Superintendent – Special Education, Linda Rogers, Principal of Lincoln Avenue P.S., Cindy Benedetti, Principal of Chalmers Street P.S., Leslie Tinning, Principal of Stewart Ave. P.S., Michele List, parent – Stewart Avenue P.S., Colin and Jennifer Kevan, parents – Manchester P.S., Janis Doran, parent – Central P.S., Muhammad Arif, parent – Alison Park 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. Mr. Smith welcomed Brian Beney to the ARC, Vice Principal of Lincoln Avenue P.S. Brian will be filling in for Linda Rogers, Principal of Lincoln Avenue P.S., for the next several months.
- Wendy Daley took the committee on a tour of Stewart Avenue P.S., noting some of the facilities highlights and challenges and how some of the facilities are used by students and staff.

2. Meetings # 3 & # 4 – draft minutes approval

- Mr. Smith asked if there were any comments or corrections on the draft minutes from our October 28, 2008 and November 11, 2008 meetings. None were raised.
- Minutes from October 28, 2008 were approved, mover: Linda Roechner, seconded: Brian Beney

- Minutes from November 11, 2008 were approved, mover: Colleen Cade, seconded: Terri Nikolasevic

3. Questions or comments

- Public feedback from our boundary website was reviewed as part of the presentation highlighting the comments with regards to the scenarios that were created at the last meeting.

4. Ongoing: Draft Objectives & Valuation Templates

- Mr. Smith asked if there was anything to add to the objectives. Group advised they had nothing to add. The valuation templates are almost complete, and will be summarized for each school when all the information has been submitted.

5. Continue Scenario Development

- Lauren Manske presented 3 new scenarios to the group:
- **Scenario 4(a)** Build new school in SE corner (JK-8), joint site with St. Anne, convert Avenue Road to JK-8, close Lincoln Avenue, Manchester and Alison Park.
- **Scenario 4(b)** Build new school in SE corner (JK-8), joint site with St. Anne, convert Avenue Road to JK-8, close Lincoln Avenue, Manchester and Alison Park.
- The differences in these two scenarios being the areas that feed into them.
- **Scenario 5** Close Alison Park, Lincoln Avenue, build new school in SE corner (JK-8), joint site with St. Anne and convert Avenue Road to JK-8.
- A question was raised as to why in scenario 4(a) area K was cut out of Central and sent to Stewart Avenue (which is overcrowded).
 - Response was that it does not have to be done, we can re-work the scenario, but the concern was students crossing over busy Main Street to go to Central. Area K represents 48 students (JK-6).
- Why is Avenue Road showing enrolment at 271 in 2008, then in 2018 it's almost 600?
 - In all 3 new scenarios, it is proposed that Avenue Road be converted to a JK-8 school, therefore enrolment would increase and an addition would be necessary to accommodate this new program.
- The enrolment projections were left out of the presentation for scenario 5, and will be forwarded to the group to be added to their binders.
- Where is the new school in these scenarios going to be built?
 - Could be somewhere in areas S & Q.
- Does the Board own this property?
 - No, in the review area we only own the school sites, and have a commitment with the City of Cambridge for the joint site in Southeast Galt, east of Dundas Street.
- Concern was raised that Dundas Street is very busy; the speed limit goes from 80km down to 60km in area M. With the new school being built in area S/Q what will be done for crossing safely?
 - Area M would initially be bussed to the new school, and we could work with the City/Region to have a light and crossing guard installed at some point if warranted.

- This is something we would look at once boundaries are established. We would not have elementary school students crossing Hwy 8 as things are now.
- Could a walkway over the highway be constructed?
 - It would have to be fully accessible, thereby making it very big, and could cost in the millions of dollars. Winter maintenance, etc. would be an issue – who would look after it, so this is an unlikely option.
 - In scenario 5, will bussing overall be reduced or increased?
 - Bussing would be reduced in the 7-8 program overall, area M is already bussed, so no change there.
 - Regarding the joint site with St. Anne and Alison Park, have we talked to the Catholic Board?
 - Only preliminary discussions have taken place with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board Planning Staff, and they are bringing the idea forward to Trustees on December 8, 2008. The properties abut, there is lots of playground, the City has a community centre at St. Anne; so there are positives to this scenario. We would have to do a mock up – what we would need, what they want, but it is an option that could be considered seriously, provided both parties are interested/willing.
 - Mr. Smith asked Sue Thorne-McCaffrey how her Alison Park school community may feel about a joint site, being that the biggest plus would be staying in the neighbourhood.
 - Sue responded that there was no negative reaction when the idea was raised at school council, they were rather neutral. Staff comments were positive however. Ms. Thorne-McCaffrey noted that Alison Park holds their School Council meetings at St. Anne as it is easier for parent representatives to access.
 - St Anne is a JK-8 school, and Alison Park is JK-6, how would this work?
 - We have not looked at this yet. From a community perspective for the Boards, a joint site is a positive, because it keeps a presence in the community. However, we have to caution that we have not heard back from WCDSB Staff as to whether their Board would even support such an option. If they aren't a willing partner, this scenario couldn't proceed further.
 - Would there be room for Alison Park to go to a JK-8 program to match St. Anne?
 - It was one of the first things we looked at, but the numbers don't work. There are currently 23 grade 6 students at Alison Park. This is not enough for one grade 7 and one grade 8 class (typically they are loaded to 28 students), and we would want 2 to 3 classes per grade for a viable program.
 - A comment was made that there is also a possibility that we might lose some students to the Catholic program, they may want to stay in the same school for grades 7 and 8.
 - Possibly, but students have an easy walk to Lincoln Avenue for 7-8, so should retain.
 - Mr. Smith asked Brian Beney, Vice Principal at Lincoln Avenue, what he thought about the scenarios all being JK-8 schools, was there any feedback from his senior school?
 - Brian said that the staff is very supportive of the 7-8 program, as a good transition for the students to high school, as well as the ability to offer different program options that the composite schools don't have. He did mention that having 5 schools feed into Lincoln Avenue does have its challenges, some parents and students have had issues with this.
 - Mr. Smith asked Brian Ward, Principal at Avenue Road, what he thought about his school converting to a JK-8 program.

- Brian replied that Avenue Road used to be a JK-8 school, and he felt that the community would be okay with this, but no real talk right now.
 - A question was raised regarding the new scenarios: could areas G & H go to Stewart Avenue rather than Central?
 - Planning staff will look into this.
 - A question was asked: Instead of sending Chalmers Street to Stewart for 7-8, why can't they go to the new school? Then send Central to Stewart Avenue instead of Chalmers, this would keep some consistency with the current high school boundaries.
 - Planning staff will look at this, and factor in the current feeds to the high schools.
 - For students in grade 7 and 8, what is the distance in kilometers that they qualify for bussing?
 - They qualify for bussing at a distance of 3.5 km, based on streets with sidewalks, walkways, etc.
 - A comment was made that; in scenario 3, the new school students would be bussed to Lincoln Avenue for grade 7-8, this does not make sense.
 - That is why these scenarios are developed, and re-worked, and your input is important.
6. School Tour Details: December 5, 2008, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. approx.
- Mr. Smith advised that the bus has been ordered for the ARC schools tour scheduled for Friday December 5, 2008.
 - The group is to meet at the Duncan McIntosh Arena in Cambridge at 1:00 p.m. for a tour to take a quick look inside and outside of each school. The tour should conclude at approximately 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. We will tour Avenue Road, Central, Chalmers Street, Lincoln Avenue and Manchester (Stewart Avenue was toured at the beginning of tonight's meeting).
7. Roundtable
- Mr. Smith advised that the next Public Meeting will likely be towards the end of January 2009. We will provide break out rooms for this meeting, so that the scenarios can be discussed and feedback gathered in smaller work groups, before being brought back to the whole group. We will endeavour to have Urdu interpretation available for one room at least. We would like to get down to 1 or 2 scenarios to take back to the Board, but that may take more than one meeting.
8. Future Meeting Dates
- The next meeting will be Tuesday December 9, 2008 at Stewart Avenue, and will be spent working on scenarios specifically.
 - Chris Smith thanked all for coming; meeting ended at 6:00 pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

**Bus Tour, December 5, 1:00 – 4:00, Duncan McIntosh Arena Parking Lot
Tuesday December 9, 2008 – 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Stewart Avenue P.S. Library**