



**Waterloo Region
District School Board**

Southeast Galt Elementary Pupil Accommodation Review

Accommodation Review Committee, Meeting # 12

Thursday, April 30, 2009 – 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Stewart Avenue Public School

A G E N D A

1. **Welcome**
2. **Meeting # 11 – draft minutes approval**
3. **Ongoing:**
 - **Questions or comments**
 - **Objectives**
 - **Valuation Templates**
4. **Public Meeting Recap and Feedback**
5. **ARC Report/Recommendation**
6. **Roundtable**
7. **Future Meeting Dates:**
 - **Thursday, May 21, 2009 @ Stewart Avenue from 4:30 – 6:00 pm**
 - **Public Meeting # 4 (Open House) Tuesday, May 26, 2009 @ Lincoln Avenue from 4:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Southeast Galt Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review
Public Meeting # 3
April 21, 2009**

Comments Received via Comment Sheets or Email

Suggestion: Put French Immersion in Chalmers St to increase enrolment especially in Scenario F

Both Scenario B and F are good, want the new school

Why are S1 and S2 split? S2 should go to new school with S1. Q2 should possibly go to Chalmers
– Chalmers Parent

I like everything about Scenario B except for Chalmers students going to the new school...I have concerns regarding the distance that students would have to walk (being at the most western portion of the boundary)

I don't like that Manchester students would be separated in Scenario F (out of principle) when every effort is being made to keep Alison Park students together (especially since it was to be slated for closure)
– Chalmers Parent

My preference would be Scenario B. It makes the most sense financially. I am in favour of the scenario that includes a new JK-8 on Myers/Dundas

Would love for my daughters to be able to walk to their school – currently bussed to Chalmers.

A bit disappointed that the new school won't be ready for September 2010. Any chance the recommendation could include an opening date of January 2011 (bused kids would go from Chalmers and Alison Park can leave the church). Boundary changes could take place Sept 2011.
– Chalmers Parent

After attending all public meeting and see all options my suggestion would be to support Option B. I feel that all meetings were run wonderfully and very informative. I see the issues parent in the possible closing schools but the closing of a school is not the everything.

In response to the comment that Manchester would be split 3 ways in place of splitting apart Alison Park. PLEASE keep in mind that Alison Park has been through one tragic event – splitting them apart would be tragic event number 2.

If the subdivision builds up around the proposed new school on Myers, those kids will be within walking distance. I'm sure that eventually it will make more sense to stop bussing Alison Park, etc. students and they'll be "kicked out". So, instead of dealing with another situation wherein another school will be needed (for AP, etc.) later on, does it not make sense to build the 2nd school now (on Lauris)?

As a father of a special needs student (autism) I'd prefer my child remain at this school as opposed to moving to a new one – transition. What is my recourse?
– Chalmers Parent

Although I understand the rationale behind the shift away from Sr. Elementary schools, our family remains concerned about the closure of Lincoln Ave. Moving onto Lincoln Avenue just this summer, we thought we were moving onto a quite dead end street where our sons could easily/quickly/safely travel to Sr. Elementary. If (or when) Lincoln Ave P.S. closes, we are concerned about what will be done with the property across from our home. This is the neighbourhood we grew up in. We moved here to provide our family with the benefits listed above but we are frustrated that we will now need to sell our house in order to also protect our financial investment due to the uncertainty of the adjacent property.

Students from area behind Boston Pizza in the future will need to be attending area school, so it makes sense to build both schools now. Scenario B and F as boundary will change again in a few years to accommodate them. Alison Park students have had three boundary changes over the past number of years to accommodate new schools. It's time to leave Alison Park students in their neighbourhood in their own school. Many Manchester addresses walked to Alison Park for 25 years and now you're concerned for safety and need to bus all of Manchester or is this just to inflate the cost so the Myers Rd area school looks more favourable?

A new Myers Rd school would be right in the area of a new subdivision. When this housing is built, it seems likely to have those students attend the new school and reshuffle Alison Park kids down the road again. Doesn't seem like the best decision to permanently locate Alison Park and Manchester (etc) now at the 420 Lauris Ave site instead of moving them in the future?

Scenario B seems to be the better option as the cost would be much less. In Scenario F you seem to be trying to keep Alison Park students together by separating Manchester students three separate ways.
– Chalmers Parent

It does seem senseless to develop a new scenario just to keep a school together only to split another one. Again, as stated at the last meeting, I hope that any decision is not being driven by emotional reasons – such as keeping a school together because of their school burnt down. Every school must be given the same consideration.

I'm not sure the message that this accommodation review was going to happen pre-fire and that Alison Park was considered inefficient given its size – Sue Thorne-McCaffrey did a good job talking to the parents at the last meeting to address this issue. Perhaps she has to have that talk again to clear up the confusion between the accommodation review that was always going to happen vs. the unpredicted fire.

I'm concerned about transition for youth from K-6 to Avenue for 7-8.
Also concerned about traffic issues around Elgin and students walking to Avenue Road

Why is Manchester possibly split 3 ways – affects youth's sense of community and transitional issues

What other option for Elgin student in gr. 7 rather than Avenue? Some parent may be concerned about neighbourhood safety issues.

All schools should be K-8!

Could Elgin be extended upwards to accommodate gr. 7/8?
– Elgin Parent

It seems like every consideration again was given to Alison Park to get back what they had before at the expense of students at other schools – please give other schools the same consideration.

Are “lunch” issues addressed in a new school (ie. Cafeteria) so kids don't eat in classrooms? Note: the money we save in Scenario B should include this.
Scenario B is considerably more cost effective – seems to be the best

Will the new building be air conditioned?

What happens to staff? How are they divided?

Should keep Manchester together.

Why split Manchester 3 ways in order to accommodate Alison Park staying together?

It seems as though there has been much consideration to Alison Park due to emotions of the loss due to the fire. All schools need to have the same consideration and be treated equally in the process.

Love Plan F

Guarantee catholic students will change back to public

I'm so excited for new school on Myers
– Chalmers Parent

As a parent of two students attending Alison Park Public School, I am deeply interested in the outcome of the Galt Public Schools Accom. Review. I am also aware that at least one new school will be built, that my children may attend.

I would like to see this new school be built according to a "GREEN" initiative, using a 'green roof', which saves 20% of heat loss and keeps the school 35% cooler in warm weather. Also, I want to see solar power implemented so that we can stand for a cleaner, greener education, and also being wise economically, as unused energy can be sold back to the hydro company. Please also consider a green wall in the new school(s) and as part of additions that are made to existing schools.

Let's be leaders in this area.

I am a proud parent of a son (7) and daughter (3). As someone who takes a great interest in the education my children will receive, I have been closely following the events regarding the re-shaping of the southeast Galt education system. I take an even keener interest than most because my son is a special needs student (he has Autism).

After attending the second public meeting at Lincoln Avenue school I was very upbeat. I appreciated the transparency and efforts made to make the accommodations as easy as possible. The scenarios listed for those who live in the S quadrant would've had my son staying at Chalmers Street School (where the support he's received has been nothing short of phenomenal - we even passed up an opportunity for IBI therapy for him so he could stay at Chalmers full time) or attending the new school. Basically we considered it a win-win situation.

Much to my surprise and dismay I find the new scenarios being recommended (B & F) have split the S quadrant into S1 and S2. My family resides in the S1 quadrant. Under both of these scenarios my son and daughter will be required to go to Stewart Avenue school. This is extremely frustrating. I'm sure Stewart Avenue is a fine school with a solid program but the special education

department at Chalmers has been exemplary and I would prefer my son remain there as opposed to moving. We feel it would be detrimental to the progress he has made thus far if he has to be uprooted from the situation that he is accustomed to.

I am a parent with three children currently attending Chalmers Street Public School and we reside in a home on Dudhope Avenue right in between Chalmers Street Public School and Stewart Avenue Public School.

In reviewing the information on the website and reading the letter that came home yesterday with my children, it appears that both options being considered (Scenarios B & F) will have my children walking to the new school out by Myers Road for grades 7 & 8.

I currently walk my children to school everyday and I find it disconcerting to think that we are living between two public schools and yet my children will have to walk way out to the edge of the city to attend school. I understand the boundaries have to be drawn somewhere and you only have certain plots of land available to build on, but I'm sure you can understand my opposition to having my children walk in excess of 5 km/day when we have two schools within blocks of our home. When my first son begins to attend this new school, not only will he have to walk in inclement weather but also will walk alone as neither of his siblings will be attending that school. We only have one vehicle which my husband uses to go to work so walking is our only option.

I am much in favour of expanding Chalmers Street P.S. as it is central to the community in which it serves. I am disappointed in the options being considered and the consequences it will have for my family.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.

Concern #1: Building a big school in the Myers area where the new development is happening will eventually gain a big population of students within walking distance. What happens to bused students like Alison Park then? I believe it will eventually lead to yet another Accommodation Review, etc. so why not build the new school on old Alison Park site now?

Concern #2: In response to concern that Manchester P.S. would be split up so that Alison Park could stay together

- Keeping AP together is objective #1 of ARC
- Manchester's building is in need of REPAIR
- AP students have already gone through a huge ordeal – splitting them up would be yet another blow