

June 3, 2009

Linda Fabi, Director of Education

WRDSB Members of Executive Committee

Re: Southeast Galt Pupil Accommodation Review – Valuation Report and Recommendations

Dear Director Fabi,

Please find attached, the Valuation Report and Recommendations developed by the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for the Pupil Accommodation Review of the Southeast Galt community in the City of Cambridge, approved by the Board on June 23, 2008.

The schools involved in this Accommodation Review are: Alison Park, Avenue Road, Central, Chalmers Street, Lincoln Avenue, Manchester and Stewart Avenue Public Schools. While not specifically listed, Elgin Street P.S. is involved to the extent that Grade 6 students currently graduate to Lincoln Avenue P.S for the Senior Elementary program.

Through a public consultative process, the ARC has narrowed down and reviewed with the public two scenarios to address the elementary accommodation issues facing the WRDSB in this community, including the loss of the Alison Park school facility to fire in May 2008.

Of the two, Scenario B is the preferred option of the ARC based on the committee's evaluation of the components of this scenario using the Review Objectives; however, Scenario F would also provide the WRDSB and the community with an accommodation solution. Attached is an Executive Summary with the ARC's detailed recommendation(s).

Key to the consideration of the merits of each of the proposals and scenarios reviewed by the ARC, were the Review Objectives. These were developed by the ARC in draft form and presented at every Public Meeting. The potential for Scenarios B and F to address the existing and future accommodation needs of the review area by meeting those Objectives was paramount in the ARC's discussions.

Also important in the ARC discussions was the appropriate placement of area classes for Special Needs students to ensure community-based locations that provide the opportunity for students to access these programs in a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 setting. Individual, school-based supports would continue where those students would be changing home school attendance.

The interest in generating at least one location for Grade 1 to 8 French Immersion program in the Accommodation Review area was also a key consideration.

As part of the background information, School Valuations are required to be completed for each school in the Review from four perspectives: value to the student, the Board, the community and the local economy. The ARC took the position that all the schools were *equal* in value in providing its respective elementary education program – that includes the Alison Park school organization which continues to function intact at a temporary location. School Valuations were

completed following the ARC's modified School Valuation Framework and provide detailed information about each school.

The full Valuation Report of the ARC also accompanies this submission. That package contains the recommended scenarios, including cost estimates, School Valuations, ARC Meeting minutes, Public Meeting minutes, the Review Objectives, samples of meeting notices, flyers and advertisements, early scenarios considered, summaries of public comments and suggestions received during the process and relevant reports.

This information can also be viewed online at: www.wrdsb.on.ca/accommodation-segalt.php or in hard copy at each of the schools involved in the Accommodation Review and at the WRDSB Education Centre in the offices of the Executive Officer.

The Accommodation Review Committee, in accordance with Board Policy 4000, was comprised of the school principals from each of the seven schools in the Review, two school representatives from each school in the Review, a staff member from the City of Cambridge Planning and Development Department, an at-large community representative and WRDSB Planning staff. Available for ARC consultation were City of Cambridge Engineering, Public Works and Transportation staff, WRDSB Learning Services (Program and Special Education) and Facilities staff. The ARC membership is attached as Appendix 'B'.

During the Accommodation Review process, the ARC met thirteen times and held four public meetings, as requested by the WRDSB's Accommodation Review Policy, and consistent with the Ontario Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines published October 31, 2006.

The schedules of the ARC and Public Meetings are attached as Appendix 'C'. Minutes for both sets of meetings were recorded, and can be found in the full Valuation Report document.

It is important to note that the recommendations of the ARC for the Elementary Pupil Accommodation in the Southeast Galt Accommodation Review area were arrived at by consensus at the ARC meeting of April 30, 2009.

The ARC is also recommending that work continue on the transition planning that will be required once the Trustees of the WRDSB make their decision on the future of the schools in the Accommodation Review area.

Respectfully submitted by the following members of the Southeast Galt Accommodation Review Committee:

Margaret Montague, Parent Alison Park P.S.
Muhammad Arif, Parent Alison Park P.S.
Koula Malatches, Parent Avenue Road P.S.
Ann Quenneville, Parent Central P.S./Lincoln Avenue P.S.
Janis Doran, Parent Central P.S.
Tracy Wegener, Parent Central P.S.
Linda Roechner, Parent Chalmers Street P.S.
Colleen Cade, Parent Chalmers Street P.S.
Jennifer Kevan, Parent Manchester P.S.

Colin Kevan, Parent Manchester P.S.
Terri Nikolasevic, Parent Stewart Avenue P.S.
Michelle List, Parent Stewart Avenue P.S.
Sue Thorne-McCaffrey, Principal Alison Park P.S.
Brian Ward, Principal Avenue Road P.S.
Geoff Suderman-Gladwell/
Jennifer Crits, Principal Central P.S. (Ms. Crits joined the ARC February 24, 2009. She assumed the role of Principal at Central P.S. March 2, 2009)
Cindy Benedetti, Principal Chalmers Street P.S.
Alan MacKay, Principal Manchester P.S.
Linda Rogers, Principal Lincoln Avenue P.S. (on leave as of November 25, 2009)
Brian Beney, Vice-Principal Lincoln Avenue P.S. (joined the ARC November 25, 2009 for Ms. Rogers)
Leslie Tinning, Principal Stewart Avenue P.S.
Diane DeCoene, Superintendent of Education, WRDSB (School Area Superintendent)
Amneh Hamdan, Immigrant Services Cambridge YMCA (Community Representative)
Jim Berry, Assistant Superintendent Learning Services (Special Education), WRDSB (Other Board Representative)
Jim Kirchin, Director of Planning Operations, City of Cambridge (Municipal Representation)
Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, WRDSB (Planning Staff/ARC Support)
Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, WRDSB (Planning Staff/ARC Support)
Lauren Manske, Planner, WRDSB (Planning Staff/ARC Support)
Mary Hingley, Planning Secretary, WRDSB (Planning Staff/ARC Support)