

SOUTHWEST KITCHENER SECONDARY BOUNDARY STUDY



The second Working Group meeting of the Southwest Kitchener Secondary Boundary Study, involving Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute, Forest Heights Collegiate Institute and Huron Heights Secondary School, was held at Huron Heights SS on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Ray Teed, Principal, Cameron Heights CI; Tina Rowe, Principal, Forest Heights CI; Jeff Klinck, Principal, Huron Heights SS; Judith Coatts, Parent Representative, Cameron Heights CI; Hadbaa Al Ghazy, Parent Representative, Forest Heights CI; Liya Ghannaiaman, Student Representative, Forest Heights CI; Amanda Young, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Amberlee O'Connor, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Debra Zanon-Barclay, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Melanie Bender, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Nicole Huskins, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; TJay Jandles, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Ron DeBoer, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Bill Lemon, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Nathan Hercanuck, Manager of Planning; Sarah Galliher, Senior Planner; Emily Bumbaco, Senior Planner; Shelby Selig, Recording Secretary

REGRETS:

Della Sousa, Parent Representative, Forest Heights CI; Kyla Gange, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Livia Krajcar, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Shaelie Mendes, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Graham Shantz, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Matthew Gerard, Superintendent of Business Services & Treasurer of the Board

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Sarah Galliher, Senior Planner, welcomed members of the Working Group and Board staff at 7:04 PM.

Ms. Galliher led the group through the presentation (available online at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/southwest-kitchener-secondary-boundary-study/>)

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES, SUMMARY OF LAST MEETING

Ms. Galliher asked if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes from Working Group meeting #1. The Working Group requested to amend the minutes to include the current number of available pupil places at Preston HS.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (NOVEMBER 27 KICK OFF MEETING)

The Working Group requested a motion to amend the minutes.

Moved by: Amanda Young

Seconded by: Judith Coutts

The minutes from Working Group meeting #1 were approved as amended.

Moved by: Nicole Huskins

Seconded by: Debra Zanon-Barclay

4. BREAK OUT ACTIVITY

Ms. Galliher directed the Working Group to break off into individual school groups and compose a list of some of the specific issues that their communities are dealing with.

Issues Identification

The Working Group shared the issues identified in their breakout groups, and participated in an activity using Mentimeter, the results can be viewed [here](#).

Objective Development

Using the Mentimeter the Working Group identified common issues shared between the schools and potential objectives that may be considered for future objective development. Ms. Galliher noted that transportation and walking seem to be the most prominent. She also noted that objective development can continue to be fluid up until the point of the first Public Meeting, where the Group will need to formalize what they would like the objectives of the final recommendation to the Board of Trustees to encompass.

Ms. Galliher invited each of the three school groups to identify the key points for objective development:

Forest Heights CI

- bus drop off
- safety of students having to walk across the bridge over highway 8, past the exit ramps.

Cameron Heights CI

- possibility of IB students losing transportation
- safety of drop off and pick up of students
- LRT impacts the accessibility of the school for drop off and pick up

Huron Heights SS

- parents from the Glencairn and Country Hills neighbourhoods signed petitions to get Huron Heights SS built and as such are now concerned that their children may not be able to attend the school
- concerned about the potential redirecting of walking students which would make them eligible for transportation
- concerned about the Cameron Heights CI's neighbourhood surroundings, have concerns sending children to a downtown Kitchener school
- concerns about moving to older schools
- perceive an economic inequity if older subdivisions are being redirected rather than newer subdivisions

Ms. Galliher noted that school site traffic issues at many of our schools suggests a low uptake of walking. The WRDSB, in partnership with the co-terminus school board and cities supports a dedicated [School Travel Planner](#) position (Leslie Maxwell). School Travel Planning seeks to reduce traffic at schools and to encourage more families to use active transportation modes like walking, cycling, and scootering, for their school journey.

Additionally, it was noted that walkability is a consideration when conducting a boundary study. It is not ideal to take students that are able to walk to their neighbourhood school and move them onto a bus, however we do need to be realistic about the fact that not all students living in the walk zone are actually walking to school.

- Q: *The grade 9 & 10 students at Huron Heights SS would like to know if grandparenting could be considered in this boundary study, as there is reluctance to transfer when they are in their senior years.*
- R: *Ms. Galliher responded that grandparenting is a key piece of any boundary change and will be a consideration in this boundary review. More detailed information on the implications of grandparenting is included in tonight's presentation.*

5. SCHOOL PROFILES – FACILITY OVERVIEW OF STUDY AREA SCHOOLS

Ms. Galliher requested the Working Group review the school profile handout provided at the initial Working Group meeting, this information was provided to add context about the three secondary schools ages, capacities, specialty spaces and site sizes. Referring to slides 6-14 of the online presentation Ms. Galliher comparatively reviewed the school sites making note of additional specialized rooms at each school. Facility Condition Indexes (FCI) were defined as the way the Board assesses the renewal needs of a school based on the five year renewal costs compared to the complete replacement cost of the school. Lower FCIs are better than higher FCIs, all of the schools in the study area have good FCIs.

6. OPTION 1

Ms. Galliher reviewed scenario 1 with the Working Group (slides 15 and 16 of the online presentation). In this scenario Country Hills and Glencairn PS boundaries (illustrated with the salmon hatching on the map) are removed from Huron Heights SS boundary and directed to Forest Height CI. Enrolment projections shown on table 4 are for full implementation, meaning that any grade 9 to 12 student in the two areas being redirected are moved to Forest Heights in the implementation year (2020).

Grandparenting Impacts

Shown on slide 17 of the online presentation, Ms. Bumbaco reviewed the impact of grandparenting on Huron Heights SS in option 1 and 2; both options are shown on the same graph as the same number of students are redirected in both scenarios. The orange bar on the graph represents full implementation in 2020, the grey bar on the graph represents only grandparenting grade 12 students in 2020 (grades 9-11 are redirected) and the yellow bar represents allowing all existing students to finish at Huron Heights SS.

There was discussion on whether the student numbers at Glencairn and Country Hills would have significant enough of an impact if redirected from Huron Heights SS.

- Q: *When we are reviewing these scenarios are we looking at how students will get back home if they are not able to take school provided transportation? If students live in the South end of Doon city buses don't go past Huron Heights SS, this eliminates the ability of some students to take part in after school activities. If we are redirecting any area we need to keep public transportation in consideration.*
- R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that it is always an objective of the Board to have neighbourhood schools, that being said it is not always feasible due to factors such as geography, Ministry funding etc. It is a worthy objective for every school to have a neighbourhood boundary however, this won't necessarily be an objective we will be able to achieve with this boundary study since it is intended to be an interim solution for the overcrowding at Huron Heights SS. We are still hoping to obtain capital funding for an additional school in Southwest Kitchener as well as a potential addition to Huron Heights SS.*
- Ms. Rowe, Principal at Forest Heights CI, added that neighbourhood boundaries are a meaningful objective as staff are also supportive of students being able to stay after school and participate in activities that add to the school and student experience.*
- Q: *Outside of the Development Areas are there still subdivisions being built in the boundaries allocated to Huron Heights SS? If so, could we consider making them Development Areas and redirecting them to another school?*
- R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that there are still possible future phases of development that are currently in Huron Heights SS boundary that haven't been included in the enrolment projections as they are currently in the Secondary Plan stage. A Secondary Plan is a development study for a large geographic area which comes before the actual development plans and phasing details. Future development is not included in enrolment projections because information about the unit types and counts is not yet available. There are some active developments that form part of the enrolment projections that have been registered and still have remaining units.*
- Q: *They are looking at building apartment buildings in the Strasburg extension area within the next couple of years, has this been taken into consideration when we are looking at boundaries?*
- R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that development plans are shared with us for comment and Planning staff ensures this data is included in enrolment projections. Ms. Galliher added that typically apartment buildings, being higher density, yield a lower number of students compared to lower density units (e.g. single detached houses). In general, apartment buildings or stacked condominiums yield 8 elementary students per 100 units on average and even fewer secondary students.*
- Q: *Is it possible to run two school days in one day (i.e. Huron Heights SS has a morning school and an afternoon school) so it could take twice the amount of students?*
- R: *Superintendent Lemon responded that we would like to stay within the Board's current confines of program delivery. There would be a number of implications to changing the delivery model such as student access to their after school jobs and extracurricular activities among other impacts.*
- Q: *If grandfathering is a consideration for this Boundary Study are we considering that any siblings of students currently at Huron Heights SS would be able to attend Huron Heights SS in the future?*
- R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that if it is achievable it has been a consideration in past Boundary Studies. With the current over enrolment at Huron Heights SS this may not be achievable, as this works against the objective of reducing enrolment at Huron Heights SS.*

Referring to slide 18 of the online presentation, Ms. Bumbaco went through the impacts on Forest Heights CI if grandparenting was implemented. The orange bar on the graph represents full implementation in 2020 (all students are redirected), the grey bar on the graph represents only grandparenting grade 12 students in 2020 (grades 9-11 are redirected) and the yellow bar represents allowing all existing students to finish at Huron Heights SS.

Transportation Implications, Walking Webs

Ms. Galliher reviewed the walking webs handout and impacts on transportation for scenario 1 on slides 19 & 20 of the online presentation. The base map on each of the walking webs is the status quo boundary. The green webs are visual representations of the walking distance (3.2 KM) measured out for each of the schools, which don't necessarily respect the schools boundary.

Walking Webs – [HHSS](#), [CHCI](#), [FHCI](#).

Q: Are these walking webs strictly based only on kilometers, not sidewalk availability? I can see that WT Townshend PS students are expected to walk over the expressway.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that these webs do take into account walkability. The route for WT Townshend students is a walkable route as there is a sidewalk available on the overpass over the expressway, and there are currently students that attend Forest Heights CI that could use this route if they were to walk to school.

Temporary Accommodation Needs (Portables)

On slide 21 of the online presentation Ms. Galliher reviewed the air photo of Forest Heights CI site plan, showing where the potential portables could be placed if scenario 1 was selected.

Feeder School Implications

On slide 22 of the online presentation Ms. Galliher reviewed the feeder school implications in all three scenarios (status quo, option 1 and option 2) in regards to eliminating split feeds. Both options represent an improvement for Laurentian PS in that they remove the Huron Heights SS feed. Queensmount PS sees no change in split feeds for option 1, option 2 reduces the split feed as all students would be attending Forest Heights CI for secondary school.

7. OPTION 2

Grandparenting Impacts

On slide 25 and 26 of the online presentation Ms. Bumbaco reviewed the grandparenting impacts for scenario 2. The orange bar on the graph is representative as full implementation in 2020, the grey bar on the graph represents only grandparenting grade 12 students (grades 9-11 are redirected) and the yellow bar represents allowing all existing students to finish at Huron Heights SS.

Transportation Implications

Ms. Galliher reviewed the transportation implications on slide 27 of the online presentation.

Temporary Accommodation Needs (Portables)

On slide 28 of the online presentation Ms. Galliher reviewed the air photo of Forest Heights CI site plan, showing where the potential portables could be placed if scenario 2 was selected.

Feeder School Implications

On slide 29 of the online presentation Ms. Galliher reviewed the feeder school implications in all three scenarios (status quo, option 1 and option 2) in regards to eliminating split feeds. Both options represent an improvement for Laurentian PS in that they remove the Huron Heights SS feed. Queensmount PS sees no change in split feeds for option 1, option 2 reduces the split feed as all students would be attending Forest Heights CI for secondary school.

8. ROUND TABLE

Q: How do Groh PS students feed into the high schools? Are we able to consider making a larger area around Groh PS a Development Area for Secondary School and send those students within the DA to one of the other Secondary Schools in the study?

R: Ms. Galliher responded that the students located in Development Areas in the Groh boundary would attend Forest Heights PS and the students that attend Groh PS now will feed into Huron Heights SS. Planning staff will provide density numbers for neighbourhoods for the Working Group to contemplate alternative scenarios as suggested.

- Q: *For a school like Huron Heights SS where a majority of the students have the ability to walk to school, the traffic around this area during morning and afternoon bell times is terrible. The Working Group needs to take this into consideration during the study; as discussed earlier a large portion of the students who could be walking to Huron Heights SS are not. Should walkability be considered as a high priority in this study? Are we able to get information on vehicle traffic and actual student walking numbers around Huron Heights SS or other study area schools?*
- R: *Ms. Galliher responded that we may not be able to quantify the exact walking statistics for secondary school students.*
- Q: *Can we get a percentage of people who are bussed to each school?*
- R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that Planning staff can provide the numbers for students that are eligible for transportation, but cannot provide information on whether the students take the transportation provided.*
- Q: *Are program feeds such as French Immersion being considered during this boundary study?*
- R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that streamlining program feeds could be an objective during this boundary study.*
- Q: *What are the impacts of scenario 1 and 2 on the facilities at Forest Heights CI and are we just moving the enrolment problem from Huron Heights SS to Forest Heights CI?*
- R: *Ms. Galliher responded that there will be growing pains for the schools in any scenario. As discussed previously the objective of the Board is to build at least one more secondary school in Southwest Kitchener or an addition at Huron Heights SS. However, until we are able to obtain a site or funding through the Ministry we must make an interim plan with the assets we have. Mr. Hercanuck added that Forest Heights CI is better able to operate at a higher utilization due to the school site size, site layout and school features such as specialized teaching spaces.*
- Q: *Will moving Glencairn and Country Hills neighbourhoods be enough of an impact on enrolment? Could we come up with different scenarios where a higher density neighbourhood is moved instead? Are we able to come up with potential scenarios and if so how can we share those with you before the next Working Group meeting?*
- R: *Ms. Galliher responded that the 2 current options are not final and the Working Group can come up with alternate scenarios. Working Group members as well as the public can share any input or ideas through our email (boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.ca).*
- Q: *Since only 3 parent representatives from each school are to be attending the future Working Group meetings, will those of us who are unable to attend still be able to receive the meeting minutes, handouts and agendas? Will the Working Group minutes be shared to each schools website when they become public?*
- R: *Ms. Galliher responded that all Working Group members will receive the meeting materials whether or not they will be attending each meeting. Working Group meeting minutes will be shared on the website of each of the 3 Study Area schools, as well as the 7/8 feeder schools and JK-6 schools. Parents can also subscribe to the [Planning Website](#) to receive Boundary Study updates.*

Mr. Hercanuck noted that a group of students from Huron Heights SS shared experiences and challenges regarding the overpopulation at Huron Heights SS and the need for a second lunch period with the Board of Trustees on Monday, December 10, 2018. Mr. Hercanuck asked student representative TJay Jandles from Huron Heights SS to provide an overview of the [survey](#) collected from students with Working Group members.

There was discussion regarding the potential date of the first Public Meeting. The Working Group decided to postpone setting a date for the Public Meeting until more information or alternative scenarios are developed, including more diverse study areas.

Ms. Galliher thanked the Working Group for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Planning staff to bring previous Southwest Kitchener secondary boundaries to the next Working Group meeting**
- **Planning staff to provide a more comprehensive feeder school plan**

- Planning staff to provide density numbers for neighbourhoods/study areas to aide alternative scenario development
 - Planning staff to provide number of students eligible for transportation at each of the secondary schools including the number of buses at each school
 - Planning staff to provide potential numbers for students that are within the walkable distance to the schools that actually walk to school vs. receive another mode of transportation
 - Planning staff to ensure communication is shared with all JK-6 schools that could potentially be impacted by this Boundary Study
 - Ms. Selig to send out a survey to the Working Group regarding the January 8, 2019 meeting time and location
 - Ms. Selig to send out a survey to the Working Group regarding the first Public Meeting date, time and location
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FUTURE MEETINGS:

Working Group Meetings:

- **Working Group #3:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019 from 5:30-7:00 pm at Forest Heights CI
- **Working Group #4:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 time and location TBD

Public Meetings:

- Public Meeting #1: TBD
- Public Meeting #2: TBD
- Committee of the Whole Meeting: TBD