

SOUTHWEST KITCHENER SECONDARY BOUNDARY STUDY



The eighth Working Group Meeting of the Southwest Kitchener Boundary involving Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute, Forest Heights Collegiate Institute and Huron Heights Secondary School, was held at Huron Heights Secondary School on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 from 7:00pm to 8:45pm.

ATTENDEES:

Ray Teed, Principal, Cameron Heights CI; Tina Rowe, Principal, Forest Heights CI; Jeff Klinck, Principal, Huron Heights SS; Melanie Bender, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Nicole Huskins, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; TJay Jandles, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Debra Zanon-Barclay, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Bill Lemon, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Graham Shantz, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Lauren Agar, Manager of Planning; Sarah Galliher, Senior Planner; Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner; Carrie Hamilton, Recording Secretary

REGRETS:

Judith Coutts, Parent Representative, Cameron Heights CI; Hadbaa Al Ghazy, Parent Representative, Forest Heights CI; Liya Ghannaiyman, Student Representative, Forest Heights CI; 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; Amberlee O'Connor, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Amanda Young, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Matthew Gerard, Superintendent of Business Services & Treasurer of the Board; Ron DeBoer, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being

Meeting begins at 7:07pm

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

The minutes from Working Group #7 were approved in April and have been posted online.

1. AGENDA

Ms. Galliher reviewed the revised Agenda noting that the Public Meeting topic was moved to the end of the meeting.

2. STATUS UPDATE

Boundary Study Update:

Ms. Galliher provided an outline of the progression of the Boundary Study to date.

Provincial Updates:

Ms. Galliher highlighted the provincial changes that have implications on school capacities (OTG). It continues to be unclear exactly how the new requirement for boards to offer e-learning courses for secondary students, as well as the phased in 28:1 classroom ratio will impact school utilization.

Ms. Galliher shared that the Ministry of Education has re-opened the capital priority funding process with a call for business case submissions from the school boards. Projects must be delivered by 2023 and since we have yet to identify a site for a in Kitchener the 2023 project delivery date is unachievable for a new secondary school. A report will go to the Board of Trustees in September outlining the list of priority business cases.

Huron Heights SS Status Review:

Ms. Galliher outlined the measures used to address the overutilization at Huron Heights Secondary School for the 2019-2020 school year including the placement of additional portables, an additional period/creation of a double lunch, fully booked gymnasiums and science labs (despite renovations to add a science lab).

Additional portables will not be sufficient to solve projected accommodation pressure at Huron Heights SS. If growth continues and no boundary change is made, another lunch period may be required and sections may need to be cancelled due to lack of available specialized rooms such as labs. Additionally parking lot pressures would continue to be exacerbated.

3. BOUNDARY STUDY NEXT STEPS

Ms. Galliher outlined the next steps in the Boundary Study to achieve a 2020 implementation stating that identifying a preferred scenario is the main objective for tonight's meeting. A second public consultation meeting is proposed for Wednesday, September 18, 2019. A (potentially) final working group meeting would be held in October to review the feedback from public consultation and identify any necessary modifications to the preferred scenario.

A final report and recommendation will be brought to the Committee of the Whole in October or November (item will go to the agenda development committee to identify the actual date).

To accommodate the timing of the decision, Grade 9 orientation nights have been moved to January to ensure affected families are notified of the boundary changes and can attend the appropriate secondary school orientation.

4. BOUNDARY STUDY OBJECTIVES

Ms. Galliher outlined the boundary study objectives:

- efficiency of transportation (students within walking distance, bus routes)
- permanent capacity of schools and/or future construction requirements (e.g., site, program spaces, safety)
- impact on feeder and surrounding schools (i.e., grade 8 students moving to secondary school)
- minimizing the impact on students where changes are proposed (e.g., consideration for grandfathering, phased implementation)

5. SCENARIO 1, 2, 2A, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

Ms. Galliher reviewed the maps of all eight scenarios.

6. FEEDBACK RECAP

Ms. Agar reviewed the public consultation sticky note summary and feedback pie charts showing that Scenario 5 had the most opposition while Scenario 2 held the most support of the scenarios. No formal public consultation took place for Scenarios 2a, 5, 6, or 7 but as they were made available online, feedback was then provided about each of the scenarios through the boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.ca email address.

7. PREFERRED SCENARIO DISCUSSION - SCENARIO 2 WITH MODIFICATIONS

Ms. Agar outlined the staff proposed modifications to Scenario 2 including:

- Remove Huron South and Doon South Development Areas (DA's) from Forest Heights CI enrolment and give 'To-Be-Determined' Status (removes projected DA enrolment from Forest Heights CI projected enrolment).
- Phased implementation starting with Grade 9s only in 2020
 - Generally speaking, transportation eligibility follows the students to their schools in a boundary change but ultimately all parts of the final recommendation will be determined by Board Trustees

Scenario 2 has always contemplated these two boundary adjustments (and continues to do so) but did not include the above modifications when initially shared -

- Assign Williamsburg PS and WT Townshend PS elementary boundaries to Forest Heights CI (from Cameron Heights CI)

- Assign Country Hills PS / Glencairn PS elementary boundaries to Cameron Heights CI (from Huron Heights SS) Additionally, Scenario 2 includes the continuation of the Wildflowers DA (Janet Metcalfe PS area) holding at Forest Heights CI.

(See presentation slide 19)

Ms. Agar outlined the process of assigning Development Areas to a school which is detailed:

<https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/AP4992-Temp-Student-Accomm-for-Dev.pdf>

There was general support for the phased in implementation, noting that under this proposal, younger siblings would not be offered grandparenting.

Ms. Agar reviewed the projected enrolment (ADE) and utilization for Cameron Heights CI, Forest Heights CI, Huron Heights SS. As the DA's have been removed from Forest Heights CI, the enrolment and utilization are projected to be much lower at this school than in the original Scenario 2.

Ms. Agar outlined the number of projected students in the DA areas of Doon South and Huron South which is projected to be 60 students in 2020 and increases to 262 students in 2028.

Q: The grandparenting process makes it equal for everyone. The DA's 'to be determined' status might create uncertainty with students.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that keeping flexibility in the DA assignment allows us to adapt to anticipated class size and e-learning impacts as they become known. It is not anticipated that there will be development in some of the DA's for a number of years this way we will be better equipped to analyze where they would be best accommodated when the time comes.

Q: Can students in a DA be redirected from Forest Heights CI once they have been assigned there?

R: It was confirmed that it is possible to redirect DA's that have been assigned to a particular school, but with a process that includes public consultation while reassigning DA's with no students does not require a public meeting.

8. PUBLIC CONSULTATION #2 PLANNING

The Public Meeting is proposed for Wednesday September 18th at 7:00pm at Forest Heights CI. An open house format is being proposed, wherein staff can be spread out with various display boards depicting the process and preferred scenario. Staff will be able to respond to specific, individual questions face-to-face. This format will allow members of the community to drop in and have their questions answered without taking a bulk of time that formal presentation would take.

Multiple feedback opportunities will be provided at the meeting (e.g., written, online, post-its, etc.).

Rather than sharing all eight scenarios reviewed and considered by the working group, only the Recommended Scenario (Scenario 2 with modifications) will be shared.

Public consultation on the Recommended Scenario is always undertaken prior to being presented to the Board for a decision. This provides the community and Trustees with an opportunity to better understand what is being recommended prior to the Board of Trustees making their decision. It also presents an opportunity for the public to provide information and potential scenario modifications that the Working Group may not have considered but that should be addressed prior to making the final recommendation to the Board.

9. ROUND TABLE

C: It was pointed out that the numbers appear to drop slightly over the 10 year projection for Cameron Heights CI.

R: It's a small decrease and it's at the end of the projection which is typically the least accurate period of the projection so it's possible this drop may not materialize. Mr. Hercanuck added that the projections use assumptions based on existing boundaries and program choices. When these boundaries and potentially transportation eligibility change, people may make different choices which will affect the projections presented.

C: Can we provide an explanation of the Board's Development Area administrative procedure at the public meeting.

C: The Preferred Scenario recommendations allow us to move forward with changing the boundaries to relieve current accommodation pressures but also allows us flexibility to effectively address accommodation issues of the DA's when there has been clarification on the school utilization impacts.

C: Thanks was expressed to the working group. We have reached the Recommended Scenario after having undergone a thorough and transparent process where all factors influencing scenario viability have been examined.

C: 30 students are attending Forest Heights CI from the DA's and some direction to what school they are to attend would be beneficial. Information about transportation and walkability to Forest Height CI would also be valuable.

R: FAQ sheets can be developed to provide additional information. This could be posted on the website. The Public Meeting is a method to inform the public of our recommendation before a report is brought to the Trustees.

The Working Group needs to bring forward to Trustees a complete report that outlines all of the information that we gathered that has culminated into the Recommended Scenario. The Committee of the Whole Meeting will be open to the public and members of the community can register as delegates.

Meeting concludes at 8:26 pm

ACTION ITEMS:

Development Areas: provide information on DA's and the Board Policy

Public Transportation: provide GRT bussing information

Walkability: provide walkability information

Frequently Asked Questions: provide FAQ information

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Public Meeting #2: Wednesday September 18, 2019 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Forest Heights CI

Working Group #9: Tuesday October 1, 2019 at 7:00pm