

# SOUTHWEST KITCHENER SECONDARY BOUNDARY STUDY



*The third 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 Forest Heights CI on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.*

#### ATTENDEES:

Ray Teed, Principal, Cameron Heights CI; Tina Rowe, Principal, Forest Heights CI; Jeff Klinck, Principal, Huron Heights SS; Hadbaa Al Ghazy, Parent Representative, Forest Heights CI; Liya Ghannaiaman, Student Representative, Forest Heights CI; 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; Kevin Magda, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Graham Shantz, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; 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; Judith Coatts, Parent Representative, Cameron Heights CI; Amanda Young, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Amberlee O'Connor, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Shaelie Mendes, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Matthew Gerard, Superintendent of Business Services & Treasurer of the Board

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Hercanuck, Manager of Planning, welcomed members of the Working Group and Board staff at 5:37 PM.

### 2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hercanuck asked if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes from Working Group meeting #2. The minutes from Working Group meeting #2 were approved.

Moved by: Nicole Huskins

Seconded by: Melanie Bender

Ms. Galliher led the group through the presentation and made note of a slight change in the agenda; the Public Meeting has been relocated to the beginning of the agenda to ensure time for discussion. The presentation is available online at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/southwest-kitchener-secondary-boundary-study/>

### 3. PUBLIC MEETING #1 DATE AND TIME

On slide 3 of the online presentation Ms. Galliher proposed Tuesday, February 5, 2019 as the first Public Meeting. There was discussion on what content would be shared at the Public Meeting, and whether alternate scenarios would be ready to share. The Planning team was not confident that there would be enough time to prepare alternative scenarios to be ready for the Public Meeting date as proposed. The Parent Representatives were supportive of attempting to develop scenarios to share and felt that their communities would be expecting additional scenarios at the public meeting.

Q: *Are Working Group members expected to attend the Public Meetings?*

R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that Working Group members are welcome to attend the Public Meetings but are not required to attend, and do not hold any responsibilities at the meetings.*

The Working Group decided to defer setting a date for the Public Meeting as they would like alternative scenarios to be available to be presented. The date proposed also has conflicts with other Board meetings so another date will need to be selected. The Working Group agreed that the first Public Meeting will take place at Huron Heights SS.

#### 4. REVIEW OF DRAFT OBJECTIVES

On slide 4 of the online presentation Ms. Galliher reviewed the Mentimeter activity completed at the previous meeting, noting that the larger words were submitted multiple times during the activity, symbolizing the potential for these to become objectives for this Boundary Study.

On slide 5 of the online presentation Ms. Galliher reviewed the draft objectives of this Boundary Study and asked the Working Group if there was anything they would like to see added to this list. The Working Group was content with the list of draft objectives for the interim. Mr. Hercanuck added that generally objectives remain draft until the first public meeting where additional feedback on the objectives may be offered.

#### 5. NEW DEVELOPMENT AREA ASSIGNMENT

Referring to the map on slide 6 of the online presentation Ms. Bumbaco shared that the new Wallaceton development by Fusion homes has come online in Huron South development area. This has been identified as a Development Area and has been assigned to Forest Heights CI for grades 9 to 12. The balance of the Huron South development area was not yet assigned to a holding school, but will now be assigned to Forest Heights CI. This has resulted in a change to the enrolment projections provided in the boundary study, potentially adding up to 80 students to FHCI by the end of the projection period. The table shown on slide 6 represents the updated enrolment projections for the status quo scenario.

*Q: What years are we expecting to see the students from this Development Area at Forest Heights CI?*

*R: Ms. Bumbaco responded that it is anticipated that by 2024 we will start to see a larger number of students generated from this area.*

*Q: Could you review the process for which the Board supplies the Ministry of Education with enrolment numbers, and how they determine funding for projects?*

*R: Superintendent Shantz responded that the Board regularly reports to the Ministry of Education through a reporting tool known as OnSIS. It is a very detailed and substantial report including the number of students at each site as well as staff allocation.*

*Mr. Hercanuck added some context to the new school construction process noting that this year has been different from prior years. Generally, there is a call for the Board's eight top Capital Projects such as a new school, a school addition, or a major renovation, complete with business cases rationalizing the need for the project. In past years, this submission occurred in the spring and by late summer the Board would be notified of which projects received funding approval. The Ministry of Education selects which projects they will fund, the number of projects is not consistent, commonly no more than a quarter of projects submitted are approved for funding each application cycle, and the projects selected are not necessarily the top priorities requested by the Board. As discussed previously the current Provincial Government did not request any Capital funding Business Cases be submitted this year.*

#### 6. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

On slide 7 of the online presentation Ms. Galliher pointed out that all notifications regarding this Boundary Study are now being pushed to the JK-6 feeder schools in addition to the posts that were already being directed to the grade 7/8 feeder schools and secondary schools in the Study Area. Principals at the elementary feeder schools are providing their School Councils with an update on the Boundary Study.

#### 7. REVIEW DATA REQUESTS

##### **Historical Boundary Map (Slide 8)**

In response to an information request from the previous Working Group meeting, Ms. Galliher shared the historical boundaries for Southwest Kitchener prior to construction of Huron Heights SS. Ms. Galliher noted that the location of Huron Heights SS was added to the map for visual aid.

**Transportation Data (Slide 9)**

In response to an information request from the previous Working Group meeting, Ms. Galliher shared the transportation data for each school, noting that the number of buses includes Special Education transportation. Ms. Galliher also noted that the number of buses at Forest Heights CI includes 1 full sized bus and 7 Special Education buses and taxis. Mr. Hercanuck added that this information shows the students eligible for transportation, not the number of students who take the provided transportation.

**Feeder School Chart (Slides 10-12)**

In response to an information request from the previous Working Group meeting, Ms. Bumbaco shared a detailed diagram of the feeder schools, including split feeds. It was noted that there were some inaccuracies in the Huron Heights SS chart which will be updated and shared with the group before the next Working Group meeting.

*Q: Why is it that an entire elementary school does not feed in to the same secondary school?*

*R: Mr. Hercanuck responded secondary school boundaries are subject to a number of influences including ensuring available capacity is well utilized. While Secondary Schools, for the most part, were built in locations necessary to serve the students in the neighbourhood, over time (decades) student location and density has shifted. We can't easily relocate the schools but we can adjust attendance boundaries for those schools. However, in modifying those attendance boundaries to fit the school size and neighbourhood geographies, they may end up crossing existing elementary school boundaries that may have also been modified to accommodate students with its capacity and a changing student distribution AS an example, in the Kitchener core we have three secondary schools within a 4 kilometre distance. In the past, boundaries may have been looked at in terms of what geography was required to fill the school rather than prioritizing a single feed from grade 8.*

*Q: With the new subdivisions continuing to grow in Southwest Kitchener, should we make it a priority to try to keep the older neighbourhoods at Huron Heights SS, and redirect the newer subdivisions?*

*R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that if the Working Group believes this should be an objective of the Boundary Study it could be a consideration in future scenario development.*

**Study Area Enrolment (Slide 13)**

In response to an information request from the previous Working Group meeting to aid in future scenario development, Ms. Galliher provided the Working Group with a one year 'snap shot' view of the projected secondary enrolment for the year 2024 (full implementation year) grouped by the elementary school boundaries. This data was shared to give Working Group members the opportunity to develop scenarios by identifying which elementary schools had sufficient projected enrolment to direct out of Huron Heights SS.

*Q: How many students are needing to be redirected for this study?*

*R: Mr. Klinck responded that in order to get Huron Heights SS back to a single lunch the enrolment would need to be around 1400 students.*

*Q: Is Glencairn PS walking distance to Forest Heights CI?*

*R: Ms. Galliher responded that there is a portion of students within the Glencairn PS boundary that are eligible to walk to Forest Heights CI.*

**Scenario Development**

The Working Group took the opportunity to review the data and discuss alternative options. After some consideration they presented Planning staff with a request for two additional scenarios:

**Scenario 3** - Groh P.S. and Southeast portion of Brigadoon P.S. JK to 6 boundary to be redirected to Forest Heights CI

**Scenario 4** - Jean Steckle P.S. boundary (Huron Woods neighbourhood) and Huron Village neighbourhood redirected to Forest Heights CI

Q: *Would the Development Areas continue to go to the elementary and secondary schools they are assigned to, or will these scenarios allow them to go to their neighbourhood schools?*

R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that the scenarios proposed would not make enough space available in Huron Heights to repatriate the students in the Development Areas, so they would continue to attend Forest Heights CI. As this is a Secondary Boundary Study we are not able to look at changing any elementary pathways with this process.*

Planning staff asked the Working Group if there is anything else they would like to see for the next meeting that has not been discussed already. The Working Group did not have anything to add, the Planning staff reminded the Working Group that they are welcome to email Planning staff if they had any additional items.

Q: *When you state that you are going to run the new scenarios, does that mean we are going to receive a report similar to the one generated for scenario 1 and 2?*

R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that yes, the Planning staff will attempt to generate detailed reports for these scenarios for the next meeting, time permitting. Ms. Bumbaco added that the next meeting will likely consist of the updated scenario 1 and 2 enrolment projections for Forest Heights CI (with the new Development Areas assignment) as well as viewing the two new proposed scenarios.*

Q: *Could Planning staff include impacts of grandparenting with the two new scenarios?*

R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that Planning staff will attempt to have this ready for the next Working Group meeting, however with the current workload this may not be ready to be shared at the next meeting.*

Q: *Do we need to determine the grandparenting piece before we decide on which scenario we are going to recommend, so that we know how many students will need to be directed to make this an effective change?*

R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that the grandparenting option is decided after the scenario is selected. The eventual solution bears more weight than the grandparenting piece as we will have to live with the outcome longer. He added that he anticipates that the final report going to the Board at the end of the Study will consist of the scenario recommendation from the Working Group, including the impacts of grandparenting, along with transition options so they are fully educated on the aspects of each.*

Q: *Can the Trustees select a scenario but choose not to grandparent any students?*

R: *Yes, Mr. Hercanuck responded Trustees are able to modify recommendations.*

Q: *Has the land been purchased for a secondary school in Southwest Kitchener?*

R: *Mr. Hercanuck responded that the Board does own land in Southwest Kitchener. However, this land was identified as a site for a secondary school prior to the 'Places to Grow' act, which mandated communities establish a countryside line beyond which cannot be built upon. Despite the Boards request that this site be included inside the city lines it lies just beyond the countryside line, so we are unable to build an institutional facility on these lands under the current legislation. Mr. Hercanuck added that the City is currently working on a Secondary Plan and has committed to working with the Board in identifying a secondary school site, realistically that site would not be serviced or available to be constructed on for approximately 8-10 years. Again, he noted that this Boundary Study is an interim solution until we are able to obtain the funding for a long term solution such as an addition at Huron Heights SS.*

Q: *How are we able to obtain funding for elementary school sites and construction so much easier and faster than secondary schools?*

R: *Ms. Galliher responded that elementary school sites are substantially smaller than secondary school sites and as a result are substantially less capital to construct compared to secondary schools. Mr. Hercanuck added that secondary schools also require a larger population to fill the school and the Ministry funding approvals tend to be contingent upon the students existing versus being projected from new development.*

Ms. Galliher thanked the Working Group for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Planning staff to revise Scenario 1 and 2 options with updated enrolment projections (including the new DA assignment)**
  - **Planning staff to update the comprehensive feeder school plan and highlight any split feeds**
  - **Planning staff to develop Scenario 3 and 4 for the next Working Group meeting**
  - **Planning staff to report on impacts of grandparenting for Scenario 3 and 4**
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**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

**Working Group Meetings:**

- **Working Group #4:** Tuesday, January 22, 2019 from 7:00-8:30 pm at Huron Heights SS

**Public Meetings:**

- Public Meeting #1: TBD at Huron Heights SS
- Public Meeting #2: TBD
- Committee of the Whole Meeting: TBD