

SOUTHWEST KITCHENER SECONDARY BOUNDARY STUDY



The sixth 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 Forest Heights CI on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Tina Rowe, Principal, Forest Heights CI; Jeff Klinck, Principal, Huron Heights SS; Nicole Huskins, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Liya Ghannaiaman, Student Representative, Forest Heights CI; Debra Zanon-Barclay, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Melanie Bender, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; TJay Jandles, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Matthew Gerard, Superintendent of Business Services & Treasurer of the Board; Ron DeBoer, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Bill Lemon, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Graham Shantz, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Nathan Hercanuck, Manager of Planning; Sarah Galliher, Senior Planner; Emily Bumbaco, Senior Planner; Carrie Hamilton, Recording Secretary

REGRETS:

Ray Teed, Principal, Cameron Heights CI; Amanda Young, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Amberlee O'Connor, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Della Sousa, Parent Representative, Forest Heights CI; Judith Coatts, Parent Representative, Cameron Heights CI; Hadbaa Al Ghazy, 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;

Meeting begins at 7:12

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/>.

1. NEW SCENARIO REVIEW

Mr. Shantz moved to adopt the minutes; Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Galliher outlined the boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.ca slide which summarized the feedback received by email. This is updated to include all emails received since the beginning of the study.

Ms. Galliher outlined the slide summarizing feedback received through the public meeting boards where attendees were invited to indicate what they liked and didn't like about a scenario on a post it note. Based on the feedback themes it appeared to the working group that Scenario 2 had some supporters. That said, it should also be noted that Scenario 2 and 3 were both highly opposed. The opposition to Scenario 3 predominantly related to walkability and the additional split of the Brigadoon East area.

There was concern that the feedback results on this slide only included the people who were able to be present at the Public Meeting and did not include feedback from the emails. Staff responded that these summary tables are provided to help the Working Group understand the issues in the community and they in no way constitute a 'vote'. Staff also suggested that the two sources of feedback can be used together to reflect on these issues.

Continued evaluation of the scenarios will be explored in an activity in part two of the meeting (*note: this activity ended up being deferred until the next meeting due to time constraints*).

Mr. Hercanuck added that these are not scientifically derived statistics rather they are intended to distill boundary feedback into an easily digestible summary. The recommendation that the Working Group eventually lands on should address the

objectives of the boundary study. Ms. Galliher pointed out that both sets of feedback would suggest Scenario 3 is the least favoured option.

Mr. Hercanuck took some time to discuss the recent Ministry of Education announcement regarding changes to secondary classroom sizes. Currently, the Ministry provides funding for a 22 to 1 average ratio. Information we have so far indicates that the Ministry will be moving toward a model where the average ratio is 28 to 1. The Ministry indicated that this change would be phased in over a number of years, but the information received thus far has not been definitive. It is unclear how the changes will be implemented and what impact they will have in terms of school capacity. Adjustments may be required to increase the capacity and therefore the utilization of the secondary schools, which will have an effect on this boundary study. Mr. Hercanuck recommended that the Working Group continue the boundary study as planned until further information is available.

Mr. Gerard explained that the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) contains the information that the school board needs to calculate class size. The Ministry has stated that the GSN information will not be available until the end of April. Mr. Gerard encouraged the Working Group to move forward and as things develop, adjustments to the course will be made. In the meantime, the Ministry has requested the public to consult again on their class size decision and on the regulation changes proposed to hiring practices. No one opposed the recommendation by Mr. Hercanuck and Mr. Gerard to proceed with the boundary study.

Ms. Galliher outlined the Scenario 2a Map *New* slide which reassigns W.T. Townshend PS to Forest Heights CI. Williamsburg PS remains at Cameron Heights CI. Glencairn PS and Country Hills PS would be redirected from Huron Heights SS to Cameron Heights CI.

Q: Is the W.T. Townshend PS pocket walkable to Forest Heights CI?

R: Ms. Bumbaco confirms that a high percentage of this area is walkable.

There was discussion that the enrolment numbers for this scenario impact Huron Heights SS in the same way as Scenarios 1 and 2. This scenario alleviates some of the pressure on Forest Heights CI more than the other scenarios.

Ms. Galliher outlined Scenario 2a Enrolment Projection slide and the Scenario 2a Impacts slide. The transportation data will be made available at a future meeting.

Ms. Galliher outlined Scenario 5 *New* slide. There was a discussion that this scenario moves the most students from Huron Heights SS, but that in the long term Forest Heights CI is overcrowded, which moves the over-utilization issue from Huron Heights SS to Forest Heights CI. It was pointed out that the Development Area's (DA's) were supposed to be moved to Huron Heights SS in this scenario to alleviate some pressure on Forest Heights CI. Ms. Galliher indicated she would update Scenario 5 to include DA's being directed to Huron Heights SS and bring the updated information to the next meeting.

Mr. Hercanuck clarified that the DA's are flexible areas up to the point that there are people living in these areas and they are assigned to a school. After this point any changes to holding school assignments would require public consultation.

There was a discussion that the enrolment figures presented do not include any type of grandfathering. This issue has been determined to be important to the students and has been outlined as a concern at the Public Meeting and at the Working Group Meetings. Any scenario that would provide Huron Heights SS with enough room to allow for grandfathering would be more favourable to those families affected. Grandfathering details would be determined by the Transition Team.

Q: What is the timeline for the completion of development in the DA's?

R: Mr. Hercanuck explained that the school board gets notification from the Municipality when a development registers. Once the development registers, then building can begin on the lots and completion can be expected in 1-3 years. Prior to this, the school board receives notice of draft plan approval. Drafted approved plans can be registered quickly or they can remain in the draft approved stage for years. Our figures are estimated based on past experience for developments.

Q: Is the area that is developing along the Robert Ferrie Drive extension a DA?

R: Ms. Bumbaco clarified that this area is not a designated Development Area and is part of the Huron Heights SS boundary. Ms. Galliher clarified that this development is included in the Huron Heights SS projections. There are a number of factors that go into assigning Development Area status to a new subdivision and one of the considerations is the size.

Ms. Galliher outlined Scenario 5 Impacts slide.

Ms. Galliher outlined Scenario 6 Map *New* slide and Scenario 6 Enrolment Projections slide.

There was discussion that the optics of this scenario are unfavourable as the Pioneer Park geographic area, which is lower-income and high density, has been moved to Cameron Heights CI while the neighbouring communities would continue to attend Huron Heights SS. The numbers for this scenario are favourable, but the way the boundary divisions occur is not as favourable.

Q: Is the Pioneer Park area walkable to Huron Heights SS?

R: Ms. Bumbaco confirms that all of Pioneer Park is walkable to Huron Heights SS. Glencairn PS and Country Hills PS are also mostly walkable to Huron Heights SS.

C: Grandfathering students at Huron Heights SS would alleviate some of the enrollment pressure off of Forest Heights CI for the first few years.

Q: If a new school is constructed, does it make sense to have Pioneer Park reassigned back to Huron Heights SS at some point?

R: Mr. Hercanuck indicated that there is not a capital program in place now and the decision made by the Working Group should not include any expectation of additions on existing schools or new schools being constructed in the next 10 years. To do this might limit the possibilities considered.

There was discussion that the look and impact of this scenario is complicated with a Forest Heights CI boundary being intersected by a Cameron Heights CI boundary. Enrolment numbers in the W.T. Townshend PS/Williamsburg PS and Country Hills PS/Glencairn PS are similar enough to be interchanged. Both W.T. Townshend PS/ Williamsburg PS have French Immersion and could continue in French if they were redirected to Forest Heights CI. If W.T. Townshend PS/Williamsburg PS are directed to Forest Heights CI while Country Hills PS/Glencairn PS are directed to Cameron Heights CI, this would create a more fluid boundary for Cameron Heights CI on the eastern side of the boundary study.

Q: The green highlighted area to the north of Pioneer Park indicates that it is directed to Huron Heights SS. Is this industrial area?

R: Ms. Galliher confirmed that it is industrial.

C: If we are contemplating making the interchange of W.T. Townshend PS/ Williamsburg PS and Country Hills PS/Glencairn PS and we change that industrial area north of Pioneer Park to a Cameron Heights CI boundary, then the geographical boundary is more concise on the east side of the boundary study.

W.T. Townshend PS/Williamsburg PS are currently directed to Cameron Heights CI so that would be a switch for them to be directed to Forest Heights CI. This geographical area is a walkable to Forest Heights CI. It also has a short regional transit bus ride. This scenario has favourable enrolment numbers and allows for grandfathering, but it redirect a number of schools to different secondary schools which may be unfavourable.

Q: Are there dedicated city buses that take school children to their schools?

R: Mr. Lemon explained that Grand River Transit (GRT) does not contemplate special runs for secondary public schools, as was done in the past. The GRT, not contracted by the board, would see a demand in an area and the GRT may make adjustments to schedules for secondary students but they will wait a year to determine if they have the demand for them.

Mr. Hercanuck stated that in the past, GRT saw a demand in a geographic area and opted to service that need.

There was discussion about grandparenting and the importance of allowing for this when making a decision. This sentiment was confirmed by the student representatives in the meeting as they indicated that a relocation to another school part way through their secondary education would impact their course selection and direction, opportunities for involvement in extracurricular activities, as well as social implications. The incorporation of grandparenting will affect our scenario numbers up to 2024 when all grandfathering would be complete.

2. SCENARIO ACTIVITY

Ms. Galliher asks if the activity planned should be deferred to the next meeting to be conscious of time and allow for the update of the scenarios that were made in this meeting. It was agreed that this should be deferred.

Ms. Galliher outlined the Scenario Activity slide of the slideshow to prepare for the next meeting.

Mr. Hercanuck stated that the intent of the exercise is to look at the objectives first and then review the scenarios.

Q: Can the enrolment and percentage of utilization be included?

R: Ms. Galliher will update the activity to include the new scenarios and the percentage of utilization of the schools.

3. ROUNDTABLE

C: Scenario 6 was not brought forth in a public meeting format which may surprise some people.

Ms. Galliher established the next meeting in two weeks on April 2, 2019. That date conflicts with WRAPSC Meeting at 7pm.

Ms. Galliher will send out doodle poll to determine if 5:30pm or 7:00pm is the preferred start time on April 2, 2019.

Q: Are we still hoping to have a recommendation to the trustees by June?

R: Ms. Galliher confirms this. Another public meeting would be required prior to confirming the final recommendation. At that time a recommended scenario would be presented. All scenarios could be outlined at the meeting, but this is not required.

There was a discussion about the communication to the parents regarding the information from the Working Group Meetings. Information has been sent out on School-Day and the WRDSB Planning website is updated regularly and contains information regarding the Working Group Meetings. Ms. Galliher will discuss these concerns with the Communication Department to see if there are more ways to disseminate information to the public.

Ms. Galliher thanked the Working Group and concluded the meeting at 8:49 pm.

ACTION ITEMS:

Scenario #5: Revise scenario to re-direct Doon South DA's to Huron Heights SS

Scenario #7: redirect W.T. Townshend and Williamsburg PS to Forest Heights CI; redirect Country Hills PS and Glencairn PS to Cameron Heights CI; change area north of Pioneer Park to be redirected to Cameron Heights PS (Variation on Scenario 2)

Scenario Activity: update table to include new scenario information; include percentage of utilization for each schools

Next Meeting: determine and communicate start time of meeting on April 2, 2019

Communication: consult with Communications Department to determine possible improvements

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Working Group Meetings:

- **Working Group #7:** Tuesday April 2, 2019 5:30 pm at Forest Heights

Public Meetings:

- **Public Meeting #2:** TBD