



**Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil
Accommodation Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 3
March 4, 2010 - 4:30 pm**

The third meeting of the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Sunnyside P.S., on March 4th, 2010.

Committee Members Present:

Heather Preddie, Principal of Rockway P.S., Julie Lobsinger, Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Maria Lotimer, Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Jane McVeigh, Principal of Sheppard P.S., Rebecca Jutzi, Vice Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Andrea Michelutti, Vice Principal of Howard Robertson, Darren Batt, Vice Principal of Franklin, Al Watt, Vice Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Stuart Gallacher, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Naz Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Christine Lassel, parent – Rockway P.S., Jennifer Childs, parent – Sheppard P.S., Diane Kewley, parent – Sheppard P.S., Kelly Kempel, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Robert Dean, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S., Edda Kerr, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Jonathan Blake, parent – Rockway P.S., Bonnie Heimbecker, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S., Charlene Rushmere, parent – Howard Robertson P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, Lauren Manske, Planner and Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Jeff Lovell, Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects, Facility Services, Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Dayle Buller-Power, Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Richard Briston, parent – Franklin P.S., Katie Anderl, Municipal Rep – City of Kitchener.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chris Smith, Manager of Planning opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed the committee members. He also welcomed a new member and introductions were made around the group.

2. ARC Meeting # 2 – Draft Minutes approval

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the February 18th ARC meeting.
 - No concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the February 18th meeting were approved.
 - Mover: Andrea Michelutti
 - Seconded: Stuart Gallacher

3. School Tour

- It was confirmed that the school tour would take place on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., for those interested in attending.
 - The group will meet at Franklin P.S. (371 Franklin Street North) and car pool.
 - Route: Franklin – Lackner Woods – Howard Robertson – Wilson Avenue – Rockway – Sheppard.
 - The tour should take approximately 3 – 3 ½ hours to complete.

Q – Are we going to be touring the inside and outside of the schools?

R – Yes, we will touch on the highlights of each facility.

Rebecca Jutzi, then led the ARC through a tour of Sunnyside P.S., pointing out its unique features, such as the science and tech room, the ESL designated class/workroom, and the Life Skills full kitchen and classroom.

Mr. Smith thanked Ms. Jutzi for the informative tour, and asked the ARC to file that information away for now, especially for those attending the tour on Saturday when we see the rest of the review area schools.

4. Draft Review Objectives

Mr. Hercanuck noted that Planning re-worked the draft objectives as requested by the ARC at the last meeting and displayed them for some further discussion:

- Provide current and future students in the review area with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by:
 - Having regard for the Good Schools Standing Committee guiding principles on school size
 - Reviewing elementary school organizations (i.e. JK-6, 7-8, JK-8)
 - Recognizing the distribution of Special Education, French Immersion and English as a Second Language programs
- Support the optimal use of facilities, capital and operating resources through the consideration of:
 - School location
 - Recognize the relationship/identity of community to local elementary school
 - Minimize transportation costs in the long-term by maximizing the number of students within walking distance of a school
 - Facility amenities and condition
 - Priorities for physical accessibility of facilities by the Accessibility Committee
 - Site
 - Safety and security

- Develop a solution that is long-term (approximately 10 years) by taking into consideration:
 - Consistency of feeds to senior elementary and secondary school programs
 - Future development plans and demographic shifts
- Consider student transitions

Mr. Hercanuck asked for any questions/comments on the revised draft objectives.

Q – Are we putting enough emphasis on maximizing student’s strengths and program diversity? Not just ESL/French Immersion or Special Needs, but more general diversity, the arts for example, to figure out their strengths and help to develop them.

R – We are limited to a certain extent by the Ministry curriculum, for example there are no purpose built science or music rooms for JK-6.

C – The first objective speaks to that: *equitable program opportunities*.

Mr. Smith noted that everyone has access to the basic core program; however there will be schools that have teachers bringing some specialized talent. Perhaps we could add another bullet to the first objective: *flexibility to serve diversity – kids and program first*.

C – Regarding school organization – I have had the opportunity to speak to some parents, co-workers and neighbours in the newer area south of Lackner Woods P.S., and they expressed interest in a JK-8 scenario.

Q – Are we addressing fiscal/financial responsibility?

R – Yes, the second objective speaks to that: *the optimal use of facilities, capital and operating resources*.

Q – The Good Schools Standing Committee Report on class size is important. Is that a Ministry or a Board report?

R – It is a WRDSB report, and the committee is made up of Board Trustees. The report recommends a minimum number of classes per grade level to provide optimal program delivery. It is a guideline only, but is what the Board supports, and what we should strive for.

It was noted that the May 14, 2007 Report by the Good Schools Standing Committee regarding Elementary School Size and Configuration was not included in the ARC binders.

- The report can be found on the Board’s website at:
www.wrdsb.ca/about-us/planning/accommodation-reviews/grand-river-south/sunnyside-elementary-schools-accommodation-review

- Planning staff will make copies of the Report and bring to the next meeting for all of the ARC binders.

Q – Can we get a summary of school facilities and what they offer? Not all schools have tech/woodworking rooms like Sunnyside P.S. does, for example. Is there a set difference between a 7/8 school and a JK-8 school and what they can offer based on their facilities?

R – There is a funding model for new school construction, and there are certain construction benchmarks. For instance, we have not built a 7/8 school since 1977 and the benchmarks have

changed especially around the specialized programs school boards ran at that time, i.e. shop and home economics.

Mr. Smith noted that the students still get the same program regardless of the facility. Science and tech are still offered at the JK-8 schools, the rooms may not be quite as luxurious as we have seen here at Sunnyside. Some JK-8's have instrumental music programs– not all.

Ms. Kempel noted that she currently sits on a Board committee that is looking at equity across the Board regarding music. Schools might have an instrumental or string program. All 7/8 schools will have either a string or instrumental program, maybe not all JK-8's.

C – The 7/8 schools can be staffed differently because of the large enrolment in only 2 grades. There may be more interest on the part of a teacher with a subject specialty to apply to work at a 7/8 school where they would spend more class time teaching that subject area. You can timetable some expertise when you are working with 8 grade 7 classes and 8 grade 8 classes, like they have here at Sunnyside.

C – The current curriculum is not supportive of so many specializations (based on what the Ministry wants for JK-8), we do the best with the facility we have. Programs do change however, nothing is static.

Q – Is it possible to view a JK-8 school since we have none in this review area? Can we look at one on our tour?

R – We will look into that – perhaps we can tack one on at the end of the tour – time permitting.

Q – I have heard some parents asking about access to daycare on every school premises? Is this part of what the ARC is to consider?

R – That will be covered with the Ministry's implementation of the Early Learning Program – or all day learning for kindergarten – but this will not happen quickly. The first phase of the ELP will roll out September 2010, and be in all sites by 2015. The Ministry has mandated that school boards take care of the before and after school childcare as part of this initiative, but we don't know exactly what it will look like yet.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that there are concerns from the childcare industry that school boards will put them out of business with the extended day component of ELP implementation. They may be forced to target the 0 – 3 year old market, but the Day Nurseries Act requires a higher ratio of staff to children for that age group making it more expensive for the daycare to run.

Mr. Smith advised that we do have a policy currently that requires us to seek a childcare partner on all new school construction and additions, which has been working successfully. The Ministry is mandating us to hire for and run the extended day piece now and that we can't partner with other organizations to deliver the program. The childcare operators are understandably nervous; they will have to re-jig their whole model.

C – Speaking for the daycare at Lackner Woods P.S. – it is full right now, very popular and successful.

R – Yes, we agree the model is working, ELP is a different approach – and it is being mandated.

Q – Regarding the last objective: *consider student transitions*. Some clarification is needed, are we talking about transitioning from daycare to grade school then on to high school?

R – In this objective we were really referring to whatever changes might occur due to the ARC's recommendations. For example, if we change some school boundaries, how do we handle that? Will grandparenting or phasing in/out options be offered? Clarification on this point is needed and we will do that. Perhaps we could add: *where changes are proposed*.

5. School Information Profiles

Mr. Hercanuck advised that the school information profiles are being input/updated as Planning receives them. He also noted that Section 1.5 – student outcomes (EQAO results) has been removed from the template at the ARC's request last meeting.

- The profiles will be posted on the website upon completion.

Mr. Smith noted that Ron Dallan sent his regrets for tonight's meeting. Mr. Dallan wanted to advise the ARC that a consultant has been retained to do the Facility Condition Reports on the schools in the review area. These reports are required for the school information profiles.

6. Roundtable

Mr. Hercanuck noted that Katie Anderl, the Municipal Rep from the City of Kitchener will do a presentation at our next ARC meeting: March 30, 2010. She will talk about the staging of development in the Grand River South area (projected units, timing, green space plans, etc.).

- If the ARC has any advance questions for Ms. Anderl, please email them to Planning staff and we will forward them to her.

7. Future Meeting Dates:

- Mr. Hercanuck posted the future meeting dates for the ARC and noted that the meeting day has changed from Thursday to Tuesday.
 - He asked the ARC if Tuesday evenings will work for the group going forward.
 - The ARC agreed to the change of day.

Q – Is there a date or location for Public Meeting # 2?

R – We have no firm date for the next public meeting at this point. (The tentative meeting schedule sent out in the beginning had Public Meeting # 2 on April 27, 2010). We would like to take some preliminary scenarios to that meeting and we may not be ready to do that by April 27th. We want to be careful not to rush the review process in any way.

- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday March 30 @ Sunnyside P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Tuesday April 20 @ Sunnyside P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Tuesday May 4 @ Sunnyside P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm