



**Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil
Accommodation Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 6
May 4, 2010 - 4:30 pm**

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

Committee Members Present:

Julie Lobsinger, Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Jeff Lovell, Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Al Watt, Vice Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects – Facility Services, 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., Richard Briston, parent – Franklin P.S., Robert Dean, parent – Wilson Avenue 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:

Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Rebecca Jutzi, Vice Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Darren Batt, Vice Principal of Franklin P.S., Heather Preddie, Principal of Rockway P.S., Dayle Buller-Power, Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Jane McVeigh, Principal of Sheppard P.S., Maria Lotimer, Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Andrea Michelutti, Vice Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Katie Anderl, Municipal Rep – City of Kitchener, Edda Kerr, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Kelly Kempel, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Charlene Rushmere, parent – Howard Robertson P.S., Jonathan Blake, parent – Rockway P.S., Bonnie Heimbecker, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S.,

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chris Smith, Manager of Planning welcomed the ARC and opened the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

- Mr. Smith introduced Mel Lavoie, Project Coordinator – Facility Services to the ARC. Mr. Lavoie was the Project Coordinator during the construction of Edna Staebler P.S. and will lead the group in a tour of the facility, to offer his insight and experience with a purpose built JK-8 facility.

2. Tour of Edna Staebler P.S.

- Mr. Lavoie advised that this facility is a purpose built 2 storey JK-8, with a double gym, music room and lockers to accommodate the 7/8 program. It's also equipped with an elevator to meet accessibility guidelines, and is fully air conditioned.
- The school was built for 640 pupil places, which is a larger JK-8 facility and does service the entire area.
- This was the first school to have porcelain tiles installed throughout the main corridors, to help reduce maintenance time and costs. Mr. Lavoie explained that with new school

construction they are trying to move away from carpeting, it's harder to maintain and is a cause of allergens. Even the kindergarten rooms are equipped with cushioned solid surface flooring not carpet.

- Mr. Lavoie noted that with each school construction, they look to see what can be improved upon and what does the best job for the staff and students.

Q – Would there be much of a cost difference between building two separate facilities: a JK-6 and a 7/8 facility versus building a JK-8?

R – Mr. Dallan responded that the JK-8 facility would ultimately be cheaper than 2 separate ones; you have shared spaces/uses in the JK-8. New school construction is approximately \$175 - \$200 per square foot.

Q – Do any schools feed into Edna Staebler P.S.?

R – No, they currently have no feeder schools; there are however some students that chose the grandparenting option when they moved here from Abraham Erb P.S. when this school was built.

3. ARC Meeting # 5 – Draft Minutes approval

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the April 27th ARC meeting.
 - No concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the April 27th meeting were approved.
 - Mover: Diane Kewley
 - Seconded: Jennifer Childs

4. Draft Review Objectives

Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC if they had any changes/additions to the Draft Review Objectives.

- No changes or additions were proposed.
- The Draft Review Objectives will be presented to the public for their feedback at Public Meeting # 2 on May 26, 2010.

5. School Information Profiles

Mr. Hercanuck noted that Planning is waiting for the consultant's Facility Condition Report on each of the review area schools, due for completion around May 7, 2010. Once that information has been supplied and input, the profiles will be posted to the Board's Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC webpage.

- Mr. Hercanuck asked the group if there were any additions/changes/deletions they would like to propose for the profiles.
- No changes were proposed.

6. Scenario Development

Mr. Hercanuck confirmed that the ARC received the additional resource material emailed to them to assist with further scenario development. The materials were requested at the last ARC meeting, and they include:

- Walk Webs for each review area school for 2010-2011, context maps detailing future development, roads, roundabout placement and natural areas where no development will occur, as well as Area Projections.

Mr. Hercanuck then led the group through tonight's presentation with revisions to the Status Quo Scenario and Scenario 1, and the addition of Scenarios 2 and 3.

The ARC presentation can be viewed on the Boards website at:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/about-us/planning/accommodation-reviews/grand-river-south/sunnyside-elementary-schools-accommodation>

Status Quo Scenario (revised)

- New development in the area around Lackner Woods P.S. continues to put pressure on the facility as well as at Sheppard P.S. in the long-term. Sunnyside P.S. also experiences some enrolment pressure as the congregated 7/8 school for the whole area.
- Lackner Woods P.S. and Franklin P.S. continue to feed both Stanley Park and Sunnyside schools for the 7/8 program.

Revised maps and enrolment projections were displayed (these changes mainly affected the Breslau/Stanley Park review area schools).

Scenario 1 (revised):

- Additional JK-6 accommodation constructed in the southern portion (Chicopee) of the review area on a site to be determined. The new school receives Areas Y and Z from Sheppard P.S. and Area AB from Franklin P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. receives Areas P & T (for grades 7/8) from Stanley Park P.S., eliminating the split feeds from Lackner Woods P.S. and Franklin P.S.
 - Sunnyside P.S.'s numbers are still high, as are the numbers at the new school.
 - Solution – a further split of Areas X and Z?

Scenario 2:

- Additional JK-8 accommodation constructed in the southern portion of the review area on a site to be determined. The new school receives Area Y, and a portion of Area Z from Sheppard P.S. and Area AB from Franklin P.S.
- Lackner Woods P.S. receives a portion of Area Z from Sheppard P.S.
- Howard Robertson P.S. receives a portion of Area X from Lackner Woods P.S.

- The new JK-8 school provides the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Howard Robertson P.S. and Lackner Woods P.S., eliminating the split feed from Lackner Woods P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. continues to provide the senior 7/8 program from Wilson Avenue, Franklin and a portion of Rockway and Sheppard public schools. Sunnyside also receives Area P from Stanley Park P.S. eliminating the split feed from Franklin P.S.

Questions/Comments:

C – No change from Scenario 1 for Sheppard P.S., they still show low numbers.

C – Sunnyside numbers go way down, may not be enough for a viable program.

C – The new school's numbers are way up at 735, which is very high. The Good Schools Standing Committee suggests minimizing the number of schools over 600.

Q – What is the student population in Area AA?

R – Approximately 20 students.

Q – Could Area W be directed to Sunnyside instead of Howard Robertson to help their numbers? The students would transition to a senior 7/8 program instead of into an established JK-8 program, which may be a little easier. They could also walk to Sunnyside, instead of having to be bussed to Howard Robertson. It would also help bring down the numbers at the new school.

R – That is something to look at, however there is the challenge of accessibility at Sunnyside (you would not have that issue at the new school), and making it accessible could be costly.

C – For a variation and better balance, would like to see Area W be directed to Franklin P.S. for JK-6, then go on to Sunnyside for the 7/8 program. Leave Howard Robertson feeding to Sunnyside for 7/8 (as it does currently) instead of the new school. The change for Area W would also help keep Howard Robertson's numbers down.

C – It is difficult to create scenarios when we don't have a confirmed school site.

Mr. Smith agreed with that sentiment, and advised that we can create a scenario for each potential school site, until we have something definite.

C – JK-8 at the new school versus a 7/8 addition at Lackner Woods P.S. The Lackner Woods school site would prove challenging for an addition.

Q – Do we need to factor in the new development in Area K and the road construction going into Cambridge?

R – Students in Area K will not be served in this area. The growth in our review area is in Z, and all the known development and potential numbers have been factored into the projections.

C – We could look at converting a JK-6 school to a JK-8, for example Howard Robertson.

Scenario 3:

- Additional JK-8 accommodation constructed in the southern portion of the review area on a site to be determined. The new school receives Area Y, a portion of Area Z from Sheppard P.S. and Area AB from Franklin P.S.
- Lackner Woods P.S. receives a portion of Area Z from Sheppard and becomes JK-8.
- Howard Robertson P.S. receives a portion of Area X from Lackner Woods P.S.

- New JK-8 facility provides the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Howard Robertson P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. is closed.
- Franklin P.S. becomes JK-8 providing the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Wilson Avenue P.S. and portions of Rockway and Sheppard public schools. The split feed is eliminated.

Mr. Smith explained how Scenario 3 was created:

- This is a JK-8 model scenario, wanted to gauge its traction with the ARC and felt the public should have a comparator in the scenarios brought forward.
- Scenario 3 proposes 3 JK-8 facilities in the review area, closing Sunnyside down.
- There are approximately 600 grade 7/8 students in the review area, and this scenario divides them up between 3 schools/programs.

Questions/Comments:

C – The new school in this scenario has a large 7/8 population, roughly half of the school, this could pose a problem with program balance.

C – Franklin P.S. numbers are high.

C – Lackner Woods P.S. starts out with a very small 7/8 program, would that be viable, and the overall school numbers are still very high.

C – It was noted that our coterminous board – the Waterloo Catholic Board runs JK-8 schools exclusively. The difference between the boards is the 7/8 program model. Their testing results for grades 3 and 6 are higher than ours; however when you look at the grade 9 testing and grade 10 literacy test, our board scores higher. The 7/8 program is in between those testing timeframes and the difference here. Since we are so data and results driven, this needs to be considered when talking about JK-8 versus the 7/8 model. I feel the Good Schools Standing Committee is more opinion based than data driven as well, things we should keep in mind.

C – The majority of our 7/8 students are in senior schools currently.

Mr. Smith asked the ARC to consider the program question; it is one that we will continue to be asked.

C – Based on the accommodation needs in the review area, we will need to build a new facility, likely a JK-8, the current model cannot handle the capacity and sites like Lackner Woods P.S. are small for an addition. The growth is in Areas Y and Z, and the potential school site in Area AB on Morrison Road is not where the population will come from. The site on Fairway Road solves the accommodation problem geographically.

Q – Adding on to Franklin, Lackner Woods or Howard Robertson schools; is this fiscally responsible, or would we do better building new?

Mr. Smith noted that based on the ARC's discussion, there does not seem to be much traction for the purely JK-8 model, so we will table that for now. Our goal is to take some scenarios to the public that demonstrate comparators. We can also work out scenarios with each of the potential school sites to take forward.

C – Scenarios 2 and 3 do not address the overcrowding issue at Lackner Woods P.S.

Q – For the Public Meeting, is it possible to have 2 projection screens, one showing the walk webs and one showing the scenarios? It seems a bit awkward to switch back and forth.

- Mr. Smith responded that the format for Public Meeting # 2 will be as follows:
 - Short presentation by Planning.
 - Break out sessions – led by facilitators (school principals/vice principals) to discuss the scenarios in a small group setting using overheads. Someone from each group will be asked to take notes as well.
 - The group will then reconvene for some discussion/common themes.

Mr. Smith asked the ARC for their thoughts/opinions on splitting Areas N and S away from Rockway P.S. and diverting them to Courtland P.S. This is to offer some consistency in the 7/8 feeds and avoid the split feeds that currently happen. It represents about 40 senior 7/8 students and would help enrolment at Courtland P.S.

Q – Does Area U go to Courtland P.S.?

R – Yes, but there are not many students in that area, it's mainly industrial.

C – In representing Area S, I would be opposed to having that area moved to Courtland P.S. The students easily walk to Sunnyside now, but would have to be bussed to Courtland, doesn't make sense financially. Also, you would be creating a split feed for the high school, Courtland goes to Cameron Heights and Sunnyside goes to Eastwood Collegiate.

Mr. Smith agreed that we will have to be mindful of the secondary school boundaries and ensure consistent feeds for them as well during our scenario creation.

- Planning will re-work the current scenarios, and add 1 more for a total of 5 (including status quo).
- At the next ARC meeting we can decide which of the 5 scenarios to take forward to the Public Meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2010 at Sunnyside P.S.
- Important to include a scenario that closes Sunnyside and demonstrates the JK-8 model for the public to compare.
- Keep in mind that one of our main objectives is to address the overcrowding issue at Lackner Woods P.S. and future growth.

Q – How close is the Board to securing a school site?

R – We will have to talk to the City if we are looking at the site on Fairway Road which is privately owned; a zone change would be required. There is no plan of subdivision yet; we could approach the City about rezoning the parcel from commercial.

- It was noted that this particular site is near some very busy streets.

Q – With all the development in that area, hard to believe the City did not have a school site planned.

R – The Board did have a school site, but was abandoned due to safety concerns from the airport flight path. The potential site you are asking about is outside the flight hazard boundary.

7. Roundtable

It was noted that this review process isn't just about the overcrowding issue facing Lackner Woods P.S., although important, we need to remember that there are other schools in the review. The growth is happening in the Lackner Woods P.S. area, while most of the school capacity is in the inner core areas. The scenarios propose Area Y going to the new school which will negatively impact Sheppard P.S. on the long-term. It is the ARC's challenge to address all the issues, and do the best for the students of each community.

8. Future Meeting Dates:

- Mr. Hercanuck posted the future meeting dates for the ARC.
 - The next ARC meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 from 4:00 – 6:30 pm at Sunnyside P.S. At this meeting the ARC will determine which scenarios will be taken forward for feedback from the public at Public Meeting # 2 on May 26, 2010. Location of the meeting: Sunnyside P.S. beginning at 7:00 pm.
 - Mr. Smith reiterated that the ARC is not expected to attend the Public Meeting, but may find it helpful to gauge public response to the scenarios and the review objectives put forth.
 - It was also mentioned that Lackner Woods P.S. and Franklin P.S. will receive flyers for both Public Meetings (Grand River South/Sunnyside – May 26th and Breslau/Stanley Park – May 25th). The flyers will be different colours, however.
 - The ARC meeting scheduled for June 8, 2010 will be a re-cap of the Public Meeting, then the ARC will break for the summer and resume meetings in September.
- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday May 18 @ Sunnyside P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Public Meeting # 2 – Wednesday May 26, 2010 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Sunnyside P.S.

Tuesday June 8 @ Sunnyside P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm