



**Breslau/Stanley Park Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation
Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 6
May 5th, 2010 – 6:00 pm**

The sixth meeting of the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Edna Staebler P.S. on May 5th, 2010.

Committee Members Present:

Jane Pritchard, Principal of Franklin P.S., Pauline Shiry, Principal of Mackenzie King P.S., Rob MacQueen, Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Jodi Albrecht, Vice Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Janice Scherer, parent – Franklin P.S., Laurie Tremble, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Nancy Allan Catton, parent – Breslau P.S., Lorraine Buckley, parent – Mackenzie King P.S. (covering for Sean Mahoney), Crysta Fernandez, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Anessa Selcage, parent – Franklin P.S., Tracy Jasmins, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Mark Richardson, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, and Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Ron Dallan, Facility Services, John Scarfone, Township of Woolwich, Brian Bateman, City of Kitchener, William Grobe, Principal of Breslau P.S., Carolyn Griffiths, Principal of Crestview P.S., Libby Martz, Vice Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Trish Starodub, Principal of Smithson P.S., Kathy Waybrant, Community Rep., Doug Hudson, parent – Breslau P.S., T. Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Sean Mahoney, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Troy Starr, parent – Smithson P.S., Edie Paul, parent – Smithson P.S., Tania Hunter, parent – Crestview P.S., Lesley Kraehling, parent – Crestview P.S. and Lauren Manske, Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

1. Welcome

Mr. Smith welcomed the ARC and opened the meeting at 6:10 pm.

2. Tour of Edna Staebler P.S.

- Mr. Smith led the ARC through a tour of Edna Staebler P.S. highlighting the features of a purpose built JK-8 facility.
- The school was built for 640 pupil places, which is on the large size for a JK-8 but does service the entire area; there are no feeder schools to Edna Staebler.
- It is a 2 storey structure with an elevator and sliding front doors to meet accessibility guidelines. The school is also fully air conditioned (with the exception of the gym).
- The general classrooms are in the pod format, typically 4 classrooms surrounding an inner/shared work space.
- The Board receives extra money from the Ministry of Education when building a JK-8 school to allow for music, art, science and tech rooms (part of the 7/8 curriculum).

- This was the first school to have porcelain tiles installed throughout the main corridors, to help reduce maintenance costs. With new school construction, we 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.
- The YWCA runs a childcare out of the same building, which is housed on one end of the school adjacent to the kindergarten rooms. (This facility is not included in the calculation for school space).

Q – If the decision was made to close Stanley Park P.S., where would the instruments go?

R – They would likely be divided between the schools with a 7/8 program. It was noted that the instrumental/string program is expensive to run and maintain.

Mr. Smith advised that there is a review currently running at the Board, and a Report is expected soon to present a plan which may equalize music programs across the schools.

3. ARC Meeting # 5 – Draft Minutes Approval

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the April 7th ARC meeting.
 - No concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the April 7th meeting were approved.
 - Mover: Crysta Fernandez
 - Seconded: Laurie Tremble

4. Draft Review Objectives

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any comments/changes/additions to the Draft Review Objectives.
 - No changes were proposed.

5. School Information Profiles

- Mr. Hercanuck confirmed that the School Information Profiles are almost complete.
- The consultant hired to generate Facility Condition Reports for each of the schools in the review area is expected to have the results to Planning on or about May 7, 2010. The information will then be added to the profiles.
- Goal is to have the School Information Profiles completed before Public Meeting # 2.
- Mr. Hercanuck advised the group to let Planning know if they see any errors/omissions, or have any additions for the profiles.
- The completed profiles will be posted to the Breslau/Stanley Park ARC webpage.

Mr. Hercanuck explained the resource materials that were emailed to the ARC:

- They included context maps of the review area, outlining green space, planned and future development as well as protected areas that will not be developed.

- Walk webs for each of the schools were sent with the 2010 Transportation Walk Distance Policy.
- The ARC had also requested enrolment projections by area:
 - Historical student counts of the areas are compiled and evaluated.
 - In any area of the Board, there are students who attend a school other than their home school (out of boundary).
 - Projections for the area developed are based on historical trends.
 - Out of Boundary Draw: some schools draw students from outside their home school boundary for reasons such as: French Immersion and Special Education.

The ARC presentation and resource materials can be viewed on the Boards website at: <http://www.wrdsb.ca/about-us/planning/accommodation-reviews/breslau/stanley-park-elementary-schools-accommodation-review>

6. Scenario Development

Mr. Hercanuck displayed the scenarios for discussion and advised that the revisions to Status Quo, Scenarios 1 and 2 were due to slight changes in the enrolment projections mainly for Breslau P.S. based on information from John Scarfone at the Township of Woolwich.

Status Quo Scenario (revised)

- Breslau P.S. in the short-term, numbers are not bad, however mid to long-term numbers are very large at 744 in 2019.
- Crestview and Stanley Park schools – solid numbers.

Scenario 1 (revised) – reorganization scenario

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to Mackenzie King P.S. for JK-6 and to Stanley Park for grades 7 and 8.
- Area C moves from Mackenzie King P.S. to Smithson P.S. for JK-6.
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. for the senior 7/8 program, eliminating the split feed from Lackner Woods and Franklin schools.

Questions/Comments:

C – Breslau P.S. numbers in the short-term are low, but do increase by 2019 with the ongoing development, however, the senior program numbers are weak. Stanley Park P.S. numbers are steady with Area E coming in.

Q – Have development timelines been given for the Breslau area?

R – Yes, the land is designated but not draft approved. We are probably looking at anywhere from 1 – 4 years for some of the development to be complete. In speaking to Mr. Scarfone, the Township is aware of all of the development to come and some will be beyond our 10 year long-term plans.

Q – Can Breslau P.S. keep some of Area E? (Area E is the Misty Court area in Kitchener that is currently bussed to Breslau P.S. and represents approximately 200 students).

R – That would split a neighbourhood and have a negative impact on Stanley Park’s enrolment and senior program.

Q – Breslau P.S. is impacted too much; we will not only lose students, but teachers as well, can they be protected somehow? Perhaps grandfathering? People have purchased homes in the area knowing that they would attend Breslau P.S. for JK-8.

R – The growth for Breslau P.S. is coming in JK-6 over the next several years, so unless you bus 7/8 students in from other areas the senior program remains small. Perhaps Breslau P.S. could be converted to JK-6 for the short-term – it could always be reinstated based on the situation at that time.

C – There are emotional issues here; we have to look beyond our own schools/students and the impacts that may be created by the scenarios/solutions brought forward. The ARC’s job is to do what’s best for all school communities and all of the students in the review area.

Mr. Smith noted that was an important context statement; he added that each scenario has details that may not be attractive to everyone, they can be fine tuned, and that is what we ask of the ARC. He also noted that we need to keep the review objectives in mind while evaluating and creating scenarios.

Scenario 2 (revised) - 3 JK-8’s, 1 JK-6 feeding JK-8, no senior 7/8 school

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to Mackenzie King P.S. (which becomes JK-8)
- Area C moves from Mackenzie King P.S. to Smithson P.S. (JK-6)
- Smithson P.S. (JK-6 Areas B, C and G) feed to Mackenzie King P.S. for grades 7/8
- Stanley Park P.S. closes
- Crestview becomes JK-8, receives senior French Immersion and Special Education from Stanley Park P.S. and Franklin P.S.
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. for grades 7/8

Questions/Comments:

C – Crestview P.S. numbers are solid and would likely need an addition. Smithson P.S. numbers are low. Mackenzie King P.S. would need renovation/addition and their senior program is a bit small. Breslau P.S. 7/8 program is small; they may require an addition in the long-term.

Q – Breslau P.S.’s enrolment projection for 2010 is 269, the current enrolment is 460, why the difference?

R – The numbers reflect Area E moving to Mackenzie King P.S. We start our projections for 2010, but no changes would happen that quickly, the ARC will still be working through the review process in September 2010.

C – There is concern about JK-6 feeding a JK-8 school; the students are moved into established turf in that situation.

R – Transitions are important and that’s why it is one of our review objectives. For some students it may be more difficult to enter an established JK-8 environment versus a 7/8 program where all students are transitioning from grade 6 at the same time.

Q – Would the additions/renovations be done while school is in, like they did at Franklin P.S.?

R – That is a possibility, and can be looked at if the scenario goes forward.

Scenario 3 (new) – school consolidation, no senior 7/8 school

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to new Rosemount (JK-8)
- Smithson and Mackenzie King schools are closed, and those areas attend Rosemount.
- Crestview becomes JK-8, receives senior French Immersion (FI) and Special Education programs from Stanley Park P.S.
- Stanley Park P.S. closes and Areas P and T move to Sunnyside for 7/8

Questions/Comments:

Q – Where are FI students directed in this scenario?

R – Crestview P.S. for all grades.

C – This scenario closes 3 schools and builds on the Rosemount P.S. property – currently in use by the Board for specialized programs.

Q – Is the property big enough for parking and playground for JK-8?

R – Yes, the site is 8.27 acres. The numbers however are high at 754 by 2019.

C – If you left Area E at Breslau P.S. that would help decrease Rosemount’s numbers.

R – Taking Area E from Rosemount would make the 7/8 program small.

C – Area E could go to Crestview – it is fairly close proximity wise.

R – Crestview could not handle the extra 200 students that would represent.

Q – Could we split Area E?

R – We can look at that, and might make more sense in this scenario.

Q – Seems that Area E is leaving Breslau P.S. in all the scenarios, is it a done deal already?

R – No, the scenarios are assembled for the ARC to work with and make suggestions. Removing Area E from Breslau P.S. addresses one of our main objectives which is the enrolment pressure at that school, currently operating with 8 portables.

Q – Regarding bussing and the new distance policy coming September 2010. How is it handled if you have children of different ages and they are not all eligible to ride?

R – As they have in the past, the older children can walk the younger ones; but not ride if under distance policy.

Q – How much money does the Board get to close a school?

R – That would depend on the market value of the property less demolition costs. If a school is closed, the site is offered to public agencies first, for example, other school boards, colleges, universities and municipalities at “fair market value”. If there are no buyers, the site is put on the open market to developers and they would undertake any approvals such as a change to the zoning.

Mr. Smith gave an update on the proposed change to the Capital Funding Model.

- The New Pupil Place (NPP) model for funding will no longer be used.
- It is anticipated that we will be moving towards a needs-based model, where the Board will be required to make a business case to the Ministry of Education for what is needed.
- The Board makes their decisions but implementation will be based on money coming from the Ministry.
- The Board is 100% dependant on the Province for its Capital dollars.
- We would recommend that we will still do good planning, but may ultimately have less control over the timelines.

- Expectation is that this new Capital Funding Model may be a challenge when it comes to timing issues, etc. There may be more caveats around Board approval.
- Important to note that there are no firm details of the new funding model yet, however.

Scenario 4 (new) – school consolidation, senior 7/8 school stays open

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to new Rosemount (JK-6)
- Smithson P.S. and Mackenzie King P.S. are closed, and those areas attend new Rosemount (JK-6)
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. for 7/8

Questions/Comments:

C – Rosemount numbers are big; Crestview and Stanley Park schools have solid numbers.

R – Some of Area E could be directed to Crestview to reduce Rosemount numbers.

C – Crestview has French Immersion, might be attractive to Area E.

C – We could split Area E. Have those students within walking distance go to Crestview, then bus the rest to Breslau P.S., to help with better balance of the numbers.

Mr. Hercanuck displayed a chart entitled: **Scenarios – Space Analysis**

- The chart details what the built capacity would be for each scenario, and projects enrolment through 2019.
- Mr. Smith noted that this chart demonstrates the impact of each scenario when it comes to facility space and could be a way of eliminating scenarios that will not accomplish the ARC's goals/objectives.
- For example; Scenario 3 cuts pretty deep with the closure of 3 schools, leaving capacity at around 1300. We know however that projected enrolment by 2015 is 1350 and 1421 by 2019. That scenario leaves no reserve space and limits our flexibility.
- Note: built capacity for scenario 2 is shown on the chart as 1005. This number will be adjusted to account for the 2 additions required in that scenario.

7. Roundtable

Mr. Smith advised that Planning will take the ideas/suggestions from tonight's discussion and re-work some of the scenarios, and asked the ARC to email or call if they have further ideas.

- For example, it was requested that we look at splitting Area E (between Breslau and Crestview and/or between Crestview and Mackenzie King).
- The next ARC meeting will be used to determine which scenarios to take to the Public Meeting on May 25, 2010, ideally no more than 4.
- Notices/flyers will be sent out shortly to each of the schools advertising the upcoming Public Meeting.
- Franklin and Lackner Woods schools will receive 2 sets of flyers – one for this review and one for the Grand River South/Sunnyside review (in different colours).
- 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.
- The group will then reconvene for some discussion/common themes.

Q – Concern with the wooded/greenbelt areas and with children going through there. I am involved with safety/crime prevention.

R – The students would not be directed that way. All the measurements done for transportation distance calculations use streets and paved walkways.

Q – There would be more going through Area D and crossing River Road to get to Rosemount.

R – Yes, since there are students crossing River Road currently, the more children on the street the safer they are. If we have more school sites available it means less bussing.

Mr. Smith asked the ARC if they felt Scenario 3 should be dropped. We can always re-visit it; the scenarios are never completely deleted. Our goal is to get to some front runners for the Public Meeting, and with the closure of 3 schools in this scenario and our need for accommodation, not sure how well this meets our objectives.

- The ARC agreed by consensus to drop Scenario 3 for now and not include it in the scenarios being taken to Public Meeting # 2.

Q – Area E was going to be split; will you do that for Scenario 4 now and not 3?

R – Yes, we will have that modification for the next ARC meeting.

8. Future Meeting Dates

- Mr. Hercanuck displayed the future meeting dates.
- The next ARC meeting is scheduled for: Wednesday, May 19th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Stanley Park P.S.
- Public Meeting # 2 is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at Stanley Park P.S. beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The ARC meeting scheduled for June 9, 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 8:05 pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, May 19 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm @ Stanley Park P.S.
Public Meeting # 2 Tues. May 25 @ Stanley Park P.S. – 7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 9 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm @ Stanley Park P.S.