



**East Kitchener-Waterloo Elementary Schools Pupil
Accommodation Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 8
March 9th, 2010 - 4:30 pm**

The eighth meeting of the East Kitchener-Waterloo Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Margaret Avenue P.S., on March 9, 2010.

Committee Members Present:

Frank Ewald, Principal of Lexington P.S., Kelly Wilkinson, Principal of Elizabeth Ziegler P.S., Leisa Kuntz, Principal of Prueter P.S., Brian Ward, Principal of Margaret Avenue P.S., Janet Hale, Principal of King Edward P.S., Ian Gaudet, Controller, Facility Services, D.L. Brown, parent – Suddaby P.S., Peter Brown, parent – Lexington P.S., Carrie Dawson-Thomas, parent – Margaret Avenue P.S., Cindy Shirley, parent – Elizabeth Ziegler P.S., Kelly Miller, parent – Elizabeth Ziegler P.S., T. Gilhuly, parent – Lexington P.S., Michael Reinhardt, parent – Bridgeport P.S., Don Snider, parent – Prueter P.S., Tara Bridger, parent – Bridgeport P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner and Lauren Manske, Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Elke Whitmore, Principal of Bridgeport P.S., Mark Schinkel, Area Superintendent, Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Elizabeth Brown, Development & Technical Services Dept., City of Kitchener, Darlene Stubbs, Principal of Suddaby P.S., Amy Stewart, parent – Margaret Avenue P.S., Carolyn Laurie, parent – King Edward P.S., Susie Fowler, parent – Suddaby P.S., D. Welsman, parent – King Edward P.S., Laura Dick, parent – Prueter P.S.,

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chris Smith, Manager of Planning opened the meeting at 4:35 pm and welcomed members of the ARC.

2. Meeting # 7 – Draft minutes approval

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the February 9th ARC meeting.
 - No concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the February 9th meeting were approved.
 - Moved by: T. Gilhuly
 - Seconded by: D.L. Brown
- Mr. Smith also asked the school principals that were present if they received the flyers for the Public Meeting to be held on March 23, 2010.
 - All of the principals advised that they received the flyers and most had been distributed already.

3. Review Objectives

Ms. Manske noted that changes were made to the Draft Review Objectives as requested by the ARC at the last meeting. It was felt that more emphasis was needed on putting students and their needs first. The changes are as follows:

- To support optimal use of facilities, capital and operating costs.
 - *Consider priorities for physical accessibility of facilities by the Accessibility Committee.*
- *To provide current and future students in the review are with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by having* regard for policies, directions or statements of the Ministry of Education and the WRDSB.

Ms. Manske asked the ARC if there were any questions/comments regarding the changes.

- none were raised and the changes were accepted.

4. Scenario costing discussion

Ms. Manske advised the ARC that there are no cost details or dollar figures assigned to the preliminary scenarios at this point. The Facility Services team needs more time to complete the costing details. A Draft Scope of Work for Preliminary Costing handout was provided to the ARC.

- Ms. Manske, Ron Dallan and Dale Wideman (Project Coordinator) have visited all of the sites, and will have information ready to bring to the Public Meeting on March 23, 2010. They will also have details regarding additions at Elizabeth Ziegler and Prueter Public Schools and what that would look like.

Ms. Manske brought forward **Scenario 11** to be discussed. Its creation was requested by a member of the ARC at the last meeting from some parent feedback.

Scenario 11

- 8 school scenario that builds a new JK-8 at Lexington, a new JK-6 at Falconridge Drive, and Margaret Avenue gets all of the JK-6 feed from Suddaby and King Edward.
- there would be no school closures under this scenario.

Ms. Manske asked the group for any questions/comments on Scenario 11.

C – Margaret Avenue enrolment numbers are still low even after adding the extra students.

C – Lexington or Falconridge could be the JK-8 school.

C – There would be a negative impact on the enrolment at Courtland P.S. in this scenario.

C – Leaves Margaret Avenue at just over 200 students, doesn't seem viable, the other scenarios that keep Margaret Avenue open have better numbers than this scenario does.

C – Margaret Avenue seems just too small from a financial perspective – if we look at our review objectives, this one does not make optimal use of the facility.

C – There is no value in pursuing this scenario if we feel it would just be rejected.

C – It would hurt Courtland P.S. too much, their numbers are already low (current enrolment is 260).

C – The numbers just don't stand up.

C – Building 2 new schools in this scenario is expensive.

Q – What if the feed from Elizabeth Ziegler was added to this scenario? It may represent about 40 - 50 grade 7/8 students (Area M).

R – We can take a look at that, not sure exactly what negative impact this would have on MacGregor P.S. (current enrolment is 390).

- It was decided by consensus **not to pursue Scenario 11** any further at this time.

Ms. Manske asked the ARC to go through each of the 5 scenarios (1, 2, 8, 9 and 10) to see what kind of a job they do when put up against the review objectives – do they meet/don't meet?

Scenario 1

Objective	Meets	Doesn't Meet
Determine long-term boundaries for schools in the Review area, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a permanent solution for Lexington P.S. ○ determine need to utilize the 410 Falconridge Dr. property 	* *	
Determine viability of a JK-8 school in the Review area		
Have regard for community schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ which recognize the relationship/identity of community to local elementary school ○ which minimize transportation costs in the long-term 	* *	* (save some JK-6 transp: Falconridge)
Support optimal use of facilities, capital and operating costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consider priorities for physical accessibility of facilities by the Accessibility Committee 		* * 3/8
Provide current and future students in the Review area with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by having regard for policies, directions or statements of the Ministry of Education and the WRDSB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Good Schools Standing Committee guiding principles on school size and configuration ○ distribution and accessibility of Special Education, French Immersion and English as a Second Language programs ○ plans with respect to curriculum and program changes (i.e. Early Learning Program, class sizes, etc) 	* 7/8 *	* (no JK-8 continuum)
Address student transitions where changes are proposed	*	

Questions/Comments:

Q – Enrolment projections for Falconridge Drive for 2013 (299) and 2016 (399) is this a typo?

R – No, there is still development coming on in that area, and this increase reflects the number of units to be built in 2014 and beyond.

C – Regarding viability of JK-8 this is meets and doesn't meet. There is still lots of support for the 7/8 senior school program. May need to clarify this objective.

C – Regarding community schools, this meets for JK-6 but not for 7/8 geographically (Margaret Avenue students will still need to be bussed).

C – Having every school as a JK-8 is not a reality, transitions will continue to happen.

C – We have to do something in north Waterloo – what makes sense for the long-term.

C – Curriculum is the same for grades 7 and 8 whether they are in a JK-8 or 7/8 school, however with the larger number of classes per grade in a 7/8 school it allows for specialized teachers.

C – Margaret Avenue transportation costs will increase due to the new Transportation Eligibility Policy effective September 2010.

Q – Can you include transportation costs in the costing details?

R – Yes, we can add that information. We will still need to look at as a net increase/decrease.

C – Bridgeport and Prueter are underutilized in this scenario.

3 out of the 8 schools in this scenario are accessible

Q – Do we know how much it would cost to make Margaret Avenue accessible?

R – Mr. Gaudet noted that the Accessibility Committee, consisting of Board staff, Trustees, parents and students set priorities. Secondary schools have been targeted currently, and the next phase will include elementary schools. Senior elementary schools generally have a greater need for accessibility funding due to their age and multi level structures. The goal is to have all facilities accessible by 2025, and the onus is on the Board to meet that target by either fixing the older schools or building new ones that are accessible. Program decisions impact accessibility as well. We don't have an exact dollar figure for Margaret Avenue at this point. He noted that he will provide comparators to help the ARC.

C – We need to see what it would cost to make Margaret Avenue accessible versus building a brand new school.

Scenario 2

Objective	Meets	Doesn't Meet
Determine long-term boundaries for schools in the Review area, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a permanent solution for Lexington P.S. ○ determine need to utilize the 410 Falconridge Dr. property 	* *	
Determine viability of a JK-8 school in the Review area		
Have regard for community schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ which recognize the relationship/identity of community to local elementary school ○ which minimize transportation costs in the long-term 	* *	*
Support optimal use of facilities, capital and operating costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consider priorities for physical accessibility of facilities by the Accessibility Committee 	* * 4/7	
Provide current and future students in the Review area with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by having regard for policies, directions or statements of the Ministry of Education and the WRDSB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Good Schools Standing Committee guiding principles on school size and configuration ○ distribution and accessibility of Special Education, French Immersion and English as a Second Language programs ○ plans with respect to curriculum and program changes (i.e. Early Learning Program, class sizes, etc) 	* * *	
Address student transitions where changes are proposed	*	

Questions/Comments:

Q – What is the optimal enrolment number for a JK-8 school?

R – 500 – 600 students.

C – The 7/8 numbers are low at Falconridge and very low at Prueter, however we are making better use of the Prueter facility.

C – Addressing the north/south issue of community schools.

4 out of the 7 schools in this scenario are accessible

Q – Could we have the feeds from Suddaby, King Edward and Elizabeth Ziegler all go to Prueter to strengthen the numbers?

R – This would have a negative enrolment impact on MacGregor and Courtland public schools.

Scenario 8

Objective	Meets	Doesn't Meet
Determine long-term boundaries for schools in the Review area, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o a permanent solution for Lexington P.S. o determine need to utilize the 410 Falconridge Dr. property 	* *	
Determine viability of a JK-8 school in the Review area		
Have regard for community schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o which recognize the relationship/identity of community to local elementary school o which minimize transportation costs in the long-term 		* *
Support optimal use of facilities, capital and operating costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o consider priorities for physical accessibility of facilities by the Accessibility Committee 	*	* 2/7
Provide current and future students in the Review area with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by having regard for policies, directions or statements of the Ministry of Education and the WRDSB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the Good Schools Standing Committee guiding principles on school size and configuration o distribution and accessibility of Special Education, French Immersion and English as a Second Language programs o plans with respect to curriculum and program changes (i.e. Early Learning Program, class sizes, etc) 	* *	* *
Address student transitions where changes are proposed	*	

Questions/Comments:

Q – Are Scenario 8 and 9 pretty much the same?

R – They are fairly similar, the difference is: Lexington is rebuilt in Scenario 8 with a new boundary, and Scenario 9 builds a new JK-6 school on Falconridge Drive. (Lexington is closed in Scenario 9).

C – Bridgeport and Lexington are large, and Prueter is very small for enrolment numbers.

2 out of the 7 schools in this scenario are accessible

C – Leaves the Falconridge community/area without a school and a feeling of isolation. There will be more growth in that area over the next 5 years.

Q – How big is the Falconridge area going to get? Why not wait until it is finished, and then look at the area again with an eye to building a new facility.

R – The development numbers are fairly significant. Mr. Smith noted that waiting becomes a timing issue as we need to accommodate students from the area, somewhere. For any new school construction we are looking at 2013 or 2014 anyway.

C – Falconridge area also gets split up in this scenario.

Scenario 9

Objective	Meets	Doesn't Meet
Determine long-term boundaries for schools in the Review area, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o a permanent solution for Lexington P.S. o determine need to utilize the 410 Falconridge Dr. property 	* *	
Determine viability of a JK-8 school in the Review area		
Have regard for community schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o which recognize the relationship/identity of community to local elementary school o which minimize transportation costs in the long-term 	* 	* *
Support optimal use of facilities, capital and operating costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o consider priorities for physical accessibility of facilities by the Accessibility Committee 		* 2/7
Provide current and future students in the Review area with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by having regard for policies, directions or statements of the Ministry of Education and the WRDSB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the Good Schools Standing Committee guiding principles on school size and configuration o distribution and accessibility of Special Education, French Immersion and English as a Second Language programs o plans with respect to curriculum and program changes (i.e. Early Learning Program, class sizes, etc) 	*	* *
Address student transitions where changes are proposed	*	

Questions/Comments:

C – Lexington is closed in this scenario, so no community school.

C – More of Lexington's boundary crossing University Avenue (may be an issue).

2 out of the 7 schools in this scenario are accessible

Scenario 10

Objective	Meets	Doesn't Meet
Determine long-term boundaries for schools in the Review area, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a permanent solution for Lexington P.S. ○ determine need to utilize the 410 Falconridge Dr. property 	* *	
Determine viability of a JK-8 school in the Review area		
Have regard for community schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ which recognize the relationship/identity of community to local elementary school ○ which minimize transportation costs in the long-term 	*	*
Support optimal use of facilities, capital and operating costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consider priorities for physical accessibility of facilities by the Accessibility Committee 	* * 4/7	
Provide current and future students in the Review area with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by having regard for policies, directions or statements of the Ministry of Education and the WRDSB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Good Schools Standing Committee guiding principles on school size and configuration ○ distribution and accessibility of Special Education, French Immersion and English as a Second Language programs ○ plans with respect to curriculum and program changes (i.e. Early Learning Program, class sizes, etc) 	* * *	*
Address student transitions where changes are proposed	*	

Questions/Comments:

C – Margaret Avenue is closed in this scenario – taking away the 7/8 school and replacing it with two JK-8 facilities. One in the north and one in the south (Lexington and Elizabeth Ziegler).

C – There will be an impact on MacGregor enrolment; they could lose 40 - 50 students; and may mean an awkward boundary.

C – Could promote French Immersion at MacGregor to increase the numbers – more equitable. Then Suddaby could feed MacGregor for FI instead of Stanley Park P.S.

C – There may be some reduction in transportation costs – may net out.

Q – Could look at all of Suddaby feeding Elizabeth Ziegler instead of the split feed that occurs now with Courtland.

R – We can have a look at that, but again this has an impact on Courtland P.S.

4 out of the 7 schools in this scenario are accessible

5. Public Meeting # 3

Mr. Smith noted that Public Meeting # 3 - Open House will be held at Lexington P.S. on March 23, 2010 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

- Planning will set up display boards with the 5 scenarios including the costing details.
- There will be a sign in sheet for the public, as well as comment sheets for their feedback.
- The ARC has brought forth scenarios that have Margaret Avenue stay open, some that see it close, best north/south solutions. Mr. Smith advised that we will take the feedback from this meeting to determine if we have one or two front runners/favoured scenarios.

6. Roundtable

Mr. Smith asked the ARC if there were any further items to be discussed.

- None were raised.

7. Future Meeting Dates

- It was noted that an additional ARC meeting was added to the schedule after the group was polled via email. ARC Meeting # 9 will take place on Thursday, March 25, 2010 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. at Margaret Avenue P.S. (in the library). Mr. Ward kindly offered his school again for this additional meeting.
- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming, and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

Public Meeting # 3 Tuesday March 23, 2010 @ Lexington P.S.
Thursday March 25, 2010 @ Margaret Avenue P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm
Tuesday April 6, 2010 @ Margaret Avenue P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm