



**Breslau/Stanley Park Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation  
Review  
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 3  
March 10th, 2010 – 6:00 pm**

The third meeting of the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Stanley Park P.S. on March 10th, 2010.

Committee Members Present:

William Grobe, Principal of Breslau P.S., Pauline Shiry, Principal of Mackenzie King P.S., Rob MacQueen, Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Doug Hudson, parent – Breslau P.S., Anessa Selcage, parent – Franklin P.S., Janice Scherer, parent – Franklin P.S., Laurie Tremble, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., T. Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Tracy Jasmins, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Sean Mahoney, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Mark Richardson, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Troy Starr, parent – Smithson P.S., Edie Paul, parent – Smithson P.S., Lesley Kraehling, parent – Crestview P.S., Tania Hunter, parent – Crestview P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner and Lauren Manske, Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Libby Martz, Vice Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Carolyn Griffiths, Principal of Crestview P.S., Jane Pritchard, Principal of Franklin P.S., Trish Starodub, Principal of Smithson P.S., Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, John Scarfone, Township of Woolwich Rep., Ron Dallan, Facility Services, Brian Bateman, City of Kitchener, Nancy Allan Catton, parent – Breslau P.S.

**1. Welcome/Introductions**

Mr. Hercanuck opened the meeting at 6:00 pm, noted that Mr. Smith sent his regrets for tonight's meeting so he would act as Chair. Two new ARC members were welcomed to the group, and introductions were made.

- Kathy Waybrant from the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), she will act as the ARC's Community Representative.
- Crysta Fernandez, Parent Rep for Stanley Park P.S.

**2. ARC Meeting # 2 – Draft Minutes Approval**

- Mr. Hercanuck asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the February 24<sup>th</sup> ARC meeting.
  - No concerns or corrections were raised.
  - Minutes from the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.
  - Mover: Tracy Jasmins
  - Seconded: Sean Mahoney

### 3. School Tour – Saturday March 27, 2010 at 9:00 am

- Mr. Hercanuck noted that the school tour has been confirmed for Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 9:00 am. If there are still any members that cannot make the March 27<sup>th</sup> date, and wish to tour the schools we can always work out an alternate date for those people.
- The tour will take approximately 3 – 3 ½ hours – we will car pool.

Q – I cannot attend the tour myself, would it be okay if another parent went in my place?

R – Mr. Hercanuck put the question to the ARC members for their feelings:

- The ARC had no problem with another parent joining the tour.

Q – Will there be a schedule set up for the tour?

R – Yes, a starting location will be determined and Planning will map out a route and itinerary to bring to the next ARC meeting.

- Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC if there was any interest in touring a JK-8 facility. Breslau P.S. is the only JK-8 in the review area and is an older structure that has been added onto in order to accommodate the 7/8 program, so it might be helpful to the ARC to view a purpose built JK-8 school. We can perhaps host one of our ARC meetings at a JK-8 school.

Rob MacQueen, Principal of Stanley Park P.S. then led the ARC through a tour of his school, pointing out its unique features, such as the science and tech room, the woodworking room, the band room, the Hearing Services room, and the Life Skills classroom with a full kitchen.

Mr. Hercanuck thanked Mr. MacQueen for the informative tour, and asked the ARC for their impressions:

- impressive
- feels like a high school
- nice wide hallways

### 4. Setting 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 (**could add: maximize number of students in permanent space – minimize portables**)
  - 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 (*where changes are proposed – implementation: possible grandparenting, phasing in/out*)

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

Q – Taking into account the Good Schools Standing Committee on school size, how would our recommendation affect a school like Franklin, which is already larger than the committee recommends?

R – They are only guidelines, but is something for us to work towards. The current Principal at Franklin does not have a concern at this point with the size of the school. They have just undergone an addition as well. Lackner Woods P.S. is currently running with 8 portables, it would be nice to have a permanent space for those students (through an addition for example). This could be part of our review objectives.

C – School size does matter when you don't have enough washrooms or gym space/facilities to accommodate the population in the school.

## 5. School Information Profiles

Mr. Hercanuck noted that Planning has received all of the profiles back from the school principals; we are still waiting for Facility Services to complete their portions of the profiles.

- The ARC was asked if there was any information they would like to see added or removed from the School Information Profiles.
  - No additions/deletions were suggested.

Q – Are the profiles posted on the website yet?

R – Not at this point, we still need the facilities piece to be completed.

Q – Can we see what has been input so far?

Ms. Manske will email the School Information Profiles to the ARC as they stand currently.

## 6. Roundtable

Mr. Hercanuck began some discussion on scenario development. He asked the ARC if they would like Planning staff to come up with some initial scenarios as a starting point. We can bring different options, i.e. a JK-8 option, ideas to tidy up the boundaries; like addressing the 7/8 split that occurs at Franklin and Lackner Woods Public Schools (they currently split off to both Sunnyside and Stanley Park).

Q – Will we need new enrolment projections with the implementation of the Early Learning Program? Full Time Equivalent (FTE) numbers (that counted a kindergarten student as .5) will no longer apply.

R – All of the projections have FTE and Total – going forward we will use the Total number, as the ELP has already been factored into that.

- Ms. Manske added that she has blank area boundary maps for anyone that might like to mock up a scenario.
- It was noted that Planning will bring updated Status Quo projections to the next meeting, the projections in your binders can be used as a starting point though.

Q – How easy is it to convert a JK-6 to a JK-8? What would be needed?

R – Breslau P.S. was converted and added onto in order to accommodate the 7/8's. They have the basic facilities, but it is piecemeal compared to a purpose built JK-8 school. The conversion would require an addition, so site size would be a factor. Adding a 7/8 program requires a double gym and some specialized rooms for science and tech (like we saw here at Stanley Park P.S.).

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the Waterloo Catholic Board only operates JK-8 schools. This can be a challenge though with lower enrolments and smaller school organizations. You could end up with combined grades and not as much flexibility with program delivery.

- The ARC agreed that it would be valuable to see a JK-8 facility, and would be amenable to holding an ARC meeting at one.
  - Possible locations: Edna Staebler, Laurelwood, Lester B. Pearson P.S.

C – Would appreciate seeing a JK-8 option/scenario. It is something that is lacking in this area. Could look at converting Lackner Woods P.S. to a JK-8, then adding onto Mackenzie King because the site is large enough and bringing some students in from Breslau and Lackner Woods. Stanley Park would lose some feed, but could re-draw the boundary a bit more to the south to pick up from different areas. Could always look at expanding the Special Education or French Immersion programs at Stanley Park to bring the numbers back up.

- With the Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC running now as well, we might find some scenarios that overlap/intertwine with them, especially since Franklin and Lackner Woods schools are in both reviews.

C – If the 7/8 students from the Misty Court area of Kitchener were removed from Breslau P.S., the program would be very small. Why not let Breslau grow to 650 students (which is still within the Good Schools Standing Committee guidelines for school size) and see how that works?

C – The Good Schools guidelines actually indicate that we are to minimize the number of schools with enrolments over 600 students.

Q – Franklin P.S. feeds to both Sunnyside and Stanley Park for 7/8. Which part of Franklin that is not French Immersion is directed to Stanley Park?

R – River Road is the dividing line.

Q – There is a large undeveloped area around Lackner Woods P.S., what are the plans for that?

R – That area will not be developed; it is a protected area.

Mr. Hercanuck noted some important things to remember with scenario development:

- effects on other schools
- site size (would the changes be possible?)

At this point in the process, everything is on the table. We will put the scenarios up against our objectives to see if they meet. Ideally, we would like to take 3 or 4 scenarios and the draft objectives to Public Meeting # 2 for feedback.

Q – After we take scenarios to the public meetings but before they go to the Board Trustees, what avenue do we have to communicate to parents? Not all parents will go to the public meetings.

R – School administration can share the information with School/Parent Councils. The parent reps on the ARC are our links back to the community. School newsletters, signs in front of the schools are all used for communication. Each student in the review area receives a flyer advertising the public meetings, as well as providing the Board website address to stay up to date with the process. Public Meetings are also advertised in the local newspapers. For this review, the notice will appear in The Record, the Kitchener Citizen – East Edition and the Woolwich Observer.

C – The Breslau P.S. Parent Council has set up a sub committee specifically for this ARC process and to communicate its progress.

Ms. Manske noted that members on other ARC's have created blogs to share information, put up flyers on mail super boxes in their neighbourhood to alert new families, and families with preschool aged children to the review process which might impact them in the future. These are all good communication tools.

Q – Can you email us a current colourized boundary map for the area?

R – Yes, we will send the map out to the ARC.

Q – Will there be 1 more public meeting before our recommendation to the Trustees?

R – There will be at least 3 more public meetings including public meeting # 2. The Pupil Accommodation Review process requires a minimum of 4 public meetings.

We had a tentative date for Public Meeting # 2 as April 22, 2010. It might be a good idea to switch that date with the May 5, 2010 ARC # 6 meeting. This will give us a bit more time for scenario development before taking them forward for public feedback.

Q – Will the new Transportation Eligibility Policy for September 2010 impact the numbers?

R – We will bring a walk web for each of the schools in the review area, so that you can see the impact of the new policy.

Q – What is the typical enrolment for a 7/8 school?

R – Mr. MacQueen advised around 400, some schools do run a smaller program; for example Courtland P.S. has a current enrolment of about 260. This is low, and becomes a challenge for program delivery; they might have to semester some of their subjects. In this situation, some of the great benefits of a 7/8 program are diminished.

## 7. Future Meeting Dates

- The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Stanley Park P.S. in the library.
- The school tour will take place on Saturday, March 27 at 9:00 am. Starting location and itinerary will be created by Planning and brought to the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Mr. Hercanuck noted that we will have a presentation from Municipal Representative John Scarfone and from the City of Kitchener Planning Department, Brian Bateman. They will share their perspectives on staging of development, green space plans, traffic and long term plans for the review area.
- Wednesday, April 21, 2010 will become ARC # 6 – Mr. Grobe offered Breslau P.S. to host this meeting, and May 5, 2010 will become Public Meeting # 2 (location to be determined).
- Mr. Hercanuck thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

**Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm @ Stanley Park P.S.**

**School Tour – Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**

**Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm @ Stanley Park P.S.**