



**Breslau/Stanley Park Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation
Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 14
January 12th, 2011 – 6:00 pm**

The fourteenth meeting of the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Mackenzie King P.S. on January 12th, 2011.

Committee Members Present:

Pauline Shiry, Principal of Mackenzie King P.S., Carolyn Griffiths, Principal of Crestview P.S., Jane Pritchard, Principal of Franklin P.S., Darv Easton, Acting Principal – Breslau P.S., Jodi Albrecht, Vice Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Crysta Fernandez, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Doug Hudson, parent – Breslau P.S., Tracy Jasmins, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Mark Richardson, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Nancy Allan Catton, parent – Breslau P.S., Janice Scherer, parent – Franklin P.S., Sean Mahoney, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Laurie Tremble, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Tania Hunter, parent – Crestview P.S., Anessa Selcage, parent – Franklin P.S., Aimie LeRuez, parent – Smithson P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, Lauren Manske, Senior Planner and Chris Smith, Manager of Planning for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Rob MacQueen, Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Libby Martz, Vice Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Ron Dallan, Facility Services, William Grobe, Principal of Breslau P.S., Carolyn Graham, Principal of Smithson P.S., John Scarfone, Township of Woolwich, Brian Bateman, City of Kitchener, Troy Starr, parent – Smithson P.S., Lesley Kraehling, parent – Crestview P.S., Kathy Waybrant, Community Representative, T. Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S.

1. Welcome

Chris Smith, Manager of Planning welcomed members of the ARC, wished all a Happy New Year and opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

2. ARC Meeting # 13 – Draft Minutes Approved

- Mr. Smith noted that ARC # 13 meeting minutes were approved by ARC members via email (moved by Mark Richardson and seconded by Anessa Selcage) and have been posted to the Breslau/Stanley Park webpage:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/accommodation-reviews/breslau-stanley-park-elementary-schools-accommodation-review>

Tonight's ARC presentation can be viewed on the link above as well.

3. Scenario Discussion

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the City of Kitchener has provided their formal response via letter, regarding Scenarios 1 and 2, and summarized the main points:

- Schools are an important community resource, important to keep such facilities within communities.
- Walkability an important consideration, staff support an approach that would allow the most children to walk to their school.
- Intensification – nearby Ottawa Street/River Road identified in City Official Plan as mixed-use node. Longer term potential for intensification.

Q – Is this a typical City letter?

R – Yes, this is typical. We do ask for the City’s perspective during the review process and Brian Bateman has provided the ARC with that.

Mr. Smith noted that the City is supportive of more schools – not less. We have the extra school in this review area because of the senior school model of the time. The school distribution otherwise is good. The comment about intensification refers to high rise apartment buildings, and we don’t typically get a lot of enrolment from these.

Q – They have provided their opinion, but still tell us to do what we need to do.

R – It does not take a strong stand, and that is typical of City comments.

- The letter was emailed to the ARC prior to the meeting and will be posted to the website along with tonight’s minutes.

4. Public Meeting Feedback – Discussion

Mr. Hercanuck summarized the comments received from Public Meeting # 3 held on November 24, 2010 at Mackenzie King P.S.

- Support for senior 7/8 elementary program.
 - respondents expressed they feel students advantaged by rotary, specialized teachers/programs, extra-curricular activities that would not necessarily be present with JK-8 program model
 - many felt that the grade 6 to 7/8 school transition benefited students
- Support for composite (JK-8) elementary program.
 - less transitions for students
 - some felt age mix more appropriate
- Concerns expressed about having students from wide age range (4-14) in same facility.
- Concerns around transitions for students from JK-6 to JK-8 school for the 7/8 program.
- Desire from Area E community to be grandparented out of Breslau P.S.
- Costs for Scenario 2 are higher.

Mr. Smith invited the ARC to share their thoughts/comments from the Public Meeting.

C – There have been articles and editorials in The Record, with a slant to wanting Stanley Park P.S. kept open, not closing it as in Scenario 2.

C – People are comfortable with what they know and have experienced, for example, many people commented that they had attended Stanley Park P.S. themselves and now have their children there, so don't want to see it closed.

C – Comment was made about the article in The Record that quoted Mary Lou Mackie, Executive Superintendent of Education, in December. Would like to see the research referred to in the article that supports the JK-8 model with fewer transitions for students as a positive step. There was probably research to support the move to the senior 7/8 model when it was done years ago as well.

Mr. Smith noted that education does go through trends; could the thinking change back again? It's possible, but that is not a reason to stop going forward. Ms. Mackie's comments do reflect the current preference of the Board.

C – We have used the term: foreseeable future. We need a reference point and something to strive for. Popular thinking or what's in fashion changes – you can't do something just because you did it in the past; we have to build for the future.

5. Senior 7/8 program Information Meeting

Mr. Smith proposed a panel discussion/information meeting for the public to be held at Stanley Park P.S. to talk about the JK-8 and 7/8 school models. It was felt that this meeting could be used to talk about the two programs and their delivery, also clear up some misinformation, i.e. rotary, specialized classes and lockers.

Lengthy discussion ensued around plans for a meeting, some ARC comments:

- would like to see the research supporting fewer transitions/JK-8 model
- need the differences in the delivery models explained
- feel that as a member of the ARC, I need to be better informed before making a recommendation
- important to keep emotion out of discussion – need to depersonalize this issue
- it's not about closing Stanley Park P.S., we have to look at the 2 models on their own (pros and cons) and define that, for a better understanding
- misinformation needs to be addressed – for example, not every 7/8 school has an instrumental music program, but that is the assumption
- transparency in this process is important, we can find research to support both models – we don't want to be seen as making this an issue

It was concluded that a discussion should take place on this topic within the ARC first, to gain a better understanding (the tentative February 2, 2011 Information Meeting date will be cancelled). Mr. Smith advised that we can invite some representatives from Learning Services to speak, as well as asking the Principals within the ARC to share their experiences/ opinions/system approach with both school models.

- ARC Meeting # 15 will be designated for this discussion.
- An Information Meeting/Panel Discussion could be held at a later date for the public, if the ARC deems it necessary.
- If available Research (referred to in The Record article by Ms. Mackie) will be sent to the ARC prior to the meeting. Mr. Smith advised that Learning Services should be able to add to that as well.
- ARC members are to think of questions they would like addressed at this meeting.

6. Roundtable

Q – We are aware that cost is not a driving factor in finding the best option, but there is a big difference between the two scenarios. Will we be able to look at the cost savings resulting from the closure of Stanley Park P.S.? Or the long-term expenditure savings by replacing Mackenzie King P.S.?

R – We can put something together – capital expenditures versus ongoing maintenance costs.

C – The main issue for the Breslau P.S. community is the grandparenting question, and who will be included in that.

R – That is an implementation piece and does depend on the scenario chosen. We will need a clear definition for this piece so that we can keep track of which students are included and end dates, etc. We will need to keep in mind the cost impact/increase to transportation for grandparenting.

C – In both scenarios, Area C would move to Smithson P.S. When would this happen since it just involves a boundary change and is not dependent on any new construction?

R – That is a recommendation that can be specified in the report.

7. Future Meeting Dates

Mr. Smith proposed the following meeting dates:

- ARC Meeting # 15 – February 9, 2011 (for the 7/8 – JK-8 school model discussion) to be held at Mackenzie King P.S.
- ARC Meeting # 16 – February 23, 2011 to be held at Stanley Park P.S.
 - The ARC agreed to both meeting dates/location and time.
- Public Meeting # 4 – tentative date – Wednesday, March 9, 2011 – location TBD
- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, February 9, 2011 – 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Mackenzie King P. S. – Library
Wednesday, February 23, 2011 – 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Stanley Park P.S.

Public Meeting # 4 – tentative date: Wednesday, March 9, 2011 – Location: TBD