



**Breslau/Stanley Park and Grand River South/Sunnyside
Accommodation Reviews
Minutes of Joint ARC Meeting # 11
October 12th, 2010 – 5:15 pm**

The eleventh meeting for both the Breslau/Stanley Park and Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review Committees was held at the WRDSB Education Centre, on October 12th, 2010.

Breslau/Stanley Park Committee Members Present:

Pauline Shiry, Principal of Mackenzie King P.S., Jane Pritchard, Principal of Franklin P.S., Carolyn Griffiths, Principal of Crestview P.S., Rob MacQueen, Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Libby Martz, Vice Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Crysta Fernandez, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Janice Scherer, parent – Franklin P.S., Lorraine Buckley, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Troy Starr, parent – Smithson P.S., Tania Hunter, parent – Crestview P.S., T. Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Tracy Jasmins, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Laurie Tremble, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Nancy Allan Catton, parent – Breslau P.S., Kathy Waybrant, Community Representative.

Grand River South/Sunnyside Committee Members Present:

Katie Anderl, Municipal Rep – City of Kitchener, Al Watt, Vice Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Julie Lobsinger, Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Darren Batt, Vice Principal of Franklin P.S., Heather Preddie, Principal of Rockway P.S., Jeff Lovell, Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Trish Starodub, Principal of Sheppard P.S., Dayle Buller-Power, Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Robert Dean, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S., Rebecca McCrae, Vice Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Andrea Michelutti, Vice Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Christine Lassel, parent – Rockway P.S., Jennifer Childs, parent – Sheppard P.S., Stuart Gallacher, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Naz Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Deb Dubrick, parent – Sunnyside 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, Carolyn Graham, Principal of Smithson P.S., William Grobe, Principal of Breslau P.S., Maria Lotimer, Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects – Facility Services, John Scarfone, Township of Woolwich, Brian Bateman, City of Kitchener, Sean Mahoney, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Doug Hudson, parent – Breslau P.S., Anessa Selcage, parent – Franklin P.S., Lesley Kraehling, parent – Crestview P.S. Mark Richardson, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Kelly Kempel, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Richard Briston, parent – Franklin P.S., Diane Kewley, parent – Sheppard P.S., Charlene Rushmere, parent – Howard Robertson P.S., Jonathan Blake, parent – Rockway P.S.

1. Welcome

Chris Smith, Manager of Planning welcomed members of both ARC's and opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

- Mr. Smith introduced and welcomed Brenda Cox-Sangster, Assistant Superintendent – Learning Services – Program and Jim Berry, Assistant Superintendent – Learning Services – Special Education to the meeting and advised they are here to answer questions around program, school organization and special education.
- Introductions were made around the table.

2. ARC Meeting # 10 – Draft Minutes Approval

Mr. Smith advised the group that minutes from ARC # 10 for both ARC's will be sent out via email for approval, then posted to the Board's website at the following links:

For Breslau/Stanley Park:

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

For Grand River South/Sunnyside:

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

Tonight's presentation can be viewed on both links above as well.

3. Purpose of meeting – this evening's objective

Mr. Smith gave a brief outline of tonight's objective:

- When the Board approved the accommodation review for East Kitchener, it was determined that the area (with 12 schools) was too large to treat as one ARC, so was divided into the two ARC's currently running.
- The areas do overlap and it was felt from the beginning of the process that a joint meeting would be helpful for both groups to see the scenarios/options that are being proposed.
- Both of the ARC's have seen joint scenarios proposed and tonight we will determine if those should be pursued further or if ultimately individual solutions will be the best course of action.
- Mr. Smith wanted to ensure that by dividing the ARC's we weren't missing a big picture solution. Tonight we are asking both ARC's if we are getting to the right place in that regard.

4. Scenario presentation

Mr. Hercanuck outlined the issues common to both reviews:

- Localized residential development putting pressure on a few facilities.
- Lower/declining enrolment in other areas leaving facilities with surplus space.
- Inconsistent elementary program models.

- Development context maps were displayed to describe the growth areas for both ARC's.

Mr. Hercanuck led the group through a presentation of the scenarios that have been proposed and both groups feel do the best job meeting the Review Objectives.

- It was also noted that the percent capacity column in the enrolment projection charts is a guideline only. The built capacity is based on a class loading average of 23. Primary classes can be loaded up to 23 whereas grade 7/8 classes can be loaded in some cases at 28-30. For example, Sunnyside P.S. has a built capacity of 423, their current enrolment is 480 putting them well above 100% capacity, but they have no portables and feel there is enough space in the building. So, the percent capacity in this case would appear misleading. Ultimately it depends on the breakdown of classes in the school.

Breslau/Stanley Park: Scenario 1 and Scenario 2

Scenario 1

- 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

Discussion:

- Concern with the small 7/8 program at Breslau P.S. when Area E is moved to Mackenzie King P.S. Enrolment growth still puts pressure on Breslau P.S. in the lower grades.

Scenario 2

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to Mackenzie King P.S. (which becomes a 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, senior FI and Special Ed. programs move to Crestview P.S. (JK-8)
- 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

Discussion:

- Mackenzie King P.S. numbers are strong with the conversion to a JK-8 school.
- Crestview P.S. has a strong 7/8 program with its conversion as well.

Grand River South/Sunnyside: Scenario 4 and Scenario 5

Scenario 4

- Additional JK-8 accommodation constructed in the Lackner Blvd/Fairway Road area. The new school receives Areas Y and Z2 from Sheppard P.S. and Areas Q2, X2, and X4 from Lackner Woods P.S.
- Lackner Woods P.S. receives Areas Z3 and Z4 from Sheppard P.S.
- Howard Robertson P.S. receives Area X3 from Lackner Woods P.S.

- The new JK-8 facility provides the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Lackner Woods P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. remains open but gives up Areas T, Q1, Q2, X2, X4, Y, Z2, Z3 and Z4 to the new school for its 7/8 program. Does get Area P from Stanley Park P.S.

Discussion:

- Lackner Woods P.S. enrolment declines then ramps back up again in the longer term as development continues in that area.
- Franklin P.S. enrolment is steady with the recent renovation/addition. Franklin and Howard Robertson schools have begun full day learning for kindergarten (FDK) this school year and Wilson Avenue P.S. will be added in 2011/2012.

Scenario 5

- Additional JK-8 accommodation constructed in the Morrison Road area. Receives Area Y and Area Z2 from Sheppard P.S., and Area AB from Franklin P.S.
- Lackner Woods P.S. receives Area Z1 from Sheppard P.S.
- Howard Robertson P.S. receives Area X1 from Lackner Woods P.S.
- The new JK-8 provides the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Howard Robertson P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. continues to provide the senior 7/8 program for Wilson Avenue, Franklin, Lackner Woods and portions of Rockway and Sheppard public schools. Receives Areas P and T from Stanley Park P.S. eliminating the split feeds from Franklin and Lackner Woods public schools.

Discussion:

- Lackner Woods P.S. still well over built capacity.
- Franklin and Sheppard schools are underutilized.
- Rockway P.S. and the new school (at 526 in 2021) are well matched to their respective capacities.

Combined Joint Scenarios (Breslau/Stanley Park & Grand River South/Sunnyside):

Combined Scenario 1

- New JK-8 accommodation constructed in the Morrison Road area. The new school receives Area Y and Area Z2 from Sheppard P.S. and Area AB from Franklin P.S.
- Lackner Woods P.S. receives Area Z1 from Sheppard P.S.
- Howard Robertson P.S. receives Area X1 from Lackner Woods P.S.
- Franklin P.S. receives Area T from Lackner Woods P.S. and Area R from Crestview P.S.
- New JK-8 provides the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Howard Robertson P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. continues to provide the senior 7/8 program for Wilson Avenue, Franklin, Lackner Woods and portions of Rockway and Sheppard public schools. Also receives Areas P, T and R from Stanley Park eliminating the split feeds from Franklin P.S. and Lackner Woods P.S.
- Ottawa Street becomes the boundary between Stanley Park and Sunnyside schools.
- Stanley Park P.S. closes

- Smithson P.S. receives Area C from Mackenzie King P.S. and feeds Mackenzie King for the 7/8 program
- Mackenzie King P.S. receives Area E from Breslau P.S. and becomes JK-8
- Crestview P.S. becomes JK-8 keeping its own Grade 6's for the 7/8 program

Combined Scenario 1a

- New JK-8 accommodation constructed in the Morrison Road area. The new school receives Area Y and Area Z2 from Sheppard P.S. and Area AB from Franklin P.S.
- Lackner Woods P.S. receives Area Z1 from Sheppard P.S.
- Howard Robertson P.S. receives Area X1 from Lackner Woods P.S.
- Franklin P.S. receives Area T from Lackner Woods P.S. and Area R from Crestview P.S.
- New JK-8 provides the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Howard Robertson P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. continues to provide the senior 7/8 program for Wilson Avenue, Franklin, Lackner Woods and portions of Rockway and Sheppard public schools. Also receives Areas P, T and R from Stanley Park eliminating the split feeds from Franklin P.S. and Lackner Woods P.S.
- Ottawa Street becomes the boundary between Stanley Park and Sunnyside schools.
- Stanley Park P.S. remains open and gives Areas P, T and R to Sunnyside P.S.
- Smithson P.S. receives Area C from Mackenzie King P.S. and feeds Mackenzie King for the 7/8 program
- Mackenzie King P.S. receives Area E from Breslau P.S. and becomes JK-8
- Crestview P.S. becomes JK-8 keeping its own Grade 6's for the 7/8 program

Combined Scenario 2

- New JK-8 accommodation constructed in the Fairway Rd/Lackner Blvd area. The new school receives Area Y and Area Z2 from Sheppard P.S. and Areas Q2, X2 and X4 from Lackner Woods P.S.
- Lackner Woods P.S. receives Area Z3 and Z4 from Sheppard P.S.
- Howard Robertson P.S. receives Area X3 from Lackner Woods P.S.
- Franklin P.S. receives Area R from Crestview P.S.
- New JK-8 provides the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Lackner Woods P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. continues to provide the senior 7/8 program for Wilson Avenue, Franklin, Howard Robertson and portions of Rockway and Sheppard public schools. Also receives Areas P, T and R from Stanley Park eliminating the split feeds from Franklin P.S. and Lackner Woods P.S.
- Ottawa Street becomes the boundary between Stanley Park and Sunnyside schools
- Stanley Park P.S. closes
- Smithson P.S. receives Area C from Mackenzie King P.S. and feeds Mackenzie King for the 7/8 program
- Mackenzie King P.S. receives Area E from Breslau P.S. and becomes JK-8
- Crestview P.S. becomes JK-8 keeping its own Grade 6's for the 7/8 program

5. Discussion

Mr. Smith noted that for next steps, both groups will look at the respective scenarios and gauge their success when put up against the review objectives. The goal is to have a front runner or two to take to the public for community feedback at Public Meeting # 3. He also wanted to reiterate that in proposing a school closure, it is in no way a sign of weakness at that facility, more a program capacity or distribution issue.

- Mr. Smith opened the floor to any questions/concerns.

Q – Will the secondary school boundaries be looked at in this process?

R – No changes to the secondary boundaries will be addressed in these accommodation reviews, that was not our mandate, however the ARC could make comments that they be looked at in the future.

Q – Regarding the roof repair costs at Stanley Park P.S., and our goal of fiscal responsibility, will it make sense to spend the dollars there?

R – It does look like a new roof structure will be needed at Stanley Park P.S.; however we have no estimate on the cost yet. That price would be part of any package/recommendation the ARC was to make. Facility Services has already begun to detail the cost of some of the projects proposed in the scenarios.

Q – Lackner Woods P.S. is still big in most of the scenarios, is there intent to consider work there as well?

R – Yes, Lackner Woods P.S. and Breslau P.S. still need attention with their continued enrolment pressure. Additions/modifications to these buildings would be part of any recommendation.

Q – Mr. Smith addressed Ms. Cox-Sangster and advised the ARC's desire to keep Breslau P.S. a JK-8 facility; however the 7/8 numbers are low at 61 in 2012, and that is a concern.

R – Ms. Cox-Sangster replied that the Ministry strongly supports the JK-8 model; however the existing senior 7/8 schools run great programs. It would not be realistic to close all of the 7/8 schools and convert strictly to JK-8 schools.

- Sixty one 7/8 students is a small program, however the same curriculum is delivered at all schools. You may not attract specialty teachers with that number, or you may have one that just spreads their specialty out over more grades. It is viable and the supports are there for the schools.
- Mr. Smith added that we do have some small 7/8 programs in the Board currently that run very well, schools like Conestogo P.S. and Floradale P.S.

Q – How is the transition process handled for those students going from JK-6 to JK-8?

R – Ms. Cox-Sangster replied that JK-6 schools either feed a JK-8 or 7/8 and that is our current model. The transition plan is to make the students feel comfortable before they move; this is true with grade 8's going to grade 9 as well. As an example, the Board will be hosting a show case of secondary schools here on November 3rd. Grade 6 students from a JK-6 school going into an established JK-8 can be a bonus as well, a breath of fresh air, and staff works hard to welcome those students and make them feel comfortable. The JK-8 curriculum is a continuum, and is the same whichever building you happen to be in.

Q – In running some senior school numbers myself (Areas T, Q and Z) it looks like Lackner Woods P.S. could support a JK-8 school, have we explored that option? (based on the new school being built on the Morrison Road site)

R – There are site and space limitations at Lackner Woods P.S. A second storey cannot be added easily unfortunately, the original building was not constructed with that possibility in mind.

o We will take a look at the numbers again.

Q – Mackenzie King P.S. and Lackner Woods P.S. are about the same site size (around 7.0 acres) why would it work at Mackenzie King P.S. and not at Lackner Woods P.S.?

R – There is room at Mackenzie King P.S. to demolish and reconstruct a 2 storey structure because the property is relatively flat; it also has an adjacent park. Lackner Woods P.S. property is on a big hill with really not much usable space to add on that wouldn't take away from the already pressing parking needs as well.

Mr. Smith asked the group if they felt a joint scenario would be worth pursuing or fine tune the individual ones, then see if they fit together.

Q – Will it be possible to acquire the site at Fairway Rd/Lackner Blvd versus the Morrison Rd site if that is where the ARC would like to go?

R – Mr. Smith advised that we believe we can make it work, and referred to Katie Anderl from the City of Kitchener's Planning Department.

R – Ms. Anderl noted that the Fairway Rd/Lackner Blvd site is zoned as a mixed-use node, high density residential and commercial. There is not a lot of commercial development in that community currently to meet their needs. Having a school with a commercial and residential mix is more difficult to plan and will require some creativity.

Q – How big is the site, and how much acreage would the school need?

R – The vacant site is around 19 acres, and Mr. Smith advised we would want approximately 8 acres for a school and play field. He added that perhaps we could share some requirements, i.e. storm water, parking, etc. We would not short change the school in any way, but would try to achieve the City's objectives as well.

R – Ms. Anderl added that the site was initially going to be used for a grocery store, now we see perhaps some commercial mixed with residential (apartments above), office space, etc. The City is open to discussion however.

Q – There is some undeveloped area across the street, what is the City looking to use the site for?

R – There is some part of that space that may be conducive to a small commercial mall.

Q – It is a high traffic area to have residential/commercial.

R – Agreed, Fairway Rd and Lackner Blvd are very busy streets.

Q – We keep talking about what the City wants, bottom line is that we need to put the school where the residential development growth and students are (that's the Fairway Rd/Lackner Blvd site). The City has an obligation to support what the community wants, i.e. a school or a food store. I have a concern if the students all have to be bussed out of their communities. Regarding the roads being busy, a school wouldn't be built there if we could not ensure the student's safety. The Catholic Board has a school in the area and their students/community is happy about it. What if the area cries out more for a school than a store/mall? Could the City switch their mixed-use node plans to the Morrison Road site instead?

R – Ms. Anderl agreed that there is a strong need for a school in that area, the City does try and plan for one in every community. She didn't know if the Morrison Road site would be a good site for commercial development.

- Mr. Smith added that plans do evolve and change; the City has not said no to the site. Will need to sit down with the City/developer to work something out that satisfies the many criteria.

Q – If Mackenzie King P.S. becomes a JK-8 school, would Special Education be expanded?

R – Mr. Berry responded that Spec Ed relates strongly to any renovations or new construction plans. We look at current needs and what needs to be done, future planning for congregated classes, accessibility of the physical building, washrooms, etc. We do try to keep Special Education students in JK-8 schools thereby reducing the number of transitions, this is not always possible however, and we sometimes do need to move those students several times based on what facility meets their needs the best.

Q – Would Smithson P.S. lose some Spec. Ed. to Mackenzie King P.S if it became JK-8?

R – There would likely be some impact to Smithson P.S. We would have to look at where the students are coming from geographically. Transportation is a factor as well and is the school accessible to take in school busses, for example. Full Day Kindergarten has an impact on the facility as well as Special Education needs.

Q – We talk of JK-8 being a priority, what about the senior 7/8 schools? Are they getting lost in the shuffle, and what about their needs/upgrades getting put on the list?

R – Sunnyside P.S. and Stanley Park P.S. are being maintained to Board standards and accessibility will need to be looked at. If we know where we are going, i.e. Sunnyside P.S. to stay open; it will get put on the accessibility list. If Stanley Park P.S. stays open, the roof structure repair will go forward. The ARC recommendation gives the Board direction. Working towards a JK-8 model is where the Board is headed, but it would be difficult to disengage from the senior 7/8 schools completely, as they are typically close by in location. In one of the scenarios Smithson P.S. was proposed for closure, however the ARC felt that we would lose a presence in the area if the school closed, so that scenario was dropped.

6. Future Meeting Dates

Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and advised that the minutes from tonight's meeting will be sent to both ARC's via email for approval.

Q – Do we have a date for Public Meeting # 3?

R – Not at this point, but should be the end of November or early December.

- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

Grand River South/Sunnyside: Tues. Nov. 2, 2010 – 4:30 – 6:00 pm @ Sunnyside P.S.
Breslau/Stanley Park: Wed. Nov. 3, 2010 – 6:00 – 7:30 pm @ Stanley Park P.S.