



**Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil
Accommodation Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 7
May 18, 2010 - 4:30 pm**

The seventh meeting of the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Sunnyside P.S., on May 18th, 2010.

Committee Members Present:

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., Rebecca Jutzi, Vice Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Jane McVeigh, Principal of Sheppard P.S., Al Watt, Vice Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Stuart Gallacher, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Naz Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Christine Lassel, parent – Rockway P.S., Jennifer Childs, parent – Sheppard P.S., Bonnie Heimbecker, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S., Kelly Kempel, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Edda Kerr, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Charlene Rushmere, parent – Howard Robertson P.S., Diane Kewley, parent – Sheppard P.S., Richard Briston, parent – Franklin P.S., Robert Dean, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, Lauren Manske, Planner and Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Dayle Buller-Power, Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Maria Lotimer, Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Andrea Michelutti, Vice Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects – Facility Services, Katie Anderl, Municipal Rep – City of Kitchener, Jonathan Blake, parent – Rockway P.S.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chris Smith, Manager of Planning welcomed the ARC and opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

2. ARC Meeting # 6 – Draft Minutes Approval

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the May 4th ARC meeting.
 - No concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the May 4th meeting were approved.
 - Mover: Robert Dean
 - Seconded: Jennifer Childs

3. Draft Review Objectives

Mr. Smith asked the ARC if they had any changes/additions to the Draft Review Objectives.

- No changes or additions were proposed.

- The Draft Review Objectives will be presented to the public for their feedback at Public Meeting # 2 on May 26, 2010.

4. School Information Profiles

Mr. Hercanuck advised that the Facility Condition Reports have been completed for the schools in the review area (the one piece we had been waiting for) with the exception of Wilson Avenue and Franklin schools. Once this information has been added to the School Information Profiles, they will be complete and will be posted to the website under the Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC at the following link:

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

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

5. Public Meeting – Format – Facilitators – Scenarios to be presented

Mr. Hercanuck outlined the additional resources handed out to the ARC this evening:

- Context Map for the Secondary School Boundaries.
 - It was noted during scenario development, that in addition to trying to avoid split feeds to the senior elementary program, the ARC may wish to be mindful of the secondary school boundaries and try to avoid split feeds there as well.
- Walk Distance Map (2010-2011) for the possible school site at the corner of Fairway Road and Lackner Boulevard.
 - It was noted here that additional Area Z streets would be included in the walk web; however, since the streets are not created yet the system cannot pick up and assign them.
- Enrolment projections for the newly created Scenario 4 areas: Q1, Q2, X3, X4, Z3 and Z4.

Mr. Hercanuck led the ARC through a brief review of the scenarios.

Status Quo

- New development in the area around Lackner Woods P.S. continues to put pressure on the facility as well as at Sheppard P.S. in the long-term. Sunnyside P.S. also experiences some enrolment pressure as the congregated 7/8 school for the whole area.
- Lackner Woods P.S. and Franklin P.S. continue to feed both Stanley Park and Sunnyside schools for the 7/8 program.

Comments:

- Lackner Woods P.S. numbers are very high, as it receives some of the new development areas that are currently bussed to Sheppard P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. numbers are high, being the only 7/8 program in the review area.

Scenario 1

- Additional JK-6 accommodation constructed in the southern portion (Chicopee) of the review area on a site to be determined. The new school receives Areas Y and Z from Sheppard P.S. and Area AB from Franklin P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. receives Areas P & T (for grades 7/8) from Stanley Park P.S., eliminating the split feeds from Lackner Woods P.S. and Franklin P.S.

Comments:

- This scenario explores a new JK-6 facility at the Morrison Road site. The enrolment numbers for the new school are good, but the school itself is not centrally located within its proposed catchment.
- Sunnyside P.S. continues to be the only 7/8 program in the review area; high future enrolment.

Scenario 2

- Additional JK-8 accommodation constructed in the southern portion of the review area on a site to be determined. The new school receives Area Y, and a portion of Area Z from Sheppard P.S. and Area AB from Franklin P.S.
- Lackner Woods P.S. receives a portion of Area Z from Sheppard P.S.
- Howard Robertson P.S. receives a portion of Area X from Lackner Woods P.S.
- The new JK-8 school provides the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Howard Robertson P.S. and Lackner Woods P.S., eliminating the split feed from Lackner Woods P.S. (Area T goes to the new school instead of Stanley Park P.S.)
- Sunnyside P.S. continues to provide the senior 7/8 program from Wilson Avenue, Franklin and a portion of Rockway and Sheppard public schools. Sunnyside also receives Area P from Stanley Park P.S. eliminating the split feed from Franklin P.S.

Comments:

- Sunnyside P.S. numbers are low with the Lackner Woods and Howard Robertson feeds being diverted to the new school for 7/8.
- Lackner Woods P.S. numbers are still high.

Q – The new school has a very high ratio of 7/8 students (at 440 in 2019) versus the rest of the grades, will this cause a problem with program delivery?

R – Mr. Lovell commented that it could, you end up running 2 schools within a school, and would be a challenge from an organization standpoint.

Q – This scenario does not help the enrolment pressure at Lackner Woods P.S. which is one of our goals, is it a viable option then?

Mr. Smith responded that the objective of tonight's ARC meeting is to re-evaluate the scenarios we have created so far and determine if they meet our review objectives. The ARC will determine tonight which scenarios should be taken forward and presented to the public. The ARC can choose to shelve for now the scenarios they feel do not do the best job. The scenarios can always be re-visited if needed and are part of the public record.

- The Public Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 26 at Sunnyside P.S. beginning at 7:00 pm.

Scenario 3

- Additional JK-8 accommodation constructed in the southern portion of the review area on a site to be determined. The new school receives Area Y, a portion of Area Z from Sheppard P.S. and Area AB from Franklin P.S.
- Lackner Woods P.S. receives a portion of Area Z from Sheppard and becomes JK-8.
- Howard Robertson P.S. receives a portion of Area X from Lackner Woods P.S.
- New JK-8 facility provides the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Howard Robertson P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. is closed.
- Franklin P.S. becomes JK-8 providing the senior 7/8 program for its own catchment as well as Wilson Avenue P.S. and portions of Rockway and Sheppard public schools. The split feed is eliminated. (Area P remains at Franklin P.S. instead of going to Stanley Park P.S.)

Comments:

- This scenario explores the JK-8 program model review-wide with the closure of Sunnyside P.S.
- Concern that the Lackner Woods school site may prove difficult for an addition, and the enrolment numbers are still high (749 in 2019) for a JK-8 school.

Scenario 4 (new)

- Additional JK-8 accommodation constructed in the southern portion of the review area on a site to be determined. 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 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.

Comments:

- This scenario adds a JK-8 school closer to the growth area. Areas Q, X, and Z have been subdivided to distribute enrolment more equitably.
- Mr. Hercanuck advised; do not be concerned about the low enrolment total for Lackner Woods P.S. for year 2010 on the chart. There will be no changes to the boundaries for September 2010. By the time this scenario could be implemented we are likely to see development from Areas Q and Z, increasing enrolment at Lackner Woods P.S.

Q – Would it be feasible to build 2 different schools on the same site – a JK-6 and a 7/8 instead of one JK-8, knowing the benefits of a senior 7/8 program?

R – No, the Board hasn't built a senior 7/8 school since 1977, and there would be little support for that. The JK-8 would be purpose built and include a double gym, music and art rooms (requirements of the 7/8 program), as well as being fully accessible, similar to Edna Staebler P.S. which the ARC visited.

Q – Why has Area X been further divided? Can all of Area X be directed to Lackner Woods P.S. like they are currently instead of being divided between the new school and Howard Robertson? There are concerns about the traffic at Fairway Road and Lackner Blvd.

R – The division of Area X is to better distribute enrolment. All of X to the new school would make them too big, and all of X to Lackner Woods P.S. keeps them too big and does not address the reason for this review. Also, Area X2 would likely be able to see the new school from their homes, so would be difficult to justify bussing them to Lackner Woods P.S. Area shown is consistent with the 1.6 km walk distance, and secondary boundaries.

Q – Area AB is bussed to Franklin P.S. in this scenario, and Area W is directed to Howard Robertson. Could we switch those areas and have Area W go to Franklin P.S. and Area AB go to Howard Robertson? Fairway Road seems to make a natural dividing line.

R – Area AB is being bussed to Franklin P.S. currently, and taking them to Howard Robertson would require transportation also. Area W currently walks to Howard Robertson, but would need transportation to Franklin P.S., resulting in an increase to transportation costs. Seems to be an unnecessary added change.

C – There is a very big safety concern for the area around the proposed new school site in this scenario. There has been talk of the Region installing a roundabout at the intersection of Fairway Road and Lackner Blvd., right where the new school would be.

Mr. Smith advised that safety concerns are a priority for the Board and will be dealt with. If it is deemed unsafe for students to cross a busy street or intersection we would confirm with Kitchener Traffic that crossing guards would be provided, or the students would be transported. He added that Area W safely crosses Fairway Road every day currently.

Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC to look at this scenario in terms of distribution and program delivery – does it meet our objectives.

- Most agreed that it does.

Q – Is our goal to bring just one scenario to the Public Meeting next week, or several?

R – We want to bring a variety of scenarios to the public, for example one that perhaps supports the JK-8 model. We will ask the public to compare the scenarios and let us know what they like and don't like about them. The ARC will decide tonight which scenarios to drop for now and which ones to take to the public. Mr. Smith asked the ARC to consider which scenarios they would like to take forward.

C – At the last meeting it was asked if a scenario could be created to show all of Lackner Woods P.S. catchment being directed to Sunnyside P.S. for 7/8, to maintain socio-economic balance.

R – That would be a variation of Scenario 2. Planning will create Scenario 5 to look at that request, and re-work the numbers/areas.

Q – Looking at all of the enrolment projections in the scenarios, Breslau P.S. numbers are over 200% capacity. Should we be looking at that? Is the other ARC addressing that issue and will we be impacted by those decisions?

R – Those decisions should not impact this review, they are dealing with some different issues, for example, that review area has both growth and decline. Not really seeing any crossover into this ARC, i.e. Breslau coming here or vice versa.

Mr. Smith asked the ARC to review each scenario again and determine which ones will be taken to the Public Meeting on May 26, 2010.

Scenario 1 discussion:

- Doesn't help the numbers at Lackner Woods P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. is the only 7/8 program, the numbers are too big. May need an addition and accessibility upgrades will factor in.
- The Catholic Board has built a new JK-8 in the review area, this scenario builds a JK-6, feel that for an equitable choice for the community, the new school being built should be a JK-8.
- **Consensus: Drop Scenario 1**

Scenario 2 discussion:

- Lackner Woods P.S. is still too big.
- Sunnyside P.S. numbers are very low, below the Good Schools Standing Committee recommended guidelines.
- The new JK-8 school's senior 7/8 numbers are too big when compared to the total population, would create a balance issue for the organization.
- **Consensus: Drop Scenario 2**

Note: As mentioned earlier Scenario 5 will be created as a variation of Scenario 2, and brought forward to the ARC for review, then to the public meeting.

Scenario 3 discussion:

- Proposes 3 JK-8 schools, moving towards the JK-8 model with Sunnyside closing.
- Lackner Woods and Franklin schools are too big. Have not addressed one of our main objectives which is enrolment pressure at Lackner Woods P.S.
- **Consensus: Drop Scenario 3**

Mr. Smith noted that as stated earlier this scenario explores the JK-8 program model with the closure of Sunnyside, and wanted to reiterate that the ARC still felt comfortable not bringing this option to the Public Meeting.

- The ARC members agreed and if it turned out that public feedback wants to bring such an option forward at the next public meeting, the ARC will certainly reconsider.

Scenario 4 discussion:

- Numbers wise – the scenario works.
- The new school numbers are big.
- Potential school site at Fairway Road and Lackner Blvd. very busy traffic area – safety concerns.
- **Consensus: Take to public meeting**

Discussion ensued around moving boundaries/areas within the scenario, as well as the safety concern of a school in the high traffic area of Fairway Road and Lackner Blvd.

C – Seems like the scenarios are already decided, why am I here?

R – The scenarios are brought forward to the ARC for their input and suggestions; our goal is consensus within the group if possible, and to achieve the best solution for the students within the review area. The Board does however set parameters for us to work within; such as school size, program delivery and organization guidelines. Those were clearly set out at the start of this process.

C – We have to look at individual school issues as well, having Lackner Woods P.S. feed to Sunnyside P.S. for 7/8 (like they do currently), creates a socio-economic balance in the school.

C – That argument is good, but is idealistic; we have to make economic sense with our solutions. Bussing students out of their neighbourhoods for that reason may not make sense. It will be hard to please everyone, but there has to be limitations.

Mr. Smith commented that most people do connect to neighbourhood schools.

C – The ARC generally agreed that they would rather have their children split from their peers at grade 7 than at grade 9.

R – We can resolve some of these issues during this review, but we do not have the mandate from the Board to alter the secondary school boundaries.

Q – Is there any feedback or research on how difficult/easy it is for students transitioning into a JK-8 environment versus the 7/8 model where they all transition together? I do realize that the Board is moving in that direction.

R – The Board is going there and would not build a senior 7/8 school today. Reducing the number of transitions for students is a goal.

Q – Should we be promoting the senior 7/8 school through the scenarios? There is support out there for the model still. Perhaps speaking to someone going to a JK-8 would help.

Mr. Smith noted that the ARC could invite parents or principals from a JK-8 school to give their impressions on student transition before we get to the recommendation stage. We can also arrange for the Assistant Superintendents of Learning Services and Special Education to share their perspectives. It was also noted that grade 8's sometimes go in different directions for high school. Some will attend magnet programs, such as French Immersion, or International Baccalaureate, most do attend their home school, however.

6. Roundtable

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the format for Public Meeting # 2 on Wednesday, May 26, 2010. Planning will do a brief introduction and presentation of the scenarios and then have the larger group divide up into break out rooms for some smaller group discussion. Facilitators will lead the sessions allowing time for the public to review and comment on each scenario. The group will reconvene to discuss common themes and hand in comment sheets.

- Mr. Smith asked the Principals and Vice Principals to act as facilitators. Planning staff will be on hand to assist the facilitators with questions/clarification.

Scenarios that will be taken to the Public Meeting:

- Status Quo, Scenario 4 and the newly created Scenario 5

Q – Can the new Scenario 5 be emailed to the ARC for review before the Public Meeting?

R – Yes, we will arrange that.

Q – Will a text summary sheet be provided to the facilitators in addition to the maps?

R – The facilitator package will contain all relevant information regarding each scenario, and the idea will be to capture the flavour of the discussion.

7. Future Meeting Dates:

- Mr. Smith reiterated that ARC members are not expected to attend the Public Meeting on May 26th, but may find it helpful to gauge public response to the scenarios and the review objectives put forth.
- The ARC meeting scheduled for June 8, 2010 will be a re-cap of the Public Meeting, and then the ARC will break for the summer and resume meetings in September.
- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

**Public Meeting # 2 – Wednesday May 26, 2010 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Sunnyside P.S.
Tuesday June 8 @ Sunnyside P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm**