



**Breslau/Stanley Park Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation
Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 7
May 19th, 2010 – 6:00 pm**

The seventh meeting of the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Stanley Park P.S. on May 19th, 2010.

Committee Members Present:

William Grobe, Principal of Breslau P.S., Carolyn Griffiths, Principal of Crestview P.S., Pauline Shiry, Principal of Mackenzie King P.S., Rob MacQueen, Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Janice Scherer, parent – Franklin P.S., Kathy Waybrant, Community Rep., Doug Hudson, parent – Breslau P.S., Troy Starr, parent – Smithson P.S., Edie Paul, parent – Smithson P.S., Tania Hunter, parent – Crestview P.S., Lesley Kraehling, parent – Crestview P.S. Laurie Tremble, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Nancy Allan Catton, parent – Breslau P.S., Lorraine Buckley, parent – Mackenzie King P.S. (covering for Sean Mahoney), Anessa Selcage, parent – Franklin P.S., Tracy Jasmins, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Mark Richardson, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, and Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Ron Dallan, Facility Services, John Scarfone, Township of Woolwich, Brian Bateman, City of Kitchener, Jane Pritchard, Principal of Franklin P.S., Libby Martz, Vice Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Trish Starodub, Principal of Smithson P.S., T. Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Crysta Fernandez, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Sean Mahoney, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Lauren Manske, Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

1. Welcome

Mr. Smith welcomed the ARC and opened the meeting at 6:05 pm. He noted that Ms. Manske sent her regrets for tonight's meeting.

2. ARC Meeting # 6 – Draft Minutes Approval

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the May 5th ARC meeting.
 - No concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the May 5th meeting were approved.
 - Mover: Tracy Jasmins
 - Seconded: Mark Richardson

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 25, 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.

Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC if they had any comments/additions for the School Information Profiles.

- None were raised.

Once the Facility Condition Report information has been added to the Profiles, they will be complete and will be posted to the website under the Breslau/Stanley Park ARC at the following link:

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

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

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

Mr. Smith advised that tonight's meeting will focus on scenario review as well as the introduction of 2 new scenarios. The ARC will determine by consensus which scenarios to take forward for presentation at Public Meeting # 2 on Tuesday, May 25, 2010. He noted that Scenario 3 was dropped at the last ARC meeting by the group, however a review can be done tonight of that decision as well.

Q – Do Areas P and T (for 7/8) get directed to Sunnyside instead of Stanley Park in all of the scenarios? Is there anyway to keep the Lackner Woods and Franklin school feeds together and still go to Stanley Park P.S.?

R – The majority of Franklin P.S.'s catchment is inside Sunnyside's boundary so this addressed the split feed. Also, Stanley Park P.S. would be overwhelmed with all of the 7/8 students from Lackner Woods P.S. being directed there. There will continue to be some split feed with choice programs such as French Immersion (available at Stanley Park not Sunnyside). We do look for the best fit within the Board parameters, such as school and class size.

Mr. Hercanuck reviewed the resource materials that were handed out for tonight's meeting:

- A walk web was distributed for Sheppard P.S. (which is part of the Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC), for discussion around a proposed new scenario.

- Additional area projections were handed out to reflect the splitting of Area E that was suggested at the last ARC meeting as a modification to Scenario 4.
- Also included was a map detailing the Secondary School Boundaries for the review area.
 - It was noted that all students in this review area are directed to Grand River C.I. for high school (with the exception of those Franklin P.S. students that feed to Sunnyside instead of Stanley Park; these students are directed to Eastwood Collegiate).
 - Mr. Hercanuck added that there will be no changes to the secondary school boundaries as a result of this review.
- Discussion ensued around transitions, and which is more important from a parent perspective – the move from grade 6 to 7, or from grade 8 to 9? Magnet programs such as French Immersion or the International Baccalaureate program do split students from their peers at the high school level.

Q – Can Grand River Collegiate handle all the growth that is coming in this area?

R – The Board has hired a consultant to look at the secondary school boundaries within the WRDSB, and he has identified that some enrolment pressure will occur at GRCI, but not for a number of years. The majority of the growth for this review area is in the lower grades, especially JK/SK. The numbers down the road could mean an addition or boundary change, but again these are future possibilities.

Q – Regarding Preston High and Elmira District, Breslau P.S. used to feed to those schools.

R – Yes, and the numbers at those schools are fine, so not looking at imminent changes to secondary boundaries.

Mr. Hercanuck then led the group through a brief summary of the scenarios to begin a discussion on which ones to take forward to the Public Meeting on May 25, 2010.

Status Quo Scenario

- Breslau P.S. in the short-term, numbers are not bad, however mid to long-term numbers are very large at 744 in 2019
- Crestview and Stanley Park schools – solid numbers
- Smithson and Mackenzie King – low numbers

Scenario 1 – reorganization scenario

- 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

Scenario 2 – 3 JK-8's, 1 JK-6 feeding JK-8, no senior 7/8 school

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to Mackenzie King P.S. (which becomes JK-8) and would require a major addition or re-build

- 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
- 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

Scenario 3 – school consolidation, no senior 7/8 school

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to new Rosemount (JK-8)
- Smithson and Mackenzie King schools are closed, and those areas attend Rosemount
- Crestview becomes JK-8, receives senior French Immersion (FI) and Special Education programs from Stanley Park P.S.
- Stanley Park P.S. closes and Areas P and T move to Sunnyside for 7/8
 - It was noted that Scenario 3 was dropped at the last ARC meeting by consensus

Q – I was unable to attend the last meeting – why was this scenario dropped?

R – The ARC felt that the cuts were too deep with 3 school closures and did not leave much room or flexibility with built capacity. Also, the new school is large at 754 in 2019, and Crestview P.S.'s numbers are very big as well.

Q – Lester B. Pearson P.S. in Waterloo is large, is 700 really too big?

R – The Good Schools Standing Committee report suggests minimizing the number of schools over 600 students. With at least 2 classes per grade level it helps to avoid split classes, and students have more opportunity for specialized classes/teachers at the 7/8 level. With the new Millen Woods P.S. opening in September 2011, Lester B. Pearson's enrolment will drop down to just over 600 students.

Scenario 4 – school consolidation, senior 7/8 school stays open

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to new Rosemount (JK-6) and would be bussed
- Smithson P.S. and Mackenzie King P.S. are closed, and those areas attend new Rosemount (JK-6)
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. for 7/8

Q – Is Crestview P.S. staying a JK-6 due to its proximity to Stanley Park?

R – Yes, otherwise Stanley Park P.S.'s numbers would be negatively impacted.

Q – Could a piece be added to this scenario to propose a renovation at Breslau P.S. to meet the growth there?

R – Yes, once the scenarios have been narrowed down with public input, we can recommend a staged approach. The goal is to build a solid program first, then put the steps in place to get there.

C – My priority is to keep Breslau P.S. a JK-8 with a strong 7/8 program.

R – The majority of the growth coming for Breslau P.S. is in the younger grades, however. To run a senior program effectively, with the ability to offer specialized classes, the Good Schools Standing Committee guidelines suggest a minimum of 125-150 grade 7/8 students.

Scenario 5 – new

- Area E1 moves from Breslau P.S. to Crestview P.S. (JK-6)
 - the majority of Area E1 would walk to Crestview P.S.
- Smithson P.S. and Mackenzie King P.S. are closed, and those areas attend a new Rosemount school (JK-6)
 - the site would be a bit small for a JK-8 facility
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. to eliminate the split feed from Franklin and Lackner Woods schools

Mr. Smith noted that this is a variation of Scenario 4, and does a pretty good job balancing the numbers. He added however, that this would be an interim solution for Breslau P.S., not a long-term one.

Q – Would the special education and hearing services programs be moved to Rosemount in this scenario?

R – Yes. Rosemount currently houses about 20 students in special education classes within our Board. The other wing of the school is under a lease agreement to the Board with older students under custodial arrangements.

Q – Area E is pretty much fully developed and students are in the higher grades, why not leave that area at Breslau P.S. and bus the new development area to Rosemount?

R – You would lose walking efficiency bussing all of those students to Rosemount. Also, we don't build new schools for the enrolment peaks. Area E1 is coming to what we call steady state (people moving in and out of an area generally even out).

Mr. Smith reiterated that we know what development is coming on in the Breslau P.S. catchment, so it makes sense to split Area E. Area E1 is closest to Kitchener, so a logical move. He asked the ARC if splitting Area E would cause some contention.

C – There is lots of emotion around this; the feeling is that they are very happy at Breslau P.S. and like the JK-8 model and facility.

R – That is typical of what we hear, usually the JK-8 model is preferable but there is also lots of support for the 7/8 model once you have experienced it. Stanley Park P.S. is a good facility, with a solid program. The school is also accessible, so would require no costly accessibility upgrades.

Q – Could Area E2 create another population bubble down the road?

R – Yes it could. Beyond the long-term time frame we may require another school in the Breslau area.

Q – One of our objectives is to promote walk-in options and reduce transportation, does Scenario 5 accomplish that?

R – Most of the Smithson students would walk to Rosemount. Some students from Mackenzie King would have to be transported. Mr. Hercanuck noted that the transportation department has flexibility of 300 metres, to be logical and fair. This avoids one student being eligible and the house next door not being eligible.

C – I like Scenario 5, does not touch the integrity of the special education programs. Can't imagine improving Mackenzie King and Smithson schools without spending lots of money.

Q – Does the Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC know about the proposal to move Areas P and T from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S.?

R – Yes, eliminating the split feeds is a goal of that ARC as well.

Q – Stanley Park P.S. is accessible, but Sunnyside is not, will modifications need to be made?

R – If we keep the facility open, yes, at some point. No grants have come through so far for accessibility plans; the Ministry has mandated that schools be made accessible by 2025. An Accessibility Committee is in place that has created a priority list of schools. They have divided the Board's jurisdiction into 4 sectors, starting with the high schools then elementary. Mr. Smith added that the multi level older schools do present a challenge when it comes to accessibility upgrades.

C – Regarding any boundary changes we propose, can we make sure that the other ARC is aware of them?

R – Yes, we will share that information with them, might still be a good idea to host a joint meeting when we have narrowed down the options at both ARC's.

Q – Why are the numbers so high at Sheppard P.S. in Scenario 5?

R – A portion of the Lackner Woods P.S. catchment is being directed to Sheppard P.S. to ease enrolment pressure; this is their Status Quo projection.

Scenario 6 – new

- Mackenzie King P.S. receives Area E from Breslau P.S. and Area B from Smithson P.S. (JK-6)
- Smithson P.S. is closed, and Area G goes to Sheppard P.S. (Area G would remain at Stanley Park for the 7/8 program)
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. for grades 7/8

Mr. Hercanuck noted that this scenario was proposed by an ARC member after reviewing the other ARC's scenarios and felt it was a good solution for Sheppard P.S. Their numbers suffer when the temporary shifting of Lackner Woods P.S. catchment is removed.

C – Sheppard P.S. is an older school in an area with declining enrolment. There may be a heritage designation question.

R – Mr. Smith noted that a heritage designation would be irrelevant if there was a decision to close the school; may impact next use and property value.

C – This scenario creates split feeds for senior school though; students are directed to Courtland, Sunnyside and Stanley Park for 7/8.

Q – Mackenzie King remains open under this scenario; the school is already piecemeal with a couple of additions. Would it mean another addition/renovation or a complete re-build?

R – Would likely be a renovation/addition, not a brand new facility.

Mr. Smith asked the ARC to look at each scenario again, and decide which ones to take forward to Public Meeting # 2 on May 25th for public consultation and feedback.

Based on consensus, the ARC decided:

Scenario 1 – take

Scenario 2 – is the JK-8 model scenario, important to take forward for public feedback – **take**

Scenario 3 – *dropped for now*

Scenario 4 – *dropped for now* (Scenario 5 is the preferred variation)

Scenario 5 – **take**

Scenario 6 – **take** (keeps Mackenzie King open with growing enrolment)

Public Meeting – Format and Facilitators

- Mr. Smith gave a brief overview of the format for the upcoming Public Meeting. The Draft Review Objectives and Scenarios will be on display boards for the public to preview. Planning will do a brief introduction of the scenarios, then have the larger group break into smaller groups for a more detailed look at the scenarios. Overheads will be provided detailing the scenarios and about 10 minutes will be allocated for each one. We will ask the Principals and Vice Principals to act as facilitators within these groups, and gather comments/feedback. Planning staff will be on hand to answer questions and support to the facilitators.
- The larger group will then re-convene for general questions, discussion of common themes and to hand in comment sheets.
- Mr. Smith noted that members of the ARC are not required to attend the Public Meeting, but may find it helpful to hear the feedback.

6. Roundtable

Mr. Smith asked the ARC if they had any questions/comments.

Q – What is the cost of building a new school?

R – Could be approximately \$9 – 11 million depending on program and size (including land cost). The new Grand View P.S. in Cambridge will cost approx. \$7 million including demolition of the current facility.

Q – Do new scenario ideas generally come out of the Public Meetings?

R – Yes, variations are sometimes suggested through the comments sheets provided or the boundary feedback website.

Mr. Smith noted that if the ARC wishes, Planning staff can arrange for a discussion around the JK-8 model versus the 7/8 senior school model with representatives from Learning Services and Special Education in the fall.

7. Future Meeting Dates

- Mr. Hercanuck displayed the future meeting dates.
- Public Meeting # 2 is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at Stanley Park P.S. beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- The ARC meeting scheduled for June 9, 2010 will be a re-cap of the Public Meeting, then the ARC will break for the summer and resume meetings in September.

- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.
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Future Meeting Dates:

Public Meeting # 2 Tues. May 25 @ Stanley Park P.S. – 7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 9 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm @ Stanley Park P.S.