



**Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil
Accommodation Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 16
February 22, 2011 - 4:30 pm**

The sixteenth meeting of the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Sunnyside P.S., on February 22nd, 2011.

Committee Members Present:

Dayle Buller-Power, Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Maria Lotimer, Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Darren Batt, Vice Principal of Franklin P.S., Jeff Lovell, Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Al Watt, Vice Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Robert Dean, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S., Naz Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Stuart Gallacher, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Richard Briston, parent – Franklin 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, Rebecca McCrae, Vice Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Julie Lobsinger, Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Heather Preddie, Principal of Rockway P.S., Andrea Michelutti, Vice Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects – Facility Services, Trish Starodub, Principal of Sheppard P.S., Deb Dubrick, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Jennifer Childs, parent – Sheppard P.S., Charlene Rushmere, parent – Howard Robertson P.S., Christine Lassel, parent – Rockway P.S., Diane Kewley, parent – Sheppard P.S., Kelly Kempel, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Katie Anderl, Municipal Rep – City of Kitchener, Jonathan Blake, parent – Rockway P.S.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chris Smith, Manager of Planning welcomed members of the ARC and opened the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

2. ARC Meeting # 15 – Draft Minutes Approval

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the January 25th ARC meeting.
 - No concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the January 25th meeting were approved.
 - Moved: Stuart Gallacher
 - Seconded: Naz Ritchie

Tonight's ARC presentation can be viewed on the following link:

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

3. Finalize Report and Recommendations

Mr. Smith advised the ARC that as a result of feedback received from Public Meeting # 4 held on February 15, 2011 at Howard Robertson P.S., an alternate to Recommendation # 1 was proposed for ARC review.

(Original) Recommendation # 1:

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC recommends to the WRDSB that:

The Howard Roberston P.S. boundary be modified to include a portion of the Lackner Woods Public School boundary, illustrated in Figure 2, effective September 2012, and that;

Students entering Grade 6 in September 2012 in the affected area be given the option to enroll at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Howard Robertson P.S. during the 2012/2013 school year, and that;

Approximately \$400,000 be allocated to Howard Robertson P.S. to undertake improvements to the office/administration area to enhance school safety, and to complete site work, which includes improvements to the parking lot and pedestrian facilities, prior to September 2012.

(Alternate) Recommendation # 1:

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC recommends to the WRDSB that:

That the Howard Robertson P.S. boundary be modified to include a portion of the Lackner Woods P.S. boundary, illustrated on Figure 2, effective September 2011, and that;

Students in the affected area who are registered at Lackner Woods P.S. prior to September 2011 (not including unregistered siblings) be given the option to enrol either at Lackner Woods P.S or Howard Robertson P.S. until September 2014, and that;

Transportation be extended to those students in the affected area choosing to attend Lackner Woods P.S. during the 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 school years based on transportation eligibility, and that;

Students entering Grade 6 in September 2014 in the affected area be given the option to enrol at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Howard Robertson P.S. during the 2014/15 school year, and that;

Transportation be extended to those Grade 6 students choosing to attend Lackner Woods P.S. for the 2014/15 school year based on transportation eligibility, and that;

Approximately \$400,000 be allocated to Howard Robertson P.S. to undertake improvements to the office/administration area to enhance school safety, and to complete site work, which includes improvements to the parking lot and pedestrian facilities, prior to September 2012.

Discussion:

Q – The question was put forward with regard to Recommendation # 1 and why the boundary change had to happen in the 2012/2013 school year and not wait until 2014 when the new school would be built? It seems that the families in Area X3 are the only ones affected early. The alternative to Recommendation # 1 would allow students to be grandparented out of Lackner Woods P.S. It represents approximately 40 students (this number could be a bit high, but hard to know which families will choose the option to move early to Howard Robertson P.S. with siblings, or stay at Lackner Woods P.S.).

R – Development in the Lackner Woods P.S. area is still growing and waiting until 2014 to move the students would put too much pressure on the facility and site. The 40 students remaining at Lackner Woods P.S. could equate to an additional 2 – 3 portables. This would place stress on the schools washrooms, playground, parking, etc.

C – What is our obligation to the current students? Is it fair to ask them to exist in a school that's bursting at the seams?

C – Area X3 is making the change, and will mean having to change schools twice – going from Lackner Woods to Howard Robertson, then to Sunnyside for 7/8.

C – Will be difficult to please everyone where changes are proposed. The ARC has already agreed by consensus that Scenario 4 will go forward as discussed, not sure we need to look back at it again.

Mr. Smith noted that we are bound to bring back the comments/concerns received at public meetings for the ARC's consideration. It is a public process and that is the ARC's role. This alternate recommendation was brought up and requested at Public Meeting # 4.

Discussion ensued around the table re-visiting Recommendation # 1 and looking for a compromise. Mr. Smith noted that at the beginning of the process, the chosen option would have transition pieces (like grandparenting) that may need some adjusting/tweaking to arrive at the best option for all.

A potential compromise was arrived at through the discussion:

Students in the affected area enrolled at Lackner Woods P.S. prior to September 2012, entering Grades 5 and 6 in 2012/2013 school year (not including siblings), be given the option to enroll at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Howard Robertson P.S. during the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 school years; and that

Transportation be extended to those Grade 5 and 6 students choosing to attend Lackner Woods P.S. for 2012/2013 school year and Grade 6 students for the 2013/2014 school year, based on transportation eligibility; and that

This compromise would mean that approximately 12 students in Grades 5 and 6 may continue at Lackner Woods P.S. and approximately 6 students in Grade 6 may continue at Lackner Woods P.S. during the 2013/2014 school year.

Mr. Smith noted that there were not enough ARC members here this evening to vote on the compromise to Recommendation # 1. Quorum requires at least fifty percent of voting ARC members be present to vote (not including Board staff who are exempt from voting).

Mr. Smith suggested that an email be composed and sent to the ARC membership detailing Recommendation # 1 (the original proposal and the compromise arrived at this evening) so that a vote can be made.

- If more than fifty percent agree to the compromise option, the ARC's Report and Recommendation will be adjusted to reflect the change before submission to the Board on February 28, 2011.
 - The ARC agreed to the suggestion.
- Mr. Hercanuck displayed the balance of the recommendations for the ARC.
 - No changes/modifications/concerns were raised or proposed.

Recommendation # 2:

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC recommends to the WRDSB that:

A new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 (JK-8) facility of approximately 650 pupil places be constructed on Lackner Woods Blvd., north of Fairway Rd. N, Kitchener, to open for September 2014, and that;

The Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 (JK-6) boundary for the new JK-8 facility encompass portions of the Lackner Woods P.S. and Sheppard P.S. boundaries, as shown in Figure 3, effective September 2014, and that;

The Grade 7 and Grade 8 (7/8) boundary for the new JK-8 facility, as shown in Figure 4, include the Lackner Woods P.S. boundary as well as the boundary for the new school, effective September 2014 for Grade 7 and September 2015 for Grade 7 and Grade 8.

Recommendation # 3:

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC recommends to the WRDSB that:

A small addition consisting of 3 – 4 classrooms be constructed at Lackner Woods P.S., to be completed for September 2013, and that;

The Lackner Woods P.S. boundary be modified to include a portion of the Sheppard P.S. boundary, illustrated in Figure 5, effective September 2014, and that;

Students entering Junior Kindergarten (JK) in September 2013 in the affected area be given the option to enroll at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Sheppard P.S. during the 2013/2014 school year, and that;

Students entering Grade 6 in September 2014 in the affected area be given the option to enroll at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Sheppard P.S. during the 2014/2015 school year.

Recommendation # 4:

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC recommends to the WRDSB that:

The Sunnyside P.S. boundary be modified to include a portion of the Stanley Park P.S. boundary, as illustrated in Figure 6, effective September 2014 for Grade 7 and September 2015 for Grade 7 and Grade 8 (7/8).

Recommendation # 5:

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC recommends to the WRDSB that:

Every effort be made to smooth the transition for students, families and staff at the schools that are seeing significant change, be it new students, fewer students, new programs or facility changes. The report will list all the transitions from each of the recommendations, here, as a summary.

4. Roundtable

Mr. Smith noted that the ARC's Report and Recommendation will be presented to Trustees at the Board Meeting on February 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

- The ARC is invited to attend and will be publically acknowledged for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the Accommodation Review process.
- The minutes for tonight's meeting will be emailed to the ARC for review and approval before being posted to the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review webpage.

5. Future Meeting Dates

- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming to the final ARC meeting and for their excellent work on the committee throughout the past year.
- The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

**February 28, 2011 – Accommodation Report Presentation to the Board
Education Centre – Board Room, 51 Ardelet Avenue, Kitchener**