



**Breslau/Stanley Park Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation
Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 16
February 23rd, 2011 – 6:00 pm**

The sixteenth meeting of the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Stanley Park P.S. on February 23rd, 2011.

Committee Members Present:

Pauline Shiry, Principal of Mackenzie King P.S., Rob MacQueen, Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Carolyn Griffiths, Principal of Crestview P.S., Darv Easton, Acting Principal – Breslau P.S., Crysta Fernandez, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Doug Hudson, parent – Breslau P.S., Troy Starr, parent – Smithson P.S., Sean Mahoney, 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., Laurie Tremble, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Lorraine Buckley, alternate parent rep – Mackenzie King P.S., Anessa Selcage, 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, Jodi Albrecht, Vice Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Libby Martz, Vice Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Jane Pritchard, Principal of Franklin 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, Kathy Waybrant, Community Representative, Tania Hunter, parent – Crestview P.S., Tracy Jasmins, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Aimie LeRuez, parent – Smithson P.S., Lesley Kraehling, parent – Crestview P.S., T. Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S.

1. Welcome

Chris Smith, Manager of Planning welcomed members of the ARC and opened the meeting at 6:05 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 February 9th ARC meeting. A small typo was discovered with one of the student guest's names from the last meeting, should have been Jessa Braun. The correction will be made before the minutes are posted to the website.
 - No other concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the February 9th meeting were approved.
 - Mover: Troy Starr
 - Seconded: Darv Easton

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

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

3. Scenario Discussion

Mr. Hercanuck gave a brief review of Scenarios 1 and 2 for the ARC. He then asked the ARC if they felt they had enough information to make a decision about which scenario would be taken forward in the ARC's Draft Report and Recommendations to Public Meeting # 4.

Mr. Smith added that the ARC can take the preferred scenario forward with a back up if they wish. Both Scenarios 1 and 2 address the issues in this review and do a good job meeting the Review Objectives, Scenario 2 meeting just a few more than Scenario 1. The key difference is program delivery and cost.

Q – How many layers are there between us and the final decision?

R – The ARC's Report and Recommendations go to the Trustees, then Board staff (i.e. Finance, Planning, Facility Services) in consultation with senior staff prepare a report which can mirror the ARC's report, or have differences in items such as timing. The staff recommendations can be different than the ARC's, in which case the Board of Trustees would certainly look for rationale behind the differences in the recommendations.

Q – Feel that the Stanley Park community would support Scenario 1; it would be hard for them to support Scenario 2 which closes Stanley Park P.S. Do agree however that Scenario 1 does seem to be a stop gap measure, especially considering Mackenzie King P.S. and the attention needed at that school. Can we look at adjusting Scenario 1 to include a rebuild of Mackenzie King P.S. as a JK-6 school with an option to add on grades 7 and 8 in the future?

R – We are trying to build schools in the 450 + pupil place range. It's harder to build for 350 because the benchmark costs are difficult to achieve with the smaller size. It's just not cost effective. If we were to propose that, Finance might suggest combining Mackenzie King and Smithson schools. This was an earlier scenario we had explored and rejected because of public feedback – it involved closing 2 schools (Smithson and Mackenzie King) and building a new JK-6 on the Rosemount site.

C – We do need to keep in mind what's best for the students going forward, our decision will impact their futures.

C – I'm torn between a purely school position versus looking comprehensively at the larger picture.

Mr. Smith noted that it will be the ARC member's sense of what is best for students in the overall, long-term, and based on what they have learned throughout the process that will guide them to a decision.

Q – How have other potential senior school closures been handled in past ARC's?

R – Lincoln Avenue P.S. will close in the 2013/2014 school year as a result of an ARC in 2009. Margaret Avenue P.S. was involved in an ARC review last year and was looked at for closure, but since we did not have an alternative accommodation for those students, it will remain open.

One of the recommendations that resulted from that ARC however was a need to review a number of core area senior elementary schools, including Margaret Avenue, Courtland and MacGregor public schools.

Mr. Smith added that typically the 7/8 school boundaries are very large and most students get bused in, so they don't tend to have that community feel, it gets somewhat lost. This is not the case here in the Stanley Park community however, and we have heard that through the public feedback. The community has a strong connection to Stanley Park P.S. and many have expressed their feelings that the delivery model is the best for their students.

C – This is an emotionally driven decision. If Stanley Park P.S. were to close, you still have all the feeder schools in the community; they are not being dispersed, so the area shouldn't lose the community feel. Our job is to have regard for Board policies and direction, as well as the Review Objectives, but don't believe our job is to decide which school model is better.

Mr. Smith sensed that the ARC may not be able to reach a decision by consensus; therefore asked the ARC if they would like to do a "straw" vote by a show of hands for the scenario they feel does the best job and the one they would like to see taken forward in the report. That would give us a chance to see if we do have a lead scenario, so we could start to look at the things you would like to see in the draft recommendations. It was noted that the Accommodation Review procedures require a quorum (50% of the ARC members, not including Board staff who are exempt from voting) be present at the meeting to vote.

The ARC voted and the results are as follows (**Please also see notes under roundtable discussion):

- Scenario 1: 4
- Scenario 2: 6

Mr. Smith reiterated that the ARC can go in with a front runner, i.e. (S2) and (S1) as an alternative or back up. This would give the Board additional guidance. It is important to remember that the Review Objectives were met almost equally in both scenarios. Ultimately it will be the big picture view and what's best for the students going forward.

Q – What about the transition pieces, grandparenting options – moving instruments for example if Stanley Park P.S. were to close?

R – Those will be recommendations built into the Report, along with construction timelines, etc. The Draft Report will be presented to the public for feedback at Public Meeting # 4, then the ARC will get together to discuss that feedback and make final adjustments to the Report, if deemed necessary.

Mr. Smith noted that construction timelines will be dependant on Ministry funding approval. He added that work to be done at Breslau P.S. will continue to be a priority with the enrolment pressure they are experiencing.

4. Public Meeting # 4 – Date and Format

Mr. Smith proposed Wednesday, March 30, 2011 for Public Meeting # 4 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., and Stanley Park P.S. was suggested as the meeting location – with an Open House format.

Q – If there is no formal presentation, how will the public learn of the details of the Draft Report?

R – There will be display boards set up for the public to review at the meeting, detailing all of the recommendations. The Review Objectives will also be displayed. The copies of the Draft Report and Recommendations will be available and will also be posted to the Breslau/Stanley Park webpage the day prior to the meeting at the following link:

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

Flyers will be distributed to each of the schools, and a notice will be placed in The Record and Kitchener Citizen – East Edition (if their publication date is prior to the meeting).

5. Roundtable

C – The comment was made that we have really only done a “straw” vote or poll, should we have a vote now as direction for staff?

C – I’m not sure I’d be okay with that – this meeting agenda did not specifically note the ARC would vote tonight – just review.

After some further discussion on this point, it was agreed that staff could plan Public Meeting # 4 for March 30, 2011 and the ARC would meet on March 8, 2011 to look at the draft recommendations as discussed, but would vote on the preferred scenario that day.

- Mr. Smith added that Planning will send an email out to the ARC advising them of the vote, so that the members not here this evening will be updated.
- If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send in an email detailing your preference (no proxy votes will be accepted).

6. Future Meeting Dates

- ARC # 17 – Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at Stanley Park P.S. from 6:00 – 7:30 pm
- Public Meeting # 4 – Open House – Wednesday, March 30, 2011 at Stanley Park P.S. from 5:30 – 7:30 pm
- ARC # 18 – Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at Stanley Park P.S. from 6:00 – 7:30 pm
 - The ARC agreed to the dates and Mr. MacQueen agreed to host the meetings.
- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 – 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Stanley Park P. S. – Library

**Public Meeting # 4 – Wednesday, March 30, 2011 – 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Stanley Park P.S.
Wednesday, April 6, 2011 – 6:00 – 7:30 pm at Stanley Park P.S. – Library**