



**Breslau/Stanley Park Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation  
Review  
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 4  
March 24th, 2010 – 6:00 pm**

The fourth meeting of the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Stanley Park P.S. on March 24th, 2010.

Committee Members Present:

William Grobe, Principal of Breslau P.S., Pauline Shiry, Principal of Mackenzie King P.S., Rob MacQueen, Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Jane Pritchard, Principal of Franklin P.S., Trish Starodub, Principal of Smithson P.S., Ron Dallan, Facility Services, Doug Hudson, parent – Breslau P.S., Anessa Selcage, parent – Franklin P.S., Janice Scherer, parent – Franklin P.S., Laurie Tremble, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., T. Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Tracy Jasmins, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Sean Mahoney, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Troy Starr, parent – Smithson P.S., Edie Paul, parent – Smithson P.S., Lesley Kraehling, parent – Crestview P.S., Tania Hunter, parent – Crestview P.S., Nancy Allan Catton, parent – Breslau P.S., Crysta Fernandez, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner and Lauren Manske, Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Libby Martz, Vice Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Carolyn Griffiths, Principal of Crestview P.S., Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, John Scarfone, Township of Woolwich Rep., Brian Bateman, City of Kitchener, Kathy Waybrant, Community Rep., Mark Richardson, parent – Stanley Park P.S.

**1. Welcome/Introductions**

Mr. Smith opened the meeting at 6:05 pm and welcomed members of the ARC.

**2. ARC Meeting # 3 – Draft Minutes Approval**

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the March 10<sup>th</sup> ARC meeting.
  - No concerns or corrections were raised.
  - Minutes from the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.
  - Mover: Edie Paul
  - Seconded: Tania Hunter
  
- Mr. Smith confirmed that the school tour will take place on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 9:00 am. We will begin the tour at Crestview P.S. (153 Montcalm Drive, Kitchener) and then visit: Franklin, Smithson, Mackenzie King, Breslau and Lackner Woods public schools in that order.

- The tour will take approximately 3 – 3 ½ hours – and we will car pool.
- An itinerary was handed out to those who might join the tour in progress.

### 3. Draft Review Objectives

Mr. Hercanuck noted that an updated version of the Draft Review Objectives handed out this evening included the requested addition discussed at the last ARC meeting.

- Under: Facility amenities and condition, a bullet was added:
  - **Maximize the number of students housed in permanent accommodation**

Mr. Hercanuck asked the group if they were comfortable with the addition, and noted that the objectives are still open, and can be added to or changed if the ARC agrees to it.

- The ARC agreed to the addition, and had no further modifications at this time.

### 4. School Information Profiles

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the School Information Profiles (as they stand now – including the administrator information) were emailed to the ARC as requested at the last meeting. The profiles are not complete yet, there is still a Facility Services piece to be added and it was advised that a consultant has been retained to do the Facility Condition Report for each of the schools.

- Mr. Hercanuck advised the group to let Planning know if they see any errors/omissions, or have any additions for the profiles.
- The profiles will be posted to the Breslau/Stanley Park ARC website when they are completed.

### 5. Scenario Development

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the enrolment projections for the schools in the review area have been updated, and displayed the Status Quo Scenario with their current boundaries as a starting point for the scenario development.

- We will be using the total number in the enrolment projections going forward. We will still display FTE numbers for now, noting that by 2015 all schools will have implemented the Early Learning Program (all day learning for kindergarten).
- The “SR” column in the projections refers to total enrolment of the senior 7/8 program.

Q – Does the capacity number for Franklin P.S. reflect the addition that was just completed?

R – Yes, as does Wilson Avenue P.S.’s numbers.

Mr. Hercanuck explained how Planning begins scenario development. The existing boundary is broken up into smaller areas (shown as Area A through Area Z, AA, AB, AC) divided by major roads, geographic boundaries, etc, and then enrolment projections are done for each piece. The number of students in each area is factored in as well as out of boundary students (i.e. French

Immersion) and historic data is looked at. Then the smaller pieces are combined to create potential new boundaries and school organizations.

Mr. Hercanuck then brought forward 2 scenarios developed by Planning staff as a jumping off point to begin some discussion.

- Note that Scenario 1 does not mean it's the best scenario, only that it's the first one and we will number all subsequent scenarios in order.

### **Scenario 1**

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to Mackenzie King P.S. (JK-6), and Stanley Park P.S. (7/8)
- Area C moves from Mackenzie King to Smithson (JK-6)
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. (7/8), eliminating the current split feeds to the senior program for Lackner Woods and Franklin public schools.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

C – Impact on Breslau P.S. with Area E (Misty Court, Kitchener) moving out, the 7/8 program is very small. Need at least 100 students to run the 7/8 program effectively.

C – Sunnyside's numbers are very big.

Q – Lackner Woods P.S. numbers are high as well; would it mean an addition for them?

R – The numbers in that area justify a 7/8 program, perhaps Lackner Woods P.S. could be converted to a JK-8 to address that need.

C – The Breslau P.S. 7/8 program is small and perhaps not viable. If the 7/8 program moves from Breslau P.S. into Kitchener for example, it could mean a long bus ride for those students.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the Breslau P.S. catchment does include an area yet to be developed and this will be a discussion item for John Scarfone from the Township of Woolwich to address at the next ARC meeting.

### **Scenario 2**

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to Mackenzie King P.S. (which is converted to a JK-8 school)
- Area C moves from Mackenzie King to Smithson (JK-6)
- Smithson P.S. (JK-6, Areas B, C, G) will feed to Mackenzie King P.S. for grades 7/8
- Stanley Park P.S. closes
- Crestview becomes JK-8, receives the senior French Immersion and Special Education programs from Stanley Park P.S.
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S.

Mr. Smith noted that this scenario addresses a JK-8 model in the area. Stanley Park P.S. closes because of its proximity to Crestview (now a JK-8), and no need for 2 senior 7/8 programs so close together. Sunnyside P.S. numbers are large in this scenario as well, may need another 7/8 in that area also.

Questions/Comments:

Q – How many 7/8 students does Area E represent?

R – For this school year, approximately 43.

C – Breslau P.S. numbers for the senior 7/8 program are very low.

Mr. Smith noted that Stanley Park P.S. is a very good facility with specialized rooms and is fully accessible. One of our goals here is community schools, and the Crestview/Mackenzie King area is already losing the Catholic School (Notre Dame is closing in June 2010). These scenarios are starting points, and our challenge is to try and solve the issues here and meet our review objectives. The school tour on Saturday will give the ARC a good look at all of the facilities, their challenges and opportunities. Scenario development ideas may be created from that as well.

C – Smithson P.S. is the intake school in the area for hearing impaired students (some as far away as Guelph) and has 4 special education programs that then feed to Stanley Park for 7/8.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that special education classrooms are loaded with fewer students, so Smithson could handle the additional numbers. He advised that we can always adjust the boundaries, modify those areas a bit to distribute the numbers differently.

C – Breslau P.S. numbers decrease overall with Area E being removed but are still above built capacity.

C – The primary grades are where we see the growth in numbers at Breslau P.S. Perhaps converting it to a JK-6 school and having the 7/8's come into Kitchener (where they come for high school at Grand River C.I.) could be something we look at.

C – Then you would be taking kids out of their neighbourhoods.

Q – Are there any Area E scenario variations, like having the 7/8's from Mackenzie King come to Breslau P.S.?

R – We can look at some different variations. The 7/8's are the most portable, but it does take away from the JK-8 model.

Q – Can you overlay transportation distances onto those scenarios?

R – Not with the software we have available here at the meeting. We will work on that and email it to the ARC.

- The ARC was also emailed the walk webs for each of the schools reflecting the new transportation policy coming into effect September 2010, to see what they will look like.

Q – Why is Area Q (the area around Lackner Woods) so big? Can we adjust that boundary in this ARC or will it be addressed in the other ARC (Grand River South/Sunnyside)?

R – There is a huge natural area included in their boundary, Area Z is the where the growth will come from, and yes solutions for their overcrowding will be proposed in the other ARC.

Q – What about moving Area T away from Lackner Woods P.S. to reduce their numbers? How many students does that area represent?

R – We can look at that, and Area T currently has 109 primary (JK-6) students.

Q – Can you provide us with enrolment numbers for each of the areas?

R – Yes, we will send that out to you. Keep in mind that we have factored in the Out of Boundary students (i.e. French Immersion) into the total numbers for each school in the

scenarios. The break down of students by area represents the total number of students attending schools within our Board (not necessarily the home school).

Q – Do the School Information Profiles provide a total acreage for the space around the schools, for example those that are next to City parks?

R – The profiles only give the acreage owned by the WRDSB, but we can work out a total area.

Q – What is happening in the other ARC? If our group decides to send some students to Sunnyside P.S. by adjusting the boundary, are we then just done with that piece?

R – The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC is one meeting behind this group; they will begin to develop scenarios over the next 2 meetings. As we mentioned at the beginning of the process, we might need to host a joint ARC meeting to share our scenarios with the other group and vice versa.

There was some discussion around a JK-8 model versus a 7/8 senior school model focused on extra curricular activities and sports teams. The teams are placed in like divisions so that the competition is fair. For example, Breslau P.S. competes with other rural JK-8 schools such as Linwood and Floradale, and Stanley Park competes with Sunnyside and Margaret Avenue.

Mr. Smith noted that Scenario 1 and 2 presented tonight represent one from each model (JK-8 and a senior 7/8 model). He added that unlike some of the 7/8 schools, Stanley Park P.S. is a great community school, running a strong program in a good facility that is accessible with lots of features.

Q – How would some of the Mackenzie King parents feel about their school almost doubling in size and being converted to a JK-8 in Scenario 2?

R – Think it would be good; not really too sure yet of the advantages/disadvantages of the JK-8 model because we have not experienced it yet. We would not lose the community feeling. Ms. Shiry, the Principal commented that they currently run their program with a lot of combined classes/grades, so additional students would help to avoid that issue.

C – Would like to have more information on the JK-8 model versus the 7/8 senior model, and what is best for our students.

Mr. Smith noted that the curriculum is the same for each, they are just delivered differently. He added that it might be a good idea to have someone from our Learning Services division come in and speak to the ARC. We have already asked Jim Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education to speak to the ARC. The Special Education division does prefer the JK-8 continuum, feeling that in most circumstances, it's better for their students to remain in one facility through grade 8.

Q – Could the specialist teachers (that typically teach at the 7/8 schools) rotate between the JK-8 schools in order for a greater number of students to benefit from their expertise?

R – That may be possible but would depend on scheduling and the willingness of staff to teach at multiple facilities. It has been done before.

C – Can you develop a scenario that does not remove Area E from Breslau P.S.? There are very strong community feelings from both sides of the river that attend Breslau P.S., including all of those students that are bussed in.

Q – Is there are budget in place for this process? Are capital expenses set for the outcome?

R – No, costing will come later when we have narrowed down some scenarios with input from the public at our next public meeting. Costing out the scenarios is a detailed process done by the Facility Services Department. There is no pre-determined budget.

Q – Did you look at converting Stanley Park P.S. to a JK-8 and closing Mackenzie King and Smithson? It seems to make geographic sense.

R – That would leave a large area without a community school (Smithson/Mackenzie King). We could look at building a new JK-8 school on the Rosemount site and moving the current Special Education program at Rosemount to an alternate site.

Q – Is the Catholic Board's Notre Dame site an option?

R – The Rosemount and Notre Dame sites are pretty much the same geographically, and we already own the Rosemount site.

Q – How does scenario development work within the ARC process?

R – The ARC will submit a report to the Trustees with their preferred scenario(s), by consensus or vote.

Q – What about cost? Will there be implications if we have multiple scenarios, and will cost be a determining factor?

R – Board staff writes their own report (which may mirror the ARC's report), and while cost is important, it is not the driving force. The review objectives play an important part here in that we put the scenarios up against the objectives to gauge which ones do the best job in meeting our goals. The Board can approve the report or make suggestions/changes. The Ministry of Education then has to approve the money for implementation.

C – What are we looking at in terms of timelines?

Q – Mr. Dallan noted that from the design stage to completion of a new school it could take approximately 2 years. For this review process however, it will more than likely be 3 years for a new school. Boundary changes can be implemented in one year.

## 6. Roundtable

- Mr. Hercanuck noted that the next ARC meeting scheduled for April 7, 2010 will feature presentations from John Scarfone, Municipal Rep. from Woolwich Township and Brian Bateman, from the City of Kitchener's Planning Department. They will share their perspectives on staging of development, green space plans, traffic and long term plans for the review area. The ARC can send in any questions they might have to Planning staff, and we will forward them to John and Brian prior to the meeting.

Q – Can you develop a new scenario around Rosemount that keeps Area E at Breslau P.S.?

R – We can come up with some different variations for that scenario.

Q – What about re-building Rosemount as a JK-8, converting Breslau P.S. to a JK-6, and shifting the 7/8's from Breslau to Rosemount? Then shift some of the other boundaries to evenly distribute enrolment.

C – That would increase the bus ride for the 7/8's from Area K into Rosemount to a very long ride; some already ride for 55 minutes.

R – The maximum bus ride time for students at the elementary and secondary level is 55 minutes, so the ride for the 7/8's into Rosemount would need to be no more than that.

## 7. Future Meeting Dates

- The school tour will take place on Saturday, March 27 at 9:00 am. Starting location is Crestivew P.S.
  - The next ARC meeting is scheduled for: Wednesday, April 7, 2010; from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.
  - Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.
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### **Future Meeting Dates:**

**School Tour – Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**  
**Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm @ Stanley Park P.S.**