



**Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil  
Accommodation Review  
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 15  
January 25, 2011 - 4:30 pm**

The fifteenth meeting of the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Sunnyside P.S., on January 25th, 2011.

Committee Members Present:

Andrea Michelutti, Vice Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Julie Lobsinger, Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Heather Preddie, Principal of Rockway P.S., Jeff Lovell, Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Al Watt, Vice Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Rebecca McCrae, Vice Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Robert Dean, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S., Naz Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Stuart Gallacher, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Jennifer Childs, parent – Sheppard P.S., Richard Briston, parent – Franklin P.S., Christine Lassel, parent – Rockway P.S., Diane Kewley, parent – Sheppard 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, 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., Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects – Facility Services, Trish Starodub, Principal of Sheppard P.S., Deb Dubrick, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Charlene Rushmere, parent – Howard Robertson 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 # 14 – Draft Minutes Approved**

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the January 11th ARC meeting.
  - No concerns or corrections were raised.
  - Minutes from the January 11th meeting were approved.
  - Moved: Robert Dean
  - Seconded: Jennifer Childs

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. Draft Report and Recommendations**

Mr. Smith noted that at the last meeting, the ARC chose by consensus Scenario 4 as the lead scenario. The recommendations for Scenario 4 have been written up by Planning staff on behalf of the ARC and presented tonight for review and discussion. Any changes/additions will be made and presented for public feedback at Public Meeting # 4 on February 15, 2011.

- Copies of the Draft Report and Recommendations were distributed to the ARC.

Mr. Hercanuck advised the ARC that the purpose of tonight's meeting will be to review both the report and recommendations and make any suggestions/changes/comments.

- The 5 recommendations were presented and Mr. Hercanuck invited discussion.

#### **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.

#### **Discussion:**

Q – Is the 2012 timeline hopeful or realistic for the work to be done at Howard Robertson P.S.?

R – The office renovation and the site work can be done over the summer, so yes the timeline is realistic. Howard Robertson P.S. will be getting some work done this summer as well, a new roof and some new windows.

C – Add to the second bullet, that if students exercise this option they will be extended transportation, if eligible.

- The ARC agreed to the addition.

#### **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.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Hercanuck added that no grandparenting option was added to the recommendation, noting that there is a need to move the students out of Lackner Woods P.S. to ease enrolment pressure there. Development will continue to happen in that area.

C – The boundary change between Lackner Woods and Sunnyside public schools for the 7/8's results in Sunnyside losing an area.

R – Yes, but they do gain a portion of the Stanley Park P.S. boundary (eliminating the split feed from Lackner Woods and Franklin schools). We can include the number of Sunnyside students this affects in the rationale section of the Report.

Q – Can we include a timeline with a visual look for this recommendation?

R – Yes, we will make that addition.

Q – Changes start in 2012 – realistic timelines?

R – These recommendations will depend on Ministry funding, but we do need to put the dates in writing. The 5 year Capital Plan already has a place holder for a new school in 2014.

Q – 2014 for the new school – why so long for that piece?

R – The new school is already in the Capital Plan, and there are Ministry dollars earmarked for the capital projects. There are other projects we have already committed to, i.e. the new school in Cambridge on Myers Rd., the rebuilding of Grand View P.S. in Cambridge, the addition at Sandowne P.S. in Waterloo, and others. We do have to make a business case as well for new school construction; we cannot build a school until we know we will have the students to fill it. We don't yet own the site at Lackner Blvd. and Fairway Rd., and it is not zoned for a school site, so this date gives us time to work through those details as well.

Q – If a Sheppard P.S. student wanted to stay there to finish out Grade 6, could they?

R – No, once the boundary change happens they will make the move. French Immersion however is a separate piece. We don't generally open new schools with French Immersion, so students in that program could stay at Sheppard P.S. (no transportation would be provided however). Ms. Manske added that this piece will be added to the text of the Report for clarification.

Mr. Smith added that the administrative boundary change currently in place that takes students from the area to the east of Chicopee to Sheppard P.S. (easing enrolment pressure at Lackner Woods P.S.) would cease to apply with approval of these recommendations.

**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 Lakner Woods P.S. or Sheppard P.S. during the 2014/2015 school year.

Discussion:

Mr. Hercanuck added that in talking with Facility Services staff, the addition at Lackner Woods P.S. could likely be done over the summer prior to September 2013.

**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).

Discussion:

Mr. Hercanuck noted that this recommendation eliminates the split feeds from Lackner Woods and Franklin schools to Sunnyside for grades 7 and 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 suggestions made this evening will be incorporated into a 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Report and Recommendations;

- Then shared with the public at Public Meeting # 4 on February 15, 2011.
- With feedback from Public Meeting # 4 a final draft of the report will be brought to the ARC at their next meeting – February 22, 2011.
- February 28, 2011 the Report will be presented to the Board of Trustees by Planning staff on behalf of the ARC.
- The ARC is invited to attend the Board meeting, and will be acknowledged by the Board for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the accommodation review process.

Q – Knowing that roadblocks can occur with property acquisitions, or strikes can happen on construction sites, are you concerned about this – having to perhaps open a school mid year?

R – Labour issues are out of our control; delayed Ministry funding/approval might be the bigger reality. The newest schools in our Board (Millen Woods and Sir Adam Beck) both opened in January this year, and the transitions went well. Most people are willing to live with an overcrowding situation as long as they know that the solution is in place and will happen.

C – The new schools are JK-6, it's not the same for the 7/8 model, we only have the students for 2 years, we would not likely move them for ½ year.

R – That is true; it is a different wrinkle for the 7/8's, and one that we would address if needed.

Q – It was observed by an ARC member that the Catholic Board has busing to their new school – Pope John Paul II in the review area, is it because of the busy streets?

R – The Catholic Board made a change to their transportation distance policy which took effect January 2011, so that JK- Grade 3 students are transported at 800 metres. It may also be due to the fact that there are a few segments of sidewalk missing in this new development.

Mr. Smith reiterated that safe crossing is a concern at Fairway Rd. and Lackner Blvd., and is mentioned in the text of the Draft Report.

- It was suggested that an addition to the text be made stating: If deemed unsafe to cross, transportation will be provided (to be reviewed regularly as well).

Mr. Smith also advised that this is the ARC's report, so any other suggestions, thoughts or comments are welcome; please let Planning know so that the changes can be incorporated before the Public Meeting.

## **5. Future Meeting Dates**

Mr. Smith confirmed the open house format and set up for Public Meeting # 4 – February 15, 2011, at Howard Robertson P.S. in their library.

- The ARC's Draft Report and Recommendations will be available to review at the meeting, and will be posted to the Grand River South/Sunnyside webpage the day before, on February 14, 2011.
- Display boards will be set up for the public to review Scenario 4 and ask Planning staff any questions.
- Comment sheets will be provided for feedback during the meeting.
- Website info, boundary feedback email address, and contact number for Planning will be provided as well.
- Attendance will be taken at the public meeting (a requirement of the accommodation review process).

The next ARC meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the library at Sunnyside P.S.

- The ARC agreed to the meeting date/time and location.

- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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### **Future Meeting Dates:**

**Public Meeting # 4 – Open House – Tuesday, February 15, 2011 @ Howard Robertson P.S.  
from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the library**

**Tuesday, February 22, 2011 @ Sunnyside P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm**