



**Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil
Accommodation Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 5
April 27, 2010 - 4:30 pm**

The fifth meeting of the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Sunnyside P.S., on April 27th, 2010.

Committee Members Present:

Heather Preddie, Principal of Rockway P.S., Dayle Buller-Power, Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Jane McVeigh, Principal of Sheppard P.S., Rebecca Jutzi, Vice Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Darren Batt, Vice Principal of Franklin P.S., Al Watt, Vice Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Stuart Gallacher, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Naz Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Kelly Kempel, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Christine Lassel, parent – Rockway P.S., Jennifer Childs, parent – Sheppard P.S., Diane Kewley, parent – Sheppard P.S., Richard Briston, parent – Franklin P.S., Robert Dean, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S., Edda Kerr, parent – Sunnyside P.S., Charlene Rushmere, parent – Howard Robertson P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, Lauren Manske, Planner and Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Julie Lobsinger, Principal of Wilson Avenue P.S., Jeff Lovell, Principal of Sunnyside P.S., Maria Lotimer, Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Andrea Michelutti, Vice Principal of Howard Robertson P.S., Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects – Facility Services, Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Katie Anderl, Municipal Rep – City of Kitchener, Jonathan Blake, parent – Rockway P.S., Bonnie Heimbecker, parent – Wilson Avenue P.S.,

1. Welcome

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

2. ARC Meeting # 4 – Draft Minutes approval

- Mr. Smith asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the March 30th ARC meeting.
 - No concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the March 30th meeting were approved.
 - Mover: Robert Dean
 - Seconded: Charlene Rushmere

3. Draft Review Objectives

Mr. Smith asked the ARC if there were any comments/concerns/changes they might have with the draft review objectives.

- No comments, concerns or changes were proposed.

4. School Information Profiles

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the School Information Profiles are almost complete. Planning is waiting for the consultant's Facility Condition Report on each of the review area schools, due for completion in early May. Once that information has been supplied and input, the profiles will be posted to the Board's Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC webpage.

- Mr. Hercanuck asked the group if there were any additions/changes/deletions they would like to propose for the profiles.
- No changes were proposed.

Q – If we end up recommending a new school, do we need to worry about there being enough teachers?

R – No, if we have enough students to justify a new school, the staffing will be provided based on those students. There are Board requirements for staffing and school organization.

5. Scenario Development

Mr. Hercanuck explained the process Planning follows to begin scenario development.

- Historical student counts of the areas are compiled and evaluated.
- Projections for the area are developed based on historical trends and known future development.
- The entire review area is broken down into smaller pieces and enrolment projections are done for each piece.
- The pieces are assembled into new boundary groupings, and scenarios are created.

Q – The breakdown by area – does that mean all students in that small grouping walk to school?

R – No, those areas would include both walkers and bussed students.

- Some WRDSB schools draw students from outside their home school boundary, for reasons such as: French Immersion, Special Education and Principal to Principal transfer.
- Each area assigned to a school is then added up, the out of boundary loss is subtracted from that number and you are left with the net projected enrolment.

Q – Each of the facilities has a built capacity; we will have to watch that number in our enrolment projections and scenario development.

R – That is where the school tour and site visits we did will help the ARC, could the school site handle an addition, etc. The built capacity is a general guideline. The Ministry loads each classroom to 23, but does not take into account a computer lab set up in a classroom, for example. (Ministry loads computer labs at 23 as well).

The ARC presentation can be viewed on the Boards website at:

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

Status Quo Scenario:

- New development in the area around Lackner Woods P.S. continues to put pressure on the facility as well as at Sheppard P.S. in the long-term. Sunnyside P.S. also experiences some enrolment pressure as the congregated 7/8 school for the whole area.
- Lackner Woods P.S. and Franklin P.S. continue with the split feed from both Stanley Park and Sunnyside schools for the 7/8 program.

Scenario 1:

- New JK-6 school constructed in the southern portion of the review area on a site to be determined. The new school receives Areas Y and Z from Sheppard P.S. and Area AB from Franklin P.S.
- Sunnyside P.S. receives Areas P & T (for grades 7/8) from Stanley Park P.S., eliminating the split feeds from Lackner Woods P.S. and Franklin P.S.

Mr. Smith noted that in the Breslau/Stamley Park review, we have too much accommodation and are looking at the possibility of consolidation. Here in the Grand River South/Sunnyside review, we seem to have a shortage of accommodation, so the initial scenario adds capacity.

- There are different challenges faced by both ARC's.

Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC to consider what is needed to address the shortage of accommodation in this review area. Could the area possibly support 3 JK-8 schools, or 1 JK-8 with Sunnyside as the 7/8 senior school?

Mr. Hercanuck opened the floor for ideas/discussion/suggestions on the scenario put forth:

C – The new school's enrolment peaks then levels off over time.

C – Sunnyside P.S. numbers get very large, and there is still enrolment pressure on Lackner Woods P.S.

C – Sheppard P.S. numbers go way down.

Q – Stanley Park P.S. numbers go down to 320/340 for the 7/8 program with the loss of Areas P & T, is that number acceptable according to the Good Schools Standing Committee?

R – The Committee's Report is a guideline and we would have the numbers to support a program there. Keep in mind that with the other review running, Stanley Park P.S. may gain numbers from some boundary shifting happening there. An error on the map was noted, and will be adjusted: Area E currently goes to Breslau P.S. for JK-8.

Q – What area could be diverted to Howard Robertson to help their numbers?

R – Perhaps part of Area X could be shifted, that would also help to ease Lackner Woods P.S. overcrowding.

C – The 2015-2019 projections don't help the situation at Lackner Woods P.S.

R – There is still lots of development to come in that area.

C – It was mentioned that there was concern from the Lackner Woods P.S. neighbourhood that if the boundary was changed and Area X was diverted away from the school, people would move.

C – It was noted that boundary changes will likely occur as a result of this review, and unfortunately cannot be avoided.

C – The new school doesn't really help the enrolment pressures at Lackner Woods and Sunnyside.

Q – Could the new school be built as a JK-8?

R – We can look at that modification and work out some numbers.

Q – Is an addition at Lackner Woods possible with its site limitations?

R – It could be, perhaps a 2 storey addition. We would have to look at that as well as the costing implications and site challenges.

Mr. Smith gave an update on the proposed change to the Capital Funding Model.

- The New Pupil Place (NPP) model for funding will no longer be used, for new construction.
- It is anticipated that we will be moving towards a needs based model, where the Board will be required to make a business case to the Ministry of Education for what is needed.
- The Board makes their decisions but implementation will be based on money coming from the Ministry.
- The Board is 100% dependant on the Province for its capital dollars.
- We will still do good planning, but may ultimately have less control over the timelines.
- Expectation is that this new Capital Funding Model may be a challenge when it comes to timing issues, etc. There may be more caveats around Board approval.
- Important to note that there are no firm details of the new funding model yet, however.

Q – Do the enrolment projection numbers include the Early Learning Program (ELP)?

R – Yes, those numbers are factored in – they are reflected in the Total column.

Q – Concern with the low numbers at Sheppard P.S. in Scenario 1. If we closed that school where would the students go?

R – The students would have to be split up; there is no single school that could take in that enrolment in its entirety.

C – It should be noted that if people can see the school, they will want to go there.

R – Yes, we agree with that and is something we try to accomplish.

Q – Does the Board have a vacant school site in the review area?

R – Not at this point, but we are working on securing one.

C – This information is important in terms of our scenario development – without a site, it will be difficult to create scenarios – we need some direction.

R – The Waterloo Catholic Board does own a school site in the review area and although we have not talked to them yet, we plan to. Our Board did set aside a school site in the development plans for the area around Lackner Woods; however we abandoned it due to safety concerns from the airport flight paths.

Q – Is there any other available space?

R – Not that we know of, but Planning will follow up with Katie Anderl, our City of Kitchener ARC representative to go over the area again.

C – Perhaps we can make the new school JK-8, take Area X to the new school, and Area Z goes to Lackner Woods P.S. This will take pressure off Lackner Woods and makes sense geographically. And if we are talking about consolidation of schools in the North, a new JK-8 in this area would help them as well.

R – We will take that idea and make adjustments to the scenario.

C – Area X is complicated with different elevations, lots of trails – should probably be split.
 R – We can look at that, and where a natural geographic split could occur.

6. Roundtable

Mr. Smith noted that this had been a great discussion; Planning will take all the ideas back, re-work Scenario 1 perhaps with variations and create some new scenarios.

- Will add walk webs to help define the initial boundaries.
- Will create a map that details the future development areas as well as the protected areas that will not be developed. Can add in the draft plans of subdivision that have been submitted as well.

Q – Are there any JK-6 schools in the review that could be converted to JK-8 fairly easily?

R – Sheppard P.S. would have the space in terms of its site, but would negatively impact the enrolment at Courtland P.S.

- Franklin P.S. could be a possibility; they have a double gym, as does Howard Robertson P.S.
- It is a challenge because all of the 7/8's currently feed to Sunnyside.
- If the decision is to move to a JK-8 model, and Sunnyside was closed, then we would have to look at accommodating the 7/8 students.

Q – Is there any land available in Area Y?

R – As mentioned earlier, Mr. Smith will follow up with the City of Kitchener and the Catholic Board regarding potential school sites. Areas X and Y have some commercial sites available, something to look at as well; however, we would have to deal with the issue of very busy streets and intersections.

Q – North of Area Q looks like lots of empty space.

R – There is a very large natural area in that space, so it will not be developed. There is a bit of development area off of Ottawa Street.

C – Have safety concerns with the major roads students would be expected to cross as well as traveling through the wooded areas.

R – If an area is deemed hazardous (lacking sidewalks or unsafe crossing, for example), students would be bussed, and they are not expected to walk through wooded areas. Planning will also outline the major roads on the map to be created for the ARC.

7. Future Meeting Dates:

- Mr. Hercanuck posted the future meeting dates for the ARC.
 - The ARC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, 2010 will take place at Edna Staebler P.S., so that the ARC can view and tour a purpose built JK-8 facility.
 - A floor map for Edna Staebler was distributed to the ARC in anticipation of the tour.
 - Ms. Jutzi confirmed the availability of Sunnyside P.S. to host Public Meeting # 2 on Wednesday, May 26, 2010.
 - An ARC meeting was added for Tuesday, June 8, 2010 from 4:00 – 6:30 pm at Sunnyside P.S. This will be the last ARC meeting until the fall.

- Mr. Smith thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.
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Future Meeting Dates:

Tuesday May 4 @ Edna Staebler P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Tuesday May 18 @ Sunnyside P.S. – 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Public Meeting # 2 – Wednesday May 26, 2010 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Sunnyside P.S.