



**Breslau/Stanley Park Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation
Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting # 8
June 9th, 2010 – 6:00 pm**

The eighth meeting of the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Stanley Park P.S. on June 9th, 2010.

Committee Members Present:

Carolyn Griffiths, Principal of Crestview P.S., Pauline Shiry, Principal of Mackenzie King P.S., Rob MacQueen, Principal of Stanley Park P.S., Libby Martz, Vice Principal of Lackner Woods P.S., Crysta Fernandez, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Sean Mahoney, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Janice Scherer, parent – Franklin P.S., Doug Hudson, parent – Breslau P.S., Troy Starr, parent – Smithson P.S., Tania Hunter, parent – Crestview P.S., Lesley Kraehling, parent – Crestview P.S. Laurie Tremble, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Nancy Allan Catton, parent – Breslau P.S., Anessa Selcage, parent – Franklin P.S., Tracy Jasmins, parent – Mackenzie King P.S., Mark Richardson, parent – Stanley Park P.S., Mary Hingley, recording secretary, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner and Lauren Manske, Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Regrets:

Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, William Grobe, Principal of Breslau P.S., Ron Dallan, Facility Services, John Scarfone, Township of Woolwich, Brian Bateman, City of Kitchener, Jane Pritchard, Principal of Franklin P.S., Trish Starodub, Principal of Smithson P.S., Kathy Waybrant, Community Rep., T. Ritchie, parent – Lackner Woods P.S., Edie Paul, parent – Smithson P.S.

1. Welcome

Mr. Hercanuck welcomed members of the ARC and opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Smith has sent his regrets for tonight's meeting, so Mr. Hercanuck will act as Chair. There has also been a change to the order of tonight's agenda items: Public Meeting Recap will move to item # 3, Draft Review Objectives to item # 4, and School Information Profiles to item # 5.

2. ARC Meeting # 7 – Draft Minutes Approval

- Mr. Hercanuck asked the group if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the May 19th ARC meeting.
 - No concerns or corrections were raised.
 - Minutes from the May 19th meeting were approved.
 - Mover: Doug Hudson
 - Seconded: Sean Mahoney

3. Public Meeting – Recap – Feedback – Scenarios

Mr. Hercanuck noted that there was a very good turnout for Public Meeting #2 held on May 25, 2010. Approximately 100 members of the public were in attendance.

- Feedback from that meeting was emailed to the ARC. This information included comment sheets from the Public Meeting as well as emails from our boundary feedback line.
- The Public Meeting minutes will be posted on the Board's website next week, and for any other information regarding the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review please visit the Board's website at the following link:

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

Tonight's ARC presentation can be viewed on the link above as well.

Mr. Hercanuck summarized the scenario feedback from the Public Meeting:

Scenario 1

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

Opportunities:

- Keeps small schools open/community schools
- Most schools within Good Schools Standing Committee size guidelines
- French Immersion program remains where they are
- Less transportation (Kitchener to Breslau)

Issues:

- Land use compatibility (near strip club) – Mackenzie King P.S.
- Impact on senior 7/8 program at Breslau P.S.
- Traffic safety (crossing Lackner Blvd.)
- Some of Area E still needs transportation

Scenario 2

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

Opportunities:

- Breslau P.S. enrolment reduced. Smithson and Mackenzie King enrolments increased, more in line with Good Schools Standing Committee guidelines
- JK-8 model

Issues:

- Duplicates senior facility that already exists with the closure of Stanley Park P.S.
- Loss of congregated senior 7/8 program
- Impact on senior 7/8 program at Breslau P.S.
- Transitions for JK-6 school moving into established JK-8 program for grades 7 and 8

C – Heard strong feelings at the Public Meeting about not closing Stanley Park P.S. – as it would not be a wise use of resources.

Q – Has there been a study done on the impacts to students transitioning from a JK-6 school to JK-8 for their senior grades, and does it only happen rarely?

R – We are not aware of any studies, but it is not a rare occurrence. The Board has been working with a JK-8 school model with JK-6 feeds to maintain strong senior 7/8 programs. For example, the new Millen Woods P.S. that opens September 2011 will be JK-6, feeding back to Lester B. Pearson for the 7/8 program. There are very few JK-8 schools with their own catchments (Edna Staebler P.S. being one of them).

C – Ms. Shiry commented on the transition mentioned, as she has experienced it at one of her former schools. A concentrated effort is made with the incoming grade 6's during the month of June to welcome the new students. Ice breaker events take place; transition meetings are held with the staff, and they are sensitive to the nervousness that surely takes place in the first days. Every effort is made by the administration to ease the transition for those students.

Scenario 5

- Area E1 moves from Breslau P.S. to Crestview P.S. (JK-6)
- Smithson P.S. and Mackenzie King P.S. are closed, and those areas attend a new Rosemount school (JK-6)
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. to eliminate the split feed from Franklin and Lackner Woods schools

Opportunities:

- School not located next to strip club
- Better numbers for Breslau P.S.'s senior 7/8 program
- Most of Mackenzie King/Smithson could walk to the new Rosemount site

Issues:

- Traffic safety (crossing Lackner Blvd.)
- Division of community (Area E split between Breslau and Crestview schools)
- Closing 2 neighbourhood schools

Scenario 6

- Mackenzie King P.S. receives Area E from Breslau P.S. and Area B from Smithson P.S. (JK-6)

- Smithson P.S. is closed, and Area G goes to Sheppard P.S. to offset reduction in enrolment at Sheppard P.S. caused by proposed new school construction and boundary changes in the Grand River South/Sunnyside accommodation review. (Area G would remain at Stanley Park for the 7/8 program)
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. for grades 7/8 to eliminate the split feed from Lackner Woods and Franklin schools

Opportunities:

- There were no opportunities sited in the comment sheets for this scenario

Issues:

- Sheppard P.S. feeds three ways for the 7/8 program (Courtland, Sunnyside and Stanley Park)
- Transportation/traffic safety concerns
- Smithson students bussed to Sheppard, some Area E students walk (but cross Lackner Blvd.) and some are bussed
- Impact on Breslau P.S. senior 7/8 program
- Smithson P.S. is closed

Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC for any other feedback they have heard either at the Public Meeting or from their school communities since then.

Q – The grandparenting question was raised, how is it done?

R – The grandparenting option has mostly been done for senior elementary students (i.e. letting a grade 8 finish out at their current school even though a boundary change has them directed to a new school). There are provisions in the new transportation distance policy for grandparenting. There must be a definitive end date built in, and the option can only be extended to those students currently enrolled. So if there is a younger sibling not of school age yet, that child would be directed to the new home school boundary.

Ms. Manske added that once the grandparenting option is chosen, parents may be held to that decision (school organizations would have been built on those decisions). Planning will check the numbers in Breslau to see where the bubble will be if it was recommended to offer that area any grandparenting options.

C – Heard at the Public Meeting that you can't split Area E, grandparenting would be a better option.

C – Scenario 1 seemed most attractive because Smithson stays open. Concern with what happens to the school and the property around Smithson, especially the park since there isn't another one nearby. Smithson P.S. is a strong school community that has done fundraising for their park and greenspace. It was felt that this sort of information was needed to make an informed decision.

R – There is a process to dispose of Board property. It would be offered to other school boards first, then universities and colleges, then municipalities, and then put on the open market (Education Act, Reg. 444/98). There is also an option for the Board to retain the property, perhaps use it for the programs currently running at Rosemount, for example.

Q – What if this ARC recommends a scenario that drops Lackner Woods P.S. enrolment and the other ARC builds a new school that further drops their enrolment, would one ARC's decision override the other?

R – There are different issues in both reviews. This review area would seem to have too much capacity and the other one has too little. Don't really see that situation occurring.

- We will propose a joint meeting in the fall with both ARC's to look at those issues together.

C – Heard parent feedback at a recent Mackenzie King Spring Fling event that it seems Area E is artificially boosting Breslau P.S.'s enrolment. Can we look at an option that takes the 7/8 program out of Breslau P.S. and busses those students to Stanley Park P.S. until such time the JK-6 population moves up at Breslau and they can support their own strong 7/8 program? Or until a new school is built out in Breslau with the growth we know is coming.

R – We have not looked at a scenario to do that yet, but will work one up for the ARC to review. There are really 2 options for the senior program at Breslau P.S.:

- Remove the 7/8's and house them at Stanley Park P.S. or another school until Breslau P.S. can support its own program, perhaps add the grades back on over time (i.e. JK-7, then JK-8).
- Continue to operate with a small senior program until the stronger numbers in the junior grades make their way to 7 and 8. Smaller senior programs are being run at other schools, for example, Floradale, Forest Glen and Conestogo – mostly rural schools.

C – This would be a strong emotional point with Breslau P.S. parents. However, at a Breslau school council meeting the other night, some parents could see the logic of Area E being moved back to Kitchener. Scenario 1 with the grandparenting option for Area E was preferred, and it seems to do a good job with the numbers at all of the schools.

C – Crossing Lackner Blvd. is a safety concern for Area E.

R – Mr. Hercanuck reiterated that safe crossing is always a top priority. He also noted that students cross Ottawa Street, River Road and Lackner Blvd. safely to get to other schools today.

C – We need to explore all possible scenarios/options and continue to look at the whole picture, not just our individual schools. There would be a huge emotional impact with the closure of 2 schools in Scenario 5, just as there is in removing the 7/8 program from Breslau P.S.

C – People are moving into Breslau because it has a JK-8 school.

C – We all have strong attachments to our school communities.

Q – How many senior 7/8 students are in Area E?

R – Don't have an exact number with us tonight, will provide that at the next meeting, but probably about 35 or 40% of the senior program comes from Area E.

C – Breslau P.S.'s enrolment is too large; one of our objectives is to ease that pressure.

C – Heard comments from some that they were surprised with the amount of bussing that occurs from Kitchener to Breslau.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that Planning will create a couple of new scenarios over the break.

- Will look at a variation of Scenario 1 that includes grandparenting options for Area E. Will see what it looks like with all of Area E out of Breslau P.S.
- Will create a scenario that looks at removing the 7/8 program from Breslau P.S. temporarily, until it can support a stronger senior program.

Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC if there were any scenarios they would like to set aside at this point.

- ARC consensus was to drop Scenario 6, as it did not garner any support at the Public Meeting.

4. Draft Review Objectives

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the review objectives will be used as a decision screen for the scenarios once the ARC has narrowed them down and costing details, etc, have been completed. In order to evaluate the scenarios fairly, we will put them up against each objective and gauge them as a meet or doesn't meet. Planning staff have come up with some proposed modifications to the wording in order to ease that process. He added that in avoiding words like consider and review, it will be easier to evaluate the scenarios success.

- Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC to consider the modifications, and to provide their thoughts/comments.

Current:

- Provide current and future students in the review area with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by:
 - Having regard for the Good Schools Standing Committee guiding principles on school size
 - Reviewing elementary school organizations (i.e. JK-6, 7-8, JK-8)
 - Recognizing the distribution of Special Education, French Immersion and English as a Second Language programs

Proposed:

- Provide current and future students in the review area with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by:
 - Having regard for the Good Schools Standing Committee guiding principles on school size
 - Reviewing elementary school organizations (i.e. JK-6, 7-8, JK-8) *Delete line*
 - Recognizing the distribution of Special Education, French Immersion and English as a Second Language programs, *and ensuring they are accommodated with any proposed changes.*

Discussion:

C – It was noted that bullet 2 states *reviewing elementary school organizations* and is in the Terms of Reference for the Accommodation Review process, so may be redundant.

C – We have talked a great deal about the JK-8 and 7/8 school models, and feel the objective is important to keep on the list. The public needs to know that we have had regard for it throughout the whole process. We can count this objective as a meets for all of the scenarios.

- ARC agreed by consensus to keep the objective in the list.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the other ARC suggested a further change to bullet 3 wording stating: *ensuring these programs are accommodated with any proposed changes.*

- ARC agreed by consensus to adjust the wording as above.

Current:

- Support the optimal use of facilities, capital and operating resources through the consideration of:
 - School location
 - Recognize the relationship/identity of community to local elementary school
 - Minimize transportation costs in the long-term by maximizing the number of students within walking distance of a school
 - Facility amenities and condition
 - Priorities for physical accessibility of facilities by the Accessibility Committee
 - Site
 - Safety and security

Proposed:

- *Make the best use of Capital and Operating resources by:*
 - *Maximizing the number of students within walking distance to school*
 - *Maximizing the number of students in permanent accommodation*
 - *Where practical eliminate underutilized space and introduce new facility*
 - *Improve retained facilities (i.e. site, layout, security, access, facility)*

Mr. Hercanuck asked the group if they felt the proposed wording change was more succinct.

- ARC agreed by consensus to change the wording as proposed.

Current:

- Develop a solution that is long-term (approximately 10 years) by taking into consideration:
 - Consistency of feeds to senior elementary and secondary school programs
 - Future development plans and demographic shifts
- Consider student transitions

Proposed:

- Develop a solution that is long-term (approximately 10 years) by *taking into consideration (delete 3 highlighted words)*
 - *Creating more consistent feeds between the secondary and senior elementary program*
 - *Addressing future development plans and demographic shifts*
 - *Minimizing the number of student transitions where changes are proposed*

Note that the final objective was rolled up into this proposed version.

C – Bullet 1 does not really pertain to our ARC; we have not talked about the secondary feeds, not so pertinent.

R – We can adjust the wording to say: Creating more consistent feeds between *the junior and senior* elementary program.

- ARC agreed by consensus to the change.

C – Could add to bullet 3: Minimizing the number of student transitions *as a result of proposed boundary changes*, for additional clarity.

- ARC agreed by consensus to change the wording as above.

An updated list of the Draft Review Objectives will be posted to the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review webpage with the June 9, 2010 ARC Meeting Minutes, once approved.

5. School Information Profiles

- Mr. Hercanuck advised the ARC that the School Information Profiles are complete and have been posted on the Board's website under the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review webpage:

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

- The only piece missing from the profiles is the annual maintenance cost for the grounds/facility – the general upkeep costs.
- He also noted that these profiles will play an important role further on in the process. For example, looking at Section 2 – Value to the Board and the Facility Condition Report (FCI). The FCI is a percentage ratio of the estimated repair and upkeep costs over Ministry replacement value. (i.e. if the FCI is 100% the school would cost as much to repair as it would to build new).
- The higher the FCI percentage means more work is required at that facility.
- Mr. Hercanuck added that if the ARC wishes, we can have Ron Dallan, our Facility Services representative on our committee speak to these numbers in more detail.
- Ms. Manske also noted that the full consultant's report is available in hard copy if anyone wishes to look at it in more detail.

6. Next Year – September 2010 – ARC meetings – Membership changes

- Mr. Hercanuck noted that there will be some changes to the ARC membership effective September 2010. Trish Starodub will be moving to Sheppard P.S. from Smithson P.S., and will join the Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC. Carolyn Graham from the Halton District School Board will be taking a temporary posting at Smithson P.S. in September.
- Best wishes to Trish at her new school and welcome to Carolyn.
- Mr. Hercanuck also mentioned that if any parent rep wanted to withdraw from the ARC for next year, to please contact your school administrator. Otherwise we will reconvene in September, and he expressed thanks to all ARC members on behalf of the Planning Department for their continued commitment and dedication to this review process.

7. Roundtable

Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC for any further thoughts/comments before adjournment.

C – While reading the feedback from Public Meeting # 2, was surprised by how negative the comments were.

R – People generally resist change, and the fact we are doing an Accommodation Review means change will happen.

C – I attended both Public Meetings and found it interesting that the Breslau/Stanley Park group wanted solutions so students could walk to school and the Grand River South/Sunnyside group wanted solutions that bussed their students.

C – Good to see that Trustee Martin attended both public meetings.

C – Glad that I volunteered to become a part of the ARC, am more educated about the process and can share that information with our school community. It is a good process.

C – Felt that people were overwhelmed at the Public Meeting with all of the information presented to them. The ARC is used to the maps and charts, etc. so it is easier for us to understand all the material. I will encourage people to access the website before the next Public Meeting.

R – Mr. Hercanuck noted that Public Meeting # 3 will likely be held in October. We hope to have the ARC narrow down the scenarios to some front runners. We will then have some detailed costing done, as well as the transportation implications.

R – Ms. Manske advised the ARC to let Planning know if they see something on the webpage that can be improved, easier to read.

Q – Can a link/button be added to the homepage taking us directly to the accommodation reviews?

R – We have asked our web developers for that. For now, advise your school communities that if they do a search for their school on the homepage search toolbar, a link will be provided to take them to the accommodation review page.

Q – Regarding Ministry funding, do all school boards submit their funding requests at the same time?

R – Once the Board approves any recommendations, we apply for Ministry approval.

Q – Does the Ministry wait for all requests to pile up?

R – We don't know how the new process will work. The old model was easy to work with (New Pupil Place). We had our share of a pot of money, and if we needed a new school or an addition to house new students, we still needed Ministry approval, but the money was there for us to use. We also knew how much was in the pot to be used. 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.

C – It would be a shame to go through this process only to be denied the funding.

R – It may only mean having to wait an extra year or 2 for implementation.

C – We need to respond appropriately to our objectives for this review process and put a strong solution forward; the Ministry is not interested in emotion.

Mr. Hercanuck advised the ARC that Planning will fine tune the scenarios with the suggestions made at tonight's meeting, and bring them back for review at the first meeting in September.

- We will also plan to have a joint meeting with the Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC in the fall to share the scenarios/options being discussed.
- The minutes from tonight's meeting will be emailed to the ARC for their review and approval, as well as the updated objectives. That information will then be added to the website.

8. Future Meeting Dates:

- Mr. Hercanuck proposed Wednesday, September 15, 2010 for the next ARC meeting. He also asked the ARC if the time (6:00 – 7:30 pm) and meeting location (Stanley Park P.S.) still works for everyone's schedule.
 - The ARC agreed to discuss any date/time/location changes at the September 15, 2010 meeting when they have had a chance to check schedules. Mr. MacQueen advised that Stanley P.S. would be available for the September 15th meeting.
 - Mr. Hercanuck thanked all for coming and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.
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Future Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, September 15th @ Stanley Park P.S. from 6:00 – 7:30 pm