

Report to Committee of the Whole May 9, 2011



**Waterloo Region
District School Board**

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Director of Education

SUBJECT: **Recommendations Resulting from the Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review**

ORIGINATOR: This report was prepared by Marilyn Marklevitz, Executive Superintendent of Business and Financial Services and Treasurer, Ian Gaudet, Controller of Facility Services, Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects, Marion Jarrell, Controller of Financial Services, Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner and Lauren Manske, Senior Planner, in consultation with Executive Committee.

PURPOSE:

To seek approval for recommendations resulting from the Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review, including boundary changes, approval for an addition to Lackner Woods Public School and approval for the construction of a new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school located on Lackner Boulevard, Kitchener.

BACKGROUND:

On November 23, 2009, the Board initiated a pupil accommodation review of the elementary schools in the Grand River South/Sunnyside area of the board, which included: Franklin, Howard Robertson, Lackner Woods, Rockway, Sheppard, Sunnyside and Wilson Avenue Public Schools. This review was titled the Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review. At the same time, the Board approved a second, overlapping review of the elementary schools in the Breslau/Stamley Park area of the board, which included: Breslau, Crestview, Franklin, Lackner Woods Mackenzie King, Smithson and Stamley Park Public Schools. Due to the adjacent nature of these two review areas, over the course of the accommodation review process, the Accommodation Review Committees held a joint meeting to facilitate the sharing of information and coordinate inter-review area scenario development.

An accommodation review is a formal process that may result in school closure and consolidation, school construction and renovations and boundary and program changes in a defined area within the Board's jurisdiction. The Grand River South/Sunnyside area was identified for an accommodation review in the Board's capital planning process because of the need to address the enrolment pressures as a result of localized residential development in the Grand River South community of Kitchener as well as demographic and population changes causing enrolment decline.

In accordance with Board Policy 4000 and in compliance with the Ontario Ministry of Education's (Ministry) Pupil Accommodation Review *Guideline* (published June 26, 2009), the Board directed the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) to carry out the accommodation review. The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC has completed its investigations and deliberations and formally submitted its Accommodation Report on February 23, 2011. Upon receipt of the ARC's report, staff have reviewed the recommendations and rationale and are now presenting their proposals and recommendations in response to the work carried out by the ARC.

Policy 4000 requires that the ARC's Accommodation Report be publicly available. The full report has been available on the Board's website since February 23, 2011, and hard copies are available for viewing at each of the schools in the Accommodation Review area, at the Education Centre in the office of the Executive Officer, and in the Planning Department. Policy 4000 also requires that there must be no fewer than sixty (60) days notice prior to the meeting where the Board of Trustees may vote on the recommendations. School holidays such as the summer vacation must not be considered part of the 60 day period; therefore, the Board will have met these criteria by consideration of the recommendations at this time.

STATUS:

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC chose Scenario 4 as their preferred accommodation solution as submitted on February 23, 2011.

In summary, Scenario 4 contains the following proposals:

- Improvements to the office/administration area and site work at Howard Robertson P.S.;
- Construction of a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, of approximately 650 pupil place capacity, located at Lackner Boulevard and Fairway Road North, Kitchener;
- Construction of additional classrooms at Lackner Woods P.S.;
- Changes to boundaries for Howard Robertson P.S., Lackner Woods P.S., Sheppard P.S., Sunnyside P.S. and the proposed new school, to implement the recommended scenario; and
- Consideration of student transitions where changes are proposed.

The staff recommendations differ from the ARC recommendations in implementation and timing, but otherwise parallel the findings and strategic direction of the ARC.

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC's Accommodation Report is attached to this report as Appendix A.

Existing Situation

The Grand River South/Sunnyside review area includes six Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 schools (Franklin P.S., Howard Robertson P.S., Lackner Woods P.S., Rockway P.S., Sheppard P.S., and Wilson Avenue P.S.) and one senior elementary, or Grade 7 and 8 school (Sunnyside P.S.). Currently there are area congregated Special Education (Spec. Ed.) classes located at Franklin P.S. and Sunnyside P.S., partial French Immersion (FI) classes offered at Franklin P.S. and Sheppard P.S. and Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) at Franklin P.S. and Howard Robertson P.S. Wilson Avenue P.S. will have FDK in September 2011 and the remainder of the junior elementary schools by 2014.

Table 1 is a summary of the current enrolment and program offerings at the schools in the review area.

TABLE 1: Grand River South/Sunnyside Enrolment and Program Offerings 2010/2011

School	Capacity (OTG)	Full-Time Equivalent Enrolment*	Total Enrolment*	JK-6	7-8	Spec. Ed.	FI	FDK
Franklin P.S.	582	608	608	•		•	• (1-6)	•
Howard Robertson P.S.	526	390	390	•				•
Lackner Woods P.S.	368	500	587	•				
Rockway P.S.	254	208.5	239	•				
Sheppard P.S.	429	332	385	•			• (1-6)	
Sunnyside P.S.	423	469	469		•	•		
Wilson Avenue P.S.	428	367	418	•				
TOTAL	3010	2874.5	3096	6	1	2	2	2

*Unofficial as of March 31, 2011

Franklin P.S. is a single-storey JK-6 school originally built in 1963 with additions in 1966 and 1969. In 2008, the Board also approved a five classroom addition as well as a double gym and the conversion of the existing single gym to other uses funded by the Ministry's Primary Class Size (PCS) grant. This project was completed in January 2010. Since the renovations included Kindergarten classrooms, Franklin P.S. was selected as a year one (2010/11) site for FDK implementation. Franklin P.S. feeds two different schools for the senior (7-8) elementary program (Sunnyside P.S. and Stanley Park P.S.). The school's boundary extends down into the Chicopee area. Enrolment at Franklin P.S. has been stable over the past 10 years. An April 2010 condition assessment revealed that the architectural components of the building were generally in good condition and the site in excellent condition.

Howard Robertson P.S. is a large single-storey JK-6 facility originally built in 1953, with numerous additions over the years. Currently the parking lot does not have enough capacity to accommodate the staff at the school during the winter months. The office/administration area is located centrally within the school and has poor sight lines to the entrance of the school, making it difficult to provide supervision and student safety throughout the day. Enrolment at Howard Robertson P.S. has been declining steadily over the past 10 years. An April 2010 condition assessment revealed that the architectural components of the building were in fair condition and the site generally in good condition. The major components contributing to this assessment (roof and windows) are scheduled for replacement this summer.

Lackner Woods P.S. is the newest facility in the review area. It is a single-storey JK-6 facility that officially opened in 2001 to accommodate the initial phases of residential development being approved in the area and to address the

enrolment pressures at adjacent schools. At the time of its opening, further development in the area was planned; however, the timing was unclear as there were issues related to municipal servicing, airport noise exposure and the extension of Fairway Road. By 2006 some of these issues had been resolved and a portion of the planned development was allowed to proceed. To avoid enrolment from this development overwhelming Lackner Woods P.S., the Board implemented an administrative boundary change to direct a portion of the Lackner Woods P.S. boundary to Sheppard P.S. Since then, Sheppard P.S. has acted as a holding school until a long-term accommodation strategy for the area could be developed. Even with this boundary adjustment, Lackner Woods P.S. currently has eight portables and continuing residential development is projected to further increase enrolment. The site is large at 7.02 acres, but it has several constraints, including a steep slope and limited useable building area (most of which has already been used for the existing structure and parking), making it a difficult location to add a major addition. Lackner Woods P.S. feeds two different schools for the senior (7-8) elementary program: Sunnyside P.S. and Stanley Park P.S. Enrolment at the school has almost doubled within its 9 years of operation. An April 2010 condition assessment revealed that the architectural components of the building and the site were in excellent condition.

Rockway P.S. is the smallest school organization in the review area. It is a small single-storey JK-6 facility built in 1961 with additions in 1963 and 1964. The site has 2 portables to accommodate its current enrolment. Rockway P.S. feeds two different schools for the senior (7-8) elementary program: Sunnyside P.S. and Courtland P.S. Enrolment at Rockway P.S. has declined by 40% since 2000, but is projected to remain stable for the next 10 years. In April 2010 condition assessment revealed that the architectural components of the building were in good condition and the site in good condition.

Sheppard P.S. is a multi-storey JK-6 facility built in 1929 with additions in 1946 and 1951. As previously mentioned Sheppard P.S. receives students from a non-adjacent area as a result of an administrative boundary change that occurred in response to enrolment and facility size concerns at Lackner Woods P.S. Sheppard P.S. offers a French Immersion Program for Grades 1 through 6. Sheppard P.S. feeds two different schools for the senior (7-8) elementary program: Sunnyside P.S. and Courtland P.S. Many of the graduating partial French Immersion students also attend Stanley Park P.S. for 7-8. Enrolment has fluctuated slightly year by year for the past 10 years, but the overall trend is relatively stable. An April 2010 condition assessment revealed that the architectural components of the building were in good condition and the site in good condition.

Sunnyside P.S. is a multi-storey 7-8 facility built in 1941 with several subsequent additions. Its boundary spans the entire review area. Enrolment has increased by 8% over the past 10 years, mostly as a result of the recent development within its boundary. An April 2010 condition assessment revealed that the architectural components of the building were in fair condition and the property in good condition.

Wilson Avenue P.S. is a JK-6 facility built in 1956, with an addition in 1958. In 2008 the Board approved the replacement of the school's eight classroom porta-pack with a two storey, ten classroom addition, using funding from the Ministry's Primary Class Size (PCS) grant. This project was completed in April 2010. Since the construction included additional Kindergarten classrooms, it has been selected as a year two (2011/12) site for FDK implementation. Enrolment at Wilson P.S. has declined by 33% since 2000, but is projected to remain stable for the next 10 years. An April 2010 condition assessment revealed that the architectural components of the building were in good condition and the site in excellent condition.

Status quo enrolment projections are shown on Table 2 below.

TABLE 2: Grand River South/Sunnyside Projected Total Enrolment (2011-2021)

School	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Franklin P.S.	565	568	534	548	559	551	532	542	536	535	542
Howard Robertson P.S.	386	388	396	404	403	402	416	420	423	425	433
Lackner Woods P.S.	624	666	675	696	691	693	665	649	624	611	607
Rockway P.S.	235	233	230	233	247	246	238	244	243	241	246
Sheppard P.S.	441	491	571	619	645	650	595	622	638	660	650
Sunnyside P.S.	503	485	525	521	516	549	529	560	585	585	586
Wilson Avenue P.S.	437	435	431	440	443	436	424	439	439	437	439
TOTAL	3191	3266	3362	3461	3504	3527	3399	3476	3488	3494	3503

Throughout its deliberations, the ARC considered several accommodation options. The two front-runners, Scenarios 4 and 5 were considered in greater detail and presented to the public for feedback. Although neither scenario considered school closures, the ARC did explore options that closed schools; however, the Committee determined that there were no viable solutions that involved closing facilities in the review area.

Staff support the ARC's preferred Scenario 4, which provides long-term accommodation for all students in the review area cleans up some of the "split feeds" to the 7-8 programs and provides an opportunity to add a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 facility in an area where one does not currently exist.

Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC Preferred Accommodation Scenario 4

This scenario would see the construction of a new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 facility located on Lackner Boulevard, north of Fairway Road North, Kitchener. The boundary for the new school would be carved out of the Lackner Woods P.S. and Sheppard P.S. boundaries. The facility would operate in its first year as a JK-7 school, adding Grade 8 in the second year. This reduces the number of transitions for students, and has been the practice of this Board in this circumstance. The school would keep its Grade 6 students for the 7-8 program, and Lackner Woods P.S. Grade 6 students would also feed the new school.

This scenario would also see the construction of a small addition on Lackner Woods P.S. to accommodate future residential development in the area. The boundary for Lackner Woods P.S. would be modified to include a portion of the interim Sheppard P.S. boundary. To reduce the number of transitions for students, it is recommended that Grade 6 students be given the option to enroll at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Sheppard P.S. in the year this boundary change takes effect.

A boundary change between Howard Robertson P.S. and Lackner Woods P.S. is also recommended, to ease the pressure on the Lackner Woods P.S. facility. Since Howard Robertson P.S. is currently under capacity, it will not require any additional classroom space to accommodate the students affected by this boundary change; however, it is recommended that the Board address the office/administration area and parking prior to adding any additional students. To ease the transition for students and families, it is recommended that both Grade 5 and 6 students in the affected area be given the option to remain at Lackner Woods P.S. once the boundary change takes effect.

Finally, one of the concerns that came up through public consultation was the division of feeder schools to senior elementary facilities after Grade 6. In this review, there are four schools with split feeds, Franklin P.S. (to Stanley Park P.S. and Sunnyside P.S.), Lackner Woods P.S. (to Stanley Park P.S. and Sunnyside P.S.), Rockway P.S. (to Courtland Avenue P.S. and Sunnyside P.S.) and Sheppard P.S. (to Courtland Avenue P.S., Sunnyside P.S. and Stanley Park P.S. for partial French Immersion). Scenario 4 eliminates two of these split feed situations, because the Lackner Woods P.S. boundary would attend the new school for Grades 7 and 8 and a further boundary change between Stanley Park P.S. and Sunnyside P.S. would see the regular stream students in the Franklin P.S. boundary attend Sunnyside P.S. for Grades 7 and 8. This boundary adjustment was agreed upon at the joint meeting between the Grand River South/Sunnyside and Breslau/Stamley Park ARCs on October 12, 2010.

Enrolment projections for this scenario are shown on Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: Grand River South/Sunnyside projected total enrolment (2012-2021) under Scenario 4 with proposed phasing

School	Capacity (OTG)	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Franklin P.S.	582	568	534	548	559	551	532	542	536	535	542
Howard Robertson P.S.	526	444	457	475	479	477	492	498	498	498	509
Lackner Woods P.S.	440*	610	614	355	363	382	392	413	429	442	428
Rockway P.S.	254	233	230	233	247	246	238	244	243	241	246
Sheppard P.S.	429	509	579	316	295	281	274	278	270	271	273
Sunnyside P.S.	423	485	525	444	358	383	356	357	370	378	373
Wilson Avenue P.S.	428	435	431	440	443	436	424	439	439	437	439
New Grand River South School	650*	-	-	579	685	703	712	728	712	706	695
TOTAL	3732	3284	3370	3390	3429	3459	3420	3499	3497	3508	3505

* includes additional capacity as a result of proposed construction

Discussion and Conclusion

Using the review objectives, staff also recommend Scenario 4 for student accommodation within the Grand River South/Sunnyside review area. Although this resolution leaves two JK-6 organizations of less than 350 students, it provides greater opportunity to fit enrolment to capacity now and in the future, and serve local neighbourhoods with schools students can walk to.

Although this review provided the Board with the opportunity to phase out a stand-alone senior 7-8 facility, and move towards the implementation of JK-8 programs at a greater number of schools, this option was not considered for the following reasons:

- Converting existing JK-6 facilities in the area would require additions with specialized spaces to several facilities as there is not enough unused space in the facilities to accommodate 2 additional grades;
- Projected enrolment at the renovated JK-6 schools would exceed the Board's guidelines for size (Policy 3002); and
- Adding classrooms and ancillary spaces to the schools could compromise the sites.

Implementation and Timing

It is anticipated that construction of the new JK-8 facility and the addition on Lackner Woods P.S. could be completed by September 2014, pending timely Ministry and municipal approvals.

In order to ease the enrolment pressure at Lackner Woods P.S. as soon as possible, it is recommended that the boundary change between Lackner Woods P.S. and Howard Robertson P.S. take place for September 2012. It is recommended that the renovations to Howard Robertson P.S. be completed prior to September 2012. All other boundary changes would take place for September 2014 to coincide with the completion of the construction projects. Timing is tied to Ministry approval and anticipated School Renewal funding.

Should there be any delays in approvals for the proposed construction projects, resulting in the Board's inability to complete construction for September 2014, staff will need to develop alternative short-term accommodation plans for students at Lackner Woods P.S. and Sheppard P.S. because enrolment at those facilities would be far beyond their capacity.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Throughout the review, there were four public meetings held to inform the broader community and to receive input regarding the accommodation options. The dates and minutes of those meetings were posted on the Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools' Pupil Accommodation Review link on the Board's website, and were available in hard copy at each of the schools in the review area. The meetings were publicized through advertisements in the local papers, flyers sent home to every student and on signs in front of the schools.

In addition to ARC and Public Meetings, staff received comments and suggestions via electronic correspondence (Board's *boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca* address), written correspondence and telephone conversations.

One delegation appeared on February 28, 2011 and voiced the concern of two families who have students in Grade 5 who have been at Lackner Woods P.S. since kindergarten, and wished to have the option to remain there when their neighbourhood becomes part of the Howard Robertson P.S. boundary. Their request has been addressed in the staff recommendations.

Following decisions on the accommodation of students in the Grand River South/Sunnyside review area, a newsletter with the information, including a map, will be prepared for distribution to the existing school communities, as well as posted on the Board's website.

A transition committee will be sought through school councils, consisting of community members and school administrators, to develop a plan to ensure a smooth transition for affected students and families.

New facilities and additions will be reported to the Ministry and Board personnel as appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital construction costs required to implement this solution would need to be covered by the Ministry. As of the date of this report, there has been no confirmation from the Ministry regarding the new funding model for capital construction; therefore, there is some uncertainty how the proposed projects will be funded, or when that funding will become available. The estimated cost of implementing a solution for the Grand River South/Sunnyside review was included in the 5-year Capital Priorities submission to the Ministry this past fall.

The estimated cost of construction (based on March 2011 construction costs) at Lackner Woods P.S. is approximately \$1.2M. This estimated cost would include the construction of a permanent classroom wing, and Full Day Kindergarten infrastructure and will vary depending on detailed design.

The estimated cost of construction for the new JK-8 school located on Lackner Boulevard, Kitchener is approximately \$11.8M and will vary depending on detailed design. This cost does not include the site purchase, which will be dealt with by Education Development Charges.

A Facility Space Template will need to be submitted to the Ministry prior to retaining an architect for the two projects.

Facility upgrades at the remaining schools, including Howard Robertson P.S. (estimated cost of \$400,000) would be from School Renewal. Specific deficiencies will be referred to the Elementary Accommodation Committee for assessment, project scope and prioritization with board needs.

With the construction of a new JK-8 facility, and the implementation of the proposed boundary changes, transportation eligibility will be reduced under the Board's current transportation eligibility policy.

SYSTEM SUCCESS PLAN:

The implementation of this accommodation plan relates to the Caring and Connecting areas of focus by addressing the following priorities:

- safe and secure learning environments
- caring and supportive school cultures and communities
- communication with students and parents and consultation with community members and staff
- operational effectiveness and efficiency
- quality information for planning, decision-making and accountability

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the construction of a new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school of approximately 650 pupil place capacity, at an estimated cost of \$11.8M (based on March 2011 construction costs), located Lackner Boulevard, north of Fairway Road North, Kitchener, to tentatively open September 2014, subject to and contingent on obtaining Ministry of Education funding;

And that the Waterloo Region District School Board approve a four classroom addition and renovations at Lackner Woods P.S. at an estimated cost of \$1.2M (based on March 2011 construction costs), to tentatively be completed for September 2014, subject to and contingent on obtaining Ministry of Education funding;

And that the Waterloo Region District School Board support the expenditure of approximately \$400,000 from the 2012 School Renewal funds 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 at Howard Robertson P.S., to be completed prior to September 2012;

And that the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the boundary change between Lackner Woods P.S. and Howard Robertson P.S., as illustrated on Appendix A, Figure 2 attached to this report, dated May 9, 2011, effective September 2012;

And that Grades 5 and 6 students in the 2012/13 school year and Grade 6 students in the 2013/14 school year in the affected area, as illustrated on Appendix A, Figure 2 attached to this report, dated May 9, 2011, be given the option to enroll at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Howard Robertson P.S. during the 2012/13 and 2013/14 school years;

And that transportation be extended to those Grade 5 and 6 students choosing to attend Lackner Woods P.S. based on transportation eligibility, effective September 2012 to June 2014;

And that the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the boundary change between Lackner Woods P.S. and Sheppard P.S., as illustrated on Appendix A, Figure 5 attached to this report, dated May 9, 2011, effective September 2014;

And that students entering Grades 6 in September 2014 in the affected area, as illustrated on Appendix A, Figure 5 attached to this report, dated May 9, 2011, be given the option to enroll at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Sheppard P.S. during the 2014/15 school year;

And that transportation be extended to those Grade 6 students choosing to attend Sheppard P.S. for the 2014/15 school year based on transportation eligibility, effective September 2014 to June 2015;

And that the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 boundary change between Lackner Woods P.S., Sheppard P.S. and the new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school as illustrated on Appendix A, Figure 3 attached to this report, dated May 9, 2011, effective September 2014;

And that the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Grade 7 and Grade 8 boundary change between Sunnyside P.S., Stanley Park P.S. and the new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school as illustrated on Appendix A, Figure 4 attached to this report, dated May 9, 2011, effective September 2014 for Grade 7 and September 2015 for Grades 7 and 8;

And that the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the boundary change between Sunnyside P.S. and Stanley Park P.S., as illustrated on Appendix A, Figure 6 attached to this report, dated May 9, 2011, effective September 2014 for Grade 7 and September 2015 for Grades 7 and 8.



Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review

Accommodation Review Committee Accommodation Report and Recommendations

February 25, 2011

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Executive Summary

It became apparent early in the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)'s discussions that the area needed additional built capacity to accommodate the existing and future elementary students in the community. The ARC's lead scenarios would both see the construction of a new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 (JK-8) school; therefore the ARC is not recommending any school closures, but does provide recommendations for long-term student accommodation for the Grand River South/Sunnyside review area of the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB).

This report is intended to advise and inform the WRDSB Board of Trustees of the information gathered and consultation conducted by the ARC in order to develop the final recommendations provided in this report.

The final decision on outcome of the pupil accommodation review is to be made by the elected Board of Trustees.

The ARC agreed upon Scenario 4 as the recommended strategy for pupil accommodation in the Grand River South/Sunnyside review area.

The following is a brief outline of the ARC's recommendations provided in this report.

The ARC recommends:

1. A boundary change between Howard Robertson and Lackner Woods Public Schools
2. To construct a new JK-8 facility
3. To construct a small addition on Lackner Woods Public School and a boundary change between Lackner Woods and Sheppard Public Schools
4. A boundary change between Sunnyside Public School and Stanley Park Public School
5. To be mindful of student transitions

A timeline of the implementation of these recommendations is attached as Appendix C.

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide to the Waterloo Region District School Board's (WRDSB) Board of Trustees the recommendations of the Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) on pupil accommodation within the Grand River South/Sunnyside Review Area.

Background

In June 2009, the Ontario Ministry of Education released a revised version of the *Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline*. The *Guideline* provides direction to school boards regarding public accommodation reviews undertaken to determine the future of a school or group of schools.

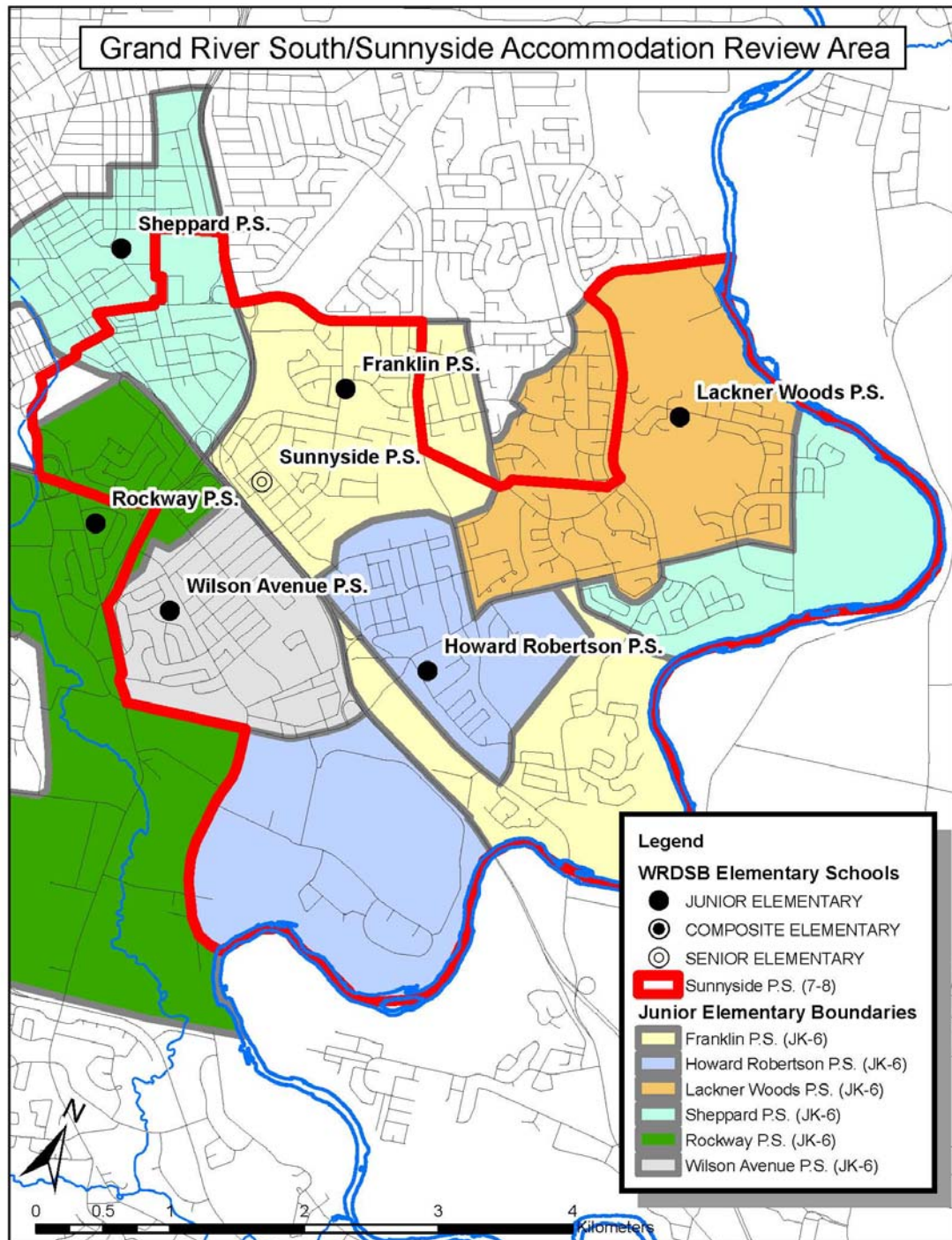
The *Guideline* ensures that where a decision is taken by a school board regarding the future of a school, that decision is made with the full involvement of an informed local community and it is based on a broad range of criteria regarding the quality of learning experience for students.

In November 2009, the WRDSB approved its own policy, Board Policy 4000, following the provincial *Guideline*.

On November 23, 2009, the WRDSB (Board) approved a motion to initiate two pupil accommodations reviews, the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review (including Franklin, Howard Robertson, Lackner Woods, Rockway, Sheppard, Sunnyside and Wilson Avenue Public Schools), and Breslau/Stamley Park Accommodation Review (including Breslau, Crestview, Franklin, Lackner Woods, Mackenzie King, Smithson and Stamley Park Public Schools). Due to the split feeds from Franklin and Lackner Woods Public Schools to the senior elementary program at Stamley Park and Sunnyside Public Schools, these two schools were included in both reviews. Due to the adjacent nature of the two review areas, over the course of the accommodation review process the Accommodation Review Committees (ARCs) held a joint meeting to facilitate the sharing of information and coordinate inter-review area scenario development.

Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review

The Grand River South/Sunnyside review area encompasses a large geographic area (see Figure 1), comprised of several neighbourhoods in the city of Kitchener, that make up the current Sunnyside P.S. senior elementary boundary. The area generally contains older established neighbourhoods; however, pockets of new residential development are placing localized pressure on facilities. Schools in the area are generally large and geographically dispersed.

Figure 1: Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review Area**Grand River South/Sunnyside Review Area Schools**

The schools in the review area include:

1. Franklin Public School (JK-6)
2. Howard Robertson Public School (JK-6)
3. Lackner Woods Public School (JK-6)
4. Rockway Public School (JK-6)
5. Sheppard Public School (JK-6)
6. Sunnyside Public School (7-8)
7. Wilson Avenue Public School (JK-6)

Rationale for a Pupil Accommodation Review

There are several key reasons the WRDSB initiated an accommodation review for the Grand River South/Sunnyside area. These reasons include:

- ***Localized residential development***

The Grand River South community of Kitchener has recently increased in size, adding approximately 1300 units over the past 5 years. Some of the registered plans of subdivision in the area still have unbuilt units and a few pockets of development remain vacant just west of the Grand River.

Localized development is also putting pressure on Lackner Woods Public School to the point where it is currently operating with 8 portable classrooms on site. The facility was officially opened in 2001, built to accommodate the initial phases of residential development being approved in the area and the overcrowding situation at other schools nearby.

Further development in the area was anticipated; however, the timing was unclear as there were issues related to municipal servicing, airport noise exposure and the extension of Fairway Road North. By 2006 some of these issues had been resolved and a portion of the planned development was allowed to proceed.

To avoid enrolment from this development overwhelming Lackner Woods P.S., the Board implemented a boundary change directing a portion of the Lackner Woods P.S. existing boundary to Sheppard P.S., which would act as a holding school until a long-term accommodation strategy for the area could be developed.

- ***Enrolment changes/shifts***

One of the major challenges the board faces is accommodating a mobile population in stationary facilities built at the time for the programs and enrolment of the day. Due to demographic and population changes, some schools in the review area (Franklin P.S., Howard Robertson P.S.,

Rockway P.S. and Wilson Avenue P.S.) have been experiencing enrolment decline – a system-wide issue over the past several years; whereas others are experiencing growth (Lackner Woods P.S., Sheppard P.S. and Sunnyside P.S.). Tables 1 and 2 illustrate the historic and projected enrolment (with status quo boundaries) at each of the facilities in the review area.

Table 1: Grand River South/Sunnyside Historic Enrolment (2005-2010)

School	Total Students by Year					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Franklin P.S.	633	618	586	608	608	612
Howard Robertson P.S.	487	453	451	427	399	392
Lackner Woods P.S.	436	508	530	556	568	590
Rockway P.S.	295	281	269	261	240	232
Sheppard P.S.	311	314	307	311	339	384
Sunnyside P.S.	436	430	442	431	461	472
Wilson Avenue P.S.	541	496	479	461	456	412

Table 2: Grand River South/Sunnyside Projected Enrolment with Status Quo Boundaries (2011- 2016)

School	Projected Total Students by Year					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Franklin P.S.	565	568	534	548	559	551
Howard Robertson P.S.	386	388	396	404	403	402
Lackner Woods P.S.	624	666	675	696	691	693
Rockway P.S.	235	233	230	233	247	246
Sheppard P.S.	441	491	571	619	645	650
Sunnyside P.S.	503	485	525	521	516	549
Wilson Avenue P.S.	437	435	431	440	443	436

- ***Evolving curriculum direction/school organization***

The Ontario Ministry of Education Elementary Curriculum is a continuum for Grades 1 to 8. In this review area, the WRDSB operates JK-6 schools

and one 7-8 facility. There are currently no opportunities for students to attend a JK-8 facility in the review area.

On October 27, 2009, the Ministry of Education announced its intentions to implement the Early Learning Program (ELP), now known as Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) starting in September 2010 with the goal to have FDK fully implemented in all schools across the province by 2014-15. As a result of implementation of this initiative, the current requirement for kindergarten classrooms in most of the facilities across the board will be doubled.

- ***Potential for new facilities or classroom construction***

The Board's comprehensive long-range plan for pupil accommodation, adopted in 2001, first identified the need for additional pupil accommodation in the Grand River South community of Kitchener to accommodate enrolment generated by new residential developments in the area. Through the community planning process, which increased the density of residential development, the Board instead identified the need for an additional facility to accommodate the growth in the area. The Grand River South community plan had a WRDSB school site identified; however, the Board opted not to pursue the purchase of this site due to concerns over safety as a result of the proximity to the Region of Waterloo International Airport. The Board, therefore, does not currently own any vacant school sites in the Grand River South/Sunnyside community; however, the Board's recent capital priorities submission recognizes the need for additional pupil accommodation in the area.

Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)

The purpose of the ARC, as outlined in the Terms of Reference, was to conduct a review of the Grand River South/Sunnyside elementary schools of the WRDSB in order to advise and provide recommendations that will inform the final decision made by the Board of Trustees on whether a school or schools should be either closed or consolidated.

Membership

The ARC membership was composed of both community members and WRDSB staff as outlined in Board Policy 4000.

Franklin P.S.

Vice-Principal: Darren Batt

Parent: Richard Briston

Howard Robertson P.S.

Principal: Maria Lotimer
Parent: Charlene Rushmere

Lackner Woods P.S.

Principal: Dayle Buller-Power
Parents: Naz Ritchie, Stuart Gallacher

Rockway P.S.

Principal: Heather Preddie
Parents: Christine Lassel, Jonathan Blake

Sheppard P.S.

Principal: Jane McVeigh (until June 2010), Trish Starodub (as of September 2010)
Parents: Jennifer Childs, Diane Kewley

Sunnyside P.S.

Principal: Jeff Lovell
Parents: Kelly Kempel, Edda Kerr (until August 2010), Deb Dubrick (as of September 2010)

Wilson Avenue P.S.

Principal: Julie Lobsinger
Parents: Robert Dean, Bonnie Heimbecker (until August 2010)

Area Superintendent

Superintendent of Education: Gregg Bereznick

Municipal Representation

City of Kitchener: Katie Anderl

Facilities Staff (Planning)

Manager of Planning: Chris Smith (ARC Chair)
Manager of Capital Projects: Ron Dallan
Senior Planners: Nathan Hercanuck, Lauren Manske
Recording Secretary: Mary Hingley

It is important to note that board staff were non-voting members of the ARC.

Timelines and Activities

The ARC ensured that the minimum timelines as established by both the Ministry of Education *Guideline* and the WRDSB Policy 4000 for the accommodation review process were met.

Throughout the review, a total of four public meetings were held to provide opportunity for a wide range of school and community groups to participate in the consultation. Public meetings were advertised in two area newspapers (the *Waterloo Region Record*, and the *Kitchener Citizen East Edition*), on the WRDSB website, in school newsletters and signs and in notices sent home with each student in the review area.

The following is a summary of the activities of the ARC prior to submission of this report.

Activity	Date	Location
Board approval to commence review	November 23, 2009	Education Centre
Public Meeting #1	February 2, 2010	Grand River C.I.
ARC Meeting #1	February 4, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #2	February 18, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #3	March 4, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #4	March 30, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #5	April 27, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #6	May 4, 2010	Edna Staebler P.S.
ARC Meeting #7	May 18, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
Public Meeting #2	May 26, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #8	June 8, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #9	September 14, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #10	September 28, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
Joint ARC Meeting #11	October 12, 2010	Education Centre
ARC Meeting #12	November 2, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #13	November 16, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
Public Meeting #3	November 23, 2010	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #14	January 11, 2011	Sunnyside P.S.
ARC Meeting #15	January 25, 2011	Sunnyside P.S.
Public Meeting #4	February 15, 2011	Howard Robertson P.S.
ARC Meeting #16	February 22, 2011	Sunnyside P.S.

Public Information and Access

In addition to the four public meetings, all relevant accommodation review information was posted on the WRDSB website and was available in hard copy in binders kept at each of the schools in the review area and at the Education Centre.

Minutes of the ARC meetings and public meetings where a formal presentation was conducted were posted on the WRDSB website for public access. Information provided at public meeting open houses and other requested information was also posted on the WRDSB website and made available in hard copy.

School Information Profiles

The ARC customized the generic School Information Profile template and Board administration completed a School Information Profile for each of the schools in the review area. These School Information Profiles, along with other relevant information were made available to the public on the WRDSB website and in hard copy at each of the schools in the review area.

The School Information Profiles consider four perspectives: value to the student, the Board, the community and the local economy. The ARC took the position that all the schools were *equal* in value in providing its respective elementary education program. The School Information Profiles provided the foundation for discussion and analysis of accommodation options.

Review Objectives

Prior to developing accommodation options, or scenarios, the ARC set the following review objectives, which aim to address the issues identified by the Board, the ARC and members of the public and to provide criteria to evaluate the accommodation options.

- Provide current and future students in the review area with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by:
 - Having regard for Board Policy 3002 – Elementary School Size and Configuration
 - 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, and ensuring these programs are accommodated with any proposed changes
- 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
 - Eliminating, where practical, underutilized space and introduce new facility
 - Identifying facility requirements for new mandates, i.e. Association of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK)
 - Improving retained facilities (i.e. site, layout, security, access, facility)

- Develop a solution that is long-term (approximately 10 years) by:
 - Creating more consistent feeds between the secondary and senior elementary program
 - Addressing future development plans and demographic shifts
 - Minimizing the number of student transitions as a result of proposed boundary changes

The ARC agreed at the outset these objectives would be the measure used to evaluate the various scenarios developed as a preferred accommodation options for the Grand River South/Sunnyside review area.

Accommodation Review Committee Recommendations

Looking at the entire review area and consulting with key stakeholders, the ARC explored several accommodation scenarios. As an add on, or free standing scenario, the ARC also looked at the potential of closing Rockway P.S. and dividing its boundary up between Wilson Avenue P.S. and Sheppard P.S. Rockway P.S. is not a large organization at approximately 230 students and under both the top scenarios, the area of the interim boundary change implemented to Sheppard P.S. from Lackner Woods P.S. would have a permanent solution closer to where the students are. Initially it appears that Sheppard P.S. could absorb a large number of the Rockway P.S. students, but it is an older facility with accessibility, parking and other issues, so this scenario would be a costly alternative. In addition, by closing Rockway P.S. it would be leaving a community under serviced because its boundary would be challenging to service at neighbouring facilities because of major roadways. For these reasons, the ARC is not recommending to pursue this closure scenario.

By the third public meeting of the process, the ARC had settled on two scenarios to accommodate students within the Grand River South/Sunnyside area, Scenarios 4 and 5, the details of which are provided on Appendix A and B of this report. The ARC is recommending Scenario 4.

With particular regard for the review objectives, the ARC agreed that Scenario 4 provided the best solution to address the major issues and concerns in the review area with respect to student accommodation. This conclusion was reached through consensus at the January 11, 2011 ARC meeting. Listed below with details and rationale, are the 5 key recommendations the ARC for the Grand River South/Sunnyside Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review makes to the WRDSB Board of Trustees.

It is important to note that all of the following recommendations are connected, and the ARC recommends that the Board consider the recommendations and chronology (as shown on Appendix C) as a complete set.

Recommendation #1: Howard Robertson/Lackner Woods Public Schools Boundary Change

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC recommends to the WRDSB that:

The Howard Robertson P.S. boundary be modified to include a portion of the Lackner Woods P.S. 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 enrol at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Howard Robertson P.S. during the 2012/13 school year; and that

Transportation be extended to those Grade 6 students choosing to attend Lackner Woods P.S. for the 2012/13 school year based on transportation eligibility; 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.

Howard Robertson P.S. is situated in a well established neighbourhood, and there is no new development planned within its boundary. It has a built capacity of 526 and if no boundary changes are made, is projected to have an enrolment of approximately 400 students over the next ten years. Meanwhile, Lackner Woods P.S., located within a new and growing subdivision, has 8 portable classrooms on site and would need more to accommodate its increasing in enrolment. In order to better match enrolment to capacity, the ARC is recommending moving some students from Lackner Woods P.S. to Howard Robertson P.S. Table 3 shows the projected enrolment at Howard Robertson P.S. with the implementation of this proposed boundary change. The affected area represents approximately 70 students.

Table 3: Projected enrolment at Howard Robertson P.S. with boundary change

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Enrolment	450	464	475	479	477	492	498	498	498	509

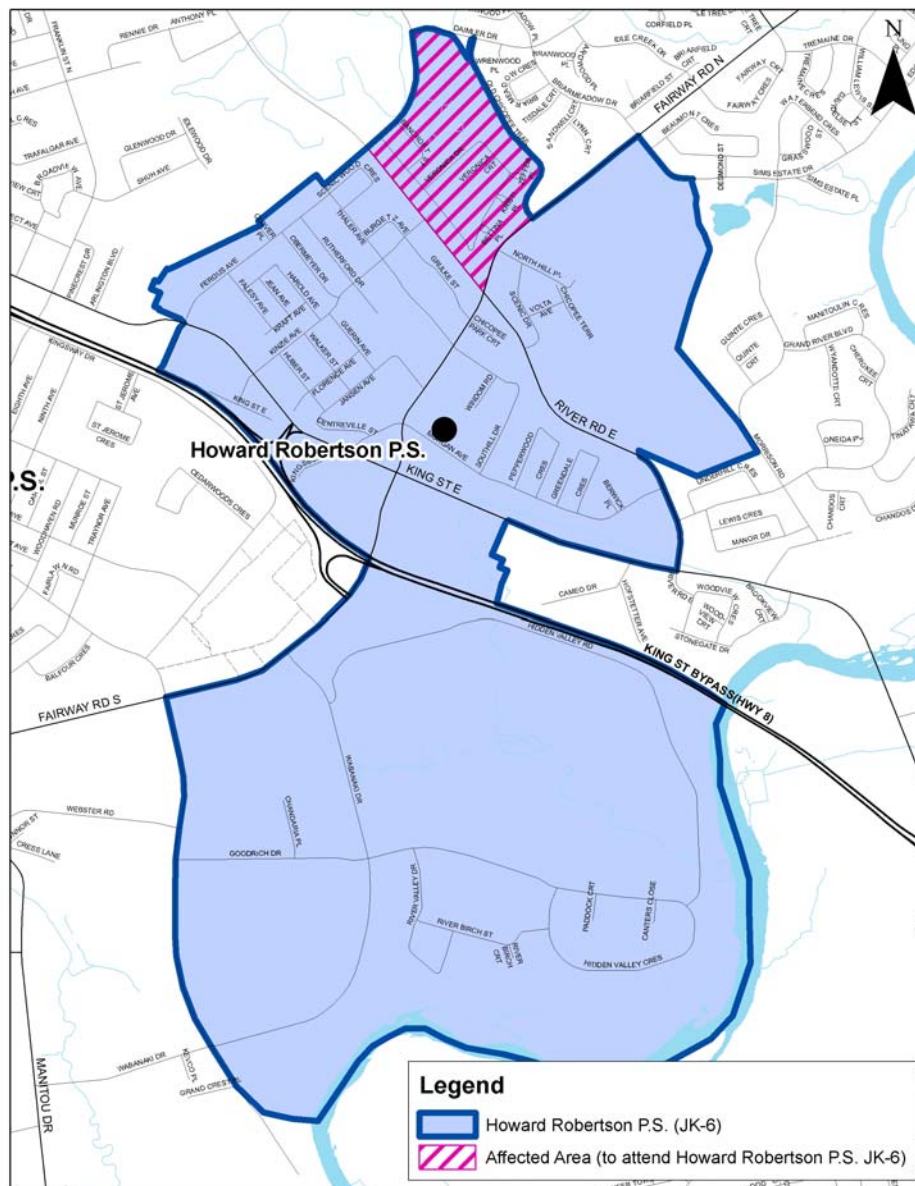
The area recommended to change from Lackner Woods P.S. to Howard Robertson P.S. is currently transported to Lackner Woods P.S., but would be within walking distance of Howard Robertson P.S. The ARC, through public consultation, heard concerns from parents in the affected area about the safety of crossing busy streets (specifically Fairway Road North and River Road) to get to Howard Robertson P.S. The ARC therefore suggests that the Board work with municipal staff to ensure the safety of students crossing these busy streets. The ARC advises that frequent review of student safety should take place as traffic is expected to increase in the area. If a safe crossing of these streets cannot be maintained, it would be considered a hazard for transportation eligibility.

The School Information Profile for Howard Robertson P.S. identified issues with the site (parking lot, pedestrian facilities, etc.) and office/administration area. The office is in an internal location within the school with poor sight lines and no formal entrance, making it difficult to provide supervision and student safety

throughout the day. As part of this proposed boundary change, it is also recommended that the Board allocate funds to complete the necessary site work and office expansion or relocation. The ARC suggests that this boundary change take place subsequent to the recommended upgrades to the site and facility.

The implementation timelines of this recommendation consider transitions for students. It is recommended that students with one year remaining at Lackner Woods P.S. (Grade 5 students in the 2011/12 school year) be allowed to finish Grade 6 at Lackner Woods P.S., and that transportation would be extended for students choosing this option. This grandparenting option would affect approximately 6 students.

Figure 2: Boundary Recommendation for Howard Robertson Public School



Recommendation #2: A New Junior Kindergarten to Grade Eight Facility

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC recommends to the WRDSB that:

A new Junior Kindergarten to Grade Eight (JK-8) facility of approximately 650 pupil places be constructed on Lackner Boulevard, north of Fairway Road North, Kitchener, to open for September 2014; and that

The Junior Kindergarten to Grade Six (JK-6) boundary for the new JK-8 facility include portions of the Lackner Woods Public School and Sheppard Public School boundaries, as illustrated in Figure 3, effective September 2014; and that

The Grade 7 and Grade 8 (7-8) boundary for the new JK-8 facility, as illustrated in Figure 4, include the Lackner Woods Public School boundary as well as the boundary for the new school, removing students from the Sunnyside P.S. and Stanley Park P.S. boundaries, effective September 2014 for Grade 7 and September 2015 for Grade 7 and Grade 8.

Figure 3: Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 Boundary Recommendation for New Grand River South JK-8 School

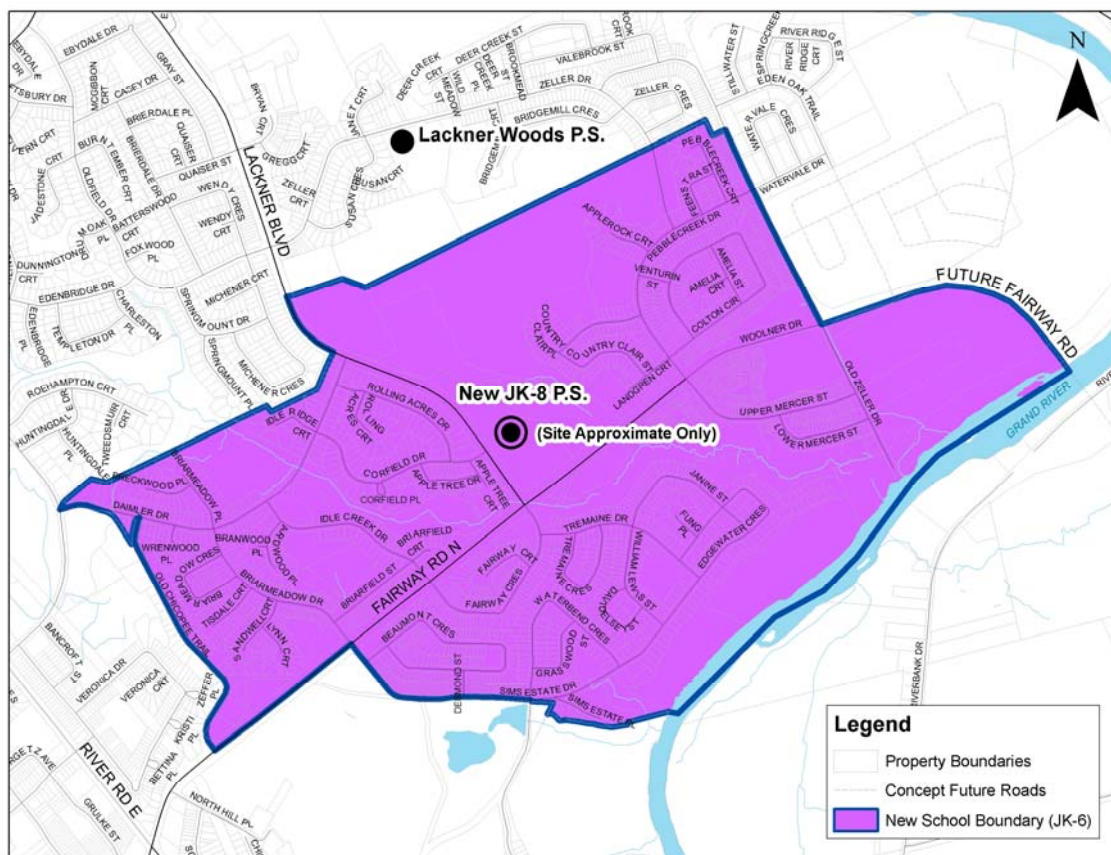
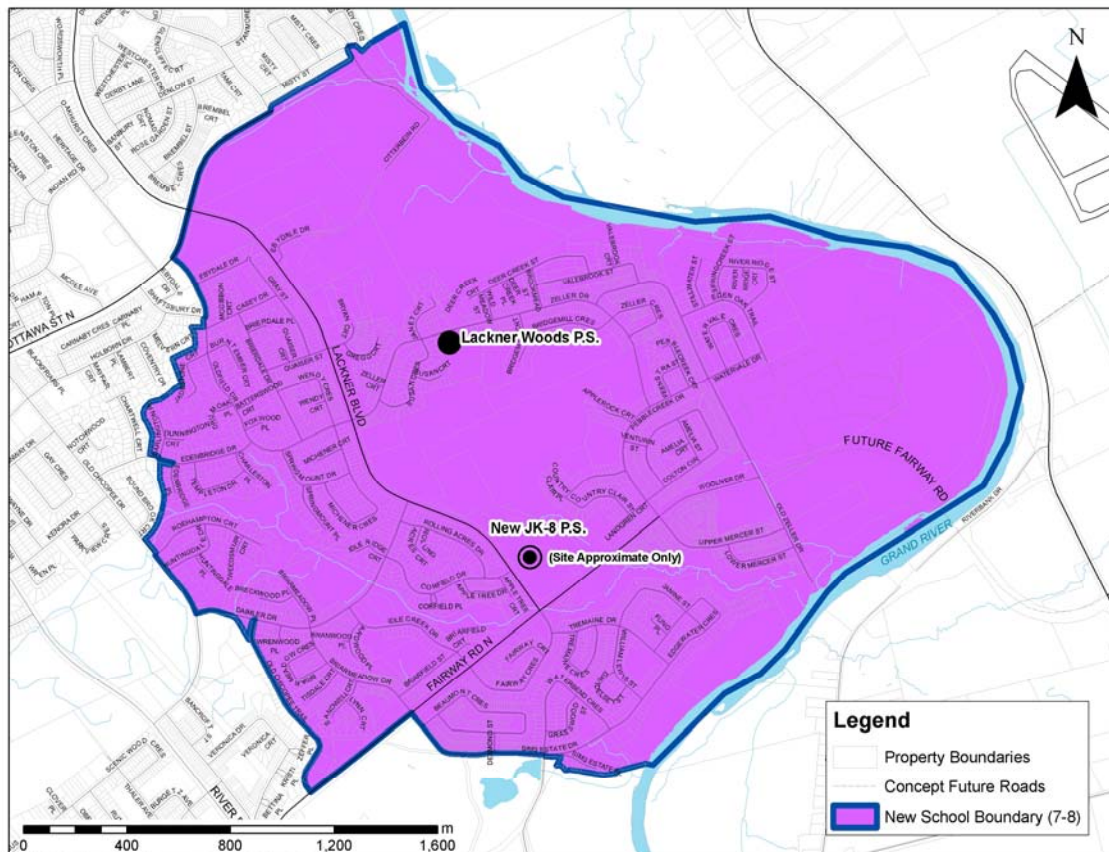


Figure 4: Grade 7 and 8 Boundary Recommendation for New Grand River South JK-8 School



The enrolment projections for the review area clearly identified a lack of built capacity at area schools to accommodate the growing elementary school enrolment in the east end of the review area. The ARC explored several options to accommodate students without building an additional facility; however, the majority of the schools in the study area were already at or near the board's recommended size for an elementary facility. Placing additions on existing facilities would also mean that the neighbourhood with the greatest number of housing units recently built or yet to be built would be without a school, resulting in a number of students being transported for the foreseeable future.

Through this accommodation review process, the only two vacant sites that could accommodate an elementary school were identified. One is a site on Morrison Road owned by the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB), and the other is located at the corner of Fairway Road North and Lackner Boulevard (Fairway/Lackner) and is privately owned.

While the Morrison Road site was explored as an option for a new school in Scenario 5, the ARC felt strongly that the Fairway/Lackner site proposed in Scenario 4 is better positioned to serve the student enrolment coming from the

new growth in this end of Kitchener. The proposed Fairway/Lackner site is sufficiently outside of the airport's noise and hazard zones and central to the proposed catchment. This location and proposed boundary would maximize the potential for active transportation to school. The Board will need to coordinate with municipal traffic staff to ensure safe routes and crossings to this site.

The proposed Fairway/Lackner site is currently vacant and backs onto a regionally protected public wood lot (Lackner Woods ESPA). The site is identified in the City of Kitchener's Official Plan as a mixed-use node, which anticipates intensive (high-density), transit supportive uses; however, City staff have indicated to the ARC that they:

“...are willing to give further consideration to a zone change and site plan for a school on the subject lands, if it can be demonstrated that an elementary school can be incorporated into a high density mixed use site, without compromising the functionality, or future density of the Mixed Use Node.”

A preliminary vision for the site would have the school north of the actual Fairway/Lackner intersection on a free-standing parcel.

Currently there are a number of students residing in the Sheppard P.S. boundary from the interim administrative boundary change who attend Lackner Woods P.S. These students were given the option to continue at Lackner Woods P.S. based on the purchase date of their home, while new registrants were directed to Sheppard P.S. It is important to note that with the opening of the new school and the implementation of new boundaries this particular grandparenting arrangement would cease.

It is also noted that this proposed boundary change affects Sunnyside P.S. since the Grade 7 and 8 students from Lackner Woods P.S. and the new school would be attending the senior program at the new school.

The ARC recommends that for the first year of the new school, that it open as JK-7 and that Grade 8 be added in the school's second year. This would avoid the need for students to change schools two years in a row (for those who had recently changed to Sunnyside P.S. or Stanley Park P.S. for Grade 7). Currently Lackner Woods P.S. Grade 6 students feed to two different schools for Grades 7 and 8. The proposed boundary for the new school resolves this issue since all Lackner Woods P.S. Grade 6 students will graduate to the senior program at the new school.

No phasing, or grandparenting, has been incorporated in these recommendations for Grade 6 students to Sheppard P.S. because students would still be required to change schools the following year for Grade 7. Any students enrolled in the French Immersion program may choose to remain at

Sheppard P.S. for that program; however, these students would no longer be eligible for transportation to Sheppard P.S.

It is anticipated that peak enrolment at the new school will exceed its built capacity, reaching over 700 students; however enrolment is anticipated to decline to a more steady state and be within its built capacity over the longer-term. Table 4 shows the projected enrolment at the new JK-8 facility.

Table 4: Projected enrolment at the proposed new JK-8 facility

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Enrolment	579	685	703	712	728	712	706	695

Recommendation #3: Lackner Woods Public School Addition Lackner Woods/Sheppard Public Schools Boundary Change

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC recommends to the WRDSB that:

A small addition consisting of 3-4 classrooms be constructed at Lackner Woods Public School, to be completed for September 2013; and that

The Lackner Woods Public School boundary be modified to include a portion of the Sheppard Public School 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 enrol at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Sheppard P.S. during the 2013/14 school year; and that

Students entering Grade 6 in September 2014 in the affected area be given the option to enrol at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Sheppard P.S. during the 2014/15 school year; and that

Transportation be extended to those Grade 6 students choosing to attend Sheppard P.S. for the 2014/15 school year based on transportation eligibility; and that

Transportation be extended to those JK students choosing to attend Lackner Woods P.S. for the 2013/14 school year based on transportation eligibility.

The Lackner Woods P.S. site has several constraints, including a steep slope and limited useable building area, making it a difficult location to add a major addition. By removing a number of students from the Lackner Woods P.S. catchment through the construction of a new facility, the Board can build a smaller addition on Lackner Woods P.S. to accommodate students living within

walking distance of the school that are currently being transported to Sheppard P.S.

By allowing Junior Kindergarten students within the affected area to enrol at Lackner Woods P.S. the year prior to the boundary change, the Board would minimize the number of transitions these students would have to make. It is also recommended that any student enrolled in Grade 5 at Sheppard P.S. during the 2013/14 school year within the affected area have the option to complete Grade 6 at Sheppard P.S. to minimize the number of transitions for those students. To implement these recommendations to minimize transitions, the Board would extend transportation to students choosing this option. Also, any students enrolled in the French Immersion program may remain at Sheppard P.S. for that program; however, these students would no longer be eligible for transportation to Sheppard P.S.

Table 5 shows the projected enrolment at Lackner Woods P.S. with implementation of the proposed boundary change (enrolment assumes that JK students in the affected area will choose to attend Lackner Woods P.S. during the 2013/14 school year and that Grade 6 students will choose to continue attending Sheppard P.S. in the 2014/15 school year).

Figure 5: Boundary Recommendation for Lackner Woods Public School

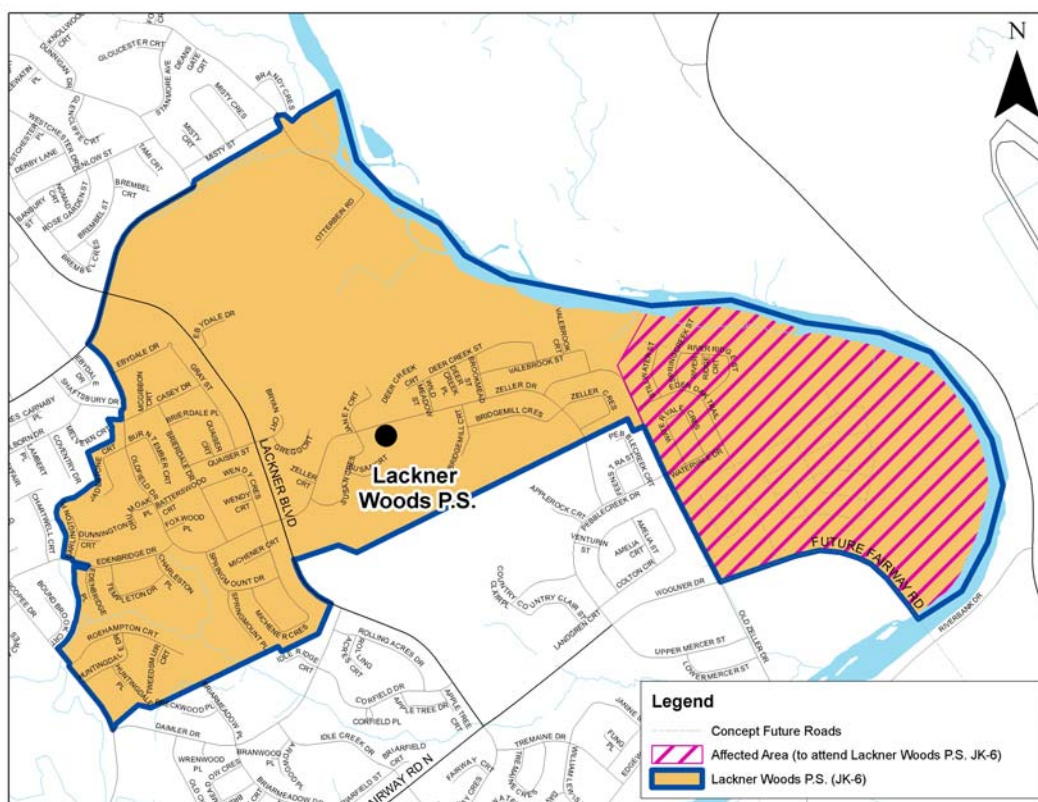


Table 5: Projected enrolment at Lackner Woods P.S. with boundary change

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Enrolment	627	363	363	382	392	413	429	442	428

Recommendation #4: Sunnyside Public School Boundary Change

The Grand River South/Sunnyside ARC recommends to the WRDSB that:

The Sunnyside Public School boundary be modified to include a portion of the Stanley Park Public School boundary, as illustrated in Figure 6, effective September 2014 for Grade 7 and September 2015 for Grade 7 and Grade 8.

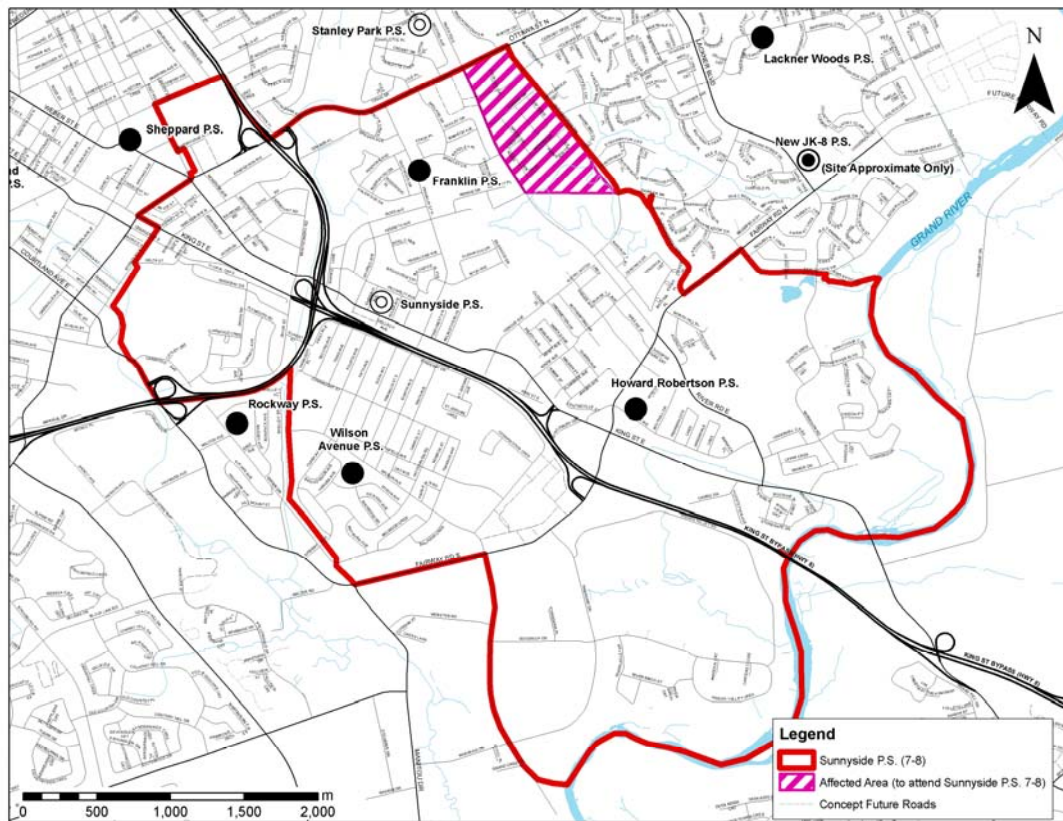
It is recommended that this boundary change be phased in over a two year period, beginning with Grade 7 students. By allowing students already enrolled in Stanley Park P.S. during the 2013/14 school year to complete Grade 8 there, the Board would minimize the number of transitions these students would have to make prior to secondary school. The recommended boundary change between Stanley Park P.S. and Sunnyside P.S. cleans up the current split feed of Franklin P.S. Grade 6 students, consistent with the similar issue at Lackner Woods P.S. resolved through the opening of the new school. Under the proposed boundary change, all Franklin P.S. students would go to Sunnyside P.S. unless they are enrolled in the French Immersion program.

The ARC recommends that the timing of this boundary change, if possible, should coincide with any proposed changes by the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review Committee.

Table 6 shows the projected enrolment at Sunnyside P.S. with implementation of the proposed boundary change.

Table 6: Projected enrolment at Sunnyside P.S. with boundary change

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Enrolment	444	358	383	356	357	370	378	373

Figure 6: Boundary Recommendation for Sunnyside Public School**Recommendation #5: Be Mindful of Student Transitions**

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.

Experience shows that anticipating change can be very difficult for people. Students, staff and parents often worry about upcoming changes – new schools, bigger schools, smaller schools, different students, different facilities, and different teachers. It is important for the WRDSB to take a lead role in working with students, staff and families to make these changes easier.

With respect to these concerns, there are three key areas within the ARC's recommendations where the ARC felt that transitions could be reduced:

1. Allowing students to finish Grade 6 at their current school instead of changing for one year prior to going on to the senior elementary school.
2. Allowing students to finish Grade 8 at their current senior elementary school by instead of changing for one year prior to going on to secondary school.

3. Allowing Junior Kindergarten students to enroll at the school to which their boundary will change for one year prior to the boundary change.

There are a number of other suggestions the ARC would like to make the WRDSB in this area. The ARC suggests that the Board keep communication lines open and transparent. Communication is very important; people need to know what is happening when and why. Communication should state the facts and recognize the concerns of the community, affected students, staff and families as well as the financial capabilities of the Board.

Conclusion

After twelve months of consultation and careful deliberation, the ARC was able to reach these final recommendations by consensus. In developing the recommendations, the ARC had a strong focus on what it felt will be best for current and future students in the review area. The ARC also recognized the strong desire of residents in existing and developing neighbourhoods for community schools. The ARC's recommendations provide the Board with the ability to move forward and address the issues identified at outset of the review.

If the Board does not receive the necessary capital from the Ministry of Education to complete the recommended construction projects, the Board will have to determine interim measures to address the overcrowding at Lackner Woods and Sheppard Public Schools.

In closing, the ARC would like to thank the parents and community members who attended the public meetings and expressed their concerns and provided input and feedback throughout the accommodation review process.

Appendix A: Scenario 4 Summary

Scenario 4 Programs and School Organizations

School	JK-6	JK-8	7-8	Partial French Immersion Classes	Congregated Spec. Ed. Classes
Franklin P.S.	•			•	•
Howard Robertson P.S.	•				
Lackner Woods P.S.	•				
Rockway P.S.	•				
Sheppard P.S.	•			•	
Sunnyside P.S.			•		•
Wilson Avenue P.S.	•				
New Grand River South School		•			

Scenario 4 Enrolment Projections 2012-2021

School	Built Capacity	Projected Total Enrolment By Year									
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Franklin P.S.	582	574	547	557	567	559	537	545	539	536	542
Howard Robertson P.S.	526	450	464	475	479	477	492	498	498	498	509
Lackner Woods P.S.	440	604	627	363	363	382	392	413	429	442	428
Rockway P.S.	254	233	230	233	247	246	238	244	243	241	246
Sheppard P.S.	429	509	559	308	295	281	274	278	270	271	273
Sunnyside P.S.	423	485	525	444	358	383	356	357	370	378	373
Wilson Avenue P.S.	428	435	431	440	443	436	424	439	439	437	439
New Grand River South School	650	0	0	579	685	703	712	728	712	706	695
Total	3732	3272	3380	3402	3437	3467	3425	3502	3500	3509	3505

Scenario 4 Estimated Capital Construction Costs

Location	Description	Estimated Cost
Howard Robertson P.S.	Site work and paving (parking lot improvements), office relocation/expansion	\$0.4 M
Lackner Woods P.S.	72 pupil place addition (approx. 3 classrooms) Project includes: Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) rooms	\$1.09 M
New Grand River South School	New 650 pupil place JK-8 school	\$11.76 M
Total		\$13.25 M

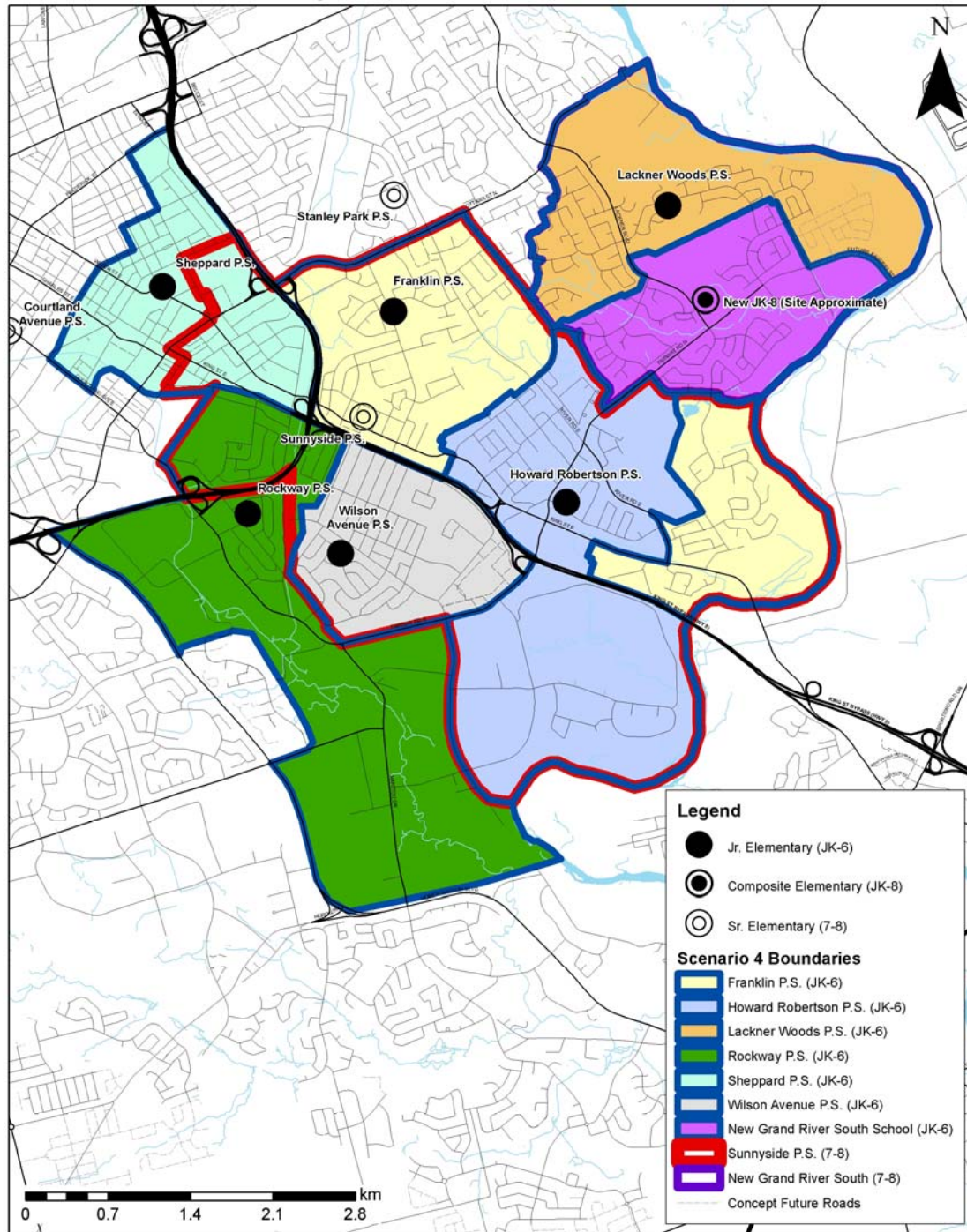
- Estimates are preliminary based on a specific scope of work.
- Does not include any other major capital/maintenance projects required at remaining facilities (e.g. boiler replacement, HVAC, roof, windows, etc.)

Scenario 4 Evaluation Based on Review Objectives

Objective	Meets	Doesn't Meet	Comments
Regard for Board Policy 3002	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheppard P.S., Rockway P.S. small JK-6 organizations. • Franklin P.S. large JK-6 organization.
Review elementary school organization	✓		
Recognize distribution Spec Ed., F.I., ESL programs	✓		
Maximize students within walking distance	✓		
Maximize the number of students in permanent accommodation	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accomplished with small addition at Lackner Woods P.S. • New school small for peak.
Eliminate where practical underutilized space	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheppard P.S. underutilized.
Identify facility requirements for new mandates	✓		
Improve retained facilities	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some schools have undergone recent additions/improvements.
Create more consistent feeds between senior elementary program and secondary programs	✓		
Addresses future development and demographics	✓		
Minimizes number of student transitions	✓		

Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review

Scenario 4



Appendix B: Scenario 5 Summary

Scenario 5 Programs and School Organizations

School	JK-6	JK-8	7-8	Partial French Immersion Classes	Congregated Spec. Ed. Classes
Franklin P.S.	•			•	•
Howard Robertson P.S.	•				
Lackner Woods P.S.	•				
Rockway P.S.	•				
Sheppard P.S.	•			•	
Sunnyside P.S.			•		•
Wilson Avenue P.S.	•				
New Grand River South School		•			

Scenario 5 Enrolment Projections 2012-2021

School	Built Capacity	Projected Total Enrolment By Year									
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Franklin P.S.	582	443	419	430	440	436	422	432	428	428	433
Howard Robertson P.S.	575	542	548	558	558	556	569	578	580	583	584
Lackner Woods P.S.	604	445	498	537	545	577	575	590	602	616	606
Rockway P.S.	254	233	230	233	247	246	238	244	243	241	246
Sheppard P.S.	429	310	316	308	295	281	274	278	270	271	273
Sunnyside P.S.	423	325	368	344	338	353	363	388	395	398	403
Wilson Avenue P.S.	428	435	431	440	443	436	424	439	439	437	439
New Grand River South School	550	513	545	584	585	603	584	579	577	567	552
Total	3845	3246	3355	3434	3451	3488	3449	3528	3534	3541	3536

Scenario 5 Estimated Capital Construction Costs

Location	Description	Estimated Cost
Howard Robertson P.S.	49 pupil place addition (approx. 2 classrooms) Project includes: Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) rooms, site work and paving (parking lot improvements), office relocation/expansion	\$1.23 M
Lackner Woods P.S.	236 pupil place addition (approx. 10 classrooms) Project includes: Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) rooms	\$ 3.95 M
New Grand River South School	New 550 pupil place JK-8 school	\$10.25 M
Total		\$15.43 M

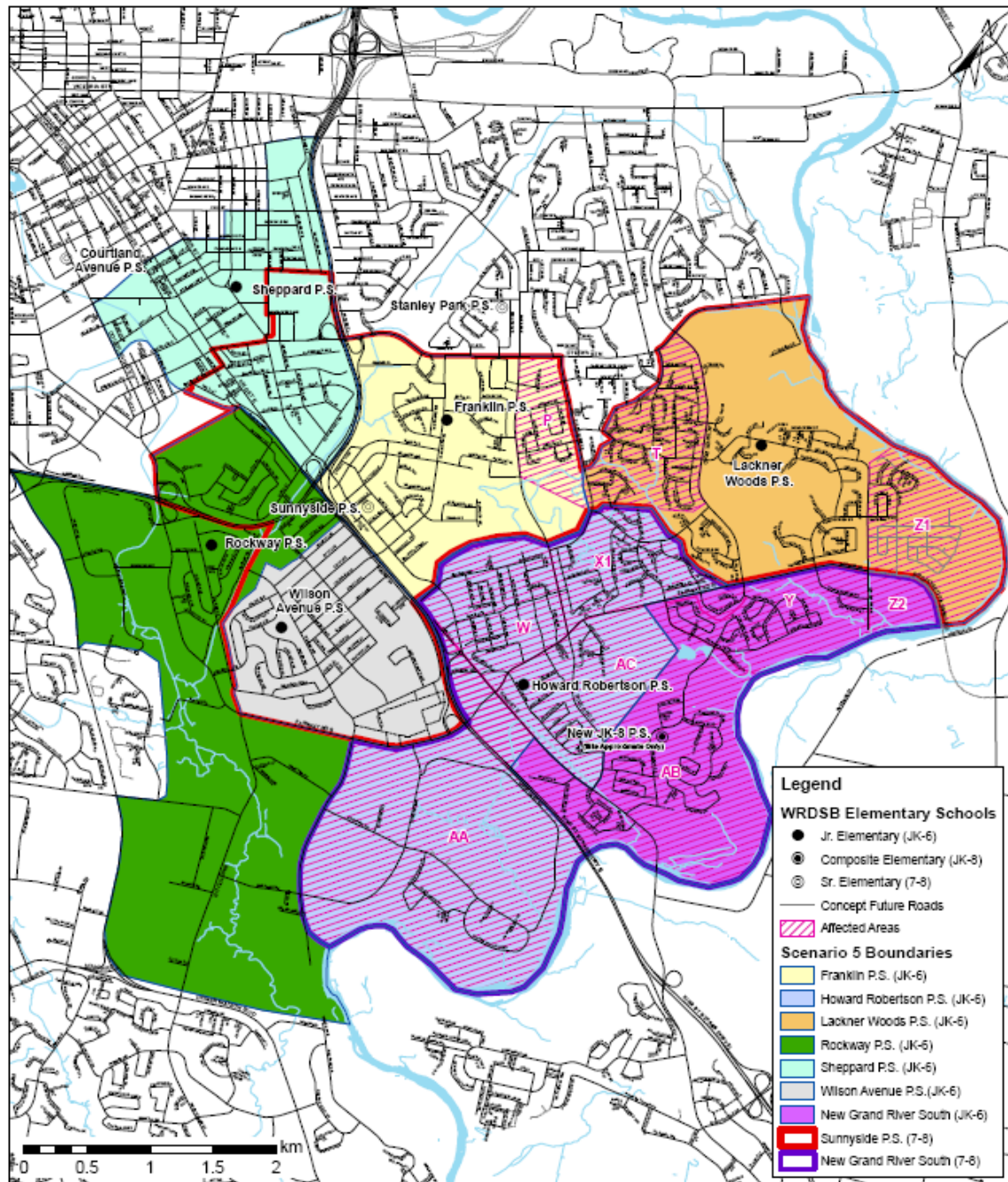
- Estimates are preliminary based on a specific scope of work.
- Does not include any other major capital/maintenance projects required at remaining facilities (e.g. boiler replacement, HVAC, roof, windows, etc.)

Scenario 5 Evaluation Based on Review Objectives







Objective	Meets	Doesn't Meet	Comments
Regard for Board Policy 3002	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheppard P.S., Rockway P.S. small JK-6 organizations. Lackner Woods P.S., Howard Robertson P.S. large JK-6 organizations.
Review elementary school organization	✓		
Recognize distribution Spec Ed., F.I., ESL programs	✓		
Maximize students within walking distance	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets objective however not as well as Sc. 4.
Maximize the number of students in permanent accommodation	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accomplished with large addition at Lackner Woods P.S., and small addition at Howard Robertson P.S.
Eliminate where practical underutilized space		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheppard P.S., Franklin P.S. underutilized.
Identify facility requirements for new mandates	✓		
Improve retained facilities		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large addition at Lackner Woods P.S. may overwhelm limited site.
Create more consistent feeds between senior elementary program and secondary programs		✓	
Addresses future development and demographics		✓	
Minimizes number of student transitions	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many transitions to implement, but represents fewer transitions for students after change.

Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review

Scenario 5



Appendix C: Timing of Implementation

Grand River South/Sunnyside Timeline of ARC Recommendations					
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Recommendation #1 Howard Robertson P.S. and Lackner Woods P.S. boundary change	July-August  Facility improvements	September Howard Robertson P.S./Lackner Woods P.S. boundary change Sept. Jun. Gr. 6 option to attend either Howard Robertson P.S. or Lackner Woods P.S.	September All students in affected area attend Howard Robertson P.S.		
Recommendation #2 New JK-8 Facility	 Site plan/zone change	 Design/Tender		September New facility opens as JK-7 Sept. Jun. Grade 8 students in new school boundary stay at Sunnyside P.S. and Stanley Park P.S.	September New facility adds Gr. 8 All students in affected area attend new facility
Recommendation #3 Lackner Woods P.S. addition and boundary change with Sheppard P.S.		Design/Tender  July-August 	September 3-4 classroom addition completed at Lackner Woods P.S. Sept. Jun. JK option to attend either Lackner Woods P.S. or Sheppard P.S.	September Lackner Woods P.S./Sheppard P.S. boundary change Sept. Jun. Gr. 6 students in affected area at either Lackner Woods P.S. or Sheppard P.S.	September All students in affected area attend Lackner Woods P.S.
Recommendation #4 Sunnyside P.S. boundary change				September Boundary change between Sunnyside P.S., P.S., Stanley Park P.S. and new school for Gr. 7 students	September Boundary change between Sunnyside P.S., P.S., Stanley Park P.S. and new school for Gr. 8 students