



**Woolwich & Wellesley Townships Elementary Schools  
Pupil Accommodation Review  
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting #12  
May 24, 2012, 6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Floradale Public School Library**

The twelfth meeting of the Woolwich & Wellesley Townships Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Floradale Public School on Thursday, May 24, 2012.

**Committee Members Present:**

Vlad Kovac, Principal Floradale P.S., Geoff Suderman-Gladwell, Principal Linwood P.S., John Krupicz, Parent Representative St. Jacobs P.S., Paul Milne, Principal St. Jacobs P.S., Wayne Dunham, Principal Three Bridges P.S., Krista Edwards, Parent Representative Linwood P.S., Susan Marchiori, Vice Principal Linwood P.S., Cindy Weber, Parent Representative Linwood P.S., Christine Shantz, Parent Representative Floradale P.S., Steve Snyder, Parent Representative Three Bridges P.S., Elmer Horst, Parent Representative Three Bridges P.S., Susan Martin Community Representative, Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects, Facility Services, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary, Lauren Manske, Senior Planner and Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

**Additional WRDSB staff present:**

None

**Regrets:**

Keith Trask, Parent Representative St. Jacobs P.S., Brenda Martin, Parent Representative Floradale P.S., Diane DeCoene, Superintendent of Education, Nick Landry, Manager of Enrolment, John Scarfone, Manager of Planning, Township of Woolwich, Sarah Peck, Planner, Township of Wellesley.

**1. Welcome:**

Mr. Hercanuck, Senior Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board opened the meeting at 6:35 pm and welcomed members of the ARC. He noted that the ARC had postponed meeting #12 until a meeting with the Three Bridges P.S. community to answer questions on how any changes to Three Bridges P.S. would affect their decision to keep their children in the public school system had been concluded. The meeting with the Three Bridges P.S. community took place on May 8, 2012 (the minutes of which were sent out to the ARC via email) and is item 3 on tonight's agenda.

**2. ARC Meeting #11– Draft Minutes Approval**

Mr. Hercanuck asked members if there were any errors or omissions in the draft minutes from ARC meeting #11 (March 21, 2012). None were raised.

Minutes approved without change.

Moved by: Elmer Horst

Seconded by: Krista Edwards

Mr. Hercanuck advised that hardcopies of the minutes will be sent out to the schools for the school binder and the minutes will also be posted on the Board website at:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/accommodation-reviews/woolwich-and-wellesley-townships-elementary-schools>

Mr. Hercanuck led the ARC through tonight's presentation, available online at:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/accommodation-reviews/woolwich-and-wellesley-townships-elementary-schools>

### **3. Minutes – Three Bridges Public School Community Meeting:**

#### **a. Discussion**

The meeting was held on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at Three Bridges Public School with a really good turnout, considering the size of the school. A (Low German) translator was available at the meeting to help those who needed that service. The meeting was attended by Superintendent of Education, Diane DeCoene, Planning Department staff (Nathan Hercanuck, Dennis Cuomo and Lauren Manske), Three Bridges P.S. Principal (Wayne Dunham) Three Bridges P.S. parent representatives (Elmer Horst, Steve Snyder and alternate parent rep., Andrew Horst). All Mennonite groups, except for the David Martin community, were represented. Wayne Dunham had spoken with the David Martin community about attending and was informed that they do not participate in any form of political public meetings/consultations and indicated to Mr. Dunham that “whatever will happen, will happen.” We did not get a chance to ask them of their preference but based on our experience with the group at other schools, and our conversations here, we would likely retain them.

Mr. Hercanuck provided a summary of the findings from the Three Bridges P.S. community meeting as follows:

- Three Bridges P.S. community preference is for things to remain as they are (Status Quo), in terms of program, curriculum, boundary etc.
- Any change from status quo would result in a loss of enrolment to the Board from the Three Bridges P.S. community.
- An actual survey was not taken but one gentleman put forth the estimate that we could lose 65% of the school population which is consistent with our discussions here at the ARC. Another gentleman also made the point that the enrolment loss could extend to the secondary panel, as the elementary feeder enrolment would be lost.
- Another statement of note was that Floradale P.S. was the most similar in culture to Three Bridges P.S., and may be a more agreeable option for some over the other schools proposed should Three Bridges P.S. close.
- Mr. Hercanuck also noted that there is a minor addendum to the Minutes from John Scarfone – Mgr. Planning Twp. Woolwich to my response to whether the Three Bridges Public School building could still be used as a school should the Board sell the building. Mr. Scarfone responded that *“The Three Bridges school was established when the former Zoning By-law 1400 was in place, which permitted educational institutions in the Agricultural Zone. The current Zoning By-law (55-86) does not permit schools in the Agricultural zone, but allows the Three Bridges School under the “Public Service” Section as it is owned and operated by a public board. If the property was sold for a private school, then “Public Service” section in the Zoning By-law would not apply. However, a private school could operate on the property as a legal non-conforming use.”*
- Mr. Hercanuck also advised that the Planning Department would also be willing to meet with any other school community/group if they wanted a meeting about the ARC.

**Action Item:**

**Mr. Dunham to pass along the correction from Mr. Scarfone to the gentleman who had asked the question at the meeting.**

The ARC discussed the results of the May 8th meeting with the Three Bridges P.S. community and made the following comments:

It was noted that the school building itself is very important to the community as it is a “country school” separate from socializing with communities outside their own.

If the Three Bridges community were able to purchase and run the building as a parochial school, they may be able to draw others away from the other review area schools as well.

Some of the groups look to the church for guidance and stay within those guidelines.

Parochial schools are not free and may not be an option for everyone.

Some groups are opposed to the parochial schools but may attend if they have to. It was noted that there are differences between the groups with some groups valuing education more and sending their children to university.

**b. Impact on Scenarios**

Mr. Hercanuck noted that as a result of the meeting he has modified the projections for the scenarios to reflect the reduced enrolment expected for any other scenario save for Status Quo scenario. He noted that the ARC had decided to take 4 scenarios (Status Quo, Scenario 1, 2 and 6) to the public meeting for feedback for simplicities sake and had not discarded the remaining scenarios. Aside from scenarios 4 and 5, which the ARC had agreed were not feasible because they moved the entire (or portions) of the 7, 8 program to Three Bridges P.S. or Floradale P.S.

Mr. Hercanuck suggested that the ARC take these scenarios with the revised numbers and decide which we want to move forward with using the Review Objectives (see slide 10 of tonight’s presentation) we established at the beginning of the process to help us. Mr. Hercanuck did a brief recap of the Scenarios (all of which are available online in tonight’s presentation).

The ARC, after a lengthy discussion on whether the scenario projections could be modified to reflect the numbers that may be lost to changes to /closing of Three Bridges P.S., agreed that the 65% reduction could be used and proceed to go through the scenarios on that basis and decide which scenarios to keep and which ones to remove from further consideration.

<b>The 3 Categories of Scenarios being considered by the ARC</b>		
<b>1. No Change</b>	<b>2. Three Bridge remains Open with defined Attendance Boundary</b>	<b>3. Three Bridges Closed</b>
<u>Status Quo</u> <u>Details</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No change to existing situation</li> </ul>	<u>Scenario 1</u> <u>Details</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined Boundary for Three Bridges PS (gets Areas G, I, J)</li> <li>St. Jacobs PS gets Areas H, K, L</li> <li>All else remains same</li> </ul>	<u>Scenario 2</u> <u>Details</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three Bridges PS closed. Students directed to St. Jacobs PS</li> <li>All else remains same</li> </ul>
	<u>Scenario 4</u> ARC agreed scenario not feasible.	<u>Scenario 3</u> <u>Details</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three Bridges PS closed. Students directed to St. Jacobs PS and Floradale PS.</li> <li>St. Jacobs PS gets Areas G, H, K, L</li> <li>Floradale PS gets Areas I, J from St. Jacobs PS</li> </ul>
	<u>Scenario 8</u> <u>Details</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined Boundary for Three Bridges PS (gets Areas G, I, J, E1)</li> <li>St. Jacobs PS gets Areas H, K, L</li> <li>All else remains same</li> </ul>	<u>Scenario 5</u> ARC agreed scenario not feasible.
	<u>Scenario 9</u> <u>Details</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Defined Boundary for Three Bridges PS (gets Areas G, I, J, E1, and part of B)</li> <li>St. Jacobs PS gets Areas H, K, L</li> <li>All else remains same</li> </ul>	<u>Scenario 6</u> <u>Details</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three Bridges PS closed. Students directed to St. Jacobs PS except Area J which is directed to Floradale.</li> <li>Steffler Rd. Area (not shown b/w Area A,J directed to Floradale)</li> </ul>
		<u>Scenario 7</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Details</u></li> <li>Three Bridges PS closed. Students directed to St. Jacobs PS except Area G which is directed to Linwood</li> </ul>
No change to status quo projection in terms of enrolment projections	<u>Challenges</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall reduction in enrolment</li> <li>Scenarios 1,9: Three Bridges PS too small to be viable (50-60 students)</li> <li>Scenario 8 most viable solution of group. Maintains current enrolment numbers at Three Bridges (still small school organization) with addition of Hawkesville area.</li> <li>Surplus capacity : 1160-1175 enrolment/1244 capacity</li> </ul>	<u>Challenges</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall reduction in enrolment</li> <li>Surplus capacity: 1160-1170 enrolment/1244 capacity</li> </ul>
	<u>Opportunities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All schools remain open</li> <li>All students in permanent capacity (perhaps not Sc. 8 Three Bridges)</li> </ul>	<u>Opportunities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students in permanent capacity</li> <li>Reduction in facility maintenance/future accessibility costs</li> <li>Increase utilization, program size (Floradale PS) at retained facilities.</li> </ul>

**The ARC agreed to eliminate** all scenarios that would leave Three Bridges P.S. open with a defined attendance area boundary from further consideration because of the decrease in enrolment making Three Bridges P.S. too small for a viable school; eliminating **Scenarios 1, 8 and 9 from further consideration.**

C: Steve Snyder commented that closing Three Bridges P.S. might negatively affect Phil Sauder's Rural Education Strategy and the Board being able to reach the 14+ aged group as closing Three Bridges P.S. would send more students to parochial schools.

Q: John Krupicz asked if it is the Board's mandate to be offering education programs to the Mennonite community and the ARC should have clarification on this as it seems to be an area the Board is pursuing with Mr. Sauder's work.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that Mr. Sauder is working to achieve programs that might be of interest to the 14+ aged group that do not normally attend the public school system. Mr. Sauder's work is a pilot project and has not been requested by the Board of Trustees but is instead a staff initiative. The work of the ARC is a totally separate process which the Board of Trustees will vote on.

C: Geoff Suderman-Gladwell commented that there are certain issues that are the business of the Trustees and whether or not the Board is to continue to operate and offer education services to the Three Bridges P.S. community under the historical agreement should be a decision of the Board of Trustees and not a decision of the ARC; the ARC can bring the Status Quo option to the Board so they can decide on the whether or not to continue as this is more than just an economic issue.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the ARC can outline its struggles with the options and recommend more than one scenario and ask the Board of Trustees to decide. He noted that it is within an ARC's mandate to recommend closing a school.

Q: John Krupicz asked if the ARC can make an economic recommendation for school closure.

R: Yes, the economics of the scenarios are a key piece of the ARC report and we will attempt to put those numbers together.

C: John Krupicz noted that St. Jacobs P.S. requires upgrades for program equality.

Q: Paul Milne asked if the Three Bridges P.S. community might consider a dual site; a school within a school.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the message he took away from the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was that the community would not be open to any changes and prefers the Three Bridges P.S. "Country School" to be kept separate from the possibility of outside societal influences. He noted that the dual school might be an idea worth exploring and asked the ARC if it should be costed out and taken back to the community for comment.

R: Mr. Dunham responded that while he considers a dual school a good idea – he would be unsure that the community would support it.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the ARC Report will go to the Board of Trustees and Board Administration will also submit a report to the Board of Trustees. He noted that historically the Admin report will mirror the ARC report. The Trustees will get both reports and if they differ the Trustees will ask why they are different.

**The ARC agreed to further consider the following scenarios:**

- **Status Quo** – all 4 review area schools remain unchanged and
- **Scenarios 2, 3, 6 and 7** all of which close Three Bridges Public School

**4. Modified Scenarios**

- a. Next Steps (construction requirements, costing)**  
Deferred until next meeting

**5. Future Meeting Dates/Times**

**ARC Meetings:**

ARC Meeting #13 – Wednesday, June 6, 2012 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Linwood P.S.

Mr. Hercanuck thanked the ARC members for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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**FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

**ARC MEETINGS:**

ARC Meeting #13: June 6, 2012 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Linwood P.S.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS:**

Public Meeting #3– TBD