



Forest Hill / Trillium Elementary Schools Boundary Study
Minutes of Working Group Meeting #5
November 2, 2011
Library, Trillium Public School - 5:30-7:00 p.m.

The fifth Working Group Meeting of the Forest Hill/Trillium Elementary Schools Boundary Study was held at Trillium Public School on Wednesday, November 2, 2011.

Attendees:

B. Brown, Principal of Trillium P.S. and our host for the evening, Steve Zack, Principal of Forest Hill P.S., Carol Fuller, Parent Representative Forest Hill P.S., Jennifer Kroeker, Parent Representative Forest Hill P.S., Jennifer Passy, Parent Representative Trillium P.S., Shane Hall, Parent Representative, Trillium P.S., Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, Lauren Manske, Senior Planner, Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary.

Regrets:

Gregg Bereznick, Superintendent of Education

1. Welcome/Approval of minutes – October 12, 2011 Meeting.

Ms. Manske welcomed members of the Working Group at 5:30 p.m. and asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes of the previous meeting. None were brought forward and minutes were passed. Minutes from the fourth meeting are now available on the website: <http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/forest-hill-trillium-elementary-schools-boundary-study>

Ms. Manske led the group through the presentation (available online at: <http://www.wrdsb.ca/sites/www.wrdsb.ca/files/02nov11.wrkgrpmtg.presentation.pdf>)

2. Public Meeting #1:

• **Feedback**

Ms. Manske read through the feedback of the 1st Public Meeting consisting of 5 comment sheets handed in after the meeting and 2 emails via the boundaryfeedback address and noted that from these comments there was no clear front-runner scenario. The following is a summary of the rankings of the scenarios from the comment sheets (with #1 being most preferred, and #4 being least preferred):

SCENARIO	RANK			
	#1	#2	#3	#4
STATUS QUO	2	2		2
6	2	2		2
9		2	3	
10	2		2	1

The Working Group liked the low key approach with presentation at the beginning and open house at the end.

It was noted that only a few people in attendance were from Trillium P.S. community the majority were from the Forest Hill P.S. community.

Jennifer Kroeker noted that while the Working Group were not required to attend, she recommends that they should attend as it was helpful to the community who may have felt more comfortable asking the parent representatives questions about the process during the open house portion of the meeting.

B. Brown commented that while a few of the comment sheets were concerned about children crossing the busy Ottawa Street and Westmount Roads; Trillium P.S. already has students who have to cross them.

Q: Steve Zack inquired as to the cost to have a portable put on a school site.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the cost of a new portable is approximately \$30K and the cost to move an existing portable onto a site is approximately \$10K.

B. Brown reminded the Working Group that the reason Trillium P.S. had requested the boundary study was because the boundaries for the two schools are closely related and often the schools 'share' out of boundary students. Since Trillium P.S. is under capacity which has resulted in small grade structures (for example Trillium P.S. only has 0.5 Grade 1 class this year whereas Forest Hill P.S. has 3.5 Grade 1 classes). The question was - can we create a better balance of enrolment at the two facilities?

Jennifer Kroeker noted the importance of multiple classes at the same grade level to foster shared collaborative learning environments for teachers and compared it to parents sharing knowledge with other parents.

Q: Steve Zack noted that the Chandler/Mowat area is very transient and as a result Forest Hill P.S. has weekly student transfers from students from this area. Would it be possible to get a summary of number of students who transfer out of the area?

R: Ms. Manske responded that she could provide a month-by-month summary of enrolment which would include transfers, but not sure if it can be done by specific area – only for the school as a whole.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the SES (Socio-economic Status) index might provide that information.

B. Brown noted that the EQAO contextual data would show how many children remained at a school from Grade 3 – Grade 6.

Mr. Hercanuck also noted that in general, rental housing areas often have a higher rate of movement (transiency).

Q: Jennifer Passy enquired when the Working Group would get into projections and identify the grade by grade peaks.

R: Ms. Manske responded that she would provide the grade profiles but first the Working Group should go through the Scenarios and see how they meet the objectives and consider which scenarios should be developed and which ones to drop.

Action Item:

Ms. Manske will provide the grade profiles of the remaining scenarios and information on transiency at the next meeting.

3. Scenarios:

- **Front-runner?**

No clear front-runner

Q: Should this process be deferred for another year when we will know the effects of the Full-Day Kindergarten program on Trillium P.S.?

R: Steve Zack noted it is in the best interest of both school communities to go forward with the study noting that he believes the construction of a new gymnasium at Forest Hill P.S. will result in the loss of 2 classrooms and thereby reducing Forest Hill's built capacity to approximately 490 a reduction of 46 pupil places. Forest Hill P.S. going forward would require an extra portable to house these students and the only space available for another portable would be in the playground area.

The students would be housed in a portable at either of the facilities but Trillium P.S. has more room on site to house a portable.

The Working Group further discussed how the renovations at Forest Hill P.S. would affect the school's built capacity.

Action Item:

Ms. Manske to consult with Mel Lavoie, Project Co-coordinator of the renovations at Forest Hill P.S. to get the ultimate capacity of the site post renovations including breakdown of numbers of classrooms and the usage.

It was noted that if Forest Hill P.S. is to lose another classroom, it is imperative that the Working Group go forward to get a decision in place for the 2012-2013 school year.

- **Which to refine?**

Ms. Manske led the group through the presentation and ran through the scenarios noting whether the scenarios met or did not meet the study objectives. Results available in the online presentation for tonight's meeting at:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/sites/www.wrdsb.ca/files/02nov11.wrkgpmtg.presentation.pdf>

Status Quo Scenario

The Working Group decided to not discuss the Status Quo Scenario any further as only meets 1 of the study objectives.

Scenario 6

Status deferred to next meeting.

Scenario 9

Status deferred to next meeting.

Scenario 10

Status deferred to next meeting.

The Working Group addressed the study objective to: “*Address future development plans and demographic shifts*”, and decided that it is no longer relevant to this study and therefore should be removed from the Study Objectives.

Action Item:

Remove study objective: “Address future development plans and demographic shifts”.

The Working Group discussed the implications of Trillium P.S., which is a non-bussed facility, having to provide bussing for prospective students in Areas H, N or P.

Q: It was noted that Trillium P.S. currently has students who attend from out of boundary. Are these students taken into consideration while doing the projections of areas as they would not be extra students coming in because they are already attending?

R: Yes, out of boundary enrolment has been taken into consideration.

Q: Would parents be able to choose if their child would stay-on at Forest Hill P.S. or transfer to Trillium P.S. if a boundary change takes place?

R: We have found from past experience that it is best if we make a recommendation for grandfathering that does not allow for choice, but rather allows those already in attendance to remain – not to go to the new school by choice.

The Working Group discussed the ABLE class and Special Education classes and whether there are any classrooms dedicated to these special programs.

Action Item:

Ms. Manske to look at what each classroom is loaded at and if there are specially dedicated program rooms and their loading numbers.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that it is important to identify any surplus space at Forest Hill P.S. because the Ministry of Education will consider this information when deciding if Trillium P.S. is eligible for funding for an addition.

Q: Jennifer Passy inquired as to whether both the On-the-Ground Capacity and Functional Capacity could be included for each of the schools.

Action Item:

R: Ms. Manske to add functional capacity to scenario charts and add all years.

Q: Did we have a scenario which moved only Area O to Trillium P.S.?

R: Ms. Manske did not recall such a scenario but pulled up the information on Area O which would include 30 students – 3 of which are currently attending Trillium P.S. as out-of-boundary students.

Q: How many students live in Area P?

R: Area P includes 15 students, 3 of which are currently attending Trillium P.S. as out-of-boundary students.

B. Brown noted that Area O would be within walking distance to Trillium P.S.

Action Item:

It was noted that 30 students was a good number for both schools and it was decided that Ms. Manske would develop a new Scenario 11 which would include only Area O and include projections.

4. Future Meeting Dates:

The Working Group discussed the tentative Public Meeting #2 date and decided to differ decision until after the newly scheduled Working Group Meeting #6 to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at Forest Hill P.S.

Public Meetings:

- **Public Meeting #2 (Tentative)**
Wednesday, November 30, 2011 @ 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Forest Hill P.S., Gymnasium

Working Group Meetings:

- **Working Group Meeting # 6 - Tuesday, November 8, 2011 – note new meeting**
5:00 – 6:30 pm, Forest Hill P.S. Staff Room
- Working Group Meeting # 7 - Wednesday, November 16, 2011
5:00 – 6:30 pm, Forest Hill P.S. Staff Room
- Working Group Meeting # 8 - Tuesday, December 6, 2011
5:00 – 6:30 pm, Trillium P.S. Library

5. Roundtable

Ms. Manske thanked the working group for their time and B. Brown for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.