



**West Galt Elementary Schools
Pupil Accommodation Review
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting #4
November 29, 2011, 5:30-7:00 PM
Highland Public School Library**

The fourth meeting of the West Galt Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Highland Public School on Tuesday, November 29, 2011.

Committee Members Present:

Wendy Bowker, Principal Highland P.S., Nick Chiarelli, Vice Principal, Highland P.S., Jodie Hancox-Meyer, Principal, Blair Road, Marcia Lubert, Principal Tait Street P.S., Karen Tomlin, Principal, St. Andrew's P.S., Trevor McWilliams, City of Cambridge Representative, Bev Fox, Parent Rep., St. Andrew's P.S., Karen Destun, Parent Rep., Tait Street P.S., Hayley Orman, Parent Rep., Highland P.S., Paula Ouellet, Parent Rep., Highland P.S., Roy Roethel, Parent Rep., St. Andrew's P.S., Lynn Robb, Parent Rep, Blair Road P.S., Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary and Lauren Manske Senior Planner, for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Other WRDSB Staff Present:

None

Regrets:

Barry Frame, Principal Dickson P.S., Kelly Deml, Parent Rep. Blair Road P.S., Vanessa Meal, Parent Rep., Dickson P.S., Rebecca Raineault, Parent Rep., Dickson P.S., Maura Fuller, Parent Rep., Tait Street P.S., Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, Lila Read, Superintendent of Education, Ron Dallan, Manager Capital Projects, Abigail Dancey, Manager of Communications, and Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Ms. Manske, Senior Planner opened the meeting at 5:35 pm and welcomed members of the committee.

2. ARC Meeting #3 – Draft Minutes Approval

Ms. Manske asked the ARC if there were any corrections/concerns with the minutes from the November 15, 2011 ARC meeting.

None were raised.

Minutes from the November 15th meeting were approved.

Moved by: Trevor McWilliams

Seconded by: Karen Destun

Q: Will Mr. McWilliam's presentation from the last meeting be available online?

R: Yes, Trevor to provide Planning with electronic version.

Ms. Manske noted 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/west-galt-elementary-schools>

Ms. Manske led the ARC through tonight's presentation, available on-line at:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/accommodation-reviews/west-galt-elementary-schools>

3. Demographic Information

Ms. Manske noted that the Board's source for demographic information for the area comes from the Statistics Canada 2006 census and 2011 data will not be available until sometime in the new year.

Ms. Manske also noted that she is using Ministry of Finance population projections for the province and information from a recent study on turnover rates in neighborhoods with mostly older homes to see what the opportunities and trends are for younger families moving in.

Enrolment by Grade

Referring to Slide 3 of the presentation which details enrolment by grade level within the review area combined. Ms. Manske noted that all but the JK class was lower in 2011 than in 2001 with the current Grade 4 class being the smallest group of students in the review area.

Births as a Predictor of JK Enrolment

Referring to Slide 4 of the presentation Ms. Manske noted that the Board uses live births as a predictor of JK enrolment. This information comes from the Region of Waterloo, Healthy Babies, Healthy Children and records the live births to mothers that live in the Region. The Board uses this information to predict what the JK enrolment will be 4 years later. Ms. Manske noted that the top yellow line on Slide 4 is the live births data for the Region for 2001-2011 and noted that the peaks in births coincide with the peaks in JK enrolment.

Ms. Manske noted that the Board studies the information and determines a factor which is used to predict an average which is used for the JK enrolment over the next few years. This average has been pretty accurate to date with approximately 70% of children born attending Public School and approximately 30% attending Catholic School region-wide.

Population

Referring to Slide 5, Ms. Manske noted that in terms of population from 2001-2006 the area has seen a decline in both the 0-9 and the 20-39 age groups (the latter being the child-bearing age group) and an increase in the 40-64 and 65+ age groups.

C: This information is based on 2006 data, there have been a lot of changes in my area and a lot of the older people have moved out.

R: It is important to keep in mind that this data is 5 years old.

Referring to Slide 6, outlining the Population for West Galt, Review Area, 2001-2006 Ms. Manske noted that the 0-4 age group are now in the 5-9 age group.

Ms. Manske noted that Slide 7 shows a population comparison between West Galt, Cambridge and the Province.

Referring to Slides 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13, Ms. Manske noted that the maps show the dissemination areas (the smallest level of detail that can be provided) with each map detailing a separate age group. Noting again that the maps are based on 2006 information and the red/warm areas show the higher density and the green/cool areas show a lower density. Of note is that the 20-39 age group is represented higher in the core area.

Age of Dwellings

Referring to Slides 12 and 13, Ms. Manske noted that of the West Galt Review Area dwellings 21 percent were built pre 1946 with another 21 percent built before 1980. (Again 2006 data)

Type of Dwellings

Referring to Slide 14 Ms. Manske noted that the Review area dwelling type is predominately single-family detached (63%) and Apartments at (20%).

Q: What are the 'Other' dwellings?

R: Mobile homes, student lodging.

Classroom Sizes and Funding Benchmarks

Referring to Slide 15 of the online presentation Ms. Manske noted the following classroom sizes:

Full-Day Kindergarten = 1200 – 1300 sq ft (including washroom)

Regular Classroom = 750 sq ft

The Ministry of Education uses a Capital Funding Benchmark and funds School Board construction based on an Area Per Pupil Benchmark Calculator using a Geographic Adjustment Factor.

Ms. Manske also noted that Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects will explain this process to the ARC at a future meeting.

Referring to Slide 16, Ms. Manske outlined the Board's most recent Capital Priorities Funding as follows:

- 276 pupil place addition to Silverheights PS at \$5,165,472.00
- 650 pupil place new JK-8 elementary school (Grand River South) at \$12,032,963.00
- 650 pupil place new JK-8 elementary school (Huron Road) at \$12,032,963.00

4. Initial Scenario Development

Ms. Manske outlined the steps for Scenario Development (Slide 15) and noted that once the ARC has come up with an option it will be pieced together with total enrolment for the school projected.

Ms. Manske noted that the Board does not have any scenarios to bring forward and tonight the ARC will break out into small groups to use maps and markers to review the projection areas (Slide 18) which are labeled by letter into sub areas which are combined together to make future boundaries. Ms. Manske advised the ARC to not be constricted by the lines as these sub areas can be broken down further, if that would be logical for the community.

Q: Do we have to take into consideration how many kids are in the area, if there is any developmental activity and keep in mind the census data?

R: We will once we do some refining of the scenarios, but for now just concentrate on “concepts”.

Ms. Manske reminded the ARC that every option is on the table (i.e., new school, additions, school closing, boundary changes etc.) and asked them not to be concerned with cost at this point, as costing will be done later when we have a scenario that meets most of the objectives noting that costing will be different for each school based on what work is needed.

Q: Referring to the Projection Areas Map on Slide 18; where on the map is the Board’s vacant property?

R: It’s near Southwood Secondary in the most eastern portion of area J. Approximate address is 99 Beechwood Road.

Q: How much is that property worth?

R: It is hard to put a value on property without an appraisal. The Board owns this property so price is not an issue.

Q: Can we sell that land to do improvements at the schools?

R: No. That is not usually how it works. Money earned from land sales goes into an account called Proceeds of Disposition. This is the only fund that the Board has to use to ‘top-up’ other land purchases not covered by Education Development Charges. The Board can use this money for school construction but would hesitate to do so. Any use of money from this account requires both Board and Ministry approval.

Q: I’ve seen kids playing sports on the property in the summer; are the school properties rented out for that purpose?

R: Ms. Manske responded that she can look into that and provide information of any rentals.

Q: Should our scenarios be looking to make all schools JK-8?

R: That would depend on whether or not you value 7-8 schools. You can come up with a scenario for that. For example if you want to add Grade 6 at Highland PS that would require a boundary change to move some students to another school to make room. Ms. Manske suggested that the ARC should look at multiple scenarios and contemplate what might work for the community.

Q: Bev Fox, parent representative for St. Andrew’s PS commented that 30 percent of the population of Highland PS is here for the French Immersion Program (FI). These students move on to GCI for FI while the rest go to Southwood. Do we continue with the program at Highland or add another program elsewhere?

R: Ms. Manske commented that this year Highland PS has approximately 20 out-of-boundary Grade 1 students because there is no other school in the area that offers the FI program.

The ARC broke out into three small groups at 6:05 p.m. to consider initial scenarios and Ms. Manske circulated to answer questions. The ARC reconvened at 6:55 p.m. and handed in their scenarios.

Group 1 Scenario

Trevor, Karen T., Roy, and Bev

- Blair Road P.S. – Areas A, B, C, K
- Highland P.S. - Areas G, H, L and portion of F (East of Hillcrest Dr.)
- Tait Street P.S. – Q, R, S, and portion of D (South of St. Andrews St.)
- New School on Beechwood Rd – Areas E, portion of F (West of Hillcrest Dr.), portion of D (north of St. Andrews St.), J, I, and O
- Close Dickson P.S.
- St. Andrew's P.S. - JK-8, Areas N, M and P with French Immersion

Group 2 Scenarios

Lynn, Jodie, Karen D., Hayley, and Marcia

JK-6, 7-8 option

- St. Andrews P.S. 7-8 with enrichment programs
- Tait Street P.S. stays JK-6
- All other schools to Gr. 6 with boundary moves
- Close Dickson P.S.
- Blair Road P.S. and Tait Street P.S. also absorb Dickson P.S. kids
- Highland P.S. – shift boundaries to accommodate Gr. 6
- Blair Road P.S. or Tait Street P.S. to offer French Immersion

JK-8 option

- Blair Road P.S. JK-8 (addition)
- Tait Street P.S. JK-8 (addition)
- Close Dickson P.S.
- St. Andrew's P.S. JK-8 (addition?)
- Highland P.S. JK-8 (pods)
- Needs a second French Immersion site
- Highland P.S. boundary needs revision to alleviate overcrowding

Group 3 Scenarios

Wendy, Nick and Paula

Option 1

- Close Dickson P.S.
- Areas E, F, G, H, K, and L to Highland P.S. K-8
- Areas I, J, M, N and P to St. Andrew's P.S. K-8
- Areas D, O, Q, R and S to Tait Street P.S. K-8
- Leave Blair Road P.S. K-8 with addition

Option 2

- Start another French Immersion program
- Leave all the same schools open but move Area J to Tait Street P.S.

5. Future Meeting Dates:

ARC Meetings:

ARC Meeting #5: Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 5:30-7:00 p.m. @ St. Andrew's P.S. Library

ARC Meeting #6: Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 5:30-7:00 p.m. @ TBD

ARC Meeting #7: Wednesday, February 15, 2012, 5:30-7:00 p.m. @ TBD

ARC Meeting #8: Wednesday, March 7, 2012, 5:30-7:00 p.m. @ TBD

Public Meetings:

Tentative – Wednesday, March 1, 2012, 7:00-8:30 p.m. @ Blair Road P.S. Gym

6. Roundtable

Q: How will we know if a meeting has been cancelled due to inclement weather?

R: If the Board closes schools due to inclement weather the meetings will also be cancelled, you can check the Board's website for this and please check your email before the meeting as Planning will send you an email to notify you of the cancellation. (Provided there is power!)

Ms. Manske noted that the ARC's scenarios will be put together with other information for Public Meeting #2 and asked the ARC to email her with any other scenarios they might come up with between now and the next meeting.

Ms. Manske thanked everyone for coming out and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.