



**Woolwich & Wellesley Townships Elementary Schools  
Pupil Accommodation Review  
Minutes of Accommodation Review Committee Meeting #16  
October 23, 2012, 6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Three Bridges Public School Library**

The sixteenth meeting of the Woolwich & Wellesley Townships Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was held at Three Bridges Public School on Tuesday, October 23, 2012.

**Committee Members Present:**

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

**Regrets:**

Brenda Martin, Parent Representative Floradale P.S., Cindy Weber, Parent Representative Linwood P.S., John Scarfone, Manager of Planning, Township of Woolwich, Sarah Peck, Planner, Township of Wellesley, Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects, Diane DeCoene, Superintendent of Education, Nick Landry, Manager of Enrolment, and Lauren Manske, Senior Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

**1. Welcome:**

Mr. Hercanuck, Senior Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board welcomed members of the ARC at 6:35 pm.

**2. ARC Meeting #15– Draft Minutes Approval:**

Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC if there were any errors or omissions in the draft minutes from ARC Meeting #15 (October 3, 2012). None were reported.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that he would like to make a correction to the minutes and the presentation from last week's meeting as follows:

- Change to minutes to Mr. Suderman-Gladwell's comment on page 4 to change the word "capital" to "operating and renewal"
- Change to presentation Slide 6 – Custodian number for Three Bridges change from "1.5" to "1" and to reflect this .5 difference in the total as well.

The minutes from ARC Meeting #15 approved with noted revision

Moved by: Krista Edwards

Seconded by: Elmer Horst

Mr. Hercanuck advised that hardcopies of the minutes will be sent out to the schools for the school binder and 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. Public Meeting #3:

#### Review Feedback

Mr. Hercanuck noted that Public Meeting #3 was well attended with approximately 40-50 members of the public in attendance. There were not a lot of questions asked during the Question and Answer period of the meeting but there was some good discussion afterwards during the open house portion.

There were many little sub-groups after the formal presentation; and a quite a large group around Trustee and Board Vice Chairperson Harold Paisley but Mr. Hercanuck did not get the opportunity to hear what was being discussed.

The Three Bridges Community members who spoke with Mr. Hercanuck seemed appreciative that the Status Quo option was being carried forward.

An audience member asked in session, if the working group has considered methods of retaining and increasing rural community.

If the Trustees decide to approve Scenario 10(A); has there been any thought given to the possibility that Three Bridges PS could become an Old Colony parochial school given that one does not exist in this area; should that happen, the Board may see a loss of that group's enrolment from Linwood and Floradale Public Schools as well.

There were three comment sheets placed in the comment box with the following feedback:

1. Negative feedback on acoustics in the gymnasium and suggestion for improving future presentations.
2. Support for [Scenario 10\(A\)](#) and hope that it would include a recommendation for a new school facility for St. Jacobs.
3. Notice that comments to follow via email (which have not been received to-date)

Mr. Hercanuck noted that he had received the following request from a St. Jacobs PS parent and noted that this type of information from the community is invaluable to the Working Group in its efforts to ensure modifications to the schools attendance boundaries make sense for the community:

Request to modify Scenario 10(A) to include Arthur Street South in the attendance boundary for St. Jacobs PS; this area has a pedestrian connection to St. Jacobs PS, allowing students to walk or bike to the school they are geographically closer to.

The ARC discussed the request and determined that it would require a very minor modification to the boundary line. **The ARC Agreed to modify Scenario 10(A) St. Jacobs PS boundary as stated above and Mr. Hercanuck to make the necessary modifications to scenario pieces.**

**Discussion:**

Q: Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC members if they received any feedback on the Public Meeting from their school community.

C: Wayne Dunham advised that some members of the Three Bridges PS community expressed concern that the ARC's modification of the school attendance boundaries to allow the Three Bridges PS students to attend Floradale PS would be at the expense of St. Jacobs PS students now being required to attend Floradale PS as well; and felt that those students should continue to attend St. Jacobs PS. He also noted that there is still an uncertainty as to whether any Three Bridges PS families will chose to attend Floradale PS.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the ARC will be discussing transition ideas to alleviate those types of concerns and noted that there had been much discussion on this boundary change and the ARC felt that there was good reason for the boundary modification.

C: Christine Shantz asked how many St. Jacobs PS families would be affected by the boundary change

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that there are approximately 4 families in the affected area and 2 of those families also have children attending Three Bridge PS; so may only affect 2 families. Mr. Hercanuck also noted that not all of the existing Three Bridge PS families will be included in the new boundary for Floradale PS (those south of Hawkesville Road).

C: Christine Shantz noted that some members of the community expressed the opinion that it is never right to close a school; and asked if the ARC's report will explain the reasons the ARC has chosen to do so.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the ARC's report will tell the story of how the ARC came to its decision.

C: Mr. Hercanuck advised that Planning staff would be happy to attend a school council meeting at any of the review area schools to talk about the review if requested by the school council.

Q: Elmer Horst asked why the Board believes that bigger schools are better when there are those in the community that feel that smaller is better.

R: Mr. Hercanuck acknowledged that there are varied opinions on the matter and noted that the Board has a policy (Board Policy [3002](#)) that outlines the preferred number of students to support optimal learning environment for students and collaborative supports for teachers.

**4. The Accommodation Report:  
Confirm Scenarios**

Mr. Hercanuck advised that one of the key reasons for Public Meeting #3 was to confirm with the community the ARC's preferred options to be included in the Accommodation Report to the Board of Trustees. To date we have not received any negative feedback on the options (Status Quo and Scenario 10(A)) or the strategy with which we will be presenting them.

Mr. Hercanuck asked the ARC if they were in agreement with the scenarios Status Quo and 10(A) as follows to be the ARC's recommendation going forward in the Report:

### Status Quo

ARC feels it is not their mandate to make decision on continuing the commitment on 'understandings' between WRDSB and Three Bridges PS Community.  
Status Quo to be presented as preferred option moving forward with that commitment.

### Scenario 10(A)

Three Bridges PS closed. Population directed to Floradale PS and St. Jacobs PS. Boundary adjustments between Floradale/St. Jacobs PS and Floradale PS/Linwood PS.  
Recognition that the Board will likely lose a portion of Three Bridges PS community with change.

**The ARC agreed that scenarios Status Quo and 10(A) are the options to be included in the ARC's Report to the Board of Trustees.**

### **Implementation (boundary changes, closures)**

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the ARC also needs to recommend implementation and timing of the scenarios being carried forward.

### **Status Quo**

- No change from the existing situation, Schools continue to operate as is;

**No change to implement.**

### **Scenario 10(A)**

- School closure – Three Bridges
- Boundary changes:
  - Linwood PS/Floradale PS
  - Three Bridges PS/St. Jacobs PS

### **Consideration of grandparenting option to ease the transition.**

#### **Timing – Scenario 10(A):**

Mr. Hercanuck advised that because of the minimum required timelines of the Accommodation Review process and the next school year staffing deadlines, the earliest possible date of implementation of any changes would be September of 2014.

#### **Transitions – Scenario 10(A):**

Mr. Hercanuck advised that the Board historically offered grandparenting to reduce transitions for students so they do not have to change schools twice in a two-year period; for example, allowing the Grade 8 class to finish at the school they started at. This could be offered to the St. Jacobs, Linwood and Floradale PS students affected by the boundary changes and to their siblings as previously discussed, but would be for one year only; siblings would then have to move to their new boundary school after the eldest has graduated. He noted that this option would not be available for the Three Bridges PS Grade 8 students as it would not be practical to run a school with only a Grade 8/school population of 30 students.

For Three Bridges PS the ARC could recommend that all students who are enrolled in the school the year prior to the closure of Three Bridges PS be offered the choice to attend St. Jacobs PS or Floradale PS with transportation provided until the student finishes Grade 8. He noted that this would only be offered to children who are attending school; and any siblings who are not in school the year prior to the closure would have to attend the new boundary area school. This grandparenting option would end once these students have moved through the elementary system; any new children or families would be required to attend the revised boundary school.

- C: Vlad Kovac asked if the Three Bridges PS siblings who are attending St. Jacobs PS for the JK/SK program would also be offered this grandparenting option.
- R: **The ARC agreed to offer the extended grandfathering option to St. Jacobs PS Kindergarten students that have siblings attending Three Bridges PS** since Three Bridges PS does not offer the Kindergarten program.
- C: Geoff Suderman-Gladwell commented that the extended grandparenting option can be considered an attempt at an extension and phasing-out of the historical agreement with the Three Bridges PS community and tries to continue to address their cultural concerns. The other review schools have other cultures and may not require this consideration.

The ARC discussed at length the grandparenting options and debated whether this option should also be offered to all other review area students affected by boundary changes. **The ARC agreed to only offer the extended grandfathering option to the Three Bridges PS students and offer the Grade 8 grandparenting only to St. Jacobs, Floradale and Linwood PS students in an attempt to be sensitive to the historical agreement.** It was noted that the low number of students being redirected from St. Jacobs PS to Floradale PS may be able to be accommodated by special request ([Board Procedure 1040 – Boundary Requests – Elementary Schools](#)) to apply to attend St. Jacobs PS if enrolment numbers do not pierce provincial cap sizes; but would be required to provide their own transportation to and from school.

#### **Three Bridges PS Closure – Transitions:**

**The ARC agreed to recommend in its Report the following grandparenting option for the Three Bridges PS students:**

All Three Bridges PS students who are enrolled in the school the year prior to the closure of Three Bridges PS will be offered the choice to attend St. Jacobs PS or Floradale PS with transportation provided until the student finishes Grade 8. This would only be offered to children who are attending school and any siblings who are attending St. Jacobs PS for the Kindergarten program in the 2013-2014 school year; other siblings who are not enrolled in school the year prior to the closure would have to attend the new boundary area school.

#### **Boundary Changes (Projection Areas A, I and J) affecting Floradale, Linwood and St. Jacobs Public PS students:**

**The ARC agreed to recommend in its Report the following grandparenting option for Floradale, Linwood and St. Jacobs PS students affected by the boundary change:**

To allow students that will be entering into Grade 8 in the first year of the changes (September 2014) the option to complete their Grade 8 at their current school.

### **5. Capital Expenditures**

Referring to slides 7 and 8 of the online presentation Mr. Hercanuck noted that in terms of capital needs, we have discussed the 10 year maintenance needs, and required capital and optional capital as outline. The difference between the optional and required is that the required has legislation or student safety interests behind it. Optional refers to upgrades of existing facilities, which while present are below a certain benchmark the Board would like to achieve across all schools. Scenario 10(A) totals are less the costs for Three Bridges PS.

The ARC discussed recommending a rebuild of St. Jacobs PS and discussed how the approval of that request would affect the Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) program addition to the school. Mr. Hercanuck advised that the Board has requested \$1 million funding from the Ministry of Education to make the necessary special accommodations for the FDK program at St. Jacobs

PS; the Board can put off building the space until a decision has been reached on a rebuild as long as St. Jacobs PS can offer the program in September 2014. Mr. Hercanuck also noted that once St. Jacobs PS receives Ministry funding for FDK, it might move up the priorities list for other upgrades (gym, library). The Board's Elementary Accommodation Committee may adjust their priorities list when the possibility exists to be able to package projects together to achieve a better price for construction.

Mr. Hercanuck also advised that the approval and funding of a rebuild of St. Jacobs PS will have to come from the Province (Ministry of Education) and timing of the project will also be dependent on provincial priorities as well.

**The ARC agreed to recommend a rebuild of St. Jacobs PS in its Report to the Board.**

Mr. Hercanuck advised that Board staff will also be preparing their report in response to the ARC's report which will detail the requirements needed to achieve the recommendations.

**The ARC agreed the Mr. Hercanuck would write the Report of the ARC on their behalf and the ARC would review/revise the Report before Public Meeting #4.**

**6. Future Meeting Dates/Times:**

Mr. Hercanuck noted that he will prepare the draft report and send it out to the ARC prior to our next ARC meeting.

- ARC Meeting #17 – November 14, 2012 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Linwood PS

Public Meeting #4 will be used to share the Draft Report with the community and seek feedback for modifications to the report.

- Public Meeting #4 – TBD likely December 2012 or January 2013

Once the Report is presented to the Board of Trustees at a Committee of the Whole meeting, the Trustees will have a 60 day waiting period to consider the report (this time period cannot include winter, spring or summer breaks). The Trustees will vote on the ARC's recommendations during a future Committee of the Whole meeting with decisions ratified at the meeting of the Board in the last week of the month. The community will be notified when this is to occur.

**Action Items:**

- **Mr. Hercanuck to modify the boundary for Scenario 10(A) to include Arthur St. S. in the St. Jacobs PS boundary and adjust scenario pieces accordingly.**
- **Mr. Hercanuck to prepare the draft report and include the transitions pieces and recommendation for a rebuild of St. Jacobs PS; the Report to be sent out to the ARC prior to the next Working Group meeting.**

Mr. Hercanuck thanked the ARC members for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

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**FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

**ARC MEETINGS:**

**ARC Meeting #17:** November 14, 2012 – Linwood PS

**PUBLIC MEETINGS:**

**Public Meeting #4:** Dec 2012 or Jan 2013