



**Preston Area Elementary Schools Boundary Study  
Comments/Feedback of Public Meeting # 3 Open House  
May 28, 2009  
Preston Public School, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

- good update
  - looking forward to having the discussion
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Thank you for sharing 6B. If those numbers are correct than this should be an absolute no brainer. It meets all criteria. Keep Preston together. By far the best Scenario to date.

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I believe that Scenario 6B fragments not only one but two communities. Area A and Area B will be fragmented. This scenario was removed by the working group for precisely this reason. Both Scenario 1 and scenario 3a are viable options. It is obvious that these scenarios need to remain front runners.

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As a Deer Ridge resident I prefer Scenario 3a. I look forward to the upgrades at Grand View where children will have the latest equipment, technology in the Learning Resource Centre.

A note to the voting trustees: You can please some of the people some of the time but you can't please all of the people all of the time. I hope you make the decision that offends the least amount of people.

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It seems to me that Scenario 6B fits the criteria the best. I understand that it splits Deer Ridge but unfortunately it is not a community that has been around as long as the Preston Core. To say it is, is ridiculous.

The safety issues are regarding street crossing only, and I find it hard to believe that the "Stranger Danger" issue is not considered extremely important. A child that walks twice as far is twice as likely to encounter such dangers. A child that is bussed will never encounter that in their travels to school.

The proposed changes to the school are only proposals and I have zero confidence that they will follow through – which changes the scenarios greatly.

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Safety issues concerning Area D walking to Grand View need to high priority. It is a dangerous walk – no stop signs peak traffic times and speeding highschool students, the kids have a longer walk and are subjected to more stranger danger concerns. Crossing at a stoplight on King continues to be the safest walk for these children.

Scenario 6B is an option that should be taken seriously – numbers and cost appear to be feasible. There is fragmentation for A but Scenario 1 fragments a longtime community of C and D.

This boundary process really should never have begun until there was equal representation of all areas involved – needed a rep from Area D!

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Area A2 + A1 will continue to grow with younger families. This Area needs to have consideration to stay together and perhaps be placed in a Kitchener school?

Area D cannot be crossing be crossing Westminster safely. Changes will need to be made with stops at each intersection!

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Preferred Scenario is #1

1. Most cost effective (saves ¼ million) (we don't need to pay more taxes)
  2. Brings the West side of Preston together as a community
  3. Does not fragment A
  4. Allows for Preston children to be grandfathered as bussed kids are difficult to do
  5. Meets the school boards objectives + is in the best interest of children.
  - 6.
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Thanks for the display + people on hand to advise

We are in favor of 3a – Which would leave our children at Preston Public – Coming from Deer Ridge school is the only “community” our kids know. For that reason we vehemently oppose plan 6B – it is the least favourable option. I don't care if it balances the “numbers” the best. Because those “numbers” are children – many of whom are my kids friends!

If scenario 1 is chosen. I think the kids who are going into gr. 6 when the change occurs should be allowed to remain at Preston P. – Too many changes as well as each kid should experience being in grade six.

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I think the most logical choice would be scenario 6b. It achieves the optimal balance of numbers for both schools, and it avoids the very serious issue facing scenario 1, which has students walking past the flow of traffic in the area. Scenario 1 also means area D students will have on average an extra 400 meters to walk to school. This would be of particular concern in the winter months, as well as for the younger children. I think it would be much easier for the children to accept this proposal as it doesn't break up the many neighbourhood friendships between area C & D students. The area A students

are more of a schooltime friendship with the area C students, so I think it would be in the best interest of the children to keep areas C and D together. It would also be beneficial for Grand View if the Deer Ridge community were given the opportunity to apply their spectacular fundraising efforts on behalf of Grand View.

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If area "D" is one of the affected areas in these discussions, then why is there no area "D" representative on the working committee?

Safety is also an issue in these discussions; one that has been overlooked or perhaps not of concern to some. If area "D" is moved to Grand View most of the children then have to walk further and across more "stop sign Roads".

Think about this stuff as a parent. Think of what would be of concern if your child were to be affected by this.

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The issue of safety should be one of the most important considerations of this process and has not.

One can only appreciate this issue when living it.

As a "D" parent crossing King St. is much safer that crossing 8 intersections without lights with over 1/2 of the intersections crossing against traffic.

This has been disputed throughout the process but I must continue the debate.

The definition of community

D & C = Cambridge Community

A = Kitchener Community

Very defining for locale. Don't split.

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Please do not consider splitting up A into two sections.

Are you really going to spend money upgrading Grandview when the Board doesn't have enough for text books?

-PPS Parent

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We currently live on Marquette Drive and consider ourselves part of the "historic" Preston community as wells as the Preston Public community. We have established a sense of "family" at the school and I think that is why this transition seems like it would be difficult. I am however open to change but would prefer to keep my son here at Preston.

- Preston Parent

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The school our son attends has a lot of parent evolvment and some financial support as well. The school will be impacted by our change in a negative way. It looks as Grandview needs more amenities as it is. No computer room and a very small library. This is a major change for our children. We have worked very hard

with fundraisers to get what we have at Preston Public. We would be disappointed with a change. The children from our street have come here for more than 20 years. We are a community and I realize it is easier to move us, then the kids that walk. Thanks for your consideration. P.S. We want to stay at Preston Public.

- Preston Public Parent

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Seems to me Scenario 3a is the best option for everyone involved (except, of course, the Area A parents/kids who want to continue at PPS)

- It does not fragment geographically established communities (D&C)
- It introduces full day every second day kindergarten to Grandview (Parents will love it!)
- It maintains full day every second day kindergarten at PPS (my wife loves it)
- My kids maintain contact with their neighbours/friends south of King St

-Preston Public School Parent

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Our families preferred Scenario is #1. Firstly it affects the least number of families (e.g. 90 vs 130). More importantly, Scenario #1 is the least expensive option. We feel that grandfathering is extremely important for those children in the older grades (i.e. 4, 5, 6). Scenario #1 allows for grandfathering to happen whereas with Scenario 3a it would be more costly and not as easy to transition.

- We in Section "A" want to stay together no matter what
- Not a class issue

-Preston Public School Parent

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I have 3 children (age 6 & 8) who are presently attending P.P.S. I feel this boundary change will be a difficult adjustment for all those kids being transitioned with whatever change. We live in the Pioneer Tower area and feel that based on the numbers it only makes sense that they stay at P.P.S. This is the least expensive option! Gone are the days that kids get to go to a school in their neighbourhood. If not then please do a new review and build us a new school. I have a hard time imagining that the school board (if Scenario 3A is chosen) be required to accommodate the numbers from Area A. We should just have a new school to accommodate the whole area. Spend the \$ please. I also want to say that this is not a class issue – come on people!

-Preston Public Parent

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Option 3a

- Doesn't make sense to spend an extra quarter million dollars, disrupt 50% more students and families, & disrupt 50% more Preston staff.

-Preston Public

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I attended the Boudary Open House at PPS tonight and it left me feeling very unsettled. I went to this Open House with the idea that the decision was far from being made, and that the planners were to take everyone's ideas from tonight and help them make their recommendation to the trustees. The planner that I spoke with said that the planners pretty much have decided that they will be recommending scenario 3a. The most frustrating part was when she said that, when they first started working, they figured they'd just do the logical thing and move area D to Grandview and it would be as simple as that, BUT there was a big uproar from area D, so they now think that it's probably a better idea to move A to Grandview. Really? We are going to trump logic with and uproar of complaints?

The planners job is to look at all the scenarios and choose the one that makes the most sense. This planner basically told me that they were willing to give up the scenario that would make the most sense because the people in area D have been very vocal in their complaints. I don't understand how they can rationalize scenario 3a as being the best. They will be bussing an entire neighbourhood past 2 schools (Parkway, Preston) to a school that is much further away than necessary. That just doesn't make sense!

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I was astounded to see a purportedly 'new' scenario being presented at last night's public meeting. No where in the meeting announcement or in the WRDSB boundary study process document (<http://www.wrdsb.on.ca/planning/BoundaryStudyProcessChart.pdf>) does it mention that individual groups can present their own scenarios for consideration at public meetings.

Scenario 6 & its variants was already resoundingly rejected by members of the public at the last public meeting, and by the working group. Allowing a small group to present an already rejected scenario simply undermines the working group and confuses the public.

It is not clear why this group continues to press for dividing Area A, when there is a solution on the table that keeps their own self-declared area together.