



ELMIRA BOUNDARY STUDY
Minutes of Working Group Meeting #10
October 29, 2013
From 10:30 am – 12:00 noon
Riverside Public School

The tenth and final meeting of the Elmira Boundary Study Working Group, involving [John Mahood](#), [Park Manor](#) and [Riverside](#) Public Schools, was held at Riverside Public School on Tuesday, October 29, 2013.

Attendees:

Brent Hatcher, Principal, Riverside PS, James Bond, Principal, Park Manor PS, Sabrina Windatt, Parent Representative, Park Manor PS, D. Sinclair, Parent Representative, John Mahood PS, Tracey Williams, Parent Representative, Riverside PS, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner and Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary.

Regrets:

Tracy Tait, Principal, John Mahood PS, R. Playford, Parent Representative, Riverside PS, Liz Robinson, Parent Representative, John Mahood PS, Lauren Manske, Senior Planner, John Scarfone, Manager of Planning Township of Woolwich, Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects and Elaine Ranney, Area Superintendent of Education.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, welcomed members of the Working Group at 10:30 AM.

Mr. Hercanuck led the group through the presentation (available online at <http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/elmira-boundary-study>)

2. Draft Minutes Review:

Mr. Hercanuck asked if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes from **Working Group Meeting #9 (October 8, 2013)**

No errors or omissions were reported. The minutes were approved without change.

Moved by: T. Williams Seconded by: S. Windatt

Mr. Hercanuck advised that the minutes will be posted on the Board's website at: <http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/elmira-boundary-study>

3. Public Meeting #2:

Public Meeting #2 - Tuesday, October 22, 2013 from 7:00-8:30 PM at Park Manor PS.

Meeting Format:

- [Presentation](#)
- Q & A (included in [minutes](#))
- Open House - Display Boards:
 - [Scenario 1](#)
 - [Scenario 1 versus the Objectives](#)

Mr. Hercanuck noted that approximately 43 members of the community attended Public Meeting #2 and feedback (which was shared with the Working Group via email after the meeting) received both verbally at the meeting and in writing via the comment sheets, were positive. He also noted that there were quite a few questions about the French Immersion Program.

Feedback from Public Meeting #2:

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the comments sheets received were:

- supportive of JK-6 and 7-8 model
- supportive of boundaries remaining the same
- supportive of temporarily assigning the new Lunor subdivision to John Mahood PS until the new Riverside PS is built.

Q: S. Windatt asked if any questions about discarded scenarios were asked.

R: No. But a question about sending the Lunor subdivision to Floradale PS was asked.

Q: Is that Accommodation Review near completion?

R: Right now it is scheduled to go before the Board of Trustees on November 18th possibly the same time we will bring our Boundary Study report and recommendations.

Q: Have there been any new developments with the Lunor Subdivision?

R: Mr. Cuomo responded that the development has not registered yet, and advised that the Board is keeping a close eye on the situation and will be ready to complete the purchase of the school site once the development registers. He advised that the longer it takes for the development to register the better for us; to allow time to have the Lunor subdivision assigned to John Mahood PS's boundary temporarily before any lots are sold.

C: T. Williams commented that there is the possibility that the development could register and set up a sales office trailer rather quickly; noting that the website is operational and providing updates to those that have registered and includes links to the builder's websites. They may start to sell lots without building a model home.

After reviewing the feedback from Public Meeting #2 the Working Group agreed to move forward with Scenario 1 as the preferred recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

4. Report Recommendations

Mr. Hercanuck advised that he will write the Report to the Board of Trustees to include the following recommendations (which will be located at the end of the report):

- **New Riverside P.S. to be constructed as a 550 pupil place JK-6 school, tentatively scheduled to open September 2016, contingent upon Ministry of Education approval and funding.**
- **Change the school organizations for John Mahood and Riverside Public Schools from JK-5 to JK-6 upon the completion and occupancy of the new Riverside Public School.**
- **Change the school organization of Park Manor Public School from 6-8 to 7-8 upon the completion and occupancy of the new Riverside Public School.**
- **The Board to consider a 6 classroom addition at John Mahood P.S. to open September 2016 contingent upon Ministry of Education approval and funding.**

Mr. Hercanuck asked the Working Group if they are in agreement with the Recommendations.

Q: Principal Bond asked if Floradale PS could be considered has an option for a temporary holding school for the Lunor subdivision once a decision has been made on the Woolwich & Wellesley Townships Accommodation Review.

- R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that it would depend on the outcome of the Woolwich & Wellesley Townships Accommodation Review – noting that there are plans to utilize the space at Floradale PS under that accommodation review process.
- Q: Could Floradale PS be put back on the table at a later date should there be issues with the accommodation of the Lunor subdivision at John Mahood PS (i.e., issues with gym space) and Floradale PS still has surplus capacity?
- R: Mr. Cuomo responded that we could decide to send the first phase of development in the Lunor Subdivision to John Mahood PS; and consider sending subsequent phases elsewhere if needed. He advised that the Board's submission to the Ministry requesting funding for the rebuild of Riverside PS (which is the #1 priority of the [Board's list of Capital Priorities](#) going to the Ministry on October 31, 2013) alludes to the fact that a 6 classroom addition at John Mahood PS has been identified as part of the boundary study for this new Riverside PS; it is not an item on our list this time around, but the Ministry has been notified that it is part of our solution for the area and the Board will be looking for funding for this project in the future. This project will be prioritized by the Board as part of next year's funding submission.
- Q: Principal Hatcher asked if there is any chance that the Ministry would fund them both this time around.
- R: Mr. Cuomo responded that there may be a slim chance, they have done something similar in the past (for Breslau PS the Ministry funded additional rooms above our request). Mr. Cuomo cautioned that the Ministry has communicated that it has reduced the amount of funding for capital projects this year (down 50% over last year from \$700 million to \$350 million provide-wide) which means the Board could be looking at receiving a 50% reduction in funding for requested projects this year over last year.
- Q: S. Windatt asked if the Board could request a larger school to be able to accommodate future (10 years from now) growth in the area. It may not be a good use of tax dollars to have to add portables to the school in 2023 when we could have built bigger.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the guideline for new school funding request is that a new school must be 80 percent full within 5 years of opening. Mr. Hercanuck advised that the development cap for the township will limit the amount of growth which will help limit the enrolment.
- C: Mr. Cuomo commented that it is almost expected to have a couple of portables on a new school in a new neighbourhood. He noted that the new Riverside PS will be built so that an addition can be constructed in the future if needed; he advised that the requested capacity is adequate for what we are projecting. The Ministry could fund us for larger if they thought we were being conservative; they could also fund it for larger at the expense of giving up the addition for John Mahood PS.
- C: Mr. Hercanuck advised that the 10 year projections are showing 550 and that is the capacity we would want to build the new Riverside PS for. He advised that schools are expected to last 50 - 80 years and once the neighbourhood has gone through its peak; we start taking portables away and end up with surplus space if we build for the peak. The Board takes a lot of flak for having portables on new schools but we know from experience that enrolment will peak and then stabilize lower. He noted that generally when people move into the neighbourhood they stay and there isn't a lot of turnover. He noted that there can be exceptions (such as the W.T. Townshend PS and Williamsburg PS areas in Kitchener).

- C: Mr. Hercanuck noted that the possibility exists for the Board to have to revisit the area again in 10-15 years and revisit the JK-8 option as other areas of future potential development come on. He advised that the new (JK-6) schools are being designed so 7-8 classrooms can be constructed in the future should the need arise.
- C: Principal Bond commented that he had seen a similar situation (Northlake Woods PS) where the school at its peak was over 700 students and has dropped down to 400 students.
- C: Mr. Hercanuck advised that the peak for Elmira will be slowed down because of the restriction (100 unit/year cap) that the Township has in place to limit development; Northlake Woods PS area would not have had that restriction on development.

Mr. Hercanuck asked if the Working Group was in agreement with the recommendations or wished to have an item highlighted in the body of the report.

Q: Principal Bond asked if the transition charts will be included in the report.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the transition pieces would be written into the recommendations so that they clearly state the grandfathering options, who it applies to and if transportation is included and for how long.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the one recommendation he doesn't have included is the designation of the Lunor subdivision to John Mahood PS.

Mr. Cuomo suggested making that Lunor Subdivision recommendation in 2 separate motions:

- 1. To carve out as a development area to be separate from any attendance area.**
- 2. To temporarily assign that development area to John Mahood PS.**

Mr. Cuomo advised that this would allow us to designate that development area to a school other than John Mahood PS if need be by just changing the second part of the motion.

Q: T. Williams asked if this would then be communicated to the developers so that potential buyers would be made aware.

R: Mr. Cuomo responded that we have missed the opportunity to have that included into the agreements of purchase and sale (this information would have been required when the developer was first proposing the new subdivision). He advised that we would bring the information to the sales trailer, include signage and advertise in the local paper.

C: Principal Hatcher advised that the Observer had already communicated that piece.

Q: D. Sinclair asked if we should be recommending a double gym for John Mahood PS as well.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that whenever the Board does large construction projects it tends to look at those other types of needs (library and gym) as well.

Q: D. Sinclair asked if the Working Group would be able to view the report before it goes to the Board.

R: Yes. Mr. Hercanuck advised that he would send the draft report out to the Working Group via email once he has finished it and let you know when the date is confirmed for the report to be presented to the Board; the hope is that it will be presented on November 18th if it can be included in the agenda; if it doesn't make that agenda will likely not go to the Board until January.

The Working Group agreed with the recommendations as presented.

5. Next Meetings:

This was the final meeting of the Elmira Boundary Study Working Group.

The Report will be presented to the Board of Trustees for their approval of the recommendation at a **Committee of The Whole Meeting** – date to be determined.

6. Roundtable:

- Q: Principal Hatcher asked if the report with recommendations will be included in the Board's capital funding request submission to the Ministry of Education.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that the Board's Capital Priorities submission to the Ministry will be transmitted to the Ministry on October 31, 2013 and that the rebuild of Riverside PS is the number 1 priority on that list. He advised that the Board has always planned to replace Riverside PS and that it why it had made an agreement to purchase the school site in the Lunor Subdivision. This Boundary Study was initiated to determine the grade structure of the new school. The Board anticipates that it will have a response in the spring from the Ministry on what projects have been funded.
- Q: Principal Hatcher asked if there would be enough time between a spring 2014 announcement of funding to have the new school open in September 2016.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that there would be sufficient time to have the new Riverside PS built in time for September 2016 if funding was received in the spring of 2014.
- Q: S. Windatt asked what happens if we don't get the funding – do we push everything out a year?
- R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that while funding is not guaranteed; historically the Ministry has funded the Board's number one request. If they don't fund, we will have to come up with something else.
- Q: S. Windatt asked if parents can decide to not have their children attend the designated home school.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that there is an [out-of-boundary request procedure](#) that can be initiated by the parent; but advised that acceptance would only occur in September and be at the discretion of the Principal and the request would have to be renewed each year. It would depend on whether the requested school had sufficient space and would not have to add another class or need a portable to accommodate.
- R: Administrators rarely approve these requests, unless they are for special circumstances; they don't want to accept some and then have to turn others away.
- Q: S. Windatt asked who decides if they will take the grandparenting option.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that the grandparenting option will only apply to specific students (Grade 5 class) and will not apply to their siblings.
- Q: T. Williams asked if we will still be directing the Lunor Subdivision students to John Mahood PS.
- R: Yes, Mr. Hercanuck advised that this will be the recommendation.

Mr. Hercanuck advised that this was the final meeting of the Working Group and thanked the members for their hard work, dedication and all the time spent on developing the recommended solution for this boundary study process. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Action Items:

- **Mr. Hercanuck to include that Lunor Subdivision recommendation in 2 separate motions:**
 - **To carve out as a development area to be separate from any attendance area.**
 - **To temporarily assign that development area to John Mahood PS.**
 - **Mr. Hercanuck to provide draft report to Working Group.**
 - **Mr. Hercanuck to advise the Working Group of the date the report will be presented to the Board of Trustees.**
 - **Minutes of Working Group #10 to be approved via email.**
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Post Meeting:

Minutes of Working Group Meeting #10 were approved via email;

Moved by D. Sinclair, Seconded by Brent Hatcher

