



HURON VILLAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY STUDY

Minutes of Working Group Meeting #2

October 16, 2012 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Education Centre, Planning Dept. Meeting Room

The second Working Group Meeting of the Huron Village Boundary Study Working Group, involving [Alpine](#), [Country Hills](#), [Laurentian](#) and [Jean Steckle Public Schools](#), was held at the Waterloo Region District School Board, Education Centre on Tuesday, October 16., 2012.

Attendees:

Brian Burnley, Principal, Courtland Avenue PS and future Principal of Jean Steckle PS, Sandy Dawson, Principal, Laurentian PS, Pam Kaur, Principal, Alpine PS, Evelyn Giannopoulos, Principal, Country Hills PS, Jeff Adam, Vice Principal, Laurentian PS., Stephanie Brasseur, Parent Representative, Alpine PS and Laurentian PS, Cinnamon Abdallah, Parent Representative, Alpine PS, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, Lauren Manske, Senior Planner, Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary.

Regrets:

Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent of Education, Sherri Davidson, Vice Principal, Country Hills PS, Monica Nickel, Parent Representative, Laurentian PS.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Lauren Manske, Senior Planner welcomed members of the Working Group at 2:05 pm.

Ms. Manske led the group through the presentation (available online at <http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/huron-village-boundary-study/>)

2. Requested Materials:

(a) Laurentian West Grade 7/8 students – enrolment projections

Referring to slides 3-5 of the online presentation which is in response to Principal Dawson's request from the last meeting to consider boundary options to allow students in Laurentian West (see map on slide 4) who are in the boundary of Queensmount PS to attend Laurentian PS because they are within walking distance; Ms. Manske gave a background on the [Southwest \(SW\) Kitchener Boundary Study](#) which concluded in 2009, to explain why those students were directed to Queensmount PS. The SW Kitchener Boundary Study which initially included Laurentian PS and its feeder schools, determined that at that time these schools did not have enough surplus capacity to accommodate the over enrolment of about 350 students at the W.T. Townshend facility. The recommendation to direct the Laurentian West students to Queensmount PS was fully implemented to include both the grades 7 and 8 in September 2011.

Ms. Manske advised of the following reasons why the working group should not further consider the above option:

- Time restraints for the Huron Village Boundary Study. Board will need to have a boundary in place prior to February 2013 for the new Jean Steckle PS opening in September 2013.
- The accommodation of all of the students in the Laurentian West area would greatly exceed the capacity of Laurentian PS.
- The redirection of those students could likely harm the quality of the 7-8 program at Queensmount PS without replacing the number of students lost; therefore would require the inclusion of more schools (Queensmount PS and feeder schools) into the boundary study, which would require starting the process over.

Ms. Manske advised that it may be more appropriate for the working group to recommend that sometime in the future that the Board undertake a senior elementary school boundary study that would encompass all our area senior elementary schools. She noted that the projection numbers shown on slide 5 include all students, and school projections factor in students attending other schools for French Immersion and special requests.

(b) Huron Village Study Area enrolment projections

Referring to Slide 6 of the online presentation, Ms. Manske noted that while she does have projections out to 2023, the working group may only want to consider to 2017 as the Board is will likely be doing a boundary study for another new school by that time. Enrolment Projections include Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) numbers in the respective years at Alpine PS and Country Hills PS.

(c) Secondary School Attendance Boundary Map

- [Cameron Heights Collegiate attendance area boundary map](#)
- [Huron Heights Secondary School attendance area boundary map](#)

The secondary school boundaries will not be affected by the boundary study and these maps are provided for information purposes. Maps can be zoomed in to view street names.

(d) Development Activity Maps:

- City of Kitchener's Growth Management Plan Map (Slide 9)
Shows areas of new development colour coded to indicate timelines for development.
- Huron and Huron South (Slide 10)
Shows new development in Huron and Huron South colour coded to indicate timelines for development.
- Rosenberg (Slide 11)
Shows new development in Rosenberg colour coded to indicate timelines for development.
- Kitchener Master Growth Management Plan – Summary (Slide 11)
Provides summary of development activity for Huron, Huron South and Rosenberg.
- Huron Village Boundary Study Area Development Activity (Slide 12)
Map of Study Area with new development areas included, broken down into projection areas (D-W)
- Projection Areas (D-V) development information (Slide 13)
Indicating proposed number of total units and estimated timing for the 1st phase of development expected in each projection area.

The working group discussed the new development areas and the effects that the anticipated development would have on enrolment at Jean Steckle PS if all new development area students are to be directed there. It was also noted that the timing for the new developments will be dependent on market shifts. New schools can be a big draw for families to buy into neighbourhoods.

3. Refine Goals/Objectives (slide 14)

Ms. Manske provided a list of draft goals/objectives used in past reviews to gather input from working group on appropriate goals/objectives for the Huron Village Boundary Study.

The working group reviewed the list and agreed to include the following draft goals/objectives for Public Meeting #1 and to ask for input/feedback from the community:

- To reduce the potential for combined grade classes at schools by moving towards the following criteria (from Board Policy 3002 - Elementary School Size and Configuration)
 - JK-6 facilities between 350 and 400 students (approx. 2 classes per grade)
 - JK-8 facilities between 500 and 650 students (approx. 2 classes per grade)
- To increase the number of students within walking distance to their assigned school
- To establish boundaries that are long-term (approx. 10 years) and consider:
 - Walking distances (community/neighbourhood-level schools)
 - Efficiency of transportation
 - Capacity of schools
 - Current and future population density and demographics
 - Impact on feeder and surrounding schools
- To minimize the impact on students and schools where changes are proposed (consideration for grandparenting, phasing, transitions, etc.)

4. Scenario Development:

Scenario 3 map with boundaries (Slide 15)

All new development areas would be directed to Jean Steckle PS until a new school on Tartan Drive can be built. Variations (a, b and c) show projected enrolments with Jean Steckle PS opening with varying grade structure as indicated below:

Scenario 3a - Jean Steckle PS opening as JK-8 (slide 16)

Scenario 3b - Jean Steckle PS opening as JK-7 (slide 17)

Scenario 3c - Jean Steckle PS opening as JK-6 (slide 18)

Scenario 5 map with boundaries (Slide 19)

New development area west of WT Townshend PS would be directed to Alpine PS with the rest of Huron Village area new development directed to Jean Steckle PS until a new school on Tartan Drive can be built. Variation (a, b and c) show projected enrolments with Jean Steckle PS opening with varying grade structure as indicated below:

Scenario 5a - Jean Steckle PS opening as JK-8 (slide 20)

Scenario 5b - Jean Steckle PS opening as JK-7 (slide 21)

Scenario 5c - Jean Steckle PS opening as JK-6 (slide 22)

The working group discussed the scenarios and enrolment projections noting that:

- It may be preferable, due to the amount and unpredictability of the new residential developments within the boundary study area, to open Jean Steckle PS as a JK-6 facility until the Board is able to open a new facility on Tartan Drive.
- This would also help protect the 7-8 program at Laurentian PS. Important to note that both Alpine and Country Hills Public Schools will still feed to Laurentian PS for grades 7 and 8 after Jean Steckle PS is open.
- To consider allowing the Grade 6 students to stay at their current school rather than having to change schools for just 1 year before having to attend Laurentian PS. Therefore, should Jean Steckle PS only go up to Grade 6 initially, it would operate the first year as JK-5.
- Important to ensure that students do not change schools twice in a two-year period.
- Try to minimize the amount that specific schools are being used as a 'holding school' to limit effects of students feeling left behind when classmates move on to a new school.
- The community is expecting Jean Steckle PS to open as a JK-8 facility. Ms. Manske noted that the Board, being mindful of the number of transitions for students, has never opened a new school as a JK-8 in its very first year, instead has opened them as JK-7 to allow for the Grade 8 students to finish out at their current school before transitioning again for Grade 9.
- Concerns that, should Jean Steckle PS offer the JK-8 program and the enrolment from the new development areas may create a similar situation which was experienced at W.T. Townshend PS where the school was operating as a JK-8 and had to revert to a JK-6 due to over enrolment.
- Jean Steckle PS operating as a JK-6 would result in specialized 7-8 program classrooms (i.e., tech) being unused but would allow space to accommodate students from the new development areas.
- Laurentian PS could also require portables to accommodate any 7-8 students from the new development areas as well.
- Need to decide the boundary that is best for everyone as a community considering the impacts on students and schools for the next few years
- Once a boundary has been set, it will be important to get that information out to the new communities.
- Development areas west of Fisher-Hallman Road should be excluded from the Jean Steckle PS boundary; which will allow students from these areas to be assigned to schools with space, as they develop.

5. **Public Meeting #1:**

Tuesday, October 30, 2012 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Country Hills P.S.

(a) Format

Formal presentation to begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a question and answer period. Information boards will be available in the gym and Planning Staff will be available after the formal question and answer period to answer questions one-on-one.

The purpose of the Public Meeting is to provide information, explain the boundary study process and ask for input from the community.

Ms. Manske advised that the information to be presented at the meeting will be made available on the Board's website the day of the meeting.

(b) Scenarios to be presented

The working group agreed to:

- present Scenarios 3 and 5 highlighting variations b and c for the different grade structures at Jean Steckle PS;
- inform the community that Jean Steckle PS will not open as a JK-8 facility; although it will be built to eventually accommodate grades 7 and 8;
- to address transitions for Grade 6 students.

6. Roundtable

Ms. Manske advised that the working group will revisit the objectives after the Public Meeting feedback has been received.

Action Items:

- Ms. Manske to revise scenarios to address Grade 6 transition.
- Ms. Manske to revise goals/objectives to read: *“To minimize the impact on students and schools where changes are proposed ...”* and remove *“proximity to other schools”*
- Ms. Manske to post information on the Board's website for the Oct 30th public meeting.

Ms. Manske thanked the working group for attending and the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

Working Group Meetings:

- #3 - November 5, 2012 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Ed. Centre, Planning Meeting Room
- #4 - November 19, 2012 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Ed. Centre, Planning Meeting Room
- #5 - tentative dependent on need

Public Meetings: (2 meetings required)

- #1 - October 30, 2012 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Country Hills Public School
- #2 - November 28, 2012 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Country Hills Public School