



# **HURON VILLAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY STUDY**

## **Minutes of Working Group Meeting #3**

**November 5, 2012 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

**Education Centre, Planning Dept. Meeting Room**

The third 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 Monday, November 5, 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, Sherri Davidson, Vice Principal, Country Hills PS, Stephanie Brasseur, Parent Representative, Alpine PS and Laurentian PS, Cinnamon Abdallah, Parent Representative, Alpine PS, Monica Nickel, Parent Representative, Laurentian PS, Nicole Wells, Parent Representative, Country Hills PS, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Lauren Manske, Senior Planner, Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary.

### **Regrets:**

Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent of Education, Jeff Adam, Vice Principal, Laurentian PS, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner.

### **1. Welcome/Introductions**

Lauren Manske, Senior Planner welcomed members of the Working Group and new parent representatives, Nicole Wells (Country Hills PS) and Monica Nickel (Laurentian PS).

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

### **2. Public Meeting #1:**

**Public Meeting #1 took place on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Country Hills P.S.**

Ms. Manske noted that the meeting was well attended by approximately 50 members of the community; a large turnout for a boundary study meeting.

#### **(a) Feedback:**

The feedback received from the meeting was emailed to the working group and Ms. Manske shared feedback received via [boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca](mailto:boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca) received to date.

There seemed to be a mixture of scenario preferences based largely on the age of students within the family commenting.

Eby Estates families noted their preference for Scenario 3, which would have that community attend Jean Steckle PS rather than remain at Alpine PS.

Ms. Manske asked the working group members if they had received any feedback from their school communities.

Nicole Wells responded that generally speaking the main concern seemed to be that Jean Steckle PS may not be offering Grade 8.

### 3. Finalize Goals/Objectives

Ms. Manske noted that no feedback had been received on the Draft Objectives and advised that she had made a modification on the timeframe from long-term to mid-term and change from 10 years to 5 years; because the hope is that the Board will have another new school in the area within 5 years.

Ms. Manske noted that some students may have to transition multiple times (for example from Alpine PS to Jean Steckle PS and then to another new school); the Board tries to avoid these situations and it will be something that will be taken into consideration in future boundary studies.

It was noted that the capacity of Jean Steckle PS is 643 pupil places, which includes 5 purpose-built Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) rooms.

**The Working Group AGREED with the modification and to finalize the objectives to read as follows:**

#### Final Huron Village Boundary Study Objectives:

- 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 mid-term (approx. 5 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.)

**The Working Group AGREED that a 7-8 accommodation review is not an objective of this boundary study but can be addressed in the Report to the Board with the suggestion that the Board consider a future review of its senior elementary schools/boundaries.**

### 4. Scenario Discussion

The Working Group reviewed Scenarios [3](#) and [5](#) and their 2 variations (options B and C) for transitional implementation of the Grade 7 and 8 program at Jean Steckle PS with special attention on the possible affects of the projected enrolment numbers (2013-2018) may have on each of the study area schools. The Scenarios were also measured against the study objectives.

#### Scenario 3 (with and without new development area) with Options B and C:

The original Scenario 3 is outlined on slides 5-7 of the online presentation.

Ms. Manske advised that another consideration for Scenario 3 is outlined on slides 8-10 of the online presentation. Scenario 3 with a minor variation of the proposed boundary (shown in

light green) for Jean Steckle PS that would not include the new development area on the west side of Fischer-Hallman Road.

Ms. Manske noted that Jean Steckle PS may not be able to accommodate the future student population out of the new area on the west side of Fischer-Hallman Road and the Board can determine, at a later date, another school with the room to accommodate that population until a school is built in that community.

The Working Group discussed the modification to Scenario 3 and the affects on projected enrolments to capacity numbers; noting that Jean Steckle PS numbers are better in the interim but still really high beyond 2015; and Alpine PS numbers are low because of the loss of the Eby Estates students.

Scenario 5 (with and without new development area) with Options B and C:

The original Scenario 5 is outline on slides 11-13 of the online presentation and keeps the Eby Estates community at Alpine PS.

Ms. Manske modified Scenario 5 with the same minor variation of the proposed boundary (shown in light green) for Jean Steckle PS that would also not include the new development area on the west side of Fischer-Hallman Road and with the Board to determine another school to accommodate until a school is built in that community.

The Working Group discussed the affects of the modifications on the enrolment to capacity numbers for each of the study area schools.

Ms. Manske advised that the residents of the Eby Estates community, if they did their research, would have bought their homes with full knowledge that this community would not have a school and would be bussed to Alpine PS. She also noted that there is still a small amount of additional homes to be built in this community.

The Working Group noted that the residents of the Eby Estates community are currently attending Alpine PS and keeping them there would be less disruptive, saving them from transitions; as well, bussing would still be required for these students to attend Jean Steckle PS and therefore would not reduce transportation needs. Jean Steckle PS may not be able to accommodate this community long-term.

**The Working Group AGREED to keep the Eby Estates Community at Alpine PS; therefore removing Scenario 3 from further consideration.**

Scenario 6 (new)

The Working Group discussed carving-off some of the development area below Huron Road and directing them to Alpine PS. They questioned whether any students in this area would be within walking distance to Jean Steckle PS.

Dennis Cuomo suggested sending any existing population/approved development from this area below Huron Road to Jean Steckle PS and redirecting any future new development students to Alpine PS; noting that the new school would hopefully be in operation by the time that this area develops and may have a small amount of students requiring transitioning to the new school.

It was noted that the Board has requested a site for a future new school on Tartan Avenue. It is anticipated that this school will be a JK-6 facility based on the development area projections; the 7-8 students from that community would likely attend Jean Steckle PS for the 7-8 program and may require future grandfathering considerations. However, this could change.

The Working Group had questions with regard to transportation efficiencies for the scenarios given the Board's current transportation policy and whether any areas which may appear within walking distance, could require bussing for safety reasons. It was also noted that the concern around speed limits on Seabrook Drive was raised at Public Meeting #1. Ms. Manske noted that the Board has a transportation consortium which decides if bussing is required for safety concerns. She will consult with them on this issue and provide an update at the next meeting.

Mr. Cuomo noted that these developments will likely be made aware by the builders that the Board has plans to build schools in these new communities.

Ms. Manske noted that the Board's website [school boundary & location maps](#) currently shows these new development areas as being included in the attendance boundary for Alpine PS.

The Working Group noted that the Jean Steckle PS community have been waiting a long time for the new school and would likely decide not to use the grandfathering option but send their children to Jean Steckle PS regardless of the number of transitions and requested information on how this might affect the projected enrolment numbers.

Principal Burnley noted that Jean Steckle PS may have a Developmental Education classroom and questioned how that might affect that special education program should Jean Steckle PS not offer the 7-8 program.

**The Working Group AGREED that the decision on whether to open Jean Steckle PS under Option B or C is dependent on the projected enrolment numbers and will require Ms. Manske to provide new numbers based on today's meeting before a Scenario and Option can be agreed upon.**

**The Working Group AGREED that it is important to avoid having to readdress the boundaries again should a new school on Tartan Avenue not open before 2018 and Jean Steckle PS become over enrolled.**

**Action Items:**

- **Ms. Manske to develop new Scenario 6 which sends a portion of the new development area (below Huron Road) to Alpine PS with Options B and C and including enrolment projections for study area schools.**
- **Ms. Manske to contact City of Kitchener and STSWR to get an indication of the streets that may be eligible for hazard bussing due to safety concerns in the Huron Road area.**
- **Ms. Manske to provide projections based on 50 percent of students with option to stay for final year for each of the schools (and 50 percent choosing to attend Jean Steckle PS)**
- **Ms. Manske to contact the Superintendent of Special Education regarding special education program at Jean Steckle PS.**
- **Ms. Manske to revise Scenario 5 Option B numbers on slides to correct error.**

## **5. Roundtable**

Ms. Manske thanked the working group for attending and noted that she would send out the requested information prior to the next working group meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

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### **Future Meeting Dates:**

#### **Working Group Meetings:**

- #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)**

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