



HURON VILLAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY STUDY

Minutes of Working Group Meeting #4

November 19, 2012 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Education Centre, Planning Dept. Meeting Room

The fourth Working Group Meeting of the Huron Village Boundary Study, involving [Alpine](#), [Country Hills](#), [Laurentian](#) and [Jean Steckle](#) Public Schools, was held at the Waterloo Region District School Board, Education Centre on Monday, November 19, 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, 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, Monica Nickel, Parent Representative, Laurentian PS, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Lauren Manske, Senior Planner welcomed members of the Working Group at 2:00 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 Information:

a) Transportation Distance Maps (slides 3-6 of the online presentation) showing individual walking distance maps for each school

Ms. Manske noted the following:

- The purple lines illustrate the JK/SK walking distances (less than 800 metres)
- The green lines illustrate the Grade 1-8 walking distances (less than 1600 metres)
- Some instances show a coloured line without a black line which is representative of walkways that are useable by students that are calculated by Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) in the walking distances.
- Jean Steckle PS walking distances are DRAFT.
- Jean Steckle PS areas where lines are not matching up is due to differences in mapping software used by the Board and STSWR; Ms. Manske will notify STSWR of the discrepancy. (The black lines are correct)
- Laurentian PS is a senior elementary (grades 7 and 8 only) therefore map does not show JK/SK walking distances.

b) Adult Crossing Guards/Walking Safety

Referring to slide 7 of the online presentation which indicates the possible location of an adult crossing guard, Ms. Manske advised that:

- The City of Kitchener supplies all adult crossing guards
- City staff have indicated that they would likely be able to supply a guard at Featherstone Street and Huron Road (this will need to be confirmed at a later date)
- The speed of Huron Road is 60 km/hr which is an acceptable speed for placement of adult crossing guard.
- STSWR staff will do a study of the area to look at walkways/pathways taking into consideration such things as eyes on pathways and winter maintenance before deeming them acceptable; if deemed unacceptable they will not be used to calculate walking distances.

c) Special Education Plan (Congregated Classes?)

Ms. Manske noted that she had contacted Jim Berry, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services (Special Education) and he indicated that all new schools are built with special education facilities (e.g., Life Skills room) in place; he noted that once a boundary has been set he will be able to have discussions with the principals to review which students will be transferring; based on the information received from those discussions, he will be able to investigate any self-contained class needs at Jean Steckle PS.

The Working Group noted that special education programs will not be directly affected by the decisions of this boundary study process.

3. New Scenarios/ Scenario Discussion:

The Working Group reviewed and discussed the revised Scenario 5 and new scenarios 6 and 7 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 effects of the projected enrolment numbers (2013-2018) may have on each of the study area schools.

a) Scenario 5 (Revised – with ‘development areas’); map with boundaries on slide 9

Referring to slides 9, 10 and 11, Ms. Manske advised that she has revised the boundary to exclude the new development areas and corrected the enrolment projection numbers for option C to include grandfathering of Grade 6 students.

The revised Scenario 5 continues to send the new development area (Eby Estates) west of WT Townshend PS to Alpine PS, with the rest of the Huron Village new development areas to be assigned a school at a later date. The revised Jean Steckle PS boundary is shown in light green.

Variations (B and C) show projected enrolments with Jean Steckle PS opening with varying grade structure as indicated below:

Scenario 5B – (slide 10)

**Jean Steckle PS opening as a JK-7 in 2013
JK-8 in 2014**

Scenario 5C – (slide 11)

**Jean Steckle PS operating as a JK-6 from 2013-2015
JK-7 in 2016
JK-8 in 2017**

Option C includes the grandfathering option for Grade 6s to be able to stay at Alpine PS or Country Hills PS (projections are now based on 50 percent of the Grade 6s choosing to stay).

Ms. Manske noted that there are not a lot of Grade 6s in the study area and should 50 percent choose to stay at their current school – there would only be 17 students in Grade 6 at Jean Steckle PS in the opening year.

b) Scenario 6 (new); map with boundaries on slide 12

Referring to slides 12, 13 and 14, Ms. Manske advised that, as requested, this new scenario is similar to Scenario 5 but sends a portion of the new development area (below Huron Road) to Alpine PS.

Variations (B and C) show projected enrolments with Jean Steckle PS opening with varying grade structure as indicated below:

Scenario 6B – (slide 13)

**Jean Steckle PS opening as a JK-7 in 2013
JK-8 in 2014**

Scenario 6C – (slide 14)

**Jean Steckle PS operating as a JK-6 from 2013-2015
JK-7 in 2016
JK-8 in 2017**

Option C includes the grandfathering option for Grade 6s to be able to stay at Alpine PS or Country Hills PS (projections are now based on 50 percent of the Grade 6s choosing to stay).

c) Scenario 7 (new); map with boundaries on slide 15

Referring to slides 15, 16 and 17 Ms. Manske advised that this new scenario sends any existing population/approved development from the area below Huron Road to Jean Steckle PS and does not assign a school to any future new developments - these areas would be assigned a school as they register.

Variations (B and C) show projected enrolments with Jean Steckle PS opening with varying grade structure as indicated below:

Scenario 7B – (slide 16)

**Jean Steckle PS opening as a JK-7 in 2013
JK-8 in 2014**

Scenario 7C – (slide 17)

**Jean Steckle PS operating as a JK-6 from 2013-2015
JK-7 in 2016
JK-8 in 2017**

Option C includes the grandfathering option for Grade 6s to be able to stay at Alpine PS or Country Hills PS (projections are now based on 50 percent of the Grade 6s choosing to stay).

Ms. Manske advised that being able to determine which school to send the new undeveloped areas to in the future will allow us to achieve a smaller attendance boundary for Jean Steckle PS which will be needed to be able to offer the Grade 7-8 program there.

Ms. Manske noted that it is easier to expand a boundary later (to add any new development) if the school has room; Scenario 7B allows us this option. It is difficult to shrink a boundary later and have to move students out because of over enrolment; Scenario 5B could have this outcome.

Ms. Manske advised that the Board currently considers Fischer-Hallman Road a dividing line for its school attendance boundaries, noting that ideally, students should not have to cross that divide to attend school; therefore, once developed, the new development area northwest of Jean Steckle PS and east of Fischer-Hallman Road may be a potential area to be directed to Jean Steckle PS should space be available.

It was noted that the Eby Estates community does not have a geographical connection to the Jean Steckle PS community; but there are two development areas located above Eby Estates where the Board is considering the need for a school site.

Ms. Manske noted that Jean Steckle PS, based on projections for the area, was initially requested as a JK-6 facility with the possibility to build an addition to house the 7-8 program in the future; however the Ministry of Education approved and funded the project as a JK-8.

It was noted that a recommendation that allows new development areas to be assigned at a later date has never been done by the Board before, but would allow us to determine, as each new development phase is registered, what school has the necessary space available to accommodate that community.

Mr. Cuomo noted that there is uncertainty around possible timing for the Board's other requested new school sites due to the Ministry of Education's new funding process. Having the flexibility to assign new developments to a school where there is room may save us from having to change boundaries to move students out of Jean Steckle PS in the future.

It was noted that new schools are typically designed to accommodate 6 portables and the Board would prefer not to go above that number.

Principal Dawson noted that the numbers are not quite ideal for Laurentian PS and noted her expectation that this may be addressed should the Board undergo a senior elementary school review as will be recommended by the working group.

It was noted that the potential exists for 7 and 8 students from the new development areas to be directed to attend Laurentian PS; keeping in mind that a proposed new school on Tartan Drive will be a JK-6 facility. (Areas east of Fischer-Hallman Road would likely be directed to Jean Steckle PS for the 7-8 program.)

Principal Kaur noted that Alpine PS will be losing a classroom due to Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) addition. Ms. Manske noted that she will confirm and revise Alpine PS's capacity to reflect.

Principal Giannopoulos noted that Country Hills PS will have a 2 room addition for FDK. Ms. Manske to confirm and revise capacity to reflect.

Q: Will Jean Steckle PS be offering FDK?

R: Yes, starting September 2013.

Q: Will Jean Steckle PS have a [before and after program](#)?

R: That will depend on parent interest. It will have a [YWCA childcare centre](#) attached.

It was noted that through the public [feedback](#) received, the Huron Village area is wanting and expecting a JK-8 school.

The ARC Agreed that Scenario 7B is the best option for the boundary study area as it would allow the Jean Steckle PS boundary to be expanded in the future should the need arise. This new boundary also protects the program numbers at each of the other study area schools.

- **[Public Meeting #2](#)**

Ms. Manske noted that the Public Meeting flyer has already been sent out to schools and due to processing times, unfortunately does not include any details. Ms. Manske noted that she will post the details on the website prior to the meeting.

The ARC agreed to bring Scenario 7B as its preferred recommendation and to share the rationale for the selection; and to display Scenario 5B to explain why it was not chosen.

Public Meeting #2 will be in open house/drop-in format with display boards outlining Scenario 7B and Scenario 5B. Planning staff will be available to answer questions one-on-one between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m.

Working Group members are welcome to attend but are not required to do so.

Public feedback will be requested and taken into account before a recommendation is presented to the Board of Trustees.

Working Group meeting #5 may be required if feedback warrants.

Action Items:

- **Ms. Manske to notify STSWR of the discrepancy in Jean Steckle PS walking routes.**
- **Ms. Manske to revise Alpine PS capacity based on FDK construction information from T. McDougall.**
- **Ms. Manske to confirm/revise Country Hills PS capacity based on FDK.**
- **Ms. Manske to post Public Meeting #2 display boards on the Website prior to the meeting.**
- **(after PM#2) Ms. Manske to provide breakdown by grade for enrolment projections for principals for staffing purposes on recommended boundary option.**

4. Roundtable

Q: When will the recommendation go to the Board?

R: Must go in January 2013; a decision is needed before February 2013 for staffing.

It was noted that the decision will be up to the Trustees and they may approve as recommended or approve with changes.

Ms. Manske thanked the working group for attending and adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

Working Group Meetings:

- #5 - tentative dependent on need

Public Meetings (#2 of 2):

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