



DOON SOUTH BOUNDARY STUDY

Minutes of Working Group Meeting #2

October 24, 2013

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Brigadoon Public School

The second meeting of the Doon South Boundary Study Working Group, involving Brigadoon, Doon, J.W. Gerth and Pioneer Park Public Schools, was held at Brigadoon Public School on Thursday, October 24, 2013.

Attendees:

Laura Hodgins, Area Superintendent of Education, Glenn Kitamura, Principal, Pioneer Park PS, S. Schaffner, Principal, J.W. Gerth PS, Don Oberle, Principal, Doon PS, L. Hagey-Nichols, Principal, Brigadoon PS, Sarah K., Parent Representative Brigadoon PS, D. Doroslovac-Grnca, Parent Representative, Brigadoon PS, K. S. Hett, Parent Representative, Doon PS, Johnstone, Parent Representative, Doon PS, Sandra Pisters, Parent Representative, Doon PS, N. Waddell, Parent Representative J.W. Gerth PS, D. Bal, Parent Representative, J.W. Gerth PS, C. Deacon, Alternating Parent Representative, Pioneer Park PS, Kimberly Bingeman, Vice Principal Doon PS, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary and Lauren Manske, Senior Planner.

Regrets:

M. Duynhoven, Parent Representative, Pioneer Park PS, J. Anger, Alternating Parent Representative, Pioneer Park PS, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner and Ron Dallan, Manager of Capital Projects.

1. Welcome

Lauren Manske, Senior Planner, welcomed members of the Working Group, and Board staff at 4:30 PM.

Ms. Manske led the group through the presentation (available online at <http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/files/2013/08/24oct13.wrkgpmtg.presentation.pdf>)

2. Draft Minutes Review/Approval

Ms. Manske asked if there are any errors or omissions in the minutes from Working Group Meeting #1 (October 3, 2013); No errors or omission were reported. The Minutes were approved without change.

Ms. Manske advised that the minutes will be posted on the Board's website at:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/boundary-studiesdoon-south-boundary-study/>

Q: Is the projected enrolment discussed on Page 5 of the draft minutes based on the Board's overall average yield or based on current yields for the Doon area?

R: Ms. Manske responded that those numbers are based on current yields for the study area schools.

3. Requested Materials:

a. Board Policy 3002 – Elementary School Size and Configuration

(Slides 3 and 4 of the online presentation)

Ms. Manske noted that the key points under Board Policy 3002 are:

- Section 1.3 (configuration consideration)
While the Board believes that an elementary JK-8 school configuration represents a program preference to meet curriculum and developmental needs; consideration must also be given to:
 - Existing facilities, including community connections and distance;
 - Student learning opportunities;
 - Needs of the community;
 - Community growth patterns;
 - Funding, including partnering opportunities.
- Section 1.4 (size guideline)
The Board uses the following guiding principles when building new elementary facilities or additions:
 - JK-8 facilities will ideally have a built capacity of between 500 and 650 students;
 - JK-6 facilities will ideally have a built capacity of between 350 and 400 students;
(*Ms. Manske noted that JK-6 schools can also be for more than 400 students, i.e., J.W. Gerth PS*)
 - JK-6 facilities will be designed to accommodate future expansion to accommodate a JK-8 configuration where practical;
 - That planning for elementary school configurations consider the following:
 - have at least (2) classes per grade in JK-6 to support professional learning communities;
 - have more than (2) classes per grade in Grades 7 and 8 to support program;
 - minimize the number of schools with Full Time Equivalent (FTE) enrolments over 650 students, including the Early Learning Program, wherever possible;
 - be sensitive to the impact on elementary students of transitioning between schools.

b. 2013 Capital Priorities

Referring to slide 5 of the online presentation, which lists the Waterloo Region District School Board's 2013 Capital Priorities to be submitted to the Ministry of Education; Ms. Manske noted the following:

- The Board submits an annual list of capital priorities to the Ministry of Education for funding consideration (projects over \$500,000).
- This year the Ministry has asked boards to submit their top 8 identified capital priority business cases *that have a targeted completion date of up to the 2016 – 2017 school years*.
- The Board's current list which was approved at the October 23, 2013 Committee of the Whole meeting will be submitted to the Ministry on October 31, 2013.
- The WRDSB's top 8 Capital Priorities (totaling approximately \$60 million) that will be submitted to the Ministry on October 31, 2013 for funding consideration include:
 - 3 School Rebuilds: Ranked 1, 2 and 5
 - 2 New Schools: Ranked 3 and 6
 - 3 Additions: Ranked 4, 7 and 8
- The Board expects to receive a response advising of which (if any) projects have been approved by the Ministry in the spring of 2014.

c. New South Kitchener – Groh Drive School Site Size

Referring to the map on slide 6 of the online presentation, Ms. Manske noted that:

- The new South Kitchener school block is approximately 6.8 acres
- Is adjacent to a municipal park
- School site will likely have 2 levels of elevation and be a 2-storey building.

d. Revised Enrolment Projections (slides 7 and 8 of the online presentation)

Ms. Manske noted that she has revised the *enrolment projections* (slide 7) and *projection areas* (slide 8) since last meeting, after taking a closer look at the new development yields. She advised that projecting expected enrolment beyond 5 years can be difficult and less reliable as the projection enrolment are based on the number of live births in a given year (beyond 5 years is a projection of how many children will be born in a given year).

The *Projection Areas* (schools' current attendance boundaries broken down into smaller areas with enrolments for each *area*) have been revised with changes made to the size of *areas O* and *G*.

Ms. Manske provided the Working Group with handouts for the revised Enrolment Projections and Projection Areas and advised that they discard the previous handouts received at Working Group Meeting #1.

Q: Are the Full Day Kindergarten students accounted for in Brigadoon PS's 2014 enrolment projections?

R: Ms. Manske responded that the 2014 total for Brigadoon PS does include the FDK students; she advised that the enrolments are based on September 2013 enrolments at the schools. She also asked the Principals to let her know if they see any discrepancies in the enrolment numbers for their schools.

Q: Are these enrolment projections for the schools as they are right now, without any changes?

R: Yes, these are the Status Quo enrolments projections and do not include any changes or the new school.

4. Draft Goals and Objectives

Ms. Manske advised that she has separated out the Draft Goals from the Draft Objectives; noting that they include items identified at our last meeting as well as items identified at the Board in terms of issues and opportunities and from that developed some objectives or goals. Ms. Manske provided handouts to the Working Group and **asked that they review (as homework) and let her know if they are aware of anything that has been missed.**

Ms. Manske noted that:

- Goals are general things we try to achieve
- Objectives are the measurable pieces used to evaluate the scenarios

Draft Goals:

- To establish grade configurations that provide the best learning opportunities for students and staff while giving consideration to:
 - *existing facilities, community connections and distance;*
 - *student learning opportunities*
 - *community growth patterns*
 - *funding, including partnership opportunities*
- To consider facilities and infrastructure (including sites, offices, gyms, specialized classrooms, etc.) necessary to deliver curriculum and support student achievement where changes are proposed

- To establish boundaries that are mid-term (5+ years), and consider:
 - *efficiency of transportation (walking distances)*
 - *permanent capacity of schools and/or future construction requirements (e.g., site, program spaces, safety)*
 - *current and future population density and demographics*
 - *impact on feeder and surrounding schools (i.e., consistent boundaries for Gr. 6 students moving to Gr. 7 and Gr. 8 students moving to secondary school)*
 - *the distribution and accessibility of Special Education and French Immersion programs*
- To minimize the impact on students where changes are proposed (consideration for grandfathering, phasing, etc.)
- To strengthen the Board's business case for additional capacity funding as residential development plans progress in South Kitchener

Ms. Manske provided the Working Group with a handout of the [2013/2014 Walking Zones](#) for the Doon South Boundary Study area; noting that:

- The handout is for general information only and may not accurately represent eligibility for transportation
 - purple areas are less than 800 metres; (JK-8 all walk)
 - green areas are between 800-1600 metres (JK/SK bussed; Grades 1-8 can walk)
 - white areas inside the projection area boundary may be considered as outside the walking distance of all of the study area schools and students JK-8 would be bussed; (includes portions of *Areas I, A and J-Q* and all of *Area J*)
- C: A parent representative questioned the accuracy of the handout (map) noting that she lives in one of the white areas and her child walks to Doon PS; and all of Pearwood Court walks as well.
- R: Ms. Manske responded that the [Transportation Policy](#) does have some flexibility beyond the 1.6 metres under the [Student Transportation Procedure](#); and noted that this could be a discrepancy area. Ms. Manske offered to investigate further.

Draft Objectives:

- To establish a boundary for the new South Kitchener Groh Drive elementary school.
- To increase the number of students housed in permanent accommodation.
- To provide equitable learning opportunities for students and staff by moving towards the following criteria (*from Board Policy 3002*):
 - *JK-6 facilities between 350 and 400 students (approx. 2 classes/grade)*
 - *JK-8 facilities between 500 and 650 students (approx. 2 classes/grade JK-6, 2+ classes/grade 7-8)*
 - *Minimizing the potential for schools with enrolments over 650 students*
- To increase the number of students within walking distance to their assigned school (<1.6 km).
- To reduce the reliance on portable classrooms for long-term student accommodation.
- To establish boundaries around "Development Areas" where proposed plans of subdivision are temporarily assigned to holding schools until a permanent accommodation solution can be determined. (*likely bussed to a temporary holding school with room to accommodate population*)
- To develop an interim (*temporary*) accommodation strategy, **beginning in September 2014**, to assist schools with increasing enrolment until such time as the new South Kitchener Groh Drive school is open.

5. Scenario Discussion (slides 11 – 23 of the online presentation)

Ms. Manske advised that she has put together 5 new scenarios (slides 11-20) and provided a Scenario Summary by School (slides 21 – 23) that outlines how each scenario affects the individual schools and which scenario(s) work best for each school purely from an enrolment standpoint.

Scenario 3 (slides 11-12 of the online presentation)

(Proposed school attendance boundaries map slide 11 and enrolment projections slide 12)

- All Schools (Brigadoon, Doon, J.W. Gerth, Pioneer Park and new School) are JK-8
- All school require construction:
 - Brigadoon PS (retrofitting; internal renovations for 7-8 program)
 - Doon PS (addition for Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) classrooms)
 - J.W. Gerth PS (addition)
 - Pioneer Park PS (addition)
- New School built with 600 pupil places (*funded for that amount – but could look at constructing an addition in the future if required*)
- 5 self-contained JK-8 boundaries (JK-6 and 7-8 boundaries are the same)
- Hatched area (on map slide 11) is carved off as a development area to be assigned to a temporary holding school at a later date. This area is expected to contain over 400 children by 2024 and no room at the study area schools to accommodate that population.
- Pioneer Park PS would receive a small portion of Brigadoon PS's attendance boundary (8 students); may/may not be more transportation efficient.

Scenario 4 (slides 13-14 of the online presentation)

(Proposed school attendance boundaries map slide 13 and enrolment projections slide 14)

- New South Kitchener School and Doon PS are JK-8
- Brigadoon, J.W. Gerth and Pioneer Park PSs are JK-6
- J.W. Gerth and Pioneer Park PSs feeds to Doon PS for 7-8
- Brigadoon PS feeds to the new school for 7-8
- 2nd development area (hatched area) carved off to be assigned to a temporary holding school at a later date. (*600 students are expected from these combined areas by 2024*)
- Doon PS and J.W. Gerth PSs would require additional capacity construction:

Ms. Manske noted the following for Scenario 4:

- Ms. Manske noted a typo in the handout for Scenario 4 chart, for the Development Area, "Grades" should be blank (not JK-8). Typo to be corrected before posting online.
- Ms. Manske advised that J.W. Gerth PS's site is on the small side (less than 5 acres) and cautioned that the site size is not ideal for the required capacity. Ideally J.W. Gerth PS should be a 500 pupil place capacity (or below) school based on its site size. This Scenario is not ideal for J.W. Gerth PS.

Scenario 5 (slides 15-16 of the online presentation)

(Proposed school attendance boundaries map slide 15 and enrolment projections slide 16)

- New South Kitchener School JK-8 with 600 pupil places
- Doon PS remains 7-8
- Brigadoon, J.W. Gerth and Pioneer Park PSs remain JK-6 and feed to Doon PS for 7-8
- 2 development areas (hatched areas) carved off to be assigned to a temporary holding school at a later date. (*600 students are expected from these combined areas by 2024*)
- Pioneer Park PS would require a small addition to eliminate some portables.
- Brigadoon PS would also require an addition (missing from handout) Ms. Manske to add.

Q: Is Scenario 5 similar to Scenario 1 except for the carving out of the development areas?

R: Ms. Manske responded that the boundary is a little different because of the change to the projection areas discussed earlier; but in essence it is the same as Scenario 1 (discussed at the last meeting).

Scenario 6 (slides 17-18 of the online presentation)

(Proposed school attendance boundaries map slide 17 and enrolment projections slide 18)

- Doon PS remains 7-8 for the entire study area
- Brigadoon, J.W. Gerth, Pioneer Park and new School all JK-6
- New school built JK-6 with 600 pupil places
- 2 development areas (hatched areas) carved off to be assigned to a temporary holding school at a later date. *(600 students are expected from these combined areas by 2024)*

Ms. Manske noted the following for Scenario 6:

- Doon PS would likely be the Grade 7-8 school for the development areas (hatched areas) as well
- Includes a few modifications to Brigadoon PS and Pioneer Park PS attendance boundaries
- Doon PS would require an addition to accommodate the additional enrolment
- Both Brigadoon and Pioneer Park PSs would require an addition. (Ms. Manske to include in presentation)

Scenario 7 (slides 19-20 of the online presentation)

(Proposed school attendance boundaries map slide 19 and enrolment projections slide 20)

- Brigadoon and Pioneer Park PSs JK-6
- Doon, J.W. Gerth and new School JK-8
- Brigadoon PS would feed to the new school for Grades 7-8
- Pioneer Park PS would feed to Doon PS for Grades 7-8
- J.W. Gerth PS would be a self-contained JK-8 (reduced boundary)
- 2 development areas (hatched areas) carved off to be assigned to a temporary holding school at a later date. *(600 students are expected from these combined areas by 2024)*
- Construction required at Doon PS (FDK classrooms); J.W. Gerth PS (conversion of spaces + small addition)

Scenario Summary by School (slides 21-23 of the online presentation)

Ms. Manske noted that she looked at each of the schools to determine which scenario (of Scenarios 3-7) seem to work the best, based primarily on enrolment and size (under [Board Policy 3002](#)); The *projection areas (A-Z)* are included in the charts for each school; and make up the new boundaries on which the enrolment numbers are based.

Brigadoon PS (slide 21)

- Scenarios 5 and 6 have the best enrolment totals for Brigadoon PS as a JK-6 school
- Scenario 3 is not an ideal enrolment for Brigadoon PS as a JK-8 school - does not achieve the ideal enrolment for a JK-8 school because we are below 300 students for JK-6 and less than the 3+ grades at the 7-8 level.
- *Ms. Manske noted that Scenarios 4 and 7 are together in the chart on slide 21 because the boundary for Brigadoon PS is the same for both.*

Doon PS (slide 21)

- Scenario 5 is the best enrolment total for Doon PS as a 7-8 school
- Scenario 7 is the best enrolment total for Doon PS as a JK-8 school

J.W. Gerth PS (slide 22)

- Scenario 6 is the best enrolment total for J.W. Gerth PS as a JK-6 school
- Scenario 7 is the best enrolment total for J.W. Gerth PS as a JK-8 school
- *Ms. Manske noted that while Scenario 7 is the best it would not be ideal to add an addition at J.W. Gerth PS because of its smaller site size.*

Pioneer Park PS (slide 22)

- Scenarios 5, 6 and 7 have the best enrolment totals (*same boundary for each*) for Pioneer Park PS as a JK-6 school
- Scenario 3 enrolment total could work for Pioneer Park PS as a JK-8; *but would not be the ideal situation.*

New South Kitchener PS (slide 23)

- Scenario 6 is too big for the new South Kitchener PS as a JK-6 school; *Ms. Manske advised that we may have a big school no matter what we do.*
- Scenarios 4 and 7 have the best enrolment totals for the new South Kitchener PS as a JK-8 school.
- *Ms. Manske noted that each of the Scenarios has a different boundary configuration for the new South Kitchener PS.*

Q: When you say that it's the best – you mean solely based on enrolment numbers?

R: Yes, it is based solely on enrolment and Board Policy 3002 – Elementary School Size and Configuration guidelines; this assessment does not take into account any other objectives (e.g., maximizing walking distance).

Summary: (slide 23)

Ms. Manske noted that she has put an X in the school column to indicate which Scenarios work for each of the schools so we can see which Scenarios work best for the majority of the schools involved. She noted that Scenario 7 works best for 4 of the 5 schools based on the enrolment objective.

Scenario	Best Scenarios by School (based on enrolment)				
	Brigadoon	Doon	J.W. Gerth	Pioneer Park	New South Kitchener
3					
4					X
5	X	X		X	
6	X		X	X	
7		X	X	X	X

Ms. Manske did a quick recap of Scenario 7: (page 6 of these minutes) and slides 19-20 of the online presentation.

Q: If Brigadoon PS feeds to the new South Kitchener PS for Grades 7 and 8; and Pioneer Park PS would feed into Doon PS for Grades 7 and 8; Given that the French Immersion (FI) Program is being offered right now at Brigadoon and J.W. Gerth PSs, I assume J.W. Gerth PS would continue with their program as a standalone JK-8. Will there be enough students from Brigadoon PS which received FI this year to feed to Doon PS to be able to continue the program there?

R: Ms. Manske apologized; and that she had not considered the FI program locations in the projections. She speculated that the FI program would likely continue on at J.W. Gerth PS for Grades 7-8. She noted that right now Brigadoon PS would be going to Doon PS for Grades 7-8; under Scenario 7 the new boundary may encompass a lot of the FI program students that would now feed to the new school for Grades 7-8. The Board may have to look at offering the program at the new School in this scenario. Ms. Manske advised that she will adjust the enrolment projections to incorporate the FI Program students into the schools that currently offer the program.

- C: Brigadoon PS is a few years ahead of J.W. Gerth PS (grades 1-6 vs. grades 1-3 this year) in offering the FI program; Doon PS is offering Grade 7 FI for the first time this year. Under Scenario 7 J.W. Gerth PS becomes a standalone JK-8 and will not be sending its 7-8 students to Doon PS to bolster the FI program enrolment numbers there. Will there be enough students to continue the program at Doon PS?
- C: Under Scenario 7, J.W. Gerth PS would not have the enrolment numbers to achieve the 2 plus classes per grade in Grades 7 and 8.
- R: Ms. Manske responded that looking more long-term, the numbers would achieve the required classes per grade under Board Policy 3002. She noted that while this Scenario is not perfect for J.W. Gerth PS initially, being JK-8, it is doable; the higher enrolment numbers are primarily in the junior grades and will eventually bolster the senior program as they advance through the grade structure.
- C: Ms. Manske commented that perhaps we may want to look at a transition plan that will have the 7-8 program offered at J.W. Gerth PS at a later date, when the enrolment can better support the program. Perhaps we can implement in 5 years, also important to keep in mind that we will not make any changes until the required construction is completed and that can take a few years (requires funding). Ms. Manske noted that while we are showing these changes for 2015 it will remain to be seen if that date is achievable depending on any construction and funding required.
- Q: Ms. Manske asked if there are any further scenarios that the Working Group would like to consider; or any refinement of the Scenarios we've discussed so far. She advised that even though Scenario 7 works for the majority of the schools based on the enrolments for the schools – she is not convinced that it is the perfect scenario and we will have to consider other options.

Ms. Manske asked the Working Group if they want to pursue Doon PS as a JK-8 facility and asked for their thoughts.

- Q: Is the Doon PS site large enough to accommodate construction required to offer the JK-8 program?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that the Doon PS site is definitely large enough to accommodate building expansion; but unsure if the other sites (Brigadoon, J.W. Gerth and Pioneer Park) have any limitations for school expansions. She advised that she would invite staff from Facility Services to attend Working Group Meeting #3 to discuss the study areas schools' sites; to give us a better sense of what can or cannot be accomplished.
- C: One concern that might come up with having Doon PS a JK-8 is the walking distances, considering the catchment area for the school under Scenario 7. There will still be some bussing required for Doon PS; and there would be additional work needed at that school for it to be able to offer the JK-8 program. Comparing this to the amount of work needed at the other schools - is this the largest amount of work needed in Scenario 7?
- R: Yes, this would be a lot of change (Scenario 3 may be more). Ms. Manske noted that J.W. Gerth and Pioneer Park PSs would also require smaller additions as well.

Ms. Manske advised that the school capacities are based on a Ministry loading of regular (everything other than Kindergarten) classrooms with 23 students and Full Day Kindergarten classrooms are loaded at 26 students (larger because have 2 staff in the room at the same time; a teacher and an early childhood educator) and the student to teacher ratio is less.

- Q: Given that bussing is a huge ongoing operational cost and our objective to increase the number of students that are able to walk to school (both for healthy schools and communities); it could also have an influence on whether or not the Trustees will approve a recommendation – I would

be interested in seeing what might change in the Scenarios if we had an overlay of the walking distances.

R: Ms. Manske advised that if we add JK-6 to Doon PS we've now reduced the bussing requirements because all the junior elementary students living around Doon PS are being bussed out of the area right now. Doon PS as a JK-8 does create a more walkable boundary. Ms. Manske noted that the walking distances handout provided earlier assumes a JK-6 boundary for all the schools and advised that anytime you introduce more 7 and 8 programs to a JK-6 school you reduce the number of students being bussed into Doon PS for Grades 7 and 8. She also noted that in Scenario 7:

- The new South Kitchener school boundary is primarily walk-in as well, noting that there may be small pockets of bussed students,
- J.W. Gerth PS new boundary is walk-in.
- all of Brigadoon PS can walk (except for the outlying area where there are very few students),
- Doon PS also has a significant reduction in transportation needs,
- some of Pioneer Park PS's 7 and 8 students would have to be bussed to Doon PS for the 7-8 Program,
- and likely all of Brigadoon PS's 7 and 8 students would have to be bussed to the new school for the 7-8 Program.

Ms. Manske did a quick run through of **Scenario 7** versus the objectives and noted:

Scenario 7		
Objectives	Meets	Does not Meet
Establish a boundary for the new South Kitchener Groh Drive elementary school.	Yes	
Increases the number of students housed in permanent accommodation	Yes	
To provide equitable learning opportunities for students and staff by moving towards the following criteria (from Board Policy 3002): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JK-6 facilities between 350 and 400 students (approx. 2 classes/grade) • JK-8 facilities between 500 and 650 students (approx. 2 classes/grade JK-6, 2+ classes/grade 7-8) • Minimizing the potential for schools with enrolments over 650 students 	Yes – Somewhat in the long-term	
increases the number of students within walking distance to their assigned school (<1.6 km)	Yes	
reduces the reliance on portable classrooms for long-term student accommodation	Yes	
To establish boundaries around "Development Areas" where proposed plans of subdivision are temporarily assigned to holding schools until a permanent accommodation solution can be determined. (likely bussed to a temporary holding school with room to accommodate population)	Yes	
To develop an interim (temporary) accommodation strategy, beginning in September 2014, to assist schools with increasing enrolment until such time as the new South Kitchener Groh Drive school is open.	TBD	

Ms. Manske noted that Objectives 2 and 5 are essentially the same objective and can be consolidated into one objective. The assigning of the development areas to a holding school can be done at a later date since these areas do not have any homes built yet.

Ms. Manske advised that once the Working Group has settled on a Scenario we can then develop the interim plan to be implemented for September 2014 to move us forward and buy us some time until the new South Kitchener school is built and we are able to construct the required additions.

Ms. Manske noted that Scenario 3 was the only Scenario to consider both Brigadoon and Pioneer Park PSs as JK-8; it did not seem to work (in terms of enrolment) for all of the study area schools to be JK-8. She advised that we could look at revising this scenario to create a JK-8 at either Brigadoon or Pioneer Park PS and pair them so one would feed into the other for the 7-8 program.

The Working Group did not express any interest in revising Scenario 3.

Q: Ms. Manske noted that in some areas the Board has experienced community pushback to the elimination of the Senior Elementary organization and asked the Working Group how the Doon South community feels about its senior school.

C: Speaking from a student's point of view – I might feel that an experience has been taken away from them, especially those students that are within a few years of going into the senior elementary grades. There are a lot of pros to the students having the senior experience but there are also pros for having the continuation experience without the transition that a JK-8 can offer as well. Converting Doon PS to a JK-8 makes a lot of sense given the size of the school's site and the savings in transportation costs alone is a big incentive. It would be a lot of change for students in that area and would impact a large number of students.

R: Ms. Manske responded that Scenario 7 especially would impact a large number of families.

C: Speaking on behalf of the Senior School experience (after watching my son go through), when the students are ready to leave the JK-6 students behind; it's a whole new step in their maturity which can be really important and the school allows them to take on new responsibilities; and on the other hand I have heard a lot about challenges with transitions from those who may not have had a positive experience. It may be a 50/50 split in the community. We still have to look at the bigger picture (including the walkability) and achieve a balance.

C: Doon PS was a K-8 school at one point.

R: Ms. Manske responded that it was, but it was quite a few years ago.

C: Speaking from an area that has always been bussed for JK-6 and doesn't really belong anywhere; I think Doon PS being a JK-8 school would be good; and would give us a community school which we have not had from the walkability perspective; we have always had to bus our children outside of our community (to Brigadoon PS) to attend JK-6 and while my children have loved their experience at Doon PS for 7-8. I also think not having all the school go JK-8 and still having the mass population required for the 7-8 program, you can still do other the responsibility pieces (lockers, specialized teachers and rooms) and have rotary and still get that 7-8 experience which is what the majority of the kids love about it. It would be ideal if we can achieve a scenario that keeps the 7-8 populations at each school high enough to be able to allow rotary; whether that means having some schools JK-6 feeding into a JK-8.

C: It would be good if there is another feeder school to feed into the senior elementary program at a JK-8 so it can achieve the required population to optimize the 7-8 program while providing a walk-in JK-6 for each community.

Public Meeting #1

a. Format

Public Meeting #1: Tuesday, November 5, 2013 from 7:00-8:30 pm at Huron Heights S.S.

Public Meeting #1 will be hosted by the Board's Planning Department and while the Working Group members are welcome and encouraged to attend, they are not required to do so.

The Public Meeting will consist of a formal presentation outlining the reasons why we are conducting the Boundary Study, our objectives and an explanation of the Scenarios we are

considering so far, followed by a question and answer period and then an Open House portion with display boards, with Planning staff available to answer questions one-on-one.

Ms. Manske advised that it would be ideal to bring a few scenarios (that the Working Group can agree on tonight) to the Public Meeting to show what our preferred options would be and to solicit feedback.

Ms. Manske suggested bringing a range of scenarios including: Doon PS remaining 7-8 as well as converting to JK-8.

Q: At what point in this process do we look at next September?

R: At our next Working Group meeting; Ms. Manske advised that once we have narrowed down the preferred scenarios then transition plans can be developed and shared at the next Working Group Meeting. That will be the next key piece that we have to discuss (what kind of opportunities do we have for September, where can we house the students, who will have to move, will it be grades, areas or both) these are the things we will have to talk about.

Q: Scenario 5 was not good for J.W. Gerth PS or the new school can we discuss why and if it can be overcome to make it better?

R: Ms. Manske responded that Scenario 5 is not too bad because J.W. Gerth PS is actually built for 500 students; does meet the other objectives but does not quite meet the size terms as set out under [Board Policy 3002](#); which is not achievable for J.W. Gerth PS under the policy. For the new School the population is too high, it doesn't mean it isn't doable, just not ideal.

Q: Is there the potential for making the new school larger?

R: Ms. Manske responded that the new school will be built in such a way as to accommodate a future addition should it be required. She advised that the new South Kitchener School will be 2-storeys and any future addition would likely also be 2-storeys as well to maximize the surrounding play space. Our new buildings are accessible and keep the younger grades and special education on the lower level.

The Working Group agreed to not bring Scenario 5 to Public Meeting #1.

There was some discussion about Scenario 4 and that as it stands, does not work well for J.W. Gerth PS.

Ms. Manske agreed to tweak Scenario 4 to reduce the J.W. Gerth PS boundary further to reduce the size of the addition required; redirecting students to Doon PS (JK-8) and make the addition at Doon PS larger (pushing the enrolment up towards 600); carving off the area in J.W. Gerth PS's boundary that would be within walking distance to Doon PS. Ms. Manske noted that the revised version of Scenario 4 will be Scenario 8 (new).

C: Brigadoon PS would be well below capacity under Scenario 4 (new Scenario 8).

R: Ms. Manske responded that Brigadoon PS could be utilized as a holding school for a portion of the development areas (hatched areas) under this scenario.

C: Would take a while for the enrolment from the new development to show up to bolster enrolment at Brigadoon PS under this scenario.

R: Ms. Manske to revise to adjust enrolment numbers and will present at Public Meeting #1 only if it works but will discuss at Working Group Meeting #3 if it does not work.

Q: Do we want to bring Scenario 6 to Public Meeting #1?

- R: Scenario 6 would mean 575 students at the 7-8 level for Doon PS; would be a very large senior school.
- C: Superintendent Hodgins commented that would be comparable in size to other senior elementary schools in the Board (e.g., Westheights PS at 550).
- C: Scenario 6 would not require as much major construction because the schools (including the new school) are JK-6 with Doon PS remaining 7-8. Just straight forward classroom additions.
- R: Ms. Manske commented that Scenario 6 is more of a Status Quo with the development areas carved out. It does not achieve a large reduction in transportation. The new school's boundary would be within walking distance; and would require bussing of all 7-8 students to Doon PS because there are no JK-8 facilities under this scenario.
- C: Scenario 6 would also leave the French Immersion programs running as they are.
- C: [Bell Time](#) changes are being reconsidered to save money on bussing; Scenario 6 essentially leaves all the busing as is and may necessitate bell time changes for the study area schools – will any changes we make to transportation needs for the area affect bell time change?
- R: Ms. Manske noted that the Board is looking at bell time changes beginning September 2014 and we would not be able to implement JK-8 at Doon PS for next year. There will still be a year or two that the school communities will have to make do with whatever changes (if any) that may be made to the bell times. Beyond that it is difficult to know how the boundary changes will affect bell times.
- Q: Does Scenario 6 meet our objectives?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that it does achieve some of the objectives (see chart below):

Scenario 6		
Objectives	Meets	Does not Meet
Establish a boundary for the new South Kitchener Groh Drive elementary school.	Yes	
Increases the number of students housed in permanent accommodation	Yes	
To provide equitable learning opportunities for students and staff by moving towards the following criteria (from Board Policy 3002): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JK-6 facilities between 350 and 400 students (approx. 2 classes/grade) • JK-8 facilities between 500 and 650 students (approx. 2 classes/grade JK-6, 2+ classes/grade 7-8) • Minimizing the potential for schools with enrolments over 650 students 		No
increases the number of students within walking distance to their assigned school (<1.6 km)	Yes	
reduces the reliance on portable classrooms for long-term student accommodation	?	
To establish boundaries around "Development Areas" where proposed plans of subdivision are temporarily assigned to holding schools until a permanent accommodation solution can be determined. (likely bussed to a temporary holding school with room to accommodate population)	Yes By introducing new school	
To develop an interim (temporary) accommodation strategy, beginning in September 2014, to assist schools with increasing enrolment until such time as the new South Kitchener Groh Drive school is open.	TBD	

The Working Group agreed to not bring Scenario 6 to Public Meeting #1.

The Working Group agreed to remove the following Scenarios:

- **Scenario 3** because it does would not have the required enrolments to achieve rotary for Grades 7-8; because all schools would become JK-8.
- **Scenario 4** to be revised to Scenario 8
- **Scenario 6** because it does not meet size objective

The Working Group agreed to bring the following Scenarios to Public Meeting #1:

- **Scenario 5** because it keeps Doon PS as a 7-8.
- **Scenario 7** because it achieves the best walk-in boundaries.
- **Scenario 8** (revised version of Scenario 4) Pioneer Park and J.W. Gerth PS 7 and 8s feeding into Doon PS (JK-8) for 7-8. ***Ms. Manske to make requested changes and make final decision on whether to present at Public Meeting #1.***

Ms. Manske advised that the minutes and presentation from the Public Meeting will be posted online and comment sheets and feedback received (via <mailto:boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca>) from the community will be shared with the Working Group.

6. Roundtable

Q: How confident should we be that we will receive funding for the capital construction needed under these scenarios and where might this fit on the Board's List of Capital Priorities?

R: Ms. Manske responded that she is confident that this area is going to remain fairly high on the Board's list of priorities; she noted that there are a few other hot spots on the Board's list that are not in the top 8; she advised that providing accommodation for areas that have substantial over enrolment will always be a priority for the Board. She advised that if we can come up with a plan that is good and efficient in terms of where we are placing additions it will certainly be helpful. She noted that placing smaller additions at all of the schools becomes more difficult to sell because these smaller projects will cost more; economies of scale are achieved on larger construction projects.

R: Mr. Cuomo responded that Doon South is where the majority of the development will be and from a point of view of the Board's needs for accommodation, from a staff point of view, we will be able to keep this high on the Board's list which highlights it for funding from the Province.

C: Superintendent Hodgins expressed her appreciation and thanks to the members of the Working Group for taking the time to participate in the Boundary Study process. She noted the importance of their individual input and that there are many different scenarios with pros and cons to each, but being able to go through this process and having the input of the community representatives adds value to this process.

Ms. Manske advised that the agenda for Working Group Meeting #3 will be provided via email on Friday, November 1, 2013.

- **Working Group #3: Wednesday, November 6, 2013 from 4:30-6:00 pm at J.W. Gerth PS**

Ms. Manske thanked the Working Group for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Action Items:

- **Working Group to discard the previous Enrolment Projections and Projection Areas handouts received at Working Group Meeting #1 and replace with handouts from Meeting #2.**

- Ms. Manske to check enrolments against the October 31, 2013 enrolment used for Ministry reporting.
- Working Group to review (as homework) the Draft Goals and Draft Objectives and advise Ms. Manske if revision required.
- Ms. Manske to consolidate objectives 2 and 5.
- Ms. Manske to correct a typo in the handout and presentation for Scenario 4 chart, for the Development Area, Grades should be blank (not JK-8) before posting online.
- Ms. Manske to investigate further why some areas >1.6 km from Doon PS are not bussed there.
- Ms. Manske to add to Scenario 5: Brigadoon PS would also require an addition
- Ms. Manske to add to Scenario 6: that Both Brigadoon and Pioneer Park PSs would require an addition.
- Ms. Manske to adjust the enrolment projections to reflect where FI Program students would attend.
- Ms. Manske to invite staff from Facility Services to attend Working Group Meeting #3 to discuss the study areas schools' sites and potential for additions.
- Ms. Manske to tweak Scenario 4 (new Scenario 8) to reduce the J.W. Gerth PS boundary further to reduce the size of the addition required; redirecting students to Doon PS (JK-8) and make the addition at Doon PS larger (pushing the enrolment up towards 600. Carving off the area in J.W. Gerth's boundary that would be within walking distance to Doon PS. And to bolster enrolment for Brigadoon PS by adding a portion of the develop areas to the boundary.
- Ms. Manske to determine if Scenario 8 meets the objectives and if it will be presented at Public Meeting #1.

Future Meetings:

Public Meetings:

- Public Meeting #1: Tuesday, November 5, 2013 from 7:00-8:30 pm at Huron Heights SS
- Public Meeting #2: Thursday, December 5, 2013 from 7:00-8:30 pm at Doon PS

Working Group Meetings:

- Working Group #3: Wednesday, November 6, 2013 from 4:30-6:00 pm at J.W. Gerth PS
- Working Group #4: Thursday, November 21, 2013 from 4:30-6:00 pm at Doon PS
- Working Group #5: TBD