



**DOON SOUTH BOUNDARY STUDY**  
**Minutes of Working Group Meeting #6**  
**December 10, 2013**  
**4:30 PM – 6:00 PM**  
**Brigadoon Public School**

The sixth 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 Tuesday, December 10, 2013.

**Attendees:**

Glenn Kitamura, Principal, Pioneer Park PS, S. Schaffner, Principal, J.W. Gerth PS, Don Oberle, Principal, Doon PS, L. Hagey-Nichols, Principal, Brigadoon PS, S. Davidson, Vice Principal, J.W. Gerth PS, Sarah K., Parent Representative, Brigadoon PS, K. Johnstone, Parent Representative, Doon PS, J. Weston, Alternate Parent Representative, Doon PS, N. Waddell, Parent Representative, J.W. Gerth PS, D. Bal, Parent Representative, J.W. Gerth PS, K. Bingeman, Vice Principal Doon PS, Mike Duynhoven, Parent Representative, Pioneer Park PS, Jillian Anger, Alternating Parent Representative, Pioneer Park PS, Dijana D-G, Parent Representative, Brigadoon PS, Sandra Pisters, Parent Representative, Doon PS, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary and Lauren Manske, Senior Planner.

**Regrets:**

S. Hett, Parent Representative, Doon PS, C. Deacon, Alternating Parent Representative, Pioneer Park PS, Laura Hodgins, Area Superintendent of Education, 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 Working Group through the presentation (available online at <http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/boundary-studiesdoon-South-boundary-study/>)

**2. Draft Minutes Review/Approval**

Ms. Manske asked if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes from Working Group Meeting #5 (Nov 28, 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/>

Ms. Manske also advised that the minutes from tonight's meeting (#6) will be posted in draft form and will be finalized at Working Group Meeting #7.

### 3. Business Arising from Minutes:

#### a. Feedback from Westheights PS re: size and operation of senior elementary school of 550 students.

Ms. Manske advised that because Scenario 14 would result in a similar enrolment for Doon PS the Working Group had requested that feedback be sought on how Westheights PS operates. Ms. Manske advised that she had asked the following questions and received the following answers from Westheights PS administration:

1. What **challenges**, if any, have you encountered with the current population (550 students) at Westheights PS that may not be present with a smaller population (400-450)?

##### **Response from Westheights PS:**

###### **Challenges identified:**

- Main challenges are facility related.
  - Facility not built to accommodate 550 students
  - Limited gym space (this year have to have 3 sections of gym running in the same period; therefore one class is always outside which is not always a negative)
  - Some subjects (art & music) require purpose-built rooms and due to scheduling of these rooms some subjects have to be offered on a semester basis, or in alternative rooms
  - Portables require additional time for rotary (takes longer for students to get from class to class during periods)
2. What **advantages**, if any, do you have with the current population (550 students) of Westheights PS that may not be present with a smaller population (400-450)?

##### **Response from Westheights PS:**

###### **Advantages identified:**

- More staff adds more diverse skills that can be offered to support a wider variety of extra-curriculars (clubs and teams)
  - Easier to separate students when required because there are more classes
  - Easier to schedule/time table teacher assignments (e.g., a teacher can be assigned multiple sections of Gr. 8 Geography)
  - Fundraising is good and well supported
3. What advice would you offer the Doon South Boundary Study Working Group? Would you suggest we continue to explore a scenario that has Doon PS reaching 550 students, or try to avoid it?

##### **Response from Westheights PS:**

###### **Advice/Other:**

- Have had very few behaviour issues
- 550 students seems to be more advantageous as long as the facility can accommodate the students
- If the school has portables, make sure to incorporate enough transition time during periods so that students can get to class on time

Ms. Manske noted that generally, Westheights PS did not caution us against going forward with Scenario 14. She advised that because a lot of the concerns were facility related, those concerns would need to be addressed in recommendations (i.e., the need for an addition, additional art rooms, etc.) to the Board should the Working Group decide to recommend Scenario 14.

**b. Pioneer Park PS washrooms**

Ms. Manske advised that under the [Ontario Building Code](#) calculation the current amount of washrooms at Pioneer Park PS is sufficient to handle up to 10 portables.

C: Principal Kitamura noted that Pioneer Park PS currently has:

- 1 boy's washroom with 5 urinals, 3 toilets and 1 large bradley sink
- 1 girl's washroom with 9 toilets and 1 large bradley sink

R: Vice Principal Davidson advised that during her time at Country Hills PS they had 12 portables with similar sized washrooms and surprisingly, were able to make it work; teachers scheduled hand washing breaks.

**4. Public Meeting #2:**

**a. Review Feedback** (slides 7-15 of the online presentation)

The Working Group was provided (via email) with all feedback received prior to today's meeting.

**Scenarios 14 and 16:**

Ms. Manske noted that Scenarios 14 and 16 were presented at Public Meeting #2 and advised that she had adjusted the objectives slightly since the last Working Group meeting after doing calculations for the costs of additions:

- 2 classroom addition at Brigadoon PS (hopefully will be included in the 2 classroom Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) addition to be built for September 2014) will be a benchmark cost of \$877K. Ms. Manske advised that the Brigadoon PS FDK addition will be going out for tender by the end of February; therefore we may not know the outcome of the 2 additional classrooms before the end of the boundary study process.
- Ms. Manske noted that the cost is based on the Ministry of Education's capital funding benchmark for additions formula (using the area per pupil benchmark calculator located at <http://faab.edu.gov.on.ca/Capital Programs Branch/Area Benchmark Calculator Per Pupil - ENG.xls>).
- A 2 classroom addition at Pioneer Park PS would cost \$950K under the benchmark. Ms. Manske advised that a better price may be achieved through the tender process.
- A 10 classroom addition at Doon PS would cost \$4.3M.

Ms. Manske advised that she also put a check mark beside the interim plan.

**Scenario 14** (slides 7-13 of the online presentation)

New South Kitchener school JK-6

**Scenario 16** (slides 11-14 of the online presentation)

New School JK-8; Ms. Manske advised that the boundaries for Scenario 16 are the same as for Scenario 10; however, the implementation is a little different (specifically related to French Immersion (FI) because Grade 1-4 FI is added on opening of the new South

Kitchener school); therefore the enrolment numbers will be different initially than those of Scenario 10.

Ms. Manske noted the following costs for additions under Scenario 16:

- 5 classroom addition at Doon PS \$2.2M
- 6 classroom addition at the new South Kitchener school \$2.5M

Scenario 16 does not meet any of the size criteria objectives.

Ms. Manske noted that there was not a lot (only 2 or 3 of the comments mentioned the scenarios) of feedback from the community on the 2 Scenarios (14 and 16) that were presented at Public Meeting #2; feedback received as follows:

Feedback on Scenario 14:

- Addresses French Immersion issue
- Would cause the least disruption to older children (specifically Brigadoon PS students)

Feedback on Scenario 16:

- Doon PS is a good size and not too large
- Allows for fewer transitions for those students at the new South Kitchener school
- Optimizes students walking to school both at Doon and the new South Kitchener school
- Having two schools for Grades 7/8 allows population to be spread out and doesn't result in as large number of students that age at one school

General Feedback:

- Appreciation that comments from last public meeting (Public Meeting #1) re: scenarios were heard and new scenarios developed to address those comments

Ms. Manske asked the Working Group if they had heard any additional comments on the Scenarios.

C: *Area J* families were happy with Scenario 14.

Ms. Manske noted that she has summarized the Interim Options that have been considered to date: (see slide 17 of the online presentation)

**Option A** (to be implemented as early as September 2014)

- Grade 4-6 students in future New South Kitchener school boundary (from J.W. Gerth PS and Brigadoon PS) attend Doon PS

**Option B** (to be implemented as early as September 2014)

- All Grade 5-6 students in J.W. Gerth PS boundary attend Doon PS

**Option C** (to be implemented as early as September 2014)

- All Grade 5-6 students in J.W. Gerth PS boundary attend Doon PS
- All Grade 5-6 students in future New South Kitchener school boundary (from Brigadoon PS) attend Doon PS

**Option D** (to be implemented as early as September 2014)

- All Grade 1-6 students in future New South Kitchener school Boundary (from J.W. Gerth PS and Brigadoon PS) attend Doon PS

**Option E** (to be implemented as early as September 2014)

- All Grade 4-6 students in J.W. Gerth PS boundary attend Doon PS
- All Grade 6 students in Brigadoon PS boundary attend Doon PS

**Option F** (to be implemented as early as September 2014) (slide 18 of the online presentation)

- All Grade 5-6 students in J.W. Gerth P.S. boundary attend Doon PS
- Development areas established and directed to Pioneer Park PS

Ms. Manske advised that at the last meeting the Working Group had agreed that [Interim Option F](#) was the best of the options discussed and agreed to present it to the community at Public Meeting #2.

**Public Meeting Comments on Interim [Option F](#):**

Ms. Manske noted that to date we have received a lot of feedback on Interim Option F and noted the following themes (*and responses to these themes*):

**Safety and welfare of students**

- Grade 5-6 students not available at J.W. Gerth PS to act as standing patrols and bus patrols:
  - *They may have to get an adult crossing guard which would be determined by the City of Kitchener*
  - *Short-term problem*
  - *Having a school that is 200 students over capacity is also an issue*
- Grade 7-8 students are highly physical (pushing and shoving) in the halls:
  - *Various grade levels can be in different parts of the school (separate the younger students from the older ones). Sometimes young students push and shove as much as the older ones.*

Ms. Manske advised that the overcrowding at J.W. Gerth PS is more of a facility concern than a safety concern and that there seems to be a sense in some of the feedback, that we are looking at this from a safety perspective.

C: Parents may be concerned that that overcrowding might be a fire safety concern in the event of having to evacuate the school in event of an emergency.

C: It may be related to traffic congestion in front of the school (police were there this morning) and the loss of the Grades 5 and 6s who are the safety patrol.

Ms. Manske advised that the Board discuss with the City of Kitchener the possibility of having an adult crossing guard.

C: A parent representative commented that they have had previous discussions with the City of Kitchener and were told that the school does not meet the requirements needed for an adult crossing guard.

R: Ms. Manske responded that J.W. Gerth PS may now meet the requirement for an adult crossing guard if the Grade 5 and 6 students are moved to Doon PS and can no longer provide standing patrol services. She will follow-up with City of Kitchener staff to get more information.

### **Leadership opportunities**

- Major concern that Grade 5-6 students will miss out by not having leadership opportunities they were looking forward to at J.W. Gerth PS (e.g., standing patrols, student secretaries, lunch room helpers, reading buddies, etc.)
  - *Can be dealt with by creating strategic plan for successful integration of Grades 5-6 students at Doon PS and similar plan for those left at J.W. Gerth PS.*
- JK-4 students will miss out by not having reading buddies, older leaders in the school
  - *Can still do reading buddies with smaller age ranges.*

### **Separation of families**

- Some families will be left with students in 2-3 different schools (3 if there are high-school aged students in the family)
  - *This could be the case today too* (other feedback says: I have a neighbour who, in this current "perfect world" has 3 children, at 3 different schools; J.W. Gerth, Doon & Huron Heights, with 3 different bell times. It happens!)
- Older students unable to walk younger siblings to school and care for them when parents are not home
  - Some feedback questions why we are putting this responsibility on our Grade 5-6 students; should be a parent responsibility
- Bell times are different between the schools
  - *This could be the case today.* There are no proposed bell time change for J.W. Gerth, but there is for Doon PS. Likely reason for the time difference is because the same bus(es) will be used at Gerth, Brigadoon, Doon and Pioneer Park because of the proximity of schools and density of the student population. Condensing them would add more vehicles and increase costs
- No guarantee of Before and After care program at Doon PS

C: Staggered bell times would allow more time for a parent to pick up their children from different schools.

### **Learning**

- Students with modified IEPs have difficulty with changing schools - what types of programs or aids will be in place for these students?
- Will resources be available at Doon PS for Gr. 5-6 students?
  - *The Board will provide the requirements for programs at the schools.*

Q: It was said at the Public Meeting that the Grade 5 and 6 students would be housed in portables at Doon PS; is that the case?

R: Ms. Manske responded that Doon PS will have portables and there is the possibility of classes moving from J.W. Gerth PS could be housed in them. It would be up to the school how classrooms are organized.

C: There are portables at all the schools and there will be for the next 5 years or so.

C: Principal Oberle advised that Doon PS does not have any coat hooks in the hallways or classrooms; it has half lockers for the Grade 7s and Grade 8s have their own locker and does not have enough for its current school population.

Q: Doon PS had offered grades 6-8 in the past; how did that operate?

R: Principal Oberle responded that he was not the Principal there at the time but advised that the upper field was the Grade 6 play area; and there is still a section of the school that is called the Grade 6 hallway and they had their own separate area of the school.

### **Social**

- Grade 7-8 students have different social needs (e.g., police drug and OK2BMe assemblies) than 5-6
  - *Assemblies at schools can be based on divisions I.e., primary or junior according to need; Doon PS's site (with lower and upper fields) well suited to separate the different age groups during nutrition breaks.*
- Grade 5 and 6 students are too young to be exposed to a middle school culture where discussions of sex, drugs and alcohol are common
  - *Every JK to 8 school has a wide age range and it works. They have different areas on the playground*
- Grade 5-6 students are younger emotionally than those in 7-8

### **Other Comments Received:**

- A well thought out plan
- Minimal impact on children involved
- Affects 25% of Gerth population, all of these kids would have eventually been attending Doon PS anyway
- A reasonable solution to a complicated situation
- Issues can be resolved by creating a transition team
- Requires more short-term busing when board is trying to reduce transportation costs
- Will minimize disruption to Brigadoon families
- Will address immediate health and safety concerns at J.W. Gerth PS
- Most logical option proposed with the best balance remaining for the 3 elementary schools
- Addresses overcrowding at J.W. Gerth PS and recognizes that Brigadoon PS can accommodate increased population until the new school is built

C: A lot of the concerns are unknowns for parents; they don't know what a 7-8 school looks like because their oldest child is in Grade 4, these are probably the most concerned parents. We may be able to ease their concerns with some reassurances like the continuation of the Grade 6 camp; will the current Grade 5 and 6 teachers from J.W. Gerth PS be transferred to Doon PS etc. to provide some solutions to their concerns before a decision is made by the Board as opposed to after the decision is made may alleviate some fears for parents.

R: Principal Schaffner responded that in regards to the teachers, we would not be able to promise anything because there are so many rules around staffing and teachers may opt to transfer to another school if that is their wish.

C: This will be a top heavy 5-8 school with the 5-6s being the minority.

Ms. Manske noted that we will have to do a better job at responding to those parent concerns going forward.

**b. Other Options?** (slides 22 – 26 of the online presentation)

Ms. Manske advised that she has prepared, in response to parent request and at the request of some of the Working Group members, a few other interim options for consideration for implementation in September 2014 as an alternative to Interim Option F.

**New Interim Options (summary)** for implementation as early as September 2014  
(See slide 22 of the online presentation)

**Option G**

- All Grade 5-6 students in J.W. Gerth PS boundary attend Pioneer Park PS
- Development areas established and directed to school outside of Doon South study area

**Option H**

- All Grade 6 students in J.W. Gerth PS boundary attend Doon PS
- Development areas established and directed to Pioneer Park PS

**Option I**

- All Grade JK-6 students in future new South Kitchener school boundary (from J.W. Gerth PS) attend Pioneer Park PS
- Development areas established and directed to school outside of Doon South study area

**Option J**

- All Grade 1-6 students in future new South Kitchener school boundary (from J.W. Gerth PS) attend Pioneer Park PS
- Development areas established and directed to school outside of Doon South study area

Ms. Manske advised that there is an error on both pages of the Scenario 16 handout emailed out prior to today's meeting; where it reads Scenario 14 should be Scenario 16.

**Interim Option G (under Scenario 14 or Scenario 16)** see slide 23

All J.W. Gerth PS's Grade 5 & 6 students attend Pioneer Park PS in September 2014

Development Areas directed to a school outside of Doon South study area

**2014/15:**

- *All Grades 5-6s (130 students) to Pioneer Park PS from J.W. Gerth PS. This would mean 100 Grade 5s and 115 Gr. 6s total at Pioneer Park PS (43% of the school population)*
- *Unlike Option F, where up to 10 portables may be needed to accommodate Development Areas, in this scenario the need for 10 portables is definite.*
- *Grade 5 FI students?? Have been included in the enrolment numbers at Pioneer Park PS – a resource issue*
- *Development Areas to be redirected to a school outside of study area*

**2015/16:**

- *All Grade 5-6s (165 students) to Pioneer Park PS from J.W. Gerth PS. This would mean 155 Grade 5s 100 and Grade 6s total at Pioneer Park PS (48% of the school population)*
- *Grade 5-6 FI students?? Have been included in enrolment numbers at Pioneer Park PS – a resource issue*
- *Development Areas to be directed to a school outside of study area*



Q: What school would the Development Areas have to attend?

R: Ms. Manske responded that would have to be determined at a later date; would be a school that would have room to accommodate the population. As an example she noted that the Board is currently determining whether to accommodate the Mattamy Wildflower development at either Queen Elizabeth PS or Rockway PS.

C: That would require the Board to be bussing student all the way across town.

R: Ms. Manske responded that savings on bussing is only achieved by using the same bus to do multiple runs; distance does not factor into the cost of a bus in that we are not charged by the kilometer; we pay a flat rate for the bus. However, the shorter the run, the more times that bus can be used.

C: The bus may only be able to do one run if it has to go a long distance, so there is the potential to be more costly for the Board.

C: Would most of the J.W. Gerth PS 5 and 6 students be able to walk to Doon PS?

R: Ms. Manske responded that we would have to bus some of those students to Doon PS.

Q: The projected enrolment numbers show 70 students in the Development Areas; are there currently any students in these areas?

R: Ms. Manske responded that there haven't been any homes built in the Development Areas yet; may not see any students here for a little while – it will depend on the housing market.

Q: Under Option G the J.W. Gerth PS Grade 5 and 6s would be directed to Pioneer Park PS for Grades 5 and 6 and then go to Doon PS for 7-8?

R: Yes. Ms. Manske responded that there is potential under the scenarios for some of those students to have to attend 3 different schools in 5 years (moving from J.W. Gerth PS to Pioneer Park PS to Doon PS under Scenario 14 or from J.W. Gerth PS to Pioneer Park PS to the new South Kitchener PS under Scenario 16 for Grades 6-8).

Q: Were there that many parents concerned with the J.W. Gerth PS Grade 5 and 6 students going to Doon PS that we would consider Option G?

R: Ms. Manske responded that there is enough parent concern to warrant the Working Group to look at other solutions; there will be other concerns with this option but it does address the concern over Grade 5 and 6 students being accommodated at a senior elementary school.

**Interim Option H (under Scenario 14 or Scenario 16) see slide 24**

J.W. Gerth PS's Grade 6 students attend Doon PS in September 2014

Development Areas directed to Pioneer Park PS

**2014/15:**

- *All Grade 6s (65 students) to Doon PS from J.W. Gerth PS*
- *Development Areas to Pioneer Park PS*

**Interim Option H (under Scenario 14 or Scenario 16) see slide 24 continued**

**2015/16:**

- *All Grade 6s (60 students) to Doon PS from J.W. Gerth PS*
- *Development Areas to Pioneer Park PS*

C: In Option H, only the J.W. Gerth PS Grade 6s would attend Doon PS, which might better address the parent concerns.

R: Ms. Manske responded that moving only the Grades 6s to Doon PS does not move enough students; it may work in 2014 but becomes very risky in 2015. She noted that the portable count located in slides 23-26 of the online presentation are an extremely rough calculation and have not been put through the Board's staffing software to determine the breakdown of classes; the number of portables required could be more or less than estimated here.

C: Principal Schaffner commented that for the sake of 15 students it would not be worth moving only the Grade 6 students; Option H does not move enough to address the over enrolment at J.W. Gerth PS.

**Interim Option I (under Scenario 14 or Scenario 16) see slide 25**

J.W. Gerth PS's JK-6 students within the new South Kitchener school boundary attend Pioneer Park PS in September 2014

Development Areas directed to a school outside of Doon South study area

**2014/15:**

- *All JK-6 students in future new South Kit boundary from J.W. Gerth PS (280 students) to Pioneer Park PS.*
- *Development Areas to be directed to a school outside the study area*

**2015/16**

- *All JK-6 students in future New South Kitchener school boundary from J.W. Gerth PS (275 students) to Pioneer Park PS*
- *Development Areas to be directed to a school outside the study area*

Ms. Manske commented that Pioneer Park PS would not have enough specialized Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) classrooms to accommodate the Kindergarten students.

C: There are schools that are providing the Full Day Kindergarten program in classroom that have not been renovated for the program (do not have washroom etc.); the lack of the FDK classrooms should not mean that Option I can't be done.

R: Ms. Manske responded that the Board would have to address a lot of facility issues if the Working Group were to select this option that would bump Pioneer Park PS up to 650 students by next year.

**After further discussion the Working Group agreed not to consider Option I any further.**

**Interim Option J (under Scenario 14 or Scenario 16) see slide 26**

J.W. Gerth PS's Grade 1-6 students within the new South Kitchener school boundary attend Pioneer Park PS in September 2014; French Immersion students and siblings would stay at J.W. Gerth PS; Development Areas directed to a school outside of Doon South study area

***Interim Option J (under Scenario 14 or Scenario 16) see slide 26 continued***

***2014/15:***

- *All Grade 1-6 students in the future new South Kitchener school boundary from J.W. Gerth PS (185 students) go to Pioneer Park PS (for affected area see yellow area on map on slide 7 for Scenario 14 and slide 11 for Scenario 16)*
- *Development Areas directed to a school outside the study area*

***2015/16:***

- *All Grade 1-6 students in future new South Kitchener school boundary from J.W. Gerth PS (185 students) to Pioneer Park PS*
- *Development Areas directed to a school outside the study area*

C: Under Option J a J.W. Gerth PS SK student in the affected area today, would attend Pioneer Park PS for Grade 1 and the new South Kitchener school the following year (if opens in 2015). They have the potential to attend 3 different schools in 3 years under Option J?

C: Any Kindergarten students in the new South Kitchener school boundary would have to attend Kindergarten at J.W. Gerth PS then attend Pioneer Park PS for Grade 1 and attend the new South Kitchener school when it opens.

C: That is a lot of change for those students.

C: Principal Schaffner commented that Option F would have students moving to Doon PS next year and noted that offering JK-4 at J.W. Gerth PS would not be her first choice for all the reasons parents have expressed; she noted that Option J does have its benefits as all the schools remain JK-6; the enrolment numbers are all reasonable for JK-6 schools, Doon PS does not get over populated; enrolment stays the same from 2014-2017; we are not moving resources that will have to be moved by to J.W. Gerth PS; will not be affecting families that live adjacent to J.W. Gerth PS and expected their children to attend JK-6 there instead would be affecting families that would have to attend the new South Kitchener school. The portable numbers for Pioneer Park PS (11 portables) under Option J are reasonable.

R: Ms. Manske responded that the difference between Option F and Option J is that Option F has the potential (worst case scenario) for Pioneer Park PS to get up to 10 portables if the development areas come on. Whereas, Option J would mean that Pioneer Park PS's need for 11 portables would be pretty much a certainty.

Q: What would happen with J.W. Gerth PS's French Immersion students?

R: Ms. Manske responded that the current Grade 1-3 FI students would remain at J.W. Gerth PS because Pioneer Park PS does not offer the FI program.

C: Concerns were expressed that J.W. Gerth PS would be separating the French Program students from the regular track students.

R: Principal Schaffner commented that Option J would only be affecting 180 students that would be in the new South Kitchener school boundary; J.W. Gerth PS would still be running the regular and FI programs.

- Q: Could Option J be modified so that students would not be affected by multiple transitions?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that it could, but doing so would result in affected area students from the same family having to attend different schools, which will not be popular with parents.
- Q: How many J.W. Gerth PS students are in the new South Kitchener school boundary?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that there are 280 students including JK and SK; 185 students from Grade 1-6 with the JK/SKs taken out; approximately 50 students per grade.
- Q: Could parents be given the option to enroll their younger child at Pioneer Park PS for JK or SK to be able to keep their children together? This would allow parents some choice and allow them to make the decision based on whether they feel their younger child could handle that transition, knowing that they will have to transition again to the new school when it opens.
- C: How would that affect Pioneer Park PS's enrolment numbers?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that choice could be extended to the affected families and noted that it would only be a one-way option; meaning they could both attend Pioneer Park PS, but not J.W. Gerth PS.
- Q: Can we look at making all the schools JK-5 and sending all the Grade 6s to Doon PS?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that doing so does not address the over enrolment at J.W. Gerth PS and would be affecting a lot more people in the process unnecessarily.
- Q: How will Pioneer Park PS be able to accommodate nutrition breaks with 11 portables?
- R: Vice Principal Davidson commented that the students would stay in the portables and a teacher would walk around doing supervision; 1 teacher monitoring 3 portables or a Grade 6 student helper will stay in the classroom while the teacher walks around (this is how it was done at Country Hills PS).
- Ms. Manske asked what the Pioneer Park PS community response might be to this influx of students for a couple of years and then taking them away again.
- C: If Scenario 14 these students would meet up again at Doon PS for Grades 7-8. Could also affect fundraising at Pioneer Park PS in a negative way as parents know they won't be staying and may not want to be involved.
- Ms. Manske advised that Option J will likely not be any more popular than Option F.
- C: It may not be, but it is another Option.
- C: Either way, the students in the new South Kitchener school's boundary are going to have to move to the new school in 2 years anyway; regardless of when they go at least under Option J they remain together. Can consideration be given to keeping those

cohort students together (new school community) while they are at Pioneer Park PS to ease the transition?

R: Principal Kitamura responded that administrators do take such circumstances into consideration to ensure that students aren't isolated and are able to be successful. However, nothing can be guaranteed because we have a staffing process.

Q: How do we decide if we will be recommending transition Option F or Option J?

R: Ms. Manske responded that if we are going to consider another option we would need to present that at another Public Meeting and gather feedback on that option. It would not be fair to those families affected not to allow them the same opportunity to provide their comments and concerns.

Q: Can we bring both Options (F and J) to the Trustees and let them make the decision?

R: Ms. Manske responded that we can allow Trustees to make the decision if that is the Working Group's preference.

C: At the next Public Meeting we should also explain the [other options that were considered](#) and why we decided on Option F and Option J.

R: Ms. Manske responded that it would definitely be worthwhile to go through all the Options that we've considered and explain why the Options we are bring forward are the best.

Q: Could having another Public Meeting push back the date of opening for the new school? You had said previously that a decision was needed by a certain date.

R: No. This will have no effect on the opening date of the new school. We need a decision on the Interim Option by the end of January in order to make changes for September 2014.

C: Mr. Cuomo responded that the only concern about an additional Public Meeting would be if it would affect us having a decision by the end of January. Public Meeting #3 would have to take place in the first week of January to be able to prepare a report and recommendations to go before the Board at the January 20, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting; a decision could then be finalized at the Board Meeting at the end of January. The Report would need to be ready by January 14th to go before the Executive Committee prior to being presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

C: Option J does not give any consideration to the Development Areas; coming from a past development area, I do not like that these Areas will have to be bussed outside the community to attend a school even though they would be buying a house to be part of this community.

C: Option J has too many transitions for students and I don't think that is that best option for those students. My child would be affected by Option F and I have had experience at Doon PS and I know what a great school it can be; I don't have the same

fears/concerns as those being expressed about moving the Grade 5 and 6s to Doon PS. Some reassurance to parents about what Doon PS can offer (the good things) leadership opportunities that can still happen even though they are the junior students in a senior school.

The Working Group discussed [Scenario 14](#) and [Scenario 16](#)

Ms. Manske advised that the differences between the scenarios are as follows:

- Area M2 remains at J.W. Gerth PS under Scenario 16
- Under Scenario 14 the entire Doon community attends Doon PS for Grades 7-8 (new South Kitchener school is JK-6)
- Under Scenario 16 Brigadoon, J.W. Gerth and Pioneer Park PSs attend Doon PS for Grades 7-8; the new South Kitchener school would be JK-8 and keep its own 7-8 population.

Ms. Manske noted that based on the lack of feedback from Public Meeting #2 on the boundaries drawn under Scenarios 14 and 16 we may have established a fairly decent boundary for the new South Kitchener school.

C: May not be on their radar - the community is too concerned with what will happen in September that they are not concerned with what will happen in 2 years.

Ms. Manske noted that some of the Working Group's concern with Scenario 14 was due to the enrolment size of Doon PS and asked if the feedback received from Westheights PS helps alleviate those concerns.

C: In regards to lack of behavioural issues at Westheights PS; I'm not sure that the demographic in this area is quite the same.

C: Principal Oberle commented that in an area where we are expecting future growth, he is not sure that it would make sense to have only one school in the area offering the 7-8 program; especially when we have the opportunity to build another school that could have the 7-8 component.

Ms. Manske asked if there are any concerns with the 7-8 program numbers (not ideal) at the new South Kitchener school initially under Scenario 16.

C: Ms. Manske noted that feedback had been received that noted that schools with lower enrolment at the Grade 7-8 level may not have the same opportunity for extra curriculars and asked if this would be a concern. It may also be better for some students, eliminating the need for tryouts, etc. could allow more students to participate.

C: Principal Hagey-Nichols commented that there are some challenges with a lower enrolment in the 7-8 program; but noted that in Scenario 16, the 7-8 enrolment will get larger in future years as the lower grades move through. The first year is always a challenge for a new school.

R: Ms. Manske responded that the new school would open as a JK-7 and add Grade 8 in its second year under Scenario 16.

Q: Did we look at J.W. Gerth PS's Grade 6s feeding into the new South Kitchener school?

R: Ms. Manske responded that we did not because it would be adding an additional 100 students for a total of almost 900 students at the new school, which is much too large.

C: Doon PS would still need an addition under Scenario 16.

The Working Group discussed how Options F and J would work under the Scenarios

Q: Under the Scenario 16 (new school JK-8); which current J.W. Gerth PS students would have to go from Doon PS back to the new South Kitchener school for Grades 7-8?

R: Ms. Manske responded that if the new South Kitchener school opens in 2016; the current 2013/14 Grade 3 class would be at Doon PS for Grade 5 (under Transition Option F) and then have to move to the new school for Grades 6-8; but not the French Immersion students.

Q: Could those students be grandfathered to stay at Doon PS instead of moving to the new school?

R: Ms. Manske responded that they could be grandfathered but cautioned that doing so would mean that there would only be the Brigadoon PS students that are in the new South Kitchener school boundary in the Grade 5 program at the new South Kitchener school in the year of opening. Giving that option to the Grade 5 Brigadoon PS students to remain at Brigadoon PS; resulting in the enrolment increasing there.

Ms. Manske noted that if the new South Kitchener school opens in 2016 and we offer Grades 1-4 French Immersion there, any students in Grades 5-8 in that year would stay at their current school, along with their siblings. The younger siblings would be allowed to stay only until that older grandfathered FI student graduates from that school; at which point the younger siblings would have to attend the new South Kitchener school.

Q: Will parents be advised of that the younger siblings can only stay until the older FI student remains at the school?

R: Yes.

C: Ms. Manske noted that should the Board agreed to offer any transportation grandfathering; that too would likely end when the older sibling finishes out at the school to which they have been grandfathered.

## **5. Report and Recommendations**

Ms. Manske did a recap of Scenarios 14 and 16 as follows:

**Scenario 14:** (slides 7-10 of the online presentation)

- New South Kitchener school JK-6 only
- New South Kitchener school boundary takes in portions of:
  - Current Brigadoon PS and
  - J.W. Gerth PS boundaries

**Scenario 14:** (slides 7-10 of the online presentation) continued

- New South Kitchener school would operate as JK-5 in first year only, adding Grade 6 in year 2
- Doon PS remains as senior (7-8) school for all Doon South Area students
- Minor boundary modifications for:
  - Brigadoon PS,
  - J.W. Gerth PS, and
  - Pioneer Park PS
- French Immersion program offered at:
  - Brigadoon PS (1-6),
  - J.W. Gerth PS.(1-6 by 2016),
  - the New South Kitchener school (1-4 in 2016 and 1-6 by 2018) and
  - Doon P.S. (7-8 by 2014)
- Grandfathering For:
  - French Immersion students for Grades 5-6 (in 2016)
  - In the first year incoming new school boundary Grades 6s from Brigadoon PS, J.W. Gerth PS and Pioneer Park PS (grandfathered to stay at current school)
- Development Area boundaries established – future school to be determined
- Construction Requirements:
  - 10 classroom addition at Doon PS
  - 2 classroom addition at:
    - Brigadoon PS
    - Pioneer Park PS
    - the new South Kitchener school
- Objectives:
  - Meets the majority of our objectives ([available here](#))
  - Does not meet the objective related to the size of JK-6 facilities, which is an objective that we are not going to be able to achieve in this study area for 2 reasons:
    1. Our facilities are built for more than 400 students and we should be filling them, and
    2. This size calculation does not take into account French Immersion programs at the schools, which should also have approximately 2 classes per grade in addition to the regular track programs.

**Scenario 16** (slides 11-14 of the online presentation)

- New South Kitchener school's JK-8; JK-7 in opening year
- New South Kitchener school boundary takes in portions of the current:
  - Brigadoon PS and
  - J.W. Gerth PS boundary
- Boundary modifications for:
  - Brigadoon PS
  - J.W. Gerth PS and
  - Pioneer Park PS
- French Immersion (FI) program offered at:
  - Brigadoon PS (1-6),
  - J.W. Gerth PS (1-6 by 2016), and
  - the New South Kitchener school (1-6 by 2018)



**Scenario 16** (slides 11-14 of the online presentation) continued

- French Immersion (FI) program offered at (continued):
  - Doon PS (7-8 by 2014)
- Grandfathering For:
  - French Immersion students for Grades 5-8 (in 2016)
  - In the first year incoming new school boundary Grades 8s from Brigadoon PS, J.W. Gerth PS and Pioneer Park PS (grandfathered to Doon PS)
- Development Area boundaries established – future school to be determined
- Construction Requirements:
  - 5 classroom addition at Doon PS
  - 6 classroom addition at the new South Kitchener school
  - 2 classroom addition at Brigadoon PS and Pioneer Park PS
- Objectives:
  - Scenario 16 does not meet as many of the objectives ([available here](#)) as Scenario 14, specifically related to size.
  - The size of the new South Kitchener school in Scenario 16 reaches over 750 students – 100 more than the size we are trying to limit our schools to for many reasons. See [Board Policy 3002 – Elementary School Size and Configuration](#) which limits new school construction at 650 pupil places; Scenario 16 suggests that the new school be built at 740 pupil places.
  - There is potential for more students to be within walking distance to the new South Kitchener school because of 7-8 program.
- Development Areas established – future school to be determined

C: By 2017 the new school will be over 700 students under Scenario 16 but every other school would have reduced their need for portables (the amount they have currently).

Q: Are those portable numbers before or after the anticipated classroom additions for those schools?

R: Ms. Manske responded that the portable numbers do not include any classroom additions.

Q: Are we confident that the funding would come through for the required classroom additions?

R: We are only guaranteed that we can get portables where we have sufficient site to do so. (i.e., not at J.W. Gerth PS)

**The Working Group did a show of hands to decide which Scenario to bring forward as the recommended boundary for the new South Kitchener school:**

**Result of Vote:**

**Scenario 14: 0 members of the Working Group in favour**

**Scenario 16: 9 members of the Working Group in favour**

**The Working Group agreed to Recommend Scenario 16 as the preferred boundary for the new South Kitchener school.**

### **Interim Options for September 2014 Implementation**

Ms. Manske did a quick run through of the Interim Options (G-J) presented this evening (see slides 22-26 of the online presentation); noting that **a minor modification could be made under Option J to allow the SK class the choice to remain at J.W. Gerth PS for Grade 1 rather than move to Pioneer Park PS the year prior to the new South Kitchener school opening.**

C: We owe it to the community to present Option J in a public meeting forum because that's what we've done so far; to allow the community to have their voices heard. I don't like leaving the decision up to the Trustees.

R: Ultimately, it will be the Trustees who will make the final decision.

C: Under Option J there are more unknowns than under Option F in regards to the Development Areas – these people won't know where their children will have to go to school.

R: Ms. Manske responded that these will be people without a voice; they haven't moved in yet and will likely question this process when they do move in. Ms. Manske advised that this can be addressed in the Report under the pros and cons of the transition Option; indicating that these Development Areas will have to attend a school which has yet to be determined; the uncertainty around timing of building and to advise the Trustees that they can expect to be hearing from these people when they do move in.

Q: Option J has more transitions for students?

R: Yes, Ms. Manske noted that potentially it does have more transitions; and advised that we can try to mitigate it somewhat with grandfathering. She cautioned that it definitely has more transitions for student than Option F.

C: Principal Schaffner commented that one of the major concerns with Option F was that J.W. Gerth PS would lose all its older students and be a JK-4 school.

C: Option J would allow remaining (not in the new school boundary) J.W. Gerth PS families with young children to stay together.

**The Working Group agreed to bring Transition Options F and J forward as possible Interim Options to be implemented for September 2014.**

**The Working Group agreed to have Public Meeting #3 on January 8, 2013 at J.W. Gerth PS to share:**

- **Scenario 16 as the recommended boundary for the new South Kitchener school**
- **Options F and J for consideration as the interim option to be implemented for September 2014.**

Ms. Manske advised that both Options (F and J) can be brought forward in the Report to the Board of Trustees.

**Ms. Manske to prepare a Public Meeting Notice to be sent home with every student prior to the Christmas break.**

## 6. Roundtable

The Working Group agreed to meet after Public Meeting #3 to discuss the feedback from the meeting and finalize the Report and Recommendations

- Working Group Meeting #7 - January 9, 2013 from 4:30-6:00 PM at Pioneer Park PS

Ms. Manske thanked the Working Group for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

### Action Items:

- Ms. Manske to provide response to Option F, parent concerns with moving Grades 5 and 6 to Doon PS at Public Meeting #3.
- Ms. Manske will follow-up with City of Kitchener staff to get more information on whether J. W. Gerth PS may now meet the requirement for an adult crossing guard if the Grade 5 and 6 students are moved to Doon PS.
- Ms. Manske to make modifications to Option J to reduce transitions.
- Ms. Manske to prepare [notice of Public Meeting #3](#) and provide to schools in time to distribute prior to the Christmas Break.
- Ms. Manske to post detailed information on [Scenario 16](#) and Options ([F](#) and [J](#)) on the [Website](#) prior to the Christmas Break.

### Future Meetings:

#### Public Meetings:

- Public Meeting #3: Wednesday, January 8, 2014 from 7:00-8:30 pm at J.W. Gerth PS

#### Working Group Meetings:

- ~~Working Group #7: Thursday, January 9, 2014 from 4:30-6:00 pm at Pioneer Park PS~~

#### **Post Meeting #6:**

- Working Group #7 Rescheduled to Tuesday, January 7, 2014 from 4:00-5:30 pm at Pioneer Park PS – Cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Working Group #8: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 from 4:30-6:00 PM at Doon PS