



Doon South Elementary Schools Boundary Study
Minutes of Public Meeting #2
December 5, 2013
Doon Public School
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

The second Public Meeting of the Doon South Elementary Schools Boundary Study was held at Doon Public School on Thursday, December 5, 2013.

Approximately 110 members of the community were in attendance.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Lauren Manske, Senior Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board welcomed those in attendance and gave the following introductions:

Board Planning Staff:

Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning
Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner
Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary

Principals:

Don Oberle, Principal of Doon PS
Laura Hagey-Nichols, Principal of Brigadoon PS
Susan Schaffner, Principal of J.W. Gerth PS (Regrets)
Glenn Kitamura, Principal of Pioneer Park PS (Regrets)

Superintendent of Education:

Laura Hodgins

WRDSB Trustees:

Ted Martin, Board Chairperson and Kitchener Trustee
Margaret Johnston, Kitchener Trustee
Kathleen Woodcock, Waterloo/Wilmot Trustee

Ms. Manske led the audience through tonight's presentation available online at:

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

Purpose of Meeting:

- To share information about two proposed boundary change scenarios and to gather [feedback](#) on those boundaries.
- To discuss proposed interim grade configuration changes for J.W. Gerth PS that may be implemented as early as September 2014.
- To answer any questions and to discuss concerns that we may be able to address before a recommendation relating to this boundary study goes before the Board of Trustees to make a decision – likely in January or February 2014.

2. Update on the Boundary Study Process:

What is a Boundary Study?

A boundary study is a public process. It ensures that a decision made by the board regarding the realignment of attendance boundaries has the involvement of an informed local community.

Reasons for the Doon South Boundary Study:

Ms. Manske noted that the first Public Meeting was held on November 5, 2013 and provided the following context for why the Board is conducting a boundary study in the Doon South area:

- As a result of the rapid growth in this area of Kitchener, the Board has been able to secure funding from the Ministry of Education to build a new elementary school on Thomas Slee Dr. at Groh Dr. Kitchener.
- The targeted opening date for the new school is September 2015; however, it is uncertain at this time if that date will be achievable. The site for this new school, which is yet to be named, is not currently owned by the Board. The Board is working with the developer and the City to finalize the conditions required to acquire the site and to start construction. The Board is working towards a targeted opening date of September 2015; but due to required approvals related to the surrounding subdivision, as established by the Ontario Municipal Board, progress is being limited at this time. As a result, there are two different implementation time frames on the scenarios presented this evening – one showing a 2015 opening date, and the second with a 2016 opening date.
- Although there is no critical time frame for setting the boundary for this new school, as it is still a few years away, we were asked to help find solutions to the much more critical overcrowding situation at the schools in the area – especially J.W. Gerth PS which currently has 9 portables on site and no room on the site for additional portables; therefore J.W. Gerth PS cannot accommodate any further enrolment increases.

Study Area: (slide 5 of the online presentation)

The Doon South Boundary Study includes 4 schools and 1 future school:

- Brigadoon PS
- J. W. Gerth PS
- Pioneer Park PS
- Doon P.S. which is the senior elementary facility for the area.
- New (unnamed) South Kitchener school to be built on Thomas Slee Drive at Groh Drive.

School Size (Enrolment and Capacity) – slide 6 of the online presentation

Ms. Manske noted that all of the schools in the area are accommodating more students than the buildings are intended to accommodate given today's class sizes and other programs operating in the school. Resulting is a total of 22 portable classrooms providing temporary accommodation in the area today.

Boundary Study Process: (slide 7 of the online presentation)

Referring to the chart of slide 7 of the online presentation, Ms. Manske advised that we are nearing the end of the process. The Working Group (consisting of up to 2 parent/guardian representatives from each school, the Principals/VPs, Superintendent of Education and Planning staff) have been busy developing and evaluating several scenarios.

The refined scenarios are being presented tonight in order to get your collective input on:

- What you like
- What you don't like
- How we might be able to improve on them – this could include the transition part (how we get from here to there with the least disruption).

Ms. Manske advised that the scenarios presented tonight were developed and refined based on feedback received from the first public meeting, as well as taking into account new information presented to the Working Group.

Ms. Manske advised that the [feedback](#) received will be given to the Working Group and based on that feedback; modifications may be made to the scenarios.

The Working Group will help to develop recommendations that staff will take to your elected Board of Trustees, who ultimately make the final decision.

Timeline: (slide 8 of the online presentation)

Ms. Manske advised that:

- A recommendation must go to the Board before the end of January 2014, (for changes to be implemented for this coming September (2014) to allow enough time to do our staffing process and so that families have adequate time to prepare for any changes).
- Aiming to bring a report and recommendations to the Board's Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, January 20, 2014.

3. Scenarios:

Scenarios Presented at Public Meeting #1 (slide 9 of the online presentation)

Ms. Manske noted that:

- The three scenarios presented at the first public meeting (which are no longer being considered by the Working Group) were:
 - [Scenario 5](#)
 - [Scenario 7](#)
 - [Scenario 8](#)
- All three of those scenarios showed the new school as a JK-8 organization and two scenarios had Doon PS being converted to a JK-8 facility.

Ms. Manske advised that:

- Neither of the two scenarios being presented this evening have Doon PS converting to a JK-8 school for the following reasons:
 - No logical boundary could be drawn for Doon PS as a JK-8 school that would create an optimal program for both the JK-6 and 7-8 portions of the school;
 - Uncertainty around timing for funding to construct the necessary infrastructure at the school to offer the Full Day Kindergarten program made it difficult to set an implementation date.
- Based on the feedback received from the first Public Meeting, the Working Group prepared several more scenarios in order to address expressed concerns and to attempt to find a scenario that better meets the objectives that were set out for this study.

Scenarios being presented this evening:

Ms. Manske advised that the two scenarios being presented tonight (Scenarios 14 and 16) have been chosen by the Working Group because they have the most logical boundaries and school organizations of the scenarios explored to date and they meet the majority of the [study objectives](#).

Ms. Manske described the new Scenarios as follows:

Scenario 14: (slides 10-17 of the online presentation)

Scenario 14 – JK-6 Boundaries (slide 10)

- New South Kitchener school (JK-6) boundary takes in portions of the current:
 - Brigadoon PS and
 - J.W. Gerth PS boundaries
- 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), and
 - the New South Kitchener school (1-6 by 2018)
- Development Area boundaries established – future school to be determined

Scenario 14 – 7-8 Boundaries (slide 11)

- Doon PS remains as senior (7-8) school for all Doon South Area students – the only change to the boundary is carving out development areas which will be assigned to a school that has space at the time when homes are built.
- French Immersion program offered at Doon PS (Grades 7-8 by 2014)

Scenario 14 – Brigadoon PS to New South Kitchener school (slide 12)

Referring to the more detailed map on slide 12 Ms. Manske advised that the yellow area is the affected area that would be moving from Brigadoon PS to the New South Kitchener school and

- **Regardless of implementation year:**
 - School opens as JK-5 and adds Grade 6 the following year
 - Grade 6 students in affected area grandfathered at Brigadoon PS in year of school's opening
- **2015 Implementation:**
 - New South Kitchener would offer Grades 1-3 French Immersion (FI) in 2015/16 school year and Grades 1-6 by 2018/19 school year
 - Grades 4-6 FI students in affected area until end of 2017/18 school year (siblings grandfathered at Brigadoon PS until grandfathered student graduates) *see [FI FAQ](#) for detailed example.*
- **2016 Implementation:**
 - New South Kitchener would offer Grades 1-4 FI in 2016/17 school year and Grades 1-6 by 2018/19 school year
 - Grades 5-6 FI students in affected area until end of 2017/18 school year (siblings grandfathered at Brigadoon PS until grandfathered student graduates)

Scenario 14 – J.W. Gerth PS to New South Kitchener school (slide 13)

Referring to the yellow area on the maps on slide 13, Ms. Manske advised that this is the affected area that would be moving from JW Gerth PS to the New South Kitchener school:

- **Regardless of implementation year:**
 - New south Kitchener School opens as JK-5 and adds Grade 6 the following year
 - Grade 6 students in affected area grandfathered at school they attended for Grade 5 in the year of school's opening (Interim Option F school would be Doon PS)
- **2015 Implementation:**
 - New South Kitchener would offer Grades 1-3 FI in 2015/16 school year and Grades 1-6 by 2018/19 school year
 - Grades 4-5 FI students in affected area until end of 2017/18 school year (siblings grandfathered at J.W. Gerth PS until grandfathered student graduates) *see [FI FAQ](#) for detailed example.*

Scenario 14 – J.W. Gerth PS to New South Kitchener school continued (slide 13)

• **2016 Implementation:**

- New South Kitchener school would offer Grades 1-4 FI in 2016/17 school year and Grades 1-6 by 2018/19 school year
- Grades 5-6 FI students in affected area until end of 2017/18 school year (siblings grandfathered at JW Gerth PS until grandfathered student graduates) see [FI FAQ](#) for detailed example.

Scenario 14 – Pioneer Park PS to Brigadoon PS (slide 14)

- Referring to the map on slide 14, Ms. Manske advised that the blue area would be moving from Pioneer Park PS to Brigadoon PS and includes the following:
 - Templewood Drive
 - Northbrook Place
 - Old Huron Road (*this area will be within walking distance of Brigadoon PS once Templewood Drive connects*)
- Grade 6 students in the year of change, have the option to stay at Pioneer Park PS

Scenario 14 – Pioneer Park PS to J.W. Gerth PS (slide 15)

- Referring to the maps on slide 15, Ms. Manske advised that the green area would be moving from Pioneer Park PS to J.W. Gerth PS; affected area includes:
 - St. Emilion Place
 - Doonbrook Place
 - Doon Village Road (Doonbrook Place to dead end),
 - Doon Mills Drive (Doon Village Road to Tilt Drive)
 - all of these students would be within walking distance of J.W. Gerth PS
- Grade 6 students in the year of change, have the option to stay at Pioneer Park PS

Scenario 14 – Enrolment Projections (slide 16)

Referring to the Charts on slide 16, Ms. Manske noted the following:

- The enrolment projections assume a 2015 opening date for the new South Kitchener school. September 2016 opening information is available on the display boards (available here).
- The projections for Scenario 14 show that Brigadoon PS remains over capacity initially, but will level off over the long-term. Ms. Manske advised that Brigadoon PS is scheduled for a 2 classroom addition to accommodate the Full-Day Kindergarten program in September 2014. The tender for this project has asked for pricing on 4 classrooms instead of 2. If the Board can get a reasonable price for the additional 2 classrooms (46 pupil places), we would build a 4 classroom addition and these classrooms would be ready for September 2014 and would eliminate the need to come back for future additions at Brigadoon PS. The 2015/16 capacity shown on this chart assumes that only the approved 2 classrooms will be added this year and does not take into account the potential for the extra 2.
- Doon PS would require a 10 classroom addition (230 pupil places) and based on the Ministry's capital funding benchmark, the estimated cost for this addition would be \$4.3M.
- J.W. Gerth PS's enrolment is reduced to within its building as soon as the new school opens.
- Pioneer Park PS shows a good, stable enrolment between 360 and 375 students. Based on these projections, the school could be considered for a 2 classroom addition (46 pupil places) at an estimated cost of \$950,000.
- The new school is built at a size that the site could handle, but we would likely look at building some additional classrooms there, above what has been approved. An additional 2 classrooms would have a benchmark cost of \$854,000.
- The development areas that have been carved out of the area school boundaries will need to be assigned a school, and based on the projected numbers would warrant the Board adding an additional elementary school to this community.

Scenario 14 versus the Objectives: (slide 17)

Ms. Manske advised that:

- Scenario 14 does meet 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 18-25 of the online presentation)

Scenario 16 – JK-6 Boundaries (slide 18)

Ms. Manske noted that for those that have been following the Boundary Study on the web, they will notice that the boundaries for Scenario 16 are the same as for Scenario 10; however, it has been renumbered Scenario 16 because the implementation is a little different (specifically related to French Immersion)

- New South Kitchener school's JK-6 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)
- Development Areas established – future school to be determined

Scenario 16 – 7-8 Boundaries (slide 19)

- New South Kitchener school's 7-8 boundary takes in portions of the current Doon PS boundary (new school's 7-8 boundary is the same as its JK-6 boundary)
- Doon PS remains as senior (7-8) school for:
 - Brigadoon PS,
 - Pioneer Park PS and
 - J.W. Gerth PS
- French Immersion (FI) program offered at:
 - Doon PS (7-8 by 2014) *any new South Kitchener school French Immersion students would attend Doon PS for Grades 7-8 (could be evaluated in the future if New South Kitchener school would offer Grades 7-8 FI)*
- Development Areas established – future school to be determined

Scenario 16 – Brigadoon P.S. to New South Kitchener school (slide 20)

Ms. Manske advised that the JK-6 affected yellow area on slide 20 (Brigadoon PS to New South Kitchener school) is the same as Scenario 14. The difference between the scenarios is for the Grade 7-8 students as they are directed to New South Kitchener school from Doon PS.

- **Regardless of implementation year:**
 - School opens as JK-7 and adds Grade 8 following year
 - Grade 8 students in affected area grandfathered at Doon PS in year of school's opening
- **2015 Implementation:**
 - New South Kitchener would offer Grades 1-3 FI in 2015/16 school year and Grades 1-6 by 2018/19 school year, Grades 7-8 FI students would be directed to Doon PS

Scenario 16 – Brigadoon P.S. to New South Kitchener school (slide 20) continued

- **2015 Implementation (continued):**
 - Grades 4-6 FI students in affected area until end of 2017/18 school year (siblings grandfathered at Brigadoon PS until grandfathered student graduates) see [FI FAQ](#) for detailed example
- **2016 Implementation:**
 - New South Kitchener would offer Grades 1-4 FI in 2016/17 school year and Grades 1-6 by 2018/19 school year, Grades 7-8 FI students would be directed to Doon PS
 - Grades 5-6 FI students in affected area until end of 2017/18 school year (siblings grandfathered at Brigadoon PS until grandfathered student graduates) see [FI FAQ](#) for detailed example

Scenario 16 – J.W. Gerth P.S. to New South Kitchener school (slide 21)

- JK-6 affected area (yellow area on slide 21) almost the same as Scenario 14, (*minus a section of Robert Ferrie Drive and Topper Woods Crescent*) also includes Grades 7-8 directed to New South Kitchener school from Doon PS
- **Regardless of implementation year:**
 - New South Kitchener school opens as JK-7 and adds Grade 8 the following year
 - Grade 8 students in affected area grandfathered Doon PS in year of school's opening
- **2015 Implementation:**
 - New South Kitchener would offer Grades 1-3 FI in 2015/16 school year and Grades 1-6 by 2018/19 school year, Grades 7-8 FI students would be directed to Doon PS
 - Grades 4-5 FI students in affected area until end of 2017/18 school year (siblings grandfathered at JW Gerth PS until grandfathered student graduates) see [FI FAQ](#) for detailed example
- **2016 Implementation:**
 - New South Kitchener would offer Grades 1-4 FI in 2016/17 school year and Grades 1-6 by 2018/19 school year, Grades 7-8 FI students would be directed to Doon PS
 - Grade 5-6 FI students in affected area until end of 2017/18 school year (siblings grandfathered at JW Gerth PS until grandfathered student graduates) see [FI FAQ](#) for detailed example

Scenario 16 – Pioneer Park PS to Brigadoon PS (slide 22)

- Affected area (same as Scenario 14) the blue area on slide 22 would move from Pioneer Park PS to Brigadoon PS and includes the following:
 - Templewood Drive
 - Northbrook Place
 - Old Huron Road (*this area will be within walking distance of Brigadoon PS once Templewood Drive connects*)
- Grade 6 students in year of change have option to stay at Pioneer Park PS

Scenario 16 – Pioneer Park PS to J.W. Gerth PS (slide 23)

- Affected area (same as Scenario 14) the green area on slide 23 would move from Pioneer Park PS to J.W. Gerth PS; affected area includes:
 - St. Emilion Place
 - Doonbrook Place
 - Doon Village Road (Doonbrook Place to dead end),
 - Doon Mills Drive (Doon Village Road to Tilt Drive)
 - all of these students would be within walking distance of JW Gerth PS
- Grade 6 students year of change have option to stay at Pioneer Park PS

Scenario 16 Projected Enrolment (slide 24)

Referring to the charts on slide 24, Ms. Manske noted the following:

- The enrolment projections on slide 24 assumes a 2015 opening date for the new South Kitchener school and the 2016 opening information is available on the display boards ([available here](#)).
- (Same as Scenario 14) The projections for Scenario 16 show that Brigadoon PS remains over capacity initially, but will level off over the long-term. *Ms. Manske advised that Brigadoon PS is scheduled for a 2 classroom addition to accommodate the Full-Day Kindergarten program in September 2014. The tender for this project has asked for pricing on 4 classrooms instead of 2. If the Board can get a reasonable price for the additional 2 classrooms (46 pupil places), we would build a 4 classroom addition and these classrooms would be ready for September 2014 and would eliminate the need to come back for future additions at Brigadoon PS. The 2015/16 capacity shown on this chart assumes that only the approved 2 classrooms will be added this year and does not take into account the potential for the extra 2.*
- The difference here is for Doon PS would only require a 5 classroom addition (115 pupil places) at an estimated benchmark cost of \$2.2M.
- The new school would require more classrooms because in Scenario 16 it would also be accommodating a 7-8 population, increasing its numbers. An additional 6 classrooms (138 pupil places) would be estimated at \$2.5M.
- J.W. Gerth PS's enrolment is reduced to within its building over the long-term in this scenario.
- The same as Scenario 14, the identified development areas that have been carved out of the area school boundaries and will need to be assigned somewhere, possibly to another new elementary school in this community.

Scenario 16 versus the Objectives: (slide 25)

Ms. Manske advised that:

- 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](#)

Interim Option F (slides 26-29 of the online presentation)

Ms. Manske explained that in order to address the enrolment situation at J.W. Gerth PS and Brigadoon PS before the new school opens, the Working Group has explored many different options (A-F which are [available here](#)) and have chosen to share with you tonight the option (F) that minimizes the impact on existing students in the community in two ways:

1. No new homes (and students) will be added to the J.W. Gerth PS and Brigadoon PS boundaries – starting as early as February 2014;
2. A reduced potential for multiple school changes for existing students (*same number of transitions they would have today*).

Option F Description: Grade JK-4 Boundaries (slide 26)

Under Option F, starting in 2014-2015 until new south Kitchener school opens:

- Developing areas assigned to Pioneer Park PS (70 students projected)
- All Grades 5-6 students in the current 2013 J.W. Gerth PS boundary attend Doon PS (130 students), 3 classes in each grade.

2014-2015 School year:

- Developing areas assigned to Pioneer Park P.S. (160 students)
- All Grades 5-6 students in the current 2013 J.W. Gerth PS boundary attend Doon PS (150 students), 4 classes of Gr. 5 and 3 classes of Gr. 6

Option F Description: Grade JK-4 Boundaries (slide 26) *continued*

2015-2016 School year:

- *Depends on Scenario*

2016-2017 School year:

- *Depends on Scenario*

Interim Option F – Grade 5-8 boundaries (slide 27)

Ms. Manske advised that:

- Starting in September 2014 until new South Kitchener school opens, Doon PS would take in all Grade 5 and 6 students from J.W. Gerth PS's current boundary.
- This means that Doon PS will have Grades 5 to 8 students at the school.
- Ms. Manske acknowledged that while this may not be the most ideal situation, the Board does have other middle schools offering more than just Grades 7 and 8; and that Doon PS offered Grades 6-8 until J.W. Gerth PS opened in September of 2008.

Interim Option F – Scenario 14 (slide 28)

Ms. Manske explained how students under Option F would be affected under Scenario 14 and noted the following:

- There would be no additional school changes other than what a J.W. Gerth PS student would be required to do today – From J.W. Gerth PS to Doon PS.
- This is because the new school would only open in its first year up to Grade 5, leaving those students who had started at Doon PS in Grade 5 to stay there until they finish Grade 8.
- This also means that the year the new school opens, J.W. Gerth PS would only add back Grade 5, leaving the 6s at Doon PS.
- It would not be until the second year of the new school being open that both J.W. Gerth PS and the new south Kitchener school would offer JK-6.
- Since we do not have the permanent capacity at any of the schools in the area, this will mean portables at every site.
- The projection of 10 portables at Pioneer Park PS in the 2016 implementation is probably a worst-case scenario. This will be very much dependent on house sales in the developing areas.

Interim Option F – Scenario 16 (slide 29)

Ms. Manske explained how students under Option F would be affected under Scenario 16 and noted the following:

- There would be one additional school change for some J.W. Gerth PS students who fall within the new school boundary (about 35 students) *because the new school would only open in its first year up to Grade 7, having those who went to Doon PS for Grade 5 switching to the new school for Grade 7 and staying there until they finish Grade 8.*
- Those within the new J.W. Gerth PS boundary in Grade 6 the year the new school opens would stay at Doon PS, meaning that year J.W. Gerth PS would only add back Grade 5; it would not be until the second year of the new school being open that J.W. Gerth would offer JK-6 again.
- We recognize that this option will cause a lot of disruption for those families that are impacted. Although we cannot guarantee that childcare will be available at Doon PS, the Board will seek a 3rd party provider to offer a Youth Development before and after school program at Doon PS. This program would be offered based on interest. We have had a lot of questions about child care, so have prepared a [child care FAQ sheet](#) that is available on our website and paper copies are available here tonight.
- In the past, the Board has had schools set up transition committees that would provide the opportunity for parents to bring forward concerns/issues that can be addressed when the change is implemented so that the changes happen with more ease. We could explore this option here if families are interested.

Next Steps: (slide 30 of the online presentation)

Ms. Manske advised that the next steps in the process are as follows:

- Working Group reviews public meeting comments
- Working Group may refine scenarios based on public feedback
- Working Group to develop recommendations
- Staff bring recommendations to the Board of Trustees
- Trustees vote on recommendations

4. Questions/Comments

Ms. Manske opened the floor to questions/comments from 7:40 – 8:05 pm:

C: J.W. Gerth PS parent and teacher at a 7-8 school expressed concerns with Interim Option F (moving the Grades 5 and 6 J.W. Gerth PS students to Doon PS in September 2014) which does not take into consideration the following issues:

- Grades 5 and 6 students are much younger emotionally and less worldly than the 7-8 students.
- Earlier exposure to adolescent behavior issues (alcohol, drugs, dating etc.) at 7-8 schools.
- Grades 5 and 6 students will no longer be able to walk their younger siblings to and from school or be reading buddies for the younger students.
- Possible childcare, transportation scheduling problems.
- Loss of student leadership opportunities for Grades 5 and 6 (crossing guards, student secretaries, lunch room helpers).
- Lack of playground equipment at Doon PS for the Grade 5 and 6 students.

She noted that it would be preferable that her child remain in an over-crowded elementary school than a less crowded intermediate school. She asked that a better interim solution be developed.

Several members of the audience applauded, indicating that they have similar concerns.

C: Under Interim [Option F](#) the J.W. Gerth PS Grades 5 and 6 students will be moved to Doon PS in September 2014 – resulting in her 2 children (Grade 3 and Grade 5) being split between the 2 schools. She noted that the recent bell time changes will result in a 40 minute difference in start and end times between the 2 schools which will cause problems for parent drop off and pick up. She asked if Interim Option F is the only option.

R: Ms. Manske responded that several other options have been explored and Option F was considered as the preferred option of those explored to date.

Q: Has the property for the new South Kitchener school been secured by the Board; why are there 2 opening dates being proposed in the Scenarios (2015 and 2016)?

R: Mr. Cuomo responded that the Board cannot purchase the school site until the subdivision has been registered. The subdivision that school block is located in may not register for a year two. The developer appealed their application to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) for approval. The OMB has placed conditions on the subdivision that the developer is required to satisfy before moving forward with registration for the subdivision. The Board is currently working with the City of Kitchener to see if we can remove the school block from the conditions imposed on the subdivision so that the Board can purchase the site and move forward with school construction.

Q: Who do parents have to contact to help with the severing and development of the new South Kitchener school site?

- R: Mr. Cuomo responded that he is not sure that there is anything that parents can do at this point and advised that Board Planning staff is working with the City of Kitchener Planning staff to address the issues and move forward on the new South Kitchener school.
- Q: What will happen if the developer will not sell the land to the Board for the new school?
- R: Mr. Cuomo responded that the Board had requested the school site under the City of Kitchener's Official Plan process. The school block has been designated in the approved draft plan of subdivision and the Board will enter into an agreement with the developer for the purchase and sale of the site which cannot close until the subdivision registers. The subdivision cannot register until the OMB's requirements have been met by the developer.
- Q: Will there be enough students in the French Immersion (FI) program at Doon PS to support offering the program in both Grade 7 and 8 next year?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that Doon PS is offering Grade 7 FI this year and the plan is for it to offer Grades 7 and 8 FI next year.
- Q: How will the additional enrolment for Doon PS be accommodated under both the scenarios presented here this evening?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that Scenario 14 would require a 10 classroom addition at Doon PS whereas Scenario 16 would require a 5 classroom addition. She advised that the Board would have to approve the project and seek funding from the Ministry of Education before it could proceed with additions; advising that the earliest timeframe we could expect for an addition would be 2017; in the interim it will mean portables.
- Q: Will the J.W. Gerth PS's Grades 5 and 6 students that will be moved to Doon PS be housed in portables?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that it would be a likely possibility.
- Q: If the Grades 5 and 6 students will be in portables anyway, why can't they remain at J.W. Gerth PS in portables?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that the size of the J.W. Gerth PS site is more restricted than anticipated; she advised that when the Board purchased the site the City had indicated that Tilt Drive would be a park and that has not turned out to be the case. She noted that Board Facility Services staff have advised that J.W. Gerth PS's site has reached the maximum amount of portables (9) that it can accommodate; as well parking cannot be expanded. If we were to add more portables at the school there would not be a field on which to play and with the number of students expected there would be insufficient gym time, among other facility constraints. She advised that Doon PS has an extensive site that can accommodate the portables while also allowing lots of play space.
- Q: Can the portables be placed on the field at J.W. Gerth PS?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that there has been concerns expressed and Facility Services has instructed that the site cannot accommodate further enrolment and we have been asked by Board Administration and the administration at J.W. Gerth PS to find a solution for this problem.
- Q: Can the Working Group consider moving only the Grade 6s to Doon PS in September 2014?

- R: Ms. Manske responded that the Working Group had considered only the Grades 6s but that would not move enough enrolment out to accommodate the incoming JK population.
- Q: What will be done to separate Doon PS's Grades 7 and 8s from the Grades 5 and 6 coming from J.W. Gerth PS?
- R: Laura Hodgins, Superintendent of Education for the area advised that the decision to move the Grade 5 and 6 students has not been approved by the Board of Trustees yet. She advised that the comments and concerns voiced by the community would be taken into consideration moving forward with the Working Group. She advised that she appreciates the concern expressed by parents. She noted that the Board does operate JK-8 schools as well as JK-5 and 6-8 models. She advised that should the Board of Trustees approve this plan or a subsequent plan; the Board would setup a transition team of administrators and teachers to review and oversee the specific requirements needed to ensure that there is a smooth and safe transition for the affected students.
- Q: The Grade 5 and 6 students will require different library resources than the Grade 7 and 8 students; will that be addressed?
- R: Superintendent Hodgins responded that the transition team would consider all aspects of the program, including resources to ensure the optimum program delivery for staff and students.
- Q: Given the recent Bell Time changes which will result in different start and end times for J.W. Gerth PS and Doon PS; should the Board approve moving the Grade 5 and 6 students to Doon PS, would the Board reconsider aligning the Bell Times for these 2 schools?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that would not be a question that she can answer at this time; she advised that question could be asked to the appropriate Board staff.
- Q: Are there other Interim Plans beside Option F?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that Options A-E were considered, but none stood out as a good alternate plan.
- Q: Is Option F a done deal?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that Option F is not a certainty; and advised that the Working Group would welcome other options.
- Q: Has the Working Group given any consideration to the emotional affects these changes will have to effected students?
- R: Ms. Manske responded that depending on the child; changes can be good or bad. The students affected would have had to transition to Doon PS for 7-8; they would follow the same process and administrators and school staff would address the transition and hold special events for that purpose.

Ms. Manske thanked everyone for coming out, and asked those in attendance to provide their [feedback](#) on the comment sheets or to send an [email](#). The contact numbers and Board website (slides 31 and 32) information were shared. The formal presentation concluded at 8:05 PM and Ms. Manske invited those in attendance to take a look at the display boards outlining the scenarios and advised that Planning staff would be available to answer questions one-on-one.

Mr. Cuomo, Mr. Hercanuck, Ms. Manske, Superintendent Hodgins, Chairperson Martin, Trustees Johnston and Woodcock, Principals Oberle and Hagey-Nichols were available to answer questions one-on-one until approximately 8:45 PM

Contact Information:

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

Email: boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca *(please indicate Doon South Study in the subject line)*

Phone: 519-570-0003 ext. 4419

Fax: 519-570-2172

How to be a Delegation

Individuals, organizations and groups are welcome to speak to the Board as a [delegation](#). In accordance with Board Bylaws, at regular [Board meetings](#), delegations speak only to matters relevant to items listed on the agenda. All other presentations will be scheduled at Committee of the Whole Meetings.

You may register as a delegation by calling Jayne Herring, Manager of Corporate Services, at 519-570-0003, ext. 4336 during regular business hours. You should register by noon on the Thursday prior to the meeting.