



**Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study
Minutes of Public Meeting #2
June 18, 2014
Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School
7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.**

The second Public Meeting of the Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study was held at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School on Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

Approximately 15 members of the community were in attendance including Board staff, members of the Working Group, and His Worship, Les Armstrong, Mayor of Wilmot Township.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board welcomed those in attendance at 7:00 P.M. and gave the following introductions:

Board Planning Staff:

Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner

Principals:

Beth Bodkin, Principal of Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School

Nancy Woodhall, Principal of Baden Public School

Andrea Michelutti, Principal of New Dundee Public School

Roger Boettcher, Principal of Sir Adam Beck Public School

Naya Markanastasakis, Vice Principal of Baden Public School

Superintendent of Education: Laura Hodgins

Mr. Hercanuck led the audience through tonight's presentation available online at:

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

Purpose of Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting is to present and gather feedback on the preferred Scenario (3) to be implemented beginning September 2015.

Background/Current Situation

Study Area

Referring to slide 3 of the online presentation, Mr. Hercanuck advised that the Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study was officially launched by the Board on January 20, 2014 and includes the eastern portion of Wilmot Township, including three schools – Baden, New Dundee and Sir Adam Beck Public Schools.

Baden Public School is currently the only school in the study area to offer Grades 7 and 8. It is also the only school in the area offering a congregated Special Education class (Life Skills) and French Immersion.

Study Area Enrolment (Historic) *(slide 4 of the online presentation)*

Since 2006, enrolment in the study area has seen an increase of 28% owing to residential development within the Town of Baden. Sir Adam Beck PS opened in the 2010-2011 school year to relieve some of the enrolment pressure Baden was experiencing at the time. Since that time, we have continued to see higher than normal student yields out of the neighbourhood around Baden PS. Enrolment at Baden PS has and continues to place a strain on the site and facility. This year the school required 8 portables to accommodate the students. However not all areas of the study have been experiencing the same increase in enrolment. While in the Baden area of the Township it has been increasing. New Dundee PS has been experiencing a decline in enrolment.

Study Area Enrolment (Projected) *(slide 5 of the online presentation)*

Mr. Hercanuck advised that the enrolment projections (on *slide 5*) suggest that the enrolment in the study area will continue to increase (peaking perhaps about 2016) putting further pressure Baden PS and to a lesser degree Sir Adam Beck PS. After 2016 enrolment is expected to modestly decline in the study area as a whole; with New Dundee PS being expected to see further declines.

It should be noted that these projections take into account only approved residential plans of subdivision (for the most part around Baden PS). We are aware that the Township is completing a master servicing plan that would seek to lay out plans for further residential development in Baden/New Hamburg. However, at this time the scale, timing, and location of the development is unclear and not contemplated with these enrolment projections.

Where future development is planned in the Township, we have removed these areas from our scenarios so that they are not assigned to any school at this point. This provides the Board the opportunity to develop projections and assign phases of development to whichever school has space to accommodate them (which may not be the closest school).

Study Goals & Objectives

Mr. Hercanuck noted that the 'Goals' explain what the Working Group intends to achieve through the boundary study process.

Study Goals (slides 7 and 8 of the online presentation)

The Working Group has identified the following five Study Goals:

- **To address the capacity issues at the study area schools**
 - This can be achieved through boundary changes and/or additions
- **To develop a strategy that is long-term (approximately 10 years), taking into consideration current and future population density and demographics.**
 - May include need for future studies (e.g., accommodation review, new school sites)
 - Will be based on what we know – Mr. Hercanuck pointed out that we don't have all information today that we may have in the coming months, years, etc. This community will continue to see changes and **the outcome of this boundary study is primarily intended to address the current overcrowding situation at Baden.** The Working Group's report may also contemplate some mid and long-term strategies for the study area schools.
- **To minimize transitions for students where changes are proposed through grandfathering/phasing**
 - The Board is mindful of student transitions and attempts to reduce this as much as possible, especially multiple school changes over a short time period.
- **To strengthen the Board's business case for additional capacity funding for current students and as residential development plans progress in the Township of Wilmot**
 - Mr. Hercanuck noted that one of the challenges currently faced by school board planners is the way in which funding is allocated to boards for new schools and additions. Boards are required to submit business cases to the Ministry of Education, and funding is provided annually based on Provincial priorities. That means that our Board is competing with all other boards across the province for funding, and all of the schools within our Board are also competing to be a top priority within the Board itself.
- **To provide equitable learning opportunities for students and staff by moving towards the following criteria (from [Board Policy 3002 – Elementary School Size and Configuration](#)):**
 - *JK-6 facilities between 350 and 400 students (approx. 2 classes per grade)*
 - *JK-8 facilities between 500 and 650 students (approx. 2 classes per grade)*
 - *Minimizing the potential for schools with enrolments over 650 students*

Study Objectives (slide 8 of the online presentation)

Mr. Hercanuck advised that the 'Objectives' are specific and measurable statements of the 'Goals' and provide the criteria to evaluate the scenarios.

Study Objectives

- **To reduce enrolment at Baden Public School beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.**
- **To increase the number of students housed in permanent capacity within the study area in a cost-effective way, recognizing that there can be no additional capacity built prior to the 2017-2018 school year.**
 - Timeframe based on the current Ministry of Education funding cycle.

2. Recommended Scenario

Scenario 3 *(slide 9 of the online presentation)*

Mr. Hercanuck advised that with the Goals and Objectives in mind the Working developed 7 different scenarios, ultimately settling on Scenario 3 as the best Option.

Scenario 3 would see:

- Sir Adam Beck PS become a JK-8 school, with students from New Dundee PS attending for Grades 7 & 8;
- Baden PS remaining a JK-8 school;
- Need for an estimated 4 classroom addition at Sir Adam Beck PS;
- Implementation of the scenario would begin in September 2015 with the addition of Grade 7 to Sir Adam Beck PS. It is proposed to start Sir Adam Beck PS as a JK-7 to allow any students who started in the intermediate division at Baden PS in 2014 the opportunity to finish out there prior to attending high school. It is a way to reduce transitions for students and families.
- Sir Adam Beck PS would then become a full JK-8 school in 2016;
- To accommodate the additional enrolment, and curriculum needs resulting from adding Grade 7 and 8 to Sir Adam Beck PS a 4 classroom addition is proposed. Based on the Ministry of Education Capital Project funding cycle the earliest this could be completed would be for the 2017-2018 school year. To accommodate enrolment and curriculum the Board would have to implement interim measures to service the needs of the additional students. This could include internal renovations, portables, the use of WODSS facilities, or any combinations of these;
- New Dundee Public School would now be a feeder school to Sir Adam Beck PS – all Grade 7 and 8 students in the current Sir Adam Beck and New Dundee PS boundaries would attend Sir Adam Beck PS instead of Baden PS for Grades 7 and 8;
- Future Development Areas have also been identified and have been removed from the boundaries of any of the study area schools.

Proposed timing for changes as follows:

2014-2015

- Current boundaries, no changes.

2015-2016

- Grade 7 classes added at Sir Adam Beck Public School and it becomes JK-7 (New Dundee Public School Grade 7 students attend Sir Adam Beck Public School).
- All Grade 8 students in the study area continue to attend Baden Public School.

2016-2017

- Grade 8 classes added at Sir Adam Beck Public School and it becomes JK-8 and all Grade 7-8 students within the Sir Adam Beck Public School Grade 7-8 boundary attend Sir Adam Beck Public School; includes New Dundee Public School Grade 7 and 8 students.

2017-2018

- First possible date for completion of a 4 classroom addition at Sir Adam Beck PS (*actual timing will be dependent on Board approval and Ministry approval and funding*)

Scenario 3 Projections (*slide 10 of the online presentation*)

By removing the Sir Adam Beck and New Dundee Grade 7 and 8s from Baden, enrolment at Baden is reduced by approximately 160 students by 2017 from the Status Quo projection, meaning that enrolment would be less at the school than it is today.

Scenario Implementation

Scenario 3 Addition Concept (*slide 11 of the online presentation*)

A four classroom addition at Sir Adam Beck P.S. would be proposed. Sir Adam Beck PS was designed with a future addition in mind. It would go on the West end of the school closest to WODSS.

Scenario 3 Portable Requirements (*slide 12 of the online presentation*)

This scenario would reduce the number of portables required at Baden Public School from 6 to 4 in 2017.

Even with a 4 classroom addition, Sir Adam Beck Public School would likely require a portable in the 2017-2018 school year; but likely needed for the short-term only.

3. Next Steps (*slide 13 of the online presentation*)

- **Working Group reviews public meeting comments**
- **Working Group refines recommendations based on public feedback**
 - Recommendations (Draft):
 - *Modify the boundaries of Sir Adam Beck PS and Baden PS to reflect grade organizations proposed in Scenario 3.*
 - *Phase in Gr 7 & 8 at Sir Adam Beck PS beginning Sept. 2015.*
 - *Board direct staff to establish transition committee to develop interim measures of accommodating Gr. 7/8 at Sir Adam Beck P.S. prior to the completion of an addition.*

- *Board direct staff to develop a business case for a 4 classroom addition at Sir Adam Beck and prioritize it through the Capital Planning process.*
- *Board direct staff to monitor enrolment at New Dundee PS and report back as appropriate.*
- *Board direct staff to designate future residential plans of subdivision in Wilmot Twp. as development areas to be assigned to a school to be determined at a future date.*
- **Fall 2014: Staff will bring Report and Recommendations to the Board of Trustees for a final decision.**
- **Trustees vote on recommendations.**
- **If Trustees vote in favour of the recommendations the establishment of a transition committee to look at requirements for changes.**

Website (*slide 14 of the online presentation*)

Mr. Hercanuck shared the Board's contact and website information and advised that information on the boundary study is available on the website including the display boards from tonight's meeting. He asked for feedback and comments on Scenario 3 and shared the email address for the boundary study - boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca

4. Questions/Other

Mr. Hercanuck opened the floor to questions/comments from 7:20 – 7:45 pm:

Q: From New Dundee PS parent - concern expressed re: the future/potential closing of New Dundee PS.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that any potential school closure would have to be completed within the [Accommodation Review Process](#), involving extensive community consultation.

Q: There are rumors in the New Dundee PS community about a new development proposed within the town. Can you confirm if this is true?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that his understanding from the Township is that New Dundee lacks servicing capacity for any new residential development, and this rumor is unfounded.

C: Mayor Armstrong confirmed that there will be no new residential development in the town of New Dundee. All proposed new residential development will occur mostly within the Baden/New Hamburg corridor.

Q: Where does the proposal for the four classroom addition at Sir Adam Beck PS sit in the whole scheme of the region?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that it is difficult to say right now. The proposed addition (once approved) will have to be evaluated against all the other needs in Board. This process takes place once the Ministry sends out its annual request for Capital Priorities. The priorities of the WRDSB will be determined once we receive that request and acquire an understanding of what funding criteria priorities the Ministry has decided on for this year.

Mr. Hercanuck thanked everyone for coming out, and asked those in attendance to provide their feedback on the comment sheets provided or to send an [email](#). The contact numbers and Board website information were shared. The formal presentation concluded and Mr. Hercanuck invited those in attendance to take a look at the display boards outlining the scenarios and advised that he would be available to answer questions one-on-one.

Mr. Hercanuck then asked the working Group members to congregate in the library to have a short Working Group Meeting #6.

Contact Information:

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

Email: boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca *(please indicate Baden 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 By-laws, 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.