



Meeting Notes

1. Welcome/review information requests

Nathan Hercanuck, detailed the agenda items, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Information was presented in response to requests made at previous meetings.

RE: Washroom counts at Preston P.S.

Mr. Hercanuck presented the maximum allowable enrolment based upon the washrooms with respect to the Ontario Building Code for the schools in the study area.

- Grand View P.S. **616 persons**
- Preston P.S. **828 persons**
- Parkway P.S. **556 persons**

It is important to note that the allowable fixture enrolment, or total population, includes staff and teachers in addition to students. As well the fixture enrolment is calculated using every fixture in the building including the staff washrooms, and those located within the kindergarten classes. Male washroom fixtures are loaded at 30 persons/fixture. Female washroom fixtures are loaded at 26 persons/fixture.

It was noted that the allowable number is high, but for those facilities with one centrally located washroom facility problems can arise if it is ever out of commission for a period of time.

RE: Bus ride lengths

For the schools in the boundary study there are currently two bus runs both to Preston P.S. The one runs from the Pioneer Tower area straight to Preston P.S. and the other from Pioneer Tower to the Homer Watson/Blair Rd. area then to Preston P.S..

The Pioneer Tower to Preston P.S. route runs 25 min to Preston and 36 min. from Preston P.S.

The Pioneer Tower, Homer Watson/Blair Rd. to Preston runs 24 min. to Preston P.S., and 43 min from Preston P.S.

The Board policy on bus ride length is that no single run will be over 55 min.

It was noted that as the Pioneer Tower area further develops another bus run will likely need to be added.

2. Draft Objectives

The group was asked if there was any more thought on the draft study objectives from last meeting. It was suggested that they could be cleaned up somewhat, perhaps combining individual objectives so we didn't have as many. The group agreed and the draft objectives were modified to read:

- Address over and declining enrolment issues, creating a better balance between facilities and enrolment in the longer term
- Have regard for some organizational and class objectives of the Good Schools Committee Report.
- Be financially feasible
- Address any resulting student transitions, and avoid fragmentation of communities
- Determine any facility issues or upgrades that would facilitate boundary changes, enhance program delivery, and address accessibility concerns.

3. Enrolment Projections

Mr. Hercanuck detailed how enrolment projections are done with respect to boundary studies. Typically Planners take the existing school boundaries and further sub-divide them along what is believed to be logical natural breaks such as major roads, streams, wood lots etc. Historic enrolment patterns, and current future development in each of those individual areas are analyzed and a projection for each area is created. To create Scenarios these pieces are assembled in different ways. These areas may not represent pieces of the final boundaries, but provide a start point to look at various options.

4. Scenarios

At the last meeting a number of Scenarios were proposed and Planning staff were asked if they could project those out and bring them to this meeting. Mr. Hercanuck pointed out that when looking at the projections, to see the effect of All Day Every Day kindergarten one would look the total number of students projected not the FTE number (which counts Kindergarten students as halves).

Scenario 1

Grand View P.S. would get Area D from Preston P.S.

It would eliminate some students having to cross King St. to get to school. However it would still have Area J students crossing King St. to go to Grand View P.S. Some student's walk distance to school (within Area D) would increase.

In terms of numbers it would decrease Preston's portables, maybe get them to three in the short term. Preston's enrolment continues to decrease to slightly above capacity by 2018.

Parkway P.S. numbers decrease in the short term then come up to capacity as the Mattamy development within its existing boundary comes on.

Grand View would see an immediate increase in enrolment before settling to a number close to its capacity.

Comments

Q: With respect to the increased walking distance for some students in Area D, would any be over the Board's walk distance policy (i.e. eligible for transportation).

A: No, all of Area D is within the Board's walking distance policy for all grades.

Preston would still have portables and Grand View P.S. might add some. Portables would be better at Grand View as it does not have the same space/supervision constraints as Preston P.S.

The enrolment presented and the % capacities shown represent All Day Every Day Kindergarten numbers. Given the economic conditions in the province right now it may be optimistic to look for that to be implemented by 2010. So portables may not be necessary.

Grandfathering students in Area D could reduce the impact of additional students at Grand View P.S. It could also prolong the overcrowding at Preston P.S.

Scenario 2

Grand View P.S. would get Area D from Preston P.S. Preston P.S. would get Area J from Grand View P.S. This would realign the boundaries between the two schools along King St.

No JK to Gr. 6 students would have to cross King St. Some students walk distances in Areas D and J would increase.

Preston P.S. enrolment does not come down as much as in Scenario 1. Area J represents a significant number of students. Preston would likely still have 3, probably 4 portables.

Grand View P.S. increases enrolment slightly however remains under capacity. Parkway P.S. is in the same situation as the previous Scenario.

Comments

Q: There are no crossing guards on King St. correct? In last weeks minutes it states there are.

A: The City provides no crossing guards on King St. The minutes will be corrected if they state there are.

There is a crossing guard for Parkway P.S. students where they cross Shantz Hill.

This Scenario doesn't decrease Preston P.S. enrolment enough or similarly increase Grand View P.S. enrolment enough.

Scenario 3

Shift Areas A and B from Preston to Grand View.

This scenario has Preston P.S. enrolment decreasing to within capacity

Parkway P.S. remains unchanged, same as the last two Scenarios

Grand View P.S. numbers increase rather dramatically but settle down a bit. Would probably be looking here at a least three portables.

Comments

Did have portables at one time at Grand View P.S., they were around about where the creative play structure is now.

At the projected numbers for this Scenario Grand View P.S. facilities would definitely be stressed. The library is small and could not handle these numbers.

Grand View P.S. does have a larger site than Preston P.S. but may not have more room for portables because of slope issues. In this case perhaps an addition would be more appropriate that way you could also move some of those classes out of the basement (air quality concerns).

Q: What if we looked at moving only Area A to Grand View P.S. and leaving Area B at Preston or Area B to Parkway?

A: We can mock up those Scenarios for next meeting and take a look at them.

Scenario 4

Shift Areas A and B from Preston P.S. to Parkway P.S.

This could reduce transportation times for bussed students

Preston P.S. gets within its capacity; However Grandview P.S. enrolment continues to decrease.

Parkway's numbers become quite high for the facility once the development (Mattamy) within its own boundary begins.

Comments

This Scenario gets Preston P.S. numbers down but does not address the declining enrolment at Grand View P.S.

Parkway P.S. nearly doubles in size. This site is probably the best able to handle an addition as it has a good sized site (over 9 acres) and is relatively flat.

With the school this size it would create more traffic in the area. Traffic is already a concern to some in the area; motorists use it as a bypass when King St. is busy.

Is it financially responsible to build new space at one school when another sits with empty space?

Scenario 5

New School in Pioneer Tower Area gets Areas A and B from Preston.

Preston P.S. enrolment does come down to within capacity.

Parkway P.S. enrolment does come up with development in its boundary.

Grand View P.S. enrolment continues to decline.

The new school would serve a small population

Comments

Q: Is a school built to serve 150 students that feasible?

A: I don't believe the Board could justify building a school to serve only 150 students. When the Board builds new JK-6 schools we are typically building

them at for at least 350 to 400 students. An exception being the new Ryerson P.S. which is being built a little smaller at 320 places.

Q: What if we closed another school and took those students to the new school? For example closing William G. Davis and making the new school JK-8 with the JK-6's feeding it for the 7-8 program?

A: The Working Group has not been given the mandate by the Board to look at school closures. To close a school the Board must undertake a formal process called an Accommodation Review following guidelines from the Ministry of Education. That being said if the Working Group and Public felt this was the best scenario that met the Objectives of the study we could recommend to the Board to begin the Accommodation Review process. However, please keep in mind that we do not have any representation from William G. Davis P.S. here this evening to speak for that school community.

5. Round table

Mr. Hercanuck asked the Working Group if there were any scenarios that they felt were not worth exploring any further. That is not to say we are going to throw them away, we will keep them as we may get asked about them in the future. The idea being, to get down to maybe 3 or 4 front runners the Group can do more detailed analysis on, looking at such things like student transitions, transportation implications, costing additions, etc.

The Group decided not to take Scenarios 4 or 5 any further.

Scenario 4 greatly increases the size of Parkway P.S. to the point where it would require an addition. While it effectively relieves the enrolment pressure at Preston P.S. the Scenario leaves Grand View P.S. with empty spaces and declining enrolment.

Scenario 5 is likely the most expensive of the scenarios as it would involve the purchase of a new school site and the construction of new elementary school. Buying a site and building a school for 150 students would not be cost effective.

RE: optimal school sizes

The question was asked to the Principal of Preston P.S. what his ideal enrolment of the school would be. The response was "about 325". This would likely leave 2 portables on site. The question was also asked of the principal of Grand View P.S. The response was if the enrolment was such that the school had one portable the facilities would not be under pressure.

RE: Preston P.S. expansion

Q: What about expanding Preston P.S. into the vacant St. Louis Adult Learning Centre?

A: From an administrative point of view supervision would be extremely challenging with crossing the road etc. As well as Janitorial staff taking care of two buildings.

RE: Daycare

Q: Do any of these schools provide before or after school care?

A: No. However it is the Board's policy to seek a child care partner when new construction takes place. The Board puts out a request for proposals to non-profit child care operators and if one commits to lease the space from the Board, the Board will build them the space in the new construction. To my knowledge the Board has only put out RFP's for child care partners with new school construction, but I believe the policy would also allow us to seek a child care partner with an addition as well. The problem being the larger the project the smaller the cost per sq. ft. With an addition which would cost more per sq. ft than a new school, the lease rates we would have to charge might make it too expensive for a child care partner.

RE: addition at Grand View P.S.

Construction standards have changed a great deal since Grand View P.S. was built in 1922. Tying new construction into old sometimes is more costly than one expects.

A: Once we have a few lead scenarios, and if they involve new construction, we will get our Plant Maintenance and Construction Dept. to cost out some of the options.

RE: Kindergarten scheduling

Over the past few years the Board has started to implement All Day Alternate Day kindergarten programming at schools that have transported students. Preston P.S. is one of these schools. Parkway P.S. and Grand View P.S. continue to have Half Day Every Day kindergarten programming. In all the scenarios we are either looking at changing a walk in school to one that has some transportation (ex. Scenario 3) or changing an area that goes to a school that has transported students (i.e. has an All Day Alternate Day kindergarten program) to attend a school that has Half Day Every Day kindergarten programming (ex. Scenario 1). It is important to note that this programming change could represent a significant change to some parents with respect to childcare.

6. Future Meeting Dates

Next Working Group Meeting: Feb 23, 2009, Parkway P.S. 4:30 – 6:00 pm.

RE: First Public Meeting

February 26, 2009 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at Parkway P.S. was initially proposed. This date conflicts with Grand View P.S. Family Fun night.

The date for the first public meeting was fixed for Wednesday, March 4, 2009 7:00 – 9:00 pm at William G. Davis P.S.