

WEST WATERLOO ELEMENTARY BOUNDARY STUDY PHASE 2



The second Working Group meeting of the West Waterloo Elementary Boundary Study Phase 2, involving, Abraham Erb, Laurelwood and Vista Hills Public Schools, was held at Laurelwood PS on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 from 5:00-6:30 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Heather Schumann, Principal, Abraham Erb P.S.; Peter Berndt, Principal, Laurelwood P.S.; Don Oberle, Principal, Vista Hills P.S.; Deb Bergey, Parent Representative, Abraham Erb P.S.; Jennifer Kennedy, Parent Representative, Abraham Erb P.S.; Ryan Barnett-Cowan, Parent Representative, Laurelwood P.S.; Bhaleka Persaud, Parent Representative, Vista Hills P.S.; Greg James, Parent Representative, Vista Hills P.S.; Elaine Ranney, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being; Nathan Hercanuck, Manager of Planning; Sarah Galliher, Senior Planner; Emily Bumbaco, Senior Planner; Shelby Selig, Recording Secretary

REGRETS:

Nicole Shaughnessy, Parent Representative, Laurelwood P.S.; Matthew Gerard, Superintendent of Business Services & Treasurer of the Board

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Hercanuck, Manager of Planning, welcomed members of the Working Group and board staff at 5:05 PM.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES (KICK-OFF MEETING – DECEMBER 4, 2018)

Mr. Hercanuck asked if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes from Working Group meeting #2. The minutes from Working Group meeting #2 were approved.

Moved by: Greg James

Seconded by: Jennifer Kennedy

Ms. Bumbaco led the group through the presentation

(available online at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/westwaterloophase2/>)

3. DRAFT ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

On slide 3 and 4 of the online presentation Ms. Bumbaco shared the draft objective of alleviating the enrolment pressure as Vista Hills P.S. for this Boundary Study, as well as objectives that have been used in previous Studies. She asked the Working Group if they had any draft objectives that they would like to add to the list for this Boundary Study.

Additional Draft Objectives the Working Group would like to add:

- Walkability and transportation
- Not generating split feeds
- Balancing enrolment at all schools involved
- Long-term solution

Ms. Bumbaco added that the objectives will remain as drafts until the Public Meeting where we can receive feedback as to whether anything has been missed or should be removed, so the Working Group can continue to brainstorm, collect and share objectives, until that point.

Q: Could you clarify the scope of the working group meetings and the Boundary Study? Is it to facilitate the move of the Abraham Erb feed from Vista Hills to Laurelwood?

R: Ms. Bumbaco responded that in the initial West Waterloo Elementary Boundary Study, which determined the boundary for Vista Hills P.S., there was a second phase that was recommended to be implemented when Vista Hills P.S. could no longer accommodate the enrolment pressures. This is the main reason that we are here, however this is a full boundary study process so we are able to look at issues at all of the schools involved and potentially come up with more comprehensive solutions.

Q: If we are going beyond the scope of the initial recommendation for the redirection of Abraham Erb students and looking for long-term alternative solutions, shouldn't other schools be involved?

R: Ms. Galliher responded that at this point in time the scope of the review is limited to the three school - Abraham Erb PS, Vista Hills PS, and Laurelwood PS.

4. SCHOOL WALKING WEBS

In response to an information request from the previous working group meeting, Ms. Galliher reviewed the Walking Webs for Abraham Erb, Laurelwood and Vista Hills Public Schools on slides 5 and 6 of the online presentation. Ms. Galliher noted that the JK-6 boundaries are displayed in these maps; Abraham Erb P.S. in yellow, Laurelwood P.S. in green and Vista Hills P.S. in red. The blue thick line in each of these maps represents the elementary walking distance (1.6 KM).

Q: Looking at the Laurelwood P.S. walking web map, does this mean that no one is bussed to Laurelwood P.S.?

R: Mr. Berndt responded that there are currently no students bussed to Laurelwood P.S.

Q: How strict are the transportation distances? If half of a street is eligible for transportation, will they consider making the whole street eligible?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that transportation eligibility is determined solely by Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR). STSWR is a contracted service that makes all transportation decisions, and when implementing the distance policy they have some leeway that they call 'reasonable flexibility' to include or exclude whole streets. These decisions are made exclusively by STSWR and would not be able to be a consideration when coming up with the recommendation to the Board.

Q: Are the walking routes sidewalks along streets only or do they include walkable paths?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that these walking webs do take into account full walkability, which can include sidewalks or maintained pedestrian pathways.

5. SCHOOL PORTABLE PLANS

In response to an information request from the previous working group meeting, Ms. Galliher reviewed the proposed portable plans on slides 7-9 of the online presentation. Ms. Galliher noted that current portables for Vista Hills are shown within the pink circle as solid black lines and the hatched grey lines show where the proposed future portables could go. Laurelwood P.S. currently has 6 portables on site, the green circle shows where an additional 6 portables could be added, however there are some site constraints in this location which would require some site upgrades if it was determined that the extra portables were necessary.

Q: Is there a formal portable policy as to which grades generally have classes in the portables and are there grades that are not to be in portables?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that portable practices differ from site to site, and it is up to the discretion of the school Administrators.

Q: Would the outdoor activity fields be impacted by the portable placements at the schools?

R: Ms. Galliher responded no, the sports fields would not be impacted by the portables.

Q: How is the portapack accounted for in terms of the capacity numbers shown at Laurelwood P.S.?

R: Ms. Galliher responded that in this Boundary Study, we have included the 6 room portapack in the permanent capacity of the school as it is considered more of a semi-permanent addition, rather than a portable.

Q: Is it guaranteed that the upgrades would be completed if Laurelwood P.S. ends up needing the additional 6 portables? In the past when the portables were placed in this location, they ended up being unusable for an extended period of time as the location tends to pool water.

R: Ms. Galliher responded that the groundwork would need to be completed prior to the portables being placed in this location.

Q: If all of these portables are needed to be added to the schools in the Study Area, when do we take into consideration adding additional restrooms?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that with respect to the Ontario Building Code, all of the schools involved in this Study have adequate restroom space to accommodate the extra portables.

6. DEVELOPMENT AREAS

In response to an information request from the previous working group meeting, Ms. Bumbaco shared a breakdown of Vista Hills P.S. current enrolment numbers by study area (slide 10).

7. NEXT STEPS

On slides 11 and 12 of the online presentation, Ms. Bumbaco reviewed the status quo and scenario 1 enrolment projections shared at the first working group meeting.

Q: Do the numbers on these slides take into account grandfathering Grade 7 students in 2019?

R: Yes.

Ms. Bumbaco shared the development chart on slide 13 of the online presentation. There may be an opportunity to assign some of these undeveloped areas that currently have no students as Development Areas. They could be assigned to schools that have space to accommodate these students.

Q: Development Areas are short term solutions as we hope be able to allow the students back to their neighbourhood school after the initial enrolment boom. Approximately how long does it take a school in a new neighbourhood to start seeing enrolment numbers decrease?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that when a residential unit has surpassed approximately 10 years of age we start to see less students generation out of the unit. So it depends on the age of the housing stock within the school boundary

Q: Can renting have an impact on these numbers?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that our calculations don't discriminate between owners and renters of homes. There is potential that you could see increased turnover in rented homes.

Q: Are these undeveloped areas included in the enrolment projections and when do we anticipate to see them in the enrolment numbers?

R: Ms. Bumbaco responded yes, these areas are included in the enrolment projections. We do not have exact timing yet as to when they will develop, however we have projected the development enrolment fairly aggressively based on recent observed pace of development. Mr. Hercanuck added that there are many factors that can impact development pace including servicing, market conditions, water and sewer capacity, and developer financing so it can be difficult when trying to predict timing.

Ms. Bumbaco shared 3 alternative boundary scenarios including their impacts on enrolment projections:

Scenario 2 (slides 14 and 15) - Abraham Erb P.S. grades 7 and 8 redirected to Laurelwood P.S. and create a new Development Area, shown in grey hatching on the map, and redirect to a school outside of the Study Area.

Scenario 3 (slides 16 and 17) - Abraham Erb P.S. grades 7 and 8 redirected to Laurelwood P.S. and redirect Columbia Forest neighbourhood, shown in grey hatching on the map, to Laurelwood P.S.

Scenario 4 (slides 18 and 19) - Abraham Erb P.S. grades 7 and 8 redirected to Laurelwood P.S. and redirect Columbia Forest neighbourhood, shown in grey hatching on the map, to Abraham Erb P.S.

Q: Is there an option to offer redirecting the Columbia Forest neighbourhood in either scenario on a volunteer basis, or only move children who have not already been redirected in the last Boundary Study (kindergarten students)?

R: Ms. Bumbaco responded that projecting enrolment based on a volunteer basis would be a very difficult to estimate. She added that grandfathering is always an option and that could be a part of the Working Group recommendation to the Board. Mr. Hercanuck added that redirecting students on a volunteer basis would be very difficult as the Board would have difficulty enforcing a choice. Ms. Bumbaco can bring grandparenting impacts to the next meeting.

8. **ROUND TABLE**

Q: Are these working group meetings confidential until the minutes are approved and posted or are we able to share the content of these meetings with our parent council and school communities concurrently?

R: Ms. Galliher responded that we encourage group members to act as liaisons and share information regarding this Boundary Study with their school communities. The minutes from the working group are not shared publicly until they are approved by the working group as we would like to ensure accuracy prior to making the documents public.

Q: Could we contemplate moving any students to Edna Staebler P.S.?

R: Ms. Bumbaco responded that we are only able to redirect students to schools within the study area of this Boundary Study, therefore we would not be able to consider redirection to Edna Staebler.

Q: Would french immersion be impacted in any of these scenarios?

R: Ms. Bumbaco responded that all of the schools in this Boundary Study have the french program so the scenarios and enrolment projections have been modeled with respect to all students moving.

Q: What is the projected timeline for a new school in the new Beaver Creek development?

R: Mr. Hercanuck estimated approximately 5 years or more, it is currently in the Secondary Plan phase of development.

Ms. Bumbaco thanked the members of the Working Group and concluded the meeting at 6:37 pm.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Planning staff to bring back implications for each scenario, including number of additional portables needed on each site for each scenario**
 - **Planning staff to generate grandfathering implementation for students who have already been redirected in the previous Boundary Study**
 - **Planning staff to provide number of Abraham Erb P.S. students that would lose transportation for grades 7 and 8 if redirected to Laurelwood P.S.**
 - **Planning staff to provide handouts for next working group meeting**
 - **Planning staff to speak to Rentals Department regarding Public Meeting gym rental at Vista Hills P.S.**
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FUTURE MEETINGS:**Working Group Meetings:**

- **Working Group #3:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019 from 4:30-6:30 pm at Abraham Erb P.S.
- **Working Group #4:** Cancelled and replaced with Public Meeting (see below)
- **Working Group #5:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 from 5:00-6:30 pm at Laurelwood P.S.

Public Meetings:

- **Public Meeting #1:** Tuesday, February 12, 2019 from 7:00-9:00 pm at Vista Hills P.S.
- **Committee of the Whole Meeting:** TBD