

# SOUTHWEST KITCHENER SECONDARY BOUNDARY STUDY



*The ninth Working Group Meeting of the Southwest Kitchener Boundary involving Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute, Forest Heights Collegiate Institute and Huron Heights Secondary School, was held at Huron Heights Secondary School on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 from 7:00pm to 7:59pm.*

## ATTENDEES:

Tina Rowe, Principal, Forest Heights CI; Jeff Klinck, Principal, Huron Heights SS; Judith Coutts, Parent Representative, Cameron Heights CI; Melanie Bender, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Nicole Huskins, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; TJay Jandles, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Debra Zanon-Barclay, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Bill Lemon, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Graham Shantz, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Lauren Agar, Manager of Planning; Sarah Galliher, Senior Planner; Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner; Carrie Hamilton, Recording Secretary

## REGRETS:

Ray Teed, Principal, Cameron Heights CI; ; Hadbaa Al Ghazy, Parent Representative, Forest Heights CI; Liya Ghannaiaman, Student Representative, Forest Heights CI; Della Sousa, Parent Representative, Forest Heights CI; Kyla Gange, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Livia Krajcar, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Shaelie Mendes, Student Representative, Huron Heights SS; Amberlee O'Connor, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Amanda Young, Parent Representative, Huron Heights SS; Matthew Gerard, Superintendent of Business Services & Treasurer of the Board; Ron DeBoer, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being

Meeting begins at 7:01pm

Ms. Galliher welcomed the group and outlined the agenda. Ms. Galliher led the group through the online presentation available at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/southwest-kitchener-secondary-boundary-study/>.

## 1. AGENDA

Ms. Galliher reviewed the Agenda.

## 2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Ms. Galliher reviewed the attendance at the Public Consultation which illustrated the schools that the meeting attendees identified their children as attending.

## 3. DISPLAY BOARDS

Ms. Galliher showed the Display Boards at FHCI at the Public Consultation. They are [online here](#).

## 4. HARD COPY FEEDBACK FORMS

Ms. Galliher outlined results of Feedback Forms which illustrated that providing transportation and pedestrian safety concerns were prominent in the 10 comment sheets. Also noted was that there was support for the preferred scenario.

## 5. POST IT NOTE FEEDBACK

Ms. Galliher reviewed the feedback from the notes. The comments are transcribed in Appendix A, attached.

## 6. SURVEY FEEDBACK SLIDES

Ms. Galliher reviewed the feedback slides derived from the online survey results. 472 responses were received online with approximately 58% in favour of the preferred scenario and less than 25% of the responses were against the preferred scenario. It was pointed out that the responses were received yesterday from the Research Department and have not been extensively analyzed. In the interest of providing a summary for tonight's meeting surveys identifying as against or very against the preferred scenario were examined. The responses were further grouped by the school the respondent identified as having a family member attending.

Looking at those opposed to the preferred scenario recommendations, concerns were summarized as follows;

### Huron Heights Families

- not doing enough to reduce enrolment pressure
- splitting families by not grandparenting siblings

### Concerns from Cameron Heights Families

- splitting families by not grandparenting siblings

### Glencairn/Country Hills/Laurentian Families

- redirecting walkers to needing a bus/distance of school from home/impact on co-curriculars
- uncomfortable with Cameron Heights based on downtown location and fears about student safety

### Queensmount Families

- concerns relating to pedestrian safety on the highway overpass/ramp (Fischer Hallman)
- concerned about losing transportation

Generally it was felt these comments were in line with feedback we had heard previously related to the original scenario 2 and its variants.

## 7. NEXT STEPS

Ms. Galliher reviewed the next steps.

Mr. Klink asked about updating transportation information online. While you can search addresses on the [map](#) to determine the impact of the preferred scenario, transportation eligibility cannot be confirmed until [STSWR](#) updates their website with 2020-2021 data in February of 2020.

It was pointed out that one of the objectives of the study was to reduce split feeds of grade 8 classes going to multiple secondary schools. A concern was raised that the preferred scenario adds a split feed to Laurentian PS by redirecting only the Alpine tail area out of this school to Forest Heights CI while the remainder will attend Cameron Heights CI.

It was asked whether this community should receive an additional opportunity to provide input into the preferred scenario.

Ms. Galliher responded that the Alpine and Laurentian PS communities have received all of the School Day notifications and website updates that all schools within the study area received.

Ms. Galliher thanked everyone for all of their hard work over the last year.

Mr. Hercanuck reminded the group that they can [register as a delegate](#) online for the Committee of the Whole Meeting on November 18, 2019.

After ratification by the board, communication for the affected families can be distributed. Families in the affected areas will receive a letter by mail to their home address.

As part of the Transition Committee's work, a process will be in place such that students currently in secondary school can indicate whether they would be accepting the grandfathering or if they wish move to the school per preferred scenario boundaries.

Ms. Agar indicated that sibling grandfathering and available capacity at Cambridge secondary schools have been identified as questions that Trustees continue to have and these items are expected to be raised at the upcoming Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Meeting concludes at 7:59 pm

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**Transition Committee:** staff to establish and coordinate meetings, information will be made available online as it becomes relevant to share

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#### **FUTURE MEETINGS:**

**Committee of the Whole: November 18, 2019**

**Board Meeting: November 25, 2019 (potential to ratify decision if one is made)**

**Appendix A –  
September 18 Public Consultation Meeting  
Post-it Notes Transcription**

**Question: How do the recommendations of the preferred scenario impact your family?**

- Love the current plan, works for us
- My oldest son is already in Huron Heights grade 11, can my youngest go to Huron Heights? It is a 10 min walk from home.
- I live on Wilderness Drive, would love to see my children attend Forest Heights which is 2.6 km over Cameron Heights which is 7.9 km
- Very disappointed our children will be experiencing 2 different high schools (Huron and Cameron)
- High school is hard enough but having people I know helps give me the boost I need. I as a 13 year old want people I know not a whole new world almost I as a Canadian want this change, please make it happen
- I am pleased with this recommendation because my daughter can walk to high school, she will attend the same school as her brother did
- We moved into our current neighbourhood knowing which schools our children would be attending and we pay our taxes accordingly. With the proposal, Huron Heights is taken away and given to families in the new residential areas. This isn't fair! It's unfortunate we aren't being given the option to stay with Huron Heights for grade 9 in 2020.
- The impact on us is minimal as we currently go to Huron Heights and will stay there with Grandparenting

**What would you change about the recommendations of the preferred scenario?**

- It would be helpful to families with children already grandfathered to have siblings grandfathered too
- Have a second high school in Kitchener with French Immersion (not extended French)
- To give the family the option to choose which school to go to

**What do you like about the proposed implementation?**

- I like that current students are grandfathered
- I'm pleased to see that the map makes sense and is not a jigsaw with neighbouring areas going to other schools this promotes friendships where children can walk to a friend's
- Designated boundaries are not all choppy, areas are clearly outlined

**What would you change about the proposed implementation?**

- Why city is approving/permit to build new houses/neighbourhoods with no schools planned
- Why did the city approve building permits for residential areas and they didn't automatically begin planning for a new school in the new residential area
- Bus transportation be provided for Active kids going to Forest Heights – it's dangerous to cross over the expressway
- A little more info re: plan for new development areas
- Overall feedback, work at keeping cohorts together. If you are going to change a boundary send the entire school the high school. In Doon, Groh as the only K-8 school can go to its own high school. The DAs need to have a school assigned then stay with that school at secondary.
- Allow grandfathering of siblings also

**Do you have any comments or concerns about transportation in the preferred scenario?**

- I am pleased to see Huron Woods (existing houses) going to Huron Heights since my daughter can walk
- Either the school provide buses or provide bus pass for students you took the bus away from
- I would like to see if transportation is included for the families that live right around the 3.2 km mark as I can't get a definitive answer
- If transportation is being provided currently for students in the Fischer Hallman/Ottawa area and zoning changes from CHCI to FHCI then why not keep buses in place for students? Current school is Queensmount, Cameron, FHCI
- Would like to see transportation included for grandfathered students
- Driving two different children to two different schools for various after school activities, clubs and events for a single parent is a significant challenge
- Strongly support this scenario make sure GRT is well aware of changes in advance so they can plan accordingly for influx of students using GRT
- The Doon students at Huron need to continue to have access to school provided transportation

- I am thrilled about the decision to grandfather all current high school students, I still have concerns about safely crossing the highway in the early mornings

**Which of the objectives is most meaningful to you**

- I am glad to hear kids currently at Huron Heights living in Glencairn area will be grandfathered
- Having both my children at the same school