



Waterloo Region
District School Board

**Preston Area Elementary
Schools Boundary Study**
Working Group Meeting #2
January 26, 2009 - 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
Preston P.S., Cambridge

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome/review information requests

Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, detailed the agenda items, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Chris Smith, Manager of Planning to the Working Group.

A few requests were made at the last meeting for further information.

Re: Kanmet development

Mr. Hercanuck contacted the City of Cambridge to find out the status of the Kanmet development. Unlike the Appleton Electric infill development this project is expected to move forward. This project represents 82 townhome units and 111 apartment style units. This development is located within the Preston P.S. boundary and the enrolment projections will be adjusted.

Re: Washroom counts

At the last meeting there was also a question around the washroom counts at Preston P.S. with respect to the Ontario Building Code. Mr. Hercanuck indicated we have not yet heard from the Facilities Dept. in this regard yet but will hopefully have those numbers for next meeting.

2. Issues

A discussion surrounding the issues affecting the individual school communities took place.

Preston P.S.

- Over enrolment putting pressure on the facility. The site is already small and the portables on the playfield make it even smaller.
- Portables create an issue with respect to playground supervision and sightlines.
- Concern regarding the number of students required to use the number of washrooms in the building.

Grand View P.S.

- Low and declining enrolment creates concerns regarding being able to deliver programming to students. Have to run some classes as combined grades. Special Education resources allocated based upon enrolment.
- Grand View P.S. does have a good sized site.
- Accessibility is a concern at the school as it is an older building, multi-level with lots of stairs.

Parkway P.S.

- Parkway's enrolment is declining however it is not in the same state as Grand View. Within it's catchment it does have a plan of subdivision that will bring back up its enrolment. There is some uncertainty as to when this development would start and Parkway could see some registrations from it.
- Concern there are two areas being bussed past Parkway P.S. (Pioneer Tower/Deer Ridge, and Blair Rd./Homer Watson Area) to a school that is overcrowded (Preston P.S.)

All

- Impact of All Day Everyday Kindergarten

3. Draft Objectives

A discussion surrounding Draft Objectives took place.

Mr. Hercanuck and Mr. Smith presented some of the Objectives used in other boundary studies as a catalyst for the discussion. Mr. Hercanuck presented Boundary Study objectives from the North East Waterloo Boundary Study as well as Objectives from the South East Galt Accommodation Review.

Through discussion the Preston Area working Group developed the following Draft Objectives:

- Maintain a longer term enrolment for Preston P.S. that does not overwhelm the facility and site.
- Address small, declining enrolments at both Grandview P.S. and Parkway P.S.
- Better balance facilities and enrolment.
- Have regard for some organizational and class objectives of the Good Schools Committee Report.
- Be financially feasible and longer term.
- Address any resulting student transitions.

- Determine any facility issues or upgrades that would facilitate boundary changes and enhance program delivery.
- Avoid fragmentation of communities

A comment was made if we could add an objective regarding accessibility. Mr. Hercanuck responded that yes we would add that for the next meeting.

The comment was made that we should have an Objective dealing with reducing transportation.

Mr. Smith mentioned that these are Draft Objectives and we have sometime to work on them so don't feel the need to get them completed and finalized this meeting. Mr. Hercanuck indicated that he would email the presentation to everyone so that if they wanted to review and work on the objectives for next meeting they could.

4. Roundtable

Mr. Smith asked if the Group was somewhat comfortable with the Draft Objectives, keeping in mind there will be time to further refine them, that we discuss some initial Scenarios. Planning Staff could have some initial scenarios mocked up for next meeting.

The Group discussed some Scenarios

- Redefine the Boundaries between Grand View and Preston along King St. This seems to be a natural divide. It would be beneficial to eliminate the crossing of King St. This has concerned parents for some time as the City does not provide a crossing guard.
- Take the bussed students that currently go to Preston to Grand View.
- Take the bussed students to Parkway. This would reduce transportation because the busses would not have to travel as far.
- Build a new school in Pioneer Tower Area, and take the Blair Rd./Homer Watson community there. As well as any excess from Preston.

Mr. Hercanuck indicated he would mock up those scenarios and bring them to the next meeting for discussion.

A question was asked regarding the length of the bus runs from those areas dependant on transportation. Mr. Hercanuck indicated he would bring that information to the next meeting.

5. Future Meeting Dates

- Working Group Meeting #3, February 10, 2009, 4:30-6:00 pm
Grand View P.S.