

FISCHER-HALLMAN/HURON ELEMENTARY BOUNDARY STUDY



The second Public Meeting of the Fischer-Hallman/Huron Elementary Schools Boundary Study was held at Jean Steckle Public School on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

Approximately 60 people were in attendance including members of the community and Board staff.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner for the Waterloo Region District School Board and meeting Chair welcomed those in attendance at 7:05 p.m. and gave the following introductions:

Waterloo Region District School Board representatives:

- Ron DeBoer, Superintendent, Student Achievement and Well-Being
- Bill Lemon, Superintendent, Student Achievement and Well-Being
- Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services and Treasurer of the Board
- Victoria Ford, Communications Officer, Media & Issues
- Janet Hale, Principal, Janet Metcalfe Public School (new school)
- Andrea Michelutti, Principal, Jean Steckle Public School
- Amy Humphrys, Vice Principal, Jean Steckle Public School
- Dale Wideman, Project Coordinator, Facility Services
- Lauren Agar, Manager of Planning
- Sarah Galliher, Senior Planner
- Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary

Mr. Hercanuck advised that tonight he would be presenting the preferred accommodation option developed by the Working Group, and providing details of the recommendations that will be presented to Trustees for approval to implement the option.

He advised that he is seeking feedback from the community on the recommended scenario as well as the recommendations necessary to make it happen.

He noted that **no decisions have been made** with respect to the boundary option to be implemented for September 2018. The recommended option is just that, 'a recommendation' developed by the Working Group after consideration of the Study Objectives, Issues, enrolment projections, and public feedback received to date. **These recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees whom ultimately makes the final decision.**

He advised that tonight's display materials include information describing the designs and layout of the newly named [Janet Metcalfe Public School](#) currently under construction. Dale Wideman the Board's project coordinator for the construction of Janet Metcalfe PS, and the architect were available to answer any question about the design/construction of the new school.

Mr. Hercanuck led the audience through this evening's presentation available online at: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/fischer-hallman-huron-study>

2. REVIEW OF THE BOUNDARY STUDY PROCESS (SLIDES 4 & 5 OF THE ONLINE PRESENTATION)

WHAT IS A BOUNDARY STUDY?

A boundary study can look at changing the school attendance areas and/or grade offerings at a school. It is a public process, involving the local community so that any decision that is made by the board with respect to changing boundaries is done in consultation with the communities affected.

REASONS FOR A BOUNDARY STUDY

We are conducting a boundary study in this area to establish a boundary for the new Janet Metcalfe Public School; however, this study may also look at changing the grade structure of a school (for example adding Grades 7 & 8 to a JK-6 school or removing Grades 7 & 8 from a JK-8 school) and balancing enrolment within the study area.

THE BOUNDARY STUDY PROCESS (SLIDE 4)

Once the Board has identified a boundary study area, Planning asks the Principals at each of the schools involved to seek out up to two parent/guardian representatives to sit with them and us on a Study Working Group.

The Boundary Study Working Group helps us to represent the larger community and:

- Identify and discuss issues and opportunities of the individual school communities and the broader community
- Set study objectives
- Develop boundary options (scenarios)
- Evaluate boundary options against study objectives
- Confirm recommendations

The Working Group may have several meetings to get to this stage. Tonight we are at the Second Public Meeting step where we consult with you.

Mr. Hercanuck advised that we are here tonight to share with you the recommended scenario and take this final opportunity to take your feedback before we present the recommended scenario to Trustees for approval.

We will take the feedback from tonight back to the Working Group for a second look to see if any changes are warranted to the recommendations.

3. STUDY PURPOSE AND ISSUES (SLIDE 5)

Mr. Hercanuck advised that we are conducting a boundary study in the Fischer-Hallman/Huron Road area to establish a boundary for the new Janet Metcalfe Public School which will open September 2018; He noted that the opening of the new school presents an opportunity to address the enrolment pressure at Jean Steckle PS, which as many of you know is facing significant overcrowding issues.

We also want to make sure that once we have settled on a solution that we implement the change in the least disruptive way possible through transition planning.

FISCHER HALLMAN/HURON STUDY AREA (SLIDE 6)

Referring to the map on slide 6 of the online presentation, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

The Study Area is made up of the following schools:

- Jean Steckle PS (Yellow)
- Queen Elizabeth PS (Green),
- Southridge PS (Blue), and
- Laurentian PS (outlined in dotted red)
- Janet Metcalfe PS (new for 2018)

He noted that:

- Queen Elizabeth, Southridge and Laurentian Public Schools are acting as holding schools for the neighborhood in which the new Janet Metcalfe Public School is being constructed.
- Tartan Avenue site is another new school planned to the south of the Jean Steckle PS's boundary.
 - The proposed Tartan Avenue site school has not yet been approved and funded by the Ministry of Education. It has been submitted as a priority project to the Ministry, and we expect to hear back sometime in December 2017 or January 2018. If approval is received, the school would open no earlier than September 2020.

HISTORIC & CURRENT ENROLMENT/CAPACITY (SLIDE 7)

Referring to the table on slide 7 of the presentation Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

- Southwest Kitchener is a rapidly developing area, and is the largest area of future residential housing in the Region. The Board has planned multiple school sites in the area to accommodate this growth.

- Jean Steckle PS opened in September of 2013 and has grown rapidly to the point where it now houses 912 students, and utilizes 12 portables; however, the limit has been reached for the number of portables we can fit on site without expensive modifications and further reductions in outdoor play space.
- Jean Steckle Public School underwent some minor interior renovations and program relocations over the summer, to squeeze an extra three classroom spaces into the school to accommodate students for 2017-2018 school year.
- The Board has designated a number of areas of new housing as “development areas” which are directed to holding schools until we can construct a community school for those areas. In this case, Southridge, Queen Elizabeth, and Laurentian Public Schools are the holding schools.

4. STUDY OBJECTIVES (SLIDE 8)

Mr. Hercanuck advised that part of the Boundary Study Process is setting the Objectives of the Study which are used as a way to measure what boundary changes accomplish with the eventual solution and recommendations. The Working Group developed the following Objectives for this study:

- Establish a boundary for the new Janet Metcalfe PS
- Reduce enrolment at Jean Steckle PS
- Maximize the use of built permanent capacity/Minimize the need for temporary accommodation
- Minimize transitions where changes are proposed.

Mr. Hercanuck provided the following example of how the Board minimizes transitions:

When opening a new JK-8 school the Board opens the facility as JK-7, and allows the Grade 8's to graduate where they are, so that they won't have to change schools the year before they move on to high school. This avoids students changing schools twice within two years.

5. SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Hercanuck advised that the Boundary Study Working Group examined and evaluated a number of scenarios before coming to their recommended option, including the following scenarios:

SCENARIO 2 (SLIDES 9 AND 10)

Referring to the map on slide 9 of the presentation, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

- Scenario 2 would see the construction of the new Janet Metcalfe Public School with the 'Mattamy Wildflowers' community attending the facility.
- Achieves enrolment reduction at Jean Steckle PS and accommodates more students in permanent capacity at Janet Metcalfe Public School.
- Scenario 2 also proposed that Grade 7 and 8 be phased out of Jean Steckle PS over two years and be accommodated at Janet Metcalfe Public School until such a time where it could be phased back into Jean Steckle. The new Janet Metcalfe Public School would be JK-8 and Jean Steckle PS would transition to a JK-6 school that feeds its 7's and 8's to the new school.
- The boundary for Janet Metcalfe PS is depicted in purple for JK-6 and outlined in purple for Grades 7 and 8

SCENARIO 2 OBJECTIVES (SLIDE 10)

Referring to the chart on slide 10 of the presentation, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following in terms of how Scenario 2 meets the Study Objectives:

- Establishes a boundary (depicted in purple for JK-6 and outlined in purple for Grades 7 and 8) for Janet Metcalfe Public School
- Reduces peak enrolment at Jean Steckle by almost 200 students:
 - This reduction in enrolment will reduce the need for portables at Jean Steckle and accommodate more students in permanent capacity at Janet Metcalfe Public School
 - We expect a two portable reduction at Jean Steckle for Sept. 2018 and further reductions of approximately nine portables by 2028. We would expect ten portables on site at Jean Steckle PS for Sept. 2018, declining to about three portables by 2028.

- Janet Metcalfe Public School could expect 12 empty classrooms in September 2018, decreasing to nearly five empty classrooms by 2028.
- In terms of accommodating transitions and mitigating the impact of change:
 - 2018 Grade 6 students from the 'Wildflowers' community would be given the choice to finish out their last year at Southridge or Queen Elizabeth Public Schools with transportation provided.
 - The 2018 Grade 8 students from the 'Wildflowers' community would finish out at Laurentian PS with transportation provided.
 - With respect to the Transitions for the Huron Village and Huron Woods communities:
 - All the Grade 7's (in 2018) and 8's (in 2019) from Jean Steckle PS would transition to Janet Metcalfe Public School together. It has been felt by some that this eases the change for students as it maintains existing relationships within that grade. (Jean Steckle PS would operate as a JK-6 and Grade 8 school in September 2018).

SCENARIO 3 (SLIDES 11-12)

Referring to the map on slide 11, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

- Scenario 3 contains the same basic elements as Scenario 2 in that the boundary of Janet Metcalfe Public School (depicted in purple) would consist of the Mattamy 'Wildflowers' community.
- However, in this case Jean Steckle PS remains JK-8 and we would accomplish enrolment reduction by moving the portion of Jean Steckle PS's boundary that is south of Huron Road (called Huron Woods), to Janet Metcalfe Public School.

SCENARIO 3 OBJECTIVES (SLIDE 12)

Referring to the chart on slide 12, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following in terms of how well Scenario 3 meets the Study Objectives:

- Establishes a boundary for Janet Metcalfe PS
- Reduces peak enrolment at Jean Steckle PS by about 140 students:
 - This reduction in enrolment will reduce the need for portables at Jean Steckle PS and accommodate additional students inside the building at Janet Metcalfe PS
 - We expect a three portable reduction at Jean Steckle PS for Sept. 2018 and further reductions of approximately seven portables by 2028.
- Janet Metcalfe PS is expected to have ten empty classrooms in September 2018, decreasing to an approximate seven empty classrooms by 2028.
- In terms of accommodating transitions and mitigating the impact of change:
 - 2018 Grade 6 students from the 'Wildflowers' community would be have the option to finish out their last year at Southridge or Queen Elizabeth Public Schools with transportation provided.
 - The 2018 Grade 8 students from the 'Wildflowers' community would finish out at Laurentian PS with transportation provided.
 - For the Huron Woods community:
 - JK-7 students would transition to Janet Metcalfe Public School for September 2018. Grade 8 students would finish their last year of elementary school at Jean Steckle PS

With respect to the transitions for the Huron Woods community, it was noted that, this community, prior to the opening of Jean Steckle PS was accommodated at a holding school, and that it is the Board's intention that the new Tartan Avenue school (whose opening date is uncertain) be the permanent home for this community.

Concern was raised about the number of potential transitions for students in this community should they be transitioned from Jean Steckle PS to Janet Metcalfe PS and then to Tartan Avenue once that new school opens.

SCENARIO 4 (SLIDE 13)

Referring to the map on slide 13, Mr. Hercanuck pointed out that Scenario 4 is a combination of scenarios 2 and 3 and noted the following:

- Relocates the Jean Steckle PS Grade 7 and 8 program to Janet Metcalfe PS
- Relocates the Huron Woods community to Janet Metcalfe PS
- Janet Metcalfe PS boundary is depicted in purple for JK-6 and outlined in purple for Grades 7 and 8

SCENARIO 4 OBJECTIVES (SLIDES 14 AND 15)

Referring to the charts on slides 14 and 15, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following in terms of how well Scenario 4 meets the Study Objectives:

- Establishes a boundary for Janet Metcalfe PS and this scenario reduces enrolment at Jean Steckle PS the most of all the scenarios
- Results in the largest reduction in portables at Jean Steckle PS, and utilizes the most surplus capacity at the new Janet Metcalfe PS:
 - Estimated reduction of six portables for September 2018 at Jean Steckle PS, and by 2028 we expect there to be no portables needed at Jean Steckle PS.
- Janet Metcalfe PS is expected to have approximately six empty classrooms for 2018 and that the school will be completely full by 2028
- Scenario 4 also has the most transitions for students given all the parts we are moving around (i.e., moving Grades 7 and 8, and also transitioning the Huron Woods community to Janet Metcalfe PS and then to the new Tartan Avenue school once it opens - opening unknown 2020 or beyond)

SCENARIO EVALUATION (SLIDE 16)

Mr. Hercanuck advised that the chart on slide 16 provides an evaluation of scenarios 2, 3 and 4 with respect to the Study Objectives and noted the following:

ESTABLISHES BOUNDARY FOR JANET METCALFE PS

- All scenarios establish a boundary for Janet Metcalfe PS that includes the Mattamy 'Wildflowers' subdivision, but also take varying portions of the current Jean Steckle PS to relieve enrolment pressure there

REDUCES ENROLMENT AT JEAN STECKLE PS

- Scenario 2 achieves the 2nd most peak enrolment reduction (194 students) at Jean Steckle PS
- Scenario 3 achieves the least peak enrolment reduction (139 students) at Jean Steckle PS
- Scenario 4 achieves the most peak enrolment reduction (255 students) at Jean Steckle PS

MINIMIZES PORTABLES/MAXIMIZES PERMANENT SPACE

- Scenario 2 sees the 2nd greatest portable reduction at Jean Steckle PS
 - We expect to see portables reduced at Jean Steckle PS to ten portables in 2018 to three portables by 2028
- Scenario 2 has the 2nd most permanent space usage at Janet Metcalfe PS;
 - going from an expected twelve empty classrooms in 2018 to 5 empty classroom by 2028
- Scenario 3 achieves the least portable reduction at Jean Steckle PS
 - We expect to see portables reduced at Jean Steckle PS to nine in 2018 to five by 2028
- Scenario 3 see the most empty classrooms at Janet Metcalfe PS,
 - going from an expected ten empty classroom in 2018 to seven empty classrooms by 2028
- Scenario 4 achieves the most portable reduction at Jean Steckle PS
 - We expect to see portables reduced at Jean Steckle PS to six in 2018 to none by 2028
- Scenario 4 see the least amount of empty classrooms at Janet Metcalfe PS,
 - going from six empty classrooms to no empty classrooms by 2028

MINIMIZES TRANSITIONS WHERE CHANGES ARE PROPOSED

- Scenario 2 would have the fewest transitions for students, in that all the current Gr. 7,8 Jean Steckle students would transition to Janet Metcalfe Public School together maintaining relationships, and providing some stability for the Huron Woods community (JK-6) population who would remain at Jean Steckle PS prior to their transition to the new Tartan Avenue school.
- Scenario 3 has the 2nd most transitions as the Huron Woods community would experience a transition to the Janet Metcalfe Public School, then to Tartan Avenue once it opens.

- Scenario 4 represents the most transitions for students given the larger number of students it moves and the impact on the Huron Woods community is like Scenario 3 in that the community would experience multiple school changes especially considering the move to the proposed Tartan Avenue school.

6. RECOMMENDED SCENARIO (SLIDE 17)

SCENARIO 4

- New boundary created for Janet Metcalfe PS consisting of Mattamy 'Wildflowers' subdivision
- Grade 7, 8 phased out of Jean Steckle PS to be accommodated at Janet Metcalfe PS, phased back in when enrolment pressure allows
- Area of Jean Steckle PS boundary south of Huron Rd. (Huron Woods) assigned to Janet Metcalfe PS
- Janet Metcalfe PS (JK-6 boundary depicted in purple and Grade 7-8 boundary outlined in purple)
- Janet Metcalfe PS (JK-7 in 2018 and JK-8 in 2019)
- Jean Steckle PS (JK-6 and 8 in 2018 and JK-6 in 2019)

Mr. Hercanuck advised that Scenario 4 was selected as the recommended scenario to bring forward to Trustees because the majority of the Working Group members felt that while Scenario 4 represented the most transitions in terms of the scope of the proposed changes, it also achieved the greatest reduction in enrolment and overcrowding at Jean Steckle PS while using the most bricks and mortar space at Janet Metcalfe PS.

He also noted that over the course of the group's meetings, the tremendous pressure the facility and staff have been under and its impacts on students were a main topic of discussion.

PROJECTED ENROLMENT - SCENARIO 4 (SLIDE 18)

Referring to the enrolment numbers in the table on slide 18, Mr. Hercanuck noted that:

- Projections indicate that this change will reduce enrolment at Jean Steckle PS below current levels for 2018 and reduce peak enrolment at Jean Steckle PS by over 250 students when compared to status quo.
- Scenario 4 is anticipated to have Jean Steckle PS slightly under capacity and fill the new Janet Metcalfe PS by 2022.

SCENARIO 4 RECOMMENDATIONS (SLIDES 19-21)

Referring to slides 19 – 21 of the presentation, Mr. Hercanuck outlined the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MATTAMY 'WILDFLOWERS' COMMUNITY

For students in the Mattamy 'Wildflowers' community currently attending Southridge PS, Queen Elizabeth PS, and Laurentian PS:

- Beginning September 2018 all JK-7 students attend Janet Metcalfe PS
- 2018 Grade 6 students, provided option to remain at Southridge PS or Queen Elizabeth PS for one year (with transportation provided). These students would attend Janet Metcalfe PS for Grade 7 in September 2019
- 2018 Grade 8 students continue at Laurentian Public School
- French Immersions students from this community that are attending Southridge PS will be allowed to remain in the program at Southridge PS; however transportation would no longer be provided (consistent with Board Procedure 1000 - Partial French Immersion and Board Procedure 4260 - Student Transportation)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HURON VILLAGE COMMUNITY

For Students in the Huron Village community (the portion of Jean Steckle PS's current boundary north of Huron Road):

- Beginning September 2018 all Grade 7 students attend Janet Metcalfe PS
- 2018 Grade 8 students continue at Jean Steckle PS
 - September 2018 Jean Steckle PS operates as a JK-6, and Grade 8 school
- Beginning September 2019 all Grade 7 and 8 students attend Janet Metcalfe PS
 - September 2019 and beyond Jean Steckle PS would operate as a JK-6 school

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HURON WOODS COMMUNITY

For Students in the Huron Woods community (the portion of Jean Steckle PS's current boundary south of Huron Road):

- Beginning September 2018 all JK-7 students attend Janet Metcalfe PS
- 2018 Gr. 8 students continue Jean Steckle PS
 - September 2018 Jean Steckle PS operates as a JK-6, and Grade 8 school
- Beginning September 2019 all Grade 7 and 8 students attend Janet Metcalfe PS
 - September 2019 and beyond Jean Steckle PS would operate as a JK-6 school
- 2018 JK-8 Students from the Huron Woods community be given the choice to remain at Janet Metcalfe PS (with transportation), once the new Tartan Avenue school opens.

Mr. Hercanuck advised that this recommendation hopes to help mitigate the number of transitions the Huron Woods community will experience especially with the opening of Tartan. The 2018 Huron Woods students would avoid that additional transition to Tartan Avenue if they choose to finish out at Janet Metcalfe PS.

He advised that due to Board policy/procedure this option would be available to only those students from the Huron Woods community enrolled at Jean Steckle PS as of the last day of school (June 28, 2018).

- Students currently attending Jean Steckle PS in the French Immersion program will be allowed to remain in the program however transportation would no longer be provided.

He noted that students in Huron Woods currently attending Jean Steckle PS for French Immersion will be allowed to remain at Jean Steckle PS for the program; however transportation would no longer be provided.

SCENARIO 4 TRANSPORTATION IMPLICATIONS (SLIDE 22)

Referring to the map on slide 22, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following transportation implications for Scenario 4 with the transition of Grades 7 and 8 from Jean Steckle PS to Janet Metcalfe PS:

- The red hatched on the map indicates the Board's approximate walking distance threshold for grades 7 and 8 students (1600 m)
- For Grades 7 and 8 students within the Huron Village community beyond 1600 m transportation will be provided to Janet Metcalfe PS
- For Grades 7 and 8 students within the Huron Village community and within 1600 m from Janet Metcalfe PS, transportation will not be provided
- For the Huron Woods community, transportation to Janet Metcalfe PS will be provided as the entire community is beyond 1600 m

Mr. Hercanuck advised that Board staff has been working with the Region and City of Kitchener staff on the possibility of providing a crossing guard at Fischer-Hallman and Seabrook. The City has indicated that it is not opposed to providing a crossing guard for Grade 7 & 8 students; however, they will be unable to make a decision until sometime next year.

He noted that regardless of the City's decision on a crossing guard, the Board is committed to providing resources and training to students on walking/biking safely to school and pedestrian roundabout crossing in partnership with the Board's Active and Safe Routes to School Working Group.

7. NEXT STEPS (SLIDE 23)

Mr. Hercanuck outlined the following next steps:

- Working Group to review public meeting comments
- Working Group to confirm preferred Scenario and recommendations
- Working Group to develop recommendations
- Staff to craft report and bring recommendations to Board of Trustees
- Board of Trustees vote on recommendations

8. IMPORTANT DATES (SLIDE 24)

Mr. Hercanuck advised that recommended scenario and recommendations will be presented in a report to Trustees at the [Monday, December 11, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting](#).

The Agenda for the meeting, which will contain the report, will be published to the [Board's website](#) on Friday, December 8, 2017.

All Board meetings are public meetings and any member of the public is welcome to attend.

You may [register as a delegation to speak before the Trustees](#) at the meeting on the Board's website or by contacting the Board's Manager of Corporate Services by Thursday, December 7, 2017.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mr. Hercanuck shared the Board's contact and website information and advised that the all boundary study information will be available on the website including the display boards from tonight's meeting. He asked for feedback and comments on the scenarios presented tonight and shared the following contact information for the boundary study.

Website: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/>

E-mail: boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.ca (please indicate Fischer-Hallman/Huron in the subject line)

Fax: 519-570-2172

Phone: 519-570-0003 ext. 4419

Mail: Planning Department, 51 Ardel Avenue, Kitchener N2C 2R5

Twitter: @wrdsb

9. Q & A

Mr. Hercanuck opened the floor to questions/comments at 7:40 p.m.:

Q: Is there the possibility that Janet Metcalfe PS will end up as crowded as Jean Steckle PS given the amount of development activity still to come in this area? Are future students from the area north of the cemetery being considered in the student enrolment projects for this study?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that we have not included the area north of the cemetery in the projections. The projections consider existing subdivisions only. He advised that any new development areas can be designated as such and accommodated at holding schools as we are doing now with the Mattamy Wildflowers subdivision. He advised that long-term, we do expect to send some of that development to Jean Metcalfe PS if there is space.

Q: Will giving Southridge and Queen Elizabeth PS current Grade 5 students the option to remain at those schools for Grade 6 result in Janet Metcalfe PS not offering Grade 6 in September 2018?

R: No, Jean Metcalfe PS will offer Grade 6 class(es) in September 2018. There may be combined grade classes depending on the September 2018 enrolment breakdown.

Q: Have Student Transportation Services (STSWR) confirmed the walking distances for the new school?

R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that STSWR will not confirm transportation eligibility until near the end of the current school year. He advised that the walking distances provided on the Scenario 4 display board are approximations only and STSWR will make the final determination.

Q: Is there a set number of students required before phasing Grades 7 and 8 back in at Jean Steckle PS?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that we do not have a specific enrolment number in mind that would trigger the phasing back in of Grades 7, and 8. We do not necessarily need to be able to accommodate everyone inside the main building to do so. He advised that while twelve portables are too many, perhaps four or five portables might be acceptable.

Phasing Grade 7 and 8 back into Jean Steckle PS will require another boundary change and these changes will require the approval of the Board of Trustees. He noted that this could be looked at through a boundary study for the Tartan Avenue site school prior to its opening once funding has been approved.

Q: If Janet Metcalfe PS does get French Immersion (FI) how would that impact students already enrolled or wishing to enroll in the next year.

R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that the Board does not typically open a new school with a FI program beyond Grade 1 as the program entry point is Grade 1. The feasibility of beginning a Grade 1 FI program at Janet Metcalfe PS would be determined through the French Immersion registration process. When there is enough interest, and if space is available, any school may be considered as a possible site for the French Immersion program. The decision to expand into other schools is made by the end of March for the following school year. These are not the only factors staff must consider when determining which schools will offer an Immersion program.

Jean Steckle PS's FI students can remain at Jean Steckle PS for the program. When the Jean Steckle PS FI program progresses to the Grade 7 and 8 levels we will add Grade 7 and 8 FI to Jean Metcalfe PS. Any students in the FI program attending from the Huron Woods community can remain in the program there but will no longer qualify for bussing.

For more information about French as a Second Language Programs, please call 519-570-0003 x 4277.

Q: Will the Tartan Avenue school be requested from the Ministry of Education until it is approved? How will we know if it remains on the list and if it gets approval?

R: Yes. We prepare a Capital Priorities Report to the Board each year which is made available on the website. Tartan is number two on the list this year. If we don't get approval, it is anticipated that it will remain a priority project moving forward.

Q: Does the Board ever take into consideration the statistical impacts that changing schools has on a child's development and achievement?

R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that it was not a consideration in our objectives. He is not aware of any studies but noted that concerns have been expressed on how overcrowding at Jean Steckle PS is affecting students there. He also acknowledged that change is not always ideal and we are hoping to help mitigate it through work that will be done between the school administrators along with a transition committee of staff and parents to host various events to help students adjust to their new school communities and help them feel welcomed.

C: Scenarios discussed were impactful to either the 7/8s or to the little kids, my concern is that those impacts are not factored into the recommendation (citing an unnamed study on statistical impacts).

R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that he can't comment on the study cited but acknowledged that the point is well taken.

Q: Would consideration be given to building a bridge or overpass over Fischer-Hallman Road?

R: No. The board does not have funds for that. We are working with the City on having a crossing guard installed. The City is not opposed but cannot commit until they have completed the required studies.

Q: Is there any chance that Janet Metcalfe PS could open with Grades 1-5 French Immersion (FI) if the current FI students at Southridge PS (and Jean Steckle PS) could attend there?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that in order for the Board to consider doing that, it would require enough students at both the current FI school and Janet Metcalfe PS to ensure enough students to offer at least one FI class from Grades 1–5 at each school. When we looked at the number of students registered in FI today, it suggests there aren't enough FI students in this review to warrant that.

R: Mr. Hercanuck noted that there are only 18 students total (Grades 1-6) in the FI program at Southridge PS from the 'Wildflowers' community. There shouldn't be any from that community attending Jean Steckle PS for FI. There are 17 FI students from Huron Woods attending Jean Steckle PS. Those numbers are not enough to make one class each between Grades 1-6 at Janet Metcalfe PS.

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 to <mailto:boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.ca>

The formal presentation concluded at 8:00 PM and Mr. Hercanuck invited those in attendance to take a look at the [display board outlining Scenario 4](#) and advised that Planning staff would be available to answer questions one-on-one.

Board staff were available to answer questions one-on-one until approximately 8:30 p.m.

HOW TO BE A DELEGATION

Individuals, organizations and groups are welcome to speak to the Board as a delegation. In accordance with Board Bylaws, 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 Stephanie Reidel, 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.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Working Group Meetings:

Working Group #5: Friday, Nov 24, 2017 from 3:30-4:30 PM (tentative)

Public Meetings:

Committee of the Whole Meeting: December 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Education Centre, 51 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener