

FISCHER-HALLMAN/HURON ELEMENTARY BOUNDARY STUDY



The third Working Group meeting of the Fisher-Hallman/Huron Elementary Schools Boundary Study, involving Jean Steckle, Queen Elizabeth, Southridge and Laurentian Public Schools and the new Rosenberg III (335 Seabrook Drive) elementary school, was held at Jean Steckle PS on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.

ATTENDEES:

Andrea Michelutti, Principal, Jean Steckle PS; Gregory Jespersen, Principal, Laurentian PS; A. Humphrys, Vice Principal, Jean Steckle PS; Mel Kobe Parent Representative, Jean Steckle PS; Lori Peebles, alternating Parent Representative, Jean Steckle PS; Maher Abdallah, Parent Representative, Jean Steckle PS; Bill Lemon, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Ron DeBoer, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Lauren Agar, Manager of Planning; Sarah Galliher, Senior Planner; Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner; Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary

REGRETS:

C. Weber, Principal, Queen Elizabeth PS; Sherri Davidson, Vice Principal, Laurentian PS; Geoff Suderman-Gladwell, Principal, Southridge PS; Erica Beck, Parent Representative, Southridge PS; Ahmad Okeil, Community Representative; Rebecca Millar, Parent Representative, Jean Steckle PS; Lalita Premasukh, Parent Representative, Southridge PS; Sakshi Sharma, Parent Representative, Southridge PS;

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, welcomed members of the Working Group and Board staff at 3:35 PM. The Working Group welcomed Maher Abdallah, a new parent representative from the area south of Huron Road for Jean Steckle PS and did a round of introductions.

Mr. Hercanuck led the group through the presentation (available online at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/fischer-hallman-huron-study>)

2. MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL

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

No errors or omissions were reported.

The minutes from Working Group meeting #2, October 10, 2017 were approved without change.

Moved by: Lori Peebles

Seconded by: Mel Kobe

The minutes will be posted online at www.wrdsb.ca/planning/

3. BOUNDARY FEEDBACK

Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

- Three pieces of feedback received to date:
 - Two from Huron Woods community members concerned with Scenario 3 (and 4) moving them to new school on Seabrook Dr:
 - Required number of school changes and related transitions (daycare etc.) is a concern for this area.
 - Suggestion of moving the entire French Immersion program and any new students from the Huron Woods area to the new school.
 - One from Jean Steckle PS Gr. 4 student in favour of Scenario 2, phasing the Grade 7 and 8 program out of Jean Steckle PS.
- Content has been redacted to remove personal identifying information.
- Feedback is available for the Working Group's review in the shared folder.

In response to the suggestions received through boundary feedback, Mr. Hercanuck advised that:

- He is unsure how feasible moving the French Immersion program would be given the policies the Board has around French Immersion and relocating the program. Typically the program is grown from Grade one up and we don't have any French Immersion registration numbers to know if the new Seabrook Dr. school could support the program moving forward if it was moved there.
- He also noted that just directing new people from the south of Huron Rd area to the new Seabrook Dr school would not accomplish the enrolment reduction required at Jean Steckle PS.

A Working Group member speculated that moving the entire FI program to the new school would damage the program as some in boundary Jean Steckle PS parents would likely take their children out of the program as they would now be required to drive their children to the new school as the program would not be offered at their home school. So it might not make a significant reduction at Jean Steckle PS.

4. DRAFT OBJECTIVES

- Establish school attendance boundary for new elementary school
- Reduce enrolment at Jean Steckle PS
- Maximize the use of built permanent capacity/Minimize the need for portables
- Minimize transitions where changes are proposed

Mr. Hercanuck asked the members of the Working Group if they would like to make any changes to the Draft Objectives. The Working Group did not request any changes.

5. SCENARIO REVIEW

A. SEABROOK/FISCHER-HALLMAN ROUNDABOUT CROSSING

Mr. Hercanuck advised that since our last meeting, he has received the opinion of Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) regarding whether the Grade 7 and 8 students would be bussed or required to walk to the new school under Scenario 2 and Scenario 4.

STSWR has made the determination that bussing will not be provided and advised that adult crossing guards are a municipal responsibility. They noted that crossing guards aren't usually put in place for Grades 7 and 8 because the kids don't like to use them. It was also noted that the crossing guard at the Homer Watson and Block Line roundabout is an exception to standard practice and is paid for by the Region of Waterloo.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that STSWR has committed to providing training and resources to students and families on safe crossing at roundabouts.

C: Mrs. Agar noted that STSWR had indicated that training could take place in September, but perhaps we should suggest training takes place before the first day of school. She advised that the training may be open to any other families in the neighbourhood as well.

Mrs. Agar advised that this is something that we can organize and work with the school to plan to make sure it works for the community.

Q: Was it the Catholic Board that approved the crossing guards at the Homer Watson and Block Line roundabout?

R: No. Mrs. Agar advised that the Region of Waterloo and City of Kitchener arranged for those crossing guards. It was meant to be a temporary measure because of the number of collisions and a specific incident that happened at that roundabout. She noted that the Region does not typically pay for crossing guards as it is a municipal service. Fischer-Hallman is a regional road, but she is unsure if the Region would be willing to fund crossing guards there. But noted that because we are making the decision for the boundary after the roundabout was installed, they might not be willing to do so (Homer Watson/Block Line roundabout was installed after the school boundaries were set).

SCENARIO 4 (SLIDES 5– 18)

Mr. Hercanuck advised that has requested by the Working Group at the last meeting, he has put together Scenario 4 (combination of Scenarios 2 and 3) illustrated on the map on slide 5. Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

- New Boundary established for 335 Seabrook Dr. school consisting of Mattamy “Wildflowers” subdivision.
- Grade 7 and 8 phased out of Jean Steckle PS to be accommodated at new Seabrook Dr. school, phased back in at Jean Steckle PS when enrolment pressure allows.
- Area of Jean Steckle PS’s boundary South of Huron Road (Huron Woods) assigned to the New School for JK-8 (JK-7 in Sept 2018).

PROJECTED ENROLMENT – SCENARIO 4 (SLIDES 6-11)

Referring to the table on Slide 6, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

- Enrolment reduced at Jean Steckle PS to 779 students in Sept 2018
 - Jean Steckle PS’s enrolment is at capacity by 2021/2022 and dips below going forward
 - No changes in enrolments for Queen Elizabeth, Southridge and Laurentian Public Schools from the other scenarios as these schools are the holding schools for the Mattamy “Wildflowers” subdivision
 - New Seabrook Dr. school is full by 2022 and slightly over capacity by 2028
- C: Enrolment at the new school would drop when Tartan Ave school opens.
- R: Yes. This could allow us to phase Grades 7 and 8 back at Jean Steckle PS. When Tartan Ave opens and we move the area south of Huron Rd to Tartan Ave, that would allow us to phase the grades 7 and 8 back in at Jean Steckle PS.
- Q: What if the Tartan Ave school doesn’t happen for 2020 – would you still phase the 7 and 8 back in at Jean Steckle PS? I have kids that would have to change back to Jean Steckle PS for 7 and 8 if they change it back.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the enrolment projections do not anticipate the building of the Tartan Ave school because we do not have the funding and ministry approval yet so we cannot count on it.
- C: A lot of the area south of Huron Rd, including my family went through a number of transitions all ready. With this scenario I will have one child at the new school, two children at Jean Steckle PS or possible all three at the new school or will have to come back here for Grades 7 and 8.
- R: The new Tartan Ave school will have Grade 7 in its opening year and Grade 8 the following year. When we phase Grade 7 and 8 back into Jean Steckle PS as we contemplate under Scenarios 2 and 3, if you had a Grade 6 student at Jean Steckle PS in the year before the change, they wouldn’t go over to the new Seabrook Dr school for Grade 7, instead they would remain at Jean Steckle PS (now a JK-7) for Grade 7. The following year Jean Steckle PS would be JK-8.
- C: It was discussed under the boundary study for Jean Steckle PS that the area south of Huron Rd (Huron Woods) would attend Jean Steckle PS until the new Tartan Ave school opened, so we bought our house under that assumption. But now it is being discussed to move this area again to the new Seabrook Dr school and then to move us to Tartan Ave school when it opens. It causes hardships for families with getting kids to school and changing daycare providers. How many students are coming from the south of Huron Rd area?
- R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that nothing has been decided yet. There are roughly 140 (JK-8) students in the south of Huron Rd community.
- C: From my perspective and from the perspective of families living south of Huron Rd, it is not fair to move all these students.
- C: A working group member commented that there were a lot of really good points shared but noted that these points are being taken into consideration for all scenarios. She noted that feedback on the scenarios should be discussed at tonight’s public meeting as the purpose of this afternoon’s working group meeting is to decide which scenarios to present at the public meeting so we can get feedback on the scenarios. She noted that various transitions had been discussed over the past two meetings and noted that two of the scenarios presented will also affect her child who will have to attend the new Seabrook Dr. school for Grades 7 and 8 under scenarios 2 and 4.

- R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that we are discussing all the options for reducing enrolment at Jean Steckle PS and we are discussing the implications of those options and you will see in a few slides that the number of transitions for the south of Huron Rd community is a challenge with Scenarios 3 and 4. He also noted that he hopes to receive more feedback on the scenarios from the broader community at the public meeting tonight.
- C: Some students got upset when they had to bring home the flyers for the public meeting; they were under the impression that they would have to change schools.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the public meeting notice is very generic and does not say anything about changing schools. He noted that when a boundary study decision has been made by Trustees, an individual mail out based on a student's address will be sent out, addressed to the parent/guardian of affected students outlining any upcoming changes.
- C: A parent representative noted that Scenario 4 better aligns both Jean Steckle PS and the new Seabrook Dr school with their capacities.
- C: Scenario 4 is better balanced for transitions, with both neighbourhoods impacted.

PROPOSED SCENARIO 4 TRANSITIONS (SLIDES 12-14)

Mr. Hercanuck outlined the following transition allowances by school, noting that the number of transitions and their implications for the south of Huron Rd community are strikes against both Scenario 3 and 4:

SOUTHRIDGE PS (SLIDE 12)

- Wildflowers community students to attend new school Sept 2018
 - Option for 2018 Gr 6 students to finish at Southridge PS (with transportation), no siblings
 - French Immersion – students may remain at Southridge PS for the FI program (with siblings).
 - Transportation will not be provided (in accordance with Board Procedure – 4260 section 15.1)

QUEEN ELIZABETH PS (SLIDE 12)

- Wildflowers community students to attend new school Sept 2018
 - Option for 2018 Gr 6 students to finish at Queen Elizabeth PS (with transportation), no siblings

LAURENTIAN PS (SLIDE 13)

- Wildflowers community students to attend new school Sept 2018
 - 2018 Gr 8 students to finish at Laurentian PS (with transportation), no siblings

JEAN STECKLE PS (SLIDE 14)

- 2018 Gr 7 students to attend new school; (Jean Steckle PS is JK-6 and 8)
- 2019 Gr 7 and Gr 8 students to attend new school; (Jean Steckle PS is JK-6)
 - Transportation provided in accordance with Board Policy 4009 (if eligible by distance)

JEAN STECKLE PS - SOUTH OF HURON ROAD COMMUNITY (SLIDE 15)

- 2018 JK-Gr 7 students in Huron Woods to attend new school
 - 2018 Gr 8 students within Huron Woods to attend Jean Steckle PS
- 2019 JK-8 students within Huron Woods to attend new school (JK-8)
- 2020 (or beyond) JK-7 students within Huron Woods to attend new school (Tartan Ave JK-7)
- 2021 (or beyond) JK-8 students within Huron Woods to attend new school (Tartan Ave JK-8)

DRAFT OBJECTIVES – SCENARIO EVALUATION – SCENARIO 4 (SLIDES 15-16)

PROPOSED SCENARIO TRANSITIONS – SOUTH OF HURON ROAD COMMUNITY (SLIDE 17)

Mr. Hercanuck provided a visual of school changes for the Huron Woods area noting that:

- This area was bussed to Alpine PS (JK-6) in 2012 prior to the opening of Jean Steckle PS and Laurentian PS for grades 7-8.
- In 2013 they attended Jean Steckle PS for JK-7 with Gr 8 at Laurentian
- In 2013 they attended Jean Steckle PS for JK-8

The visual on slide 17 outlines the transitions for a JK student from Huron Woods as follows;

- JK at Alpine PS 2012
- Grades SK-4 at Jean Steckle PS 2013–2017

- Grades 5-6 at 335 Seabrook 2018–2019
- Grades 7-8 at new Tartan Ave school should it open in 2020

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SOUTH OF HURON ROAD TO BE AFFECTED BY MULTIPLE SCHOOL CHANGES

Mr. Hercanuck noted that while Scenario 4 reduces enrolment and removes the most portables at Jean Steckle PS (out of the scenarios considered) and uses the most surplus space at the new 335 Seabrook Dr school. However it does involve the most transitions for the greatest number of students. He cautioned that Scenario 4 would mean four boundary changes in ten years for some students in the Huron Woods community.

Slide 18 provides the number of students south of Huron Road attending Jean Steckle PS in 2017 who were attending Alpine PS in 2012 as follows:

- 15 students total in Grades 4-6
- 4 student total in Grade 7

Mrs. Agar noted that these numbers are for individual students and not families (siblings of students who attended Alpine PS).

Q: Do the enrolment projections for the new 335 Seabrook Dr school take into account any future development in the Mattamy 'Wildflowers' subdivision?

R: Yes. They include anticipated future closing of housing and student yields from the different types of housing.

R: Mrs. Agar noted that the Wildflowers subdivision is close to being built out at this point. There are very few building permits left so many of the houses are occupied. We don't know how many homes have children in the 0-3 year range but our enrollment projections are based on student yields we typically would get out of similar subdivisions, and the age of the housing. She noted that Jean Steckle PS would have been used as an example to model our future projections for other new areas.

Mr. Hercanuck asked if the working group would like to present Scenario 4 at the public meeting.

Two members of the working group members voiced their support for presenting Scenario 4 at the meeting along with all the other scenarios discussed so far, noting that Scenario 4 does the best job of matching enrolment to capacity for both Jean Steckle PS and the new 335 Seabrook Dr school. Scenario 4 will help us get rid of the greatest number of portables at Jean Steckle PS and free up more playground space. It should be presented as an option and reviewed based on feedback received by the community.

It was also noted that because we are unsure when the Tartan Ave school will be built, we don't know for sure if students will have to go through 4 school changes.

It was agreed that Scenarios 1, 2, 3 and 4 would be presented at the Public Meeting.

6. FUTURE MEETING DATES (SLIDE 39)

Working Group Meetings:

Working Group Meeting #4, Tuesday, November 7, 2017 from 3:30-5:00 PM at Jean Steckle PS

Mr. Hercanuck advised that Meeting #4 will be used to go through the feedback received at Public Meeting #1

Working Group Meeting #5, Tuesday, November 21, 2017 from 3:30-4:30 PM at Jean Steckle PS (tentative)

Mr. Hercanuck noted that Meeting #5 will be used to review Public Meeting #2 materials.

Public Meetings:

- **Public Meeting #1** is taking place this evening at 7:00 at Jean Steckle PS

Mr. Hercanuck asked those in attendance if they are aware of any community event that might interfere with the community being able to attend Public Meeting #2 on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

No conflicts were noted.

- **Public Meeting #2: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 from 7:00-8:30 PM at Jean Steckle PS (tentative)**

Mr. Hercanuck advised that Public Meeting #2 would be used to present the recommended option and implementation pieces to the public for feedback before taking it to the Board of Trustees in December.

7. ROUNDTABLE

- C: A working group member asked if Mr. Hercanuck could look at a Scenario for moving the French Immersion program from Jean Steckle PS to the new 335 Seabrook Dr school.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck noted that would move 128 students out of Jean Steckle PS next year. He noted that those numbers are not guaranteed because in boundary families could decide to quite the program rather than attend the new 335 Seabrook Dr school as an out of boundary student.
- C: That would be a detriment to the French Immersion program.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck noted that this option reduces the enrolment at Jean Steckle PS the least out of the scenarios considered so far.
- Q: Less than Scenario 1?
- R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that Scenario 1 is not an option; it is being used as a base scenario. We cannot leave Jean Steckle PS's boundary the way it is. We cannot physically put any more students on this site, and based on just internal growth within the boundary now, the primary grades are so full that just those numbers will increase the enrolment as they move through the system and new JKs register. That is why Scenario 1 is not an option for us moving forward.
- C: Principal Michelutti noted that she had three new families register last week and we cannot say no to new enrolment within the boundary. She was able to turn away two families from the Mattamy subdivision who wanted to register. She advised that every week there are between five and eight families registering or trying to register at Jean Steckle PS.
- Q: Because families apply for French Immersion when their children are in SK, if we took the program out, could we be in the situation where families would apply to have it here again and we would have to put the program back in for Grade 1 but not for Grade 2, 3 and 4?
- R: Mr. Hercanuck noted that would be one of the challenges with that option and we have certain procedures for French Immersion and I'm not sure if they would be compatible with this scenario. And if people drop out of the program, we wouldn't even achieve the 128 student reduction at Jean Steckle PS.
- R: Superintendent Lemon noted that such an option might create a significant governance problem where we are departing from Board procedures in terms of creating a program. If we have the critical mass coming out of SK we could be forced to restart a French Immersion program at Jean Steckle PS. There might not be an appetite at the Board table to bring that proposal forward.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that it was announced today that Janet Hale will be the Principal for the new unnamed school located at 335 Seabrook Dr. and reminded everyone that the [naming process for the new school](#) is happening right now and there's a link on the Board's website for those who want to submit a name for consideration.

Mr. Hercanuck thanked the Working Group for attending and adjourned the meeting at 4:25 PM.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Mr. Hercanuck to present Scenarios 1, 2, 3 and 4 at Public Meeting #1 at 7:00 p.m. this evening.**
- **Mr. Hercanuck to note at the Public Meeting that Scenario 1 is not an option.**
- **A. Kean to book Jean Steckle PS for Nov 21, 2017 for future meetings including Public Meeting #2.**

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Working Group Meetings:

Working Group #4: Tues., Nov 7, 2017 from 3:30-5:00 PM at Jean Steckle PS

Working Group #5: Tues., Nov 21, 2017 from 3:30-4:30 PM at Jean Steckle PS (tentative)

Public Meetings:

Public Meeting #2: Late November (tentative)

Committee of the Whole Meeting: Tentative December 11, 2017