

# FISCHER-HALLMAN/HURON ELEMENTARY BOUNDARY STUDY



*The fourth 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, November 7, 2017 from 3:30 to 5:30 PM.*

## ATTENDEES:

Andrea Michelutti, Principal, Jean Steckle PS; Janet Hale, Principal, new 335 Seabrook Drive school; A. Humphrys, Vice Principal, Jean Steckle PS; Mel Kobe, Parent Representative, Jean Steckle PS; Lori Peebles, alternating Parent Representative, Jean Steckle PS; Rebecca Millar, Parent Representative, Jean Steckle PS; Maher Abdallah, Parent Representative, Jean Steckle PS; Bill Lemon, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Lauren Agar, Manager of Planning; Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner; Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary

## REGRETS:

C. Weber, Principal, Queen Elizabeth PS; Gregory Jespersen, Principal, Laurentian PS; Sherri Davidson, Vice Principal, Laurentian PS; Geoff Suderman-Gladwell, Principal, Southridge PS; Erica Beck, Parent Representative, Southridge PS; Ahmad Okeil, Community Representative; Lalita Premasukh, Parent Representative, Southridge PS; Sakshi Sharma, Parent Representative, Southridge PS; Ron DeBoer, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being; Sarah Galliher, Senior Planner.

### 1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, welcomed members of the Working Group and Board staff at 3:35 PM. The Working Group welcomed Janet Hale the Principal for the new 335 Seabrook Drive school.

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 #3.

No errors or omissions were reported.

The minutes from Working Group meeting #3, October 24, 2017 were approved without change.

Moved by: Mel Kobe

Seconded by: Bill Lemon

The minutes will be posted online at [www.wrdsb.ca/planning/](http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/)

### 3. SCENARIO FEEDBACK (SLIDE 3)

Mr. Hercanuck advised that there was a good turnout at Public Meeting #1 and advised that this evening we will be looking at Scenarios 2, 3 and 4 based on the feedback received from the Public Meeting. He advised that we will need to present a report to the Board of Trustees on Monday, December 11, 2017 and we are looking at Tuesday, November 21, 2017 to hold Public Meeting #2.

He noted that he is not getting the feeling that there is consensus on either of the scenarios and therefore the working group will not vote on a recommended scenario. Instead, the working group can help define the pros and cons of each scenario and look at ways to help address them. Staff will make the recommendation to the Board of Trustees and details of our discussion will be included in the report.

Mr. Hercanuck noted the following themes in the feedback received to-date from Public Meeting #1; listed in order by amount of comments received:

- Concerns re: safe crossing of Fischer Hallman Rd.
- Number of transitions for Huron Woods neighbourhood (with anticipated opening of new Tartan Ave. school).

- French Immersion program access.
- Transitions:
  - Impacts on students
  - Impacts on existing caregiver arrangements

#### UPDATE ON SEABROOK/FISCHER-HALLMAN ROUNDABOUT CROSSING

Mr. Hercanuck noted that in regard to the Fischer-Hallman crossing he has had a conversation with City of Kitchener staff on the scenarios and specifically Scenarios 2 and 4. While we did mention at previous meetings that the City does not typically provide crossing guards for Grade 7 and 8 students, they are not ruling the option out. The City has committed to review the operation of the roundabout with respect to vehicles and pedestrians; however, they cannot commit to a decision before the new year.

C: Fischer-Hallman Road will be changed to four lanes in 2020.

Q: Have bell times been set for the new school?

R: No. A boundary will have to be established before bell times can be set.

#### UPDATE ON FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM (FI) AT NEW SCHOOL

Mr. Hercanuck noted that he has spoken with Learning Services staff and they have advised that a French Immersion program could be considered for the new school if it meets the criteria that all other schools face and if demand is warranted through the [FI registration process](#). He advised that we can recommend in our report that the new school should be considered for the French Immersion program if demand warrants.

Q: If Scenario 3 or 4 is chosen, would it mean that the Huron Woods French Immersion students who are currently at Jean Steckle PS, will have to attend the program elsewhere?

R: No. Those students will be allowed to remain at Jean Steckle PS as it is now there homeschool for French Immersion. Their siblings are also allowed to remain. It would mean however, that they would lose bussing as they would not be attending Jean Steckle PS from in-boundary.

C: Concern was expressed about how the number of cross bordering students could affect the enrolment numbers at Jean Steckle PS. So far 60 families have been demitted including 2 new families this week. It is expected that these students would attend the new school when it opens.

R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that we continue to demit those students when we find them. He noted that they may affect the enrolment numbers at the new school but there is no good way of projecting for them or for students who may be gained from other boards or private schools.

#### 4. DRAFT OBJECTIVES (SLIDE 4)

- 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 are okay to finalize the objectives. The Working Group did not request any changes. **The Objectives were approved as final.**

#### 5. SCENARIO REVIEW

Mr. Hercanuck noted that this evening we will look at Scenarios 2, 3, and 4 and how they meet the objectives and view them based on the feedback received from the community. Mr. Hercanuck went through the Scenarios as follows:

##### SCENARIO 2 (SLIDES 5 – 10)

Referring to the map of Scenario 2 on slide 5, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

- New boundary established for 335 Seabrook Dr. school consisting of Mattamy 'Wildflowers' subdivision.
- Grade 7, 8 phased out of Jean Steckle PS to be accommodated at new Seabrook Dr. school, phased back in when enrolment pressure allows.

**PROJECTED ENROLMENT – SCENARIO 2 (SLIDE 6)**

Referring to the chart on slide 6, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

- Scenario 2 would have the same implications for the holding schools Southridge, Queen Elizabeth and Laurentian as the base scenario.
- Uses more permanent space at the new Seabrook Dr. school than the base scenario.

**SCENARIO 2 – PROPOSED TRANSITIONS (SLIDES 7 AND 8)****SOUTHRIDGE PS**

- '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 French Immersion program (with siblings). Transportation will not be provided (In accordance with Board Procedure – 4260 section 15.1)

**QUEEN ELIZABETH PS**

- '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**

- '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**

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

**SCENARIO 2 – DRAFT OBJECTIVES – SCENARIO EVALUATION (SLIDE 9)**

Referring to the chart on slide 9, Mr. Hercanuck advised that with respect to the Draft Study Objectives Scenario 2:

- **Establish school attendance boundary for the new elementary school**
  - Yes
- **Reduce enrolment at Jean Steckle PS**
  - Yes. Peak enrolment reduced by 194 students
- **Maximize the use of built permanent capacity/Minimize the need for Portables**
  - Reduction in enrolment will reduce the need for portables at Jean Steckle PS.
  - Accommodates more students in permanent capacity at the new Seabrook Dr. school.
- **Minimize transitions where changes are proposed**
  - Transitions for Queen Elizabeth, Southridge and Laurentian PS students from the Wildflowers community taken into account with the grandparenting options suggested.
  - Relocation of the intermediate division students (grades 7, 8) to the new school is phased over two years:
    - Students 'graduate' into the new school from Jean Steckle PS when changing to JK-6 organization
    - Students 'graduate' into Gr 7 then 8 at Jean Steckle PS when Gr 7, 8 is returned)
- **Other**
  - French Immersion program implications. Jean Steckle PS currently has French Immersion up to Gr. 3. Concern was expressed about making sure the FI program is appropriately resourced once it gets to Grade 7 at the new Seabrook Dr. school.
    - Mr. Hercanuck advised that there is confidence that this could be accomplished should this scenario be implemented as there are three years to prepare before French Immersion will get to Grade 7.

**SCENARIO 2 – DISCUSSION WITHIN CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (SLIDE 10)**

Referring to the chart on slide 10, Mr. Hercanuck advised that this chart outlines which of the concerns expressed from the community are associated with Scenario 2:

- **Pedestrian Crossing at Fischer-Hallman**
  - Some students ineligible for transportation (<1600m from new school) expected to cross. (estimated 30 for Sept. 2018, increasing to 90 by 2021)
- **Number of transitions for Huron Woods neighbourhood**
  - Huron Woods students remain at Jean Steckle through grades JK-6.
- **French Immersion (FI) program access**
  - Entire current (2017) Jean Steckle PS boundary remains 'in-boundary' for FI
  - Loss of access to 'in-boundary' FI program for current 'Wildflowers' Southridge PS FI students
  - New Seabrook Dr. School potential to open with Gr. 1 FI (depending on demand during FI registration)
- **Transitions – impact on students**
  - All students in Gr. 7, 8 move to new school together maintaining relationships
  - Students may be separated from younger siblings earlier than if Jean Steckle remained JK-8 (would have separated for high school regardless)
- **Transitions impact on existing caregiver relationships**

**SCENARIO 2 DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Hercanuck advised that the enrolment projections for all scenarios do not consider future development north of the cemetery. The Seabrook Dr. school is intended to accommodate some of that development over the long term.

No one will have to change schools when the Grades 7 and 8 are graduated back in at Jean Steckle PS; instead the Jean Steckle PS Grade 6 class will become the following year's Grade 7 and the subsequent year's 8s. The students attending at the new school will graduate on to high school from there.

When looking at transitions, we need to look at what makes a school; is it the building or the students. In that regard, are the transitions somewhat mitigated by moving the entire grade cohort (i.e., Grade 7) as it maintains all relationships within the cohort?

C: Yes. They will still be with their friends.

C: Changing schools is more of an inconvenience for little kids, especially with having to change caregivers.

C: It is important to keep the proposed Tartan Ave school on the radar, but we also need to keep in mind that it may not get approved.

R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that the Tartan Ave school (and the board's other proposed schools) have solid business cases and they will be built at some point – we just don't know exactly when. He advised that we are one of a few growth boards in the province. We do expect to build Tartan but when is out of our hands.

C: It will be easier to move an entire grade.

Q: How many students will get bussing if we move the Grade 7s (8s) to the new school?

R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that this information would be included in our report. He noted that we are also saving transportation costs as we will end bussing students to holding schools (Queen Elizabeth, Laurentian and Southridge PSs). We can recommend one year of bussing for the Grade 6 at Southridge PS and Queen Elizabeth PS.

Q: The Huron Woods community would get bussed for Grade 7 and 8 to the new school?

R: Yes. Mr. Hercanuck advised that under all scenarios, any affected Huron Woods students would be bussed to the new school based on transportation distances.

He also noted that no one loses access to an 'in-boundary' French Immersion program under Scenario 2. The boundary would be changed to add French Immersion at the new school for Grades 7 and 8 should the program get to that point before we can graduate Grade 7 and 8 back to Jean Steckle PS.

C: Mr. Hercanuck noted that we have never based any past recommendations on caregiver relationships.

- C: A working group representative ventured that the question asked at the public meeting was in reference to a family with a student in Grade 7 and if childcare would be provided at the new school in hopes that their younger sibling could attend daycare there.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that the daycare provider for the new school hasn't been announced yet.
- Q: Are we saying that the new school would offer the Grade 7 and 8 French Immersion program?
- R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that he has spoken with programming staff and we could accommodate it there if/when it gets to that point (in three years).

### SCENARIO 3 (SLIDES 11 – 16)

Referring to the map of Scenario 3 on slide 11, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

- New boundary established for 335 Seabrook Dr. school consisting of Mattamy 'Wildflowers' subdivision.
- Area of Jean Steckle PS boundary South of Huron Rd. assigned to new Seabrook Dr. school.

### PROJECTED ENROLMENT – SCENARIO 3 (SLIDE 12)

Referring to the chart on slide 12, Mr. Hercanuck noted the following:

- Scenario 3 would have the same implications for the holding schools Southridge, Queen Elizabeth and Laurentian as the base scenario.
- Uses more permanent space at the new Seabrook Dr. school than the base scenario but not as much as Scenario 2.

### SCENARIO 3 – PROPOSED TRANSITIONS (SLIDES 13 AND 14)

#### SOUTHRIDGE PS

- '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 French Immersion program (with siblings). Transportation will not be provided (In accordance with Board Procedure – 4260 section 15.1)

#### QUEEN ELIZABETH PS

- '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

- '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

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

### SCENARIO 3 – DRAFT OBJECTIVES – SCENARIO EVALUATION (SLIDE 15)

Referring to the chart on slide 15, Mr. Hercanuck advised that with respect to the Draft Study Objectives Scenario 3:

- **Establish school attendance boundary for the new elementary school**
  - Yes
- **Reduce enrolment at Jean Steckle PS**
  - Yes. Peak enrolment reduced by 139 students.
- **Maximize the use of built permanent capacity/Minimize the need for Portables**
  - Reduces portables at Jean Steckle PS. But not as much as Scenario 2.
  - Accommodates more students in permanent capacity at the new Seabrook Dr. school. But not as much as Scenario 2.

- **Minimize transitions where changes are proposed**
  - Transitions for Queen Elizabeth, Southridge and Laurentian PS students from the Wildflowers community taken into account with the grandparenting options suggested.
  - Transitions for Queen Elizabeth, Southridge students to new school.
  - Transitions for Huron Woods from Jean Steckle to new school (Seabrook)
  - Transitions for Huron Woods from new school (Seabrook) to new school (Tartan).

Mr. Hercanuck cautioned that a big concern with this scenario is the number of transitions for the Huron Woods community with the eventual opening of a new Tartan Ave school.

- **Other**

### SCENARIO 3 – DISCUSSION WITHIN CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (SLIDE 16)

Referring to the chart on slide 16, Mr. Hercanuck advised that this chart outlines which of the concerns expressed from the community are associated with Scenario 3:

- **Pedestrian Crossing at Fischer-Hallman**
  - None of the students moving from Jean Steckle PS to new Seabrook Drive school will have to cross Fischer-Hallman Rd (all Huron Woods students are eligible for transportation by distance).
- **Number of transitions for Huron Woods neighbourhood**
  - Many transitions for Huron Woods neighbourhood when considering future opening of new Tartan Ave school.
- **French Immersion (FI) program access**
  - Loss of access to 'in-boundary' FI program for current Huron Woods FI students at Jean Steckle PS.
  - Loss of access to 'in-boundary' FI program for current 'Wildflowers' Southridge PS FI students.
  - New Seabrook Dr. School potential to open with Gr. 1 FI (depending on demand during FI registration).
- **Transitions – impact on students**
  - Only a portion of each cohort (grade) moved to new Seabrook Dr. school; servers existing relationship with cohort.
  - Jean Steckle PS and new Seabrook Dr school JK-8; siblings remain together longer at same school.
- **Transitions impact on existing caregiver relationships**

### SCENARIO 3 DISCUSSION

Mr. Hercanuck noted the following negatives to Scenario 3:

- Less reduction in Jean Steckle PS's enrolment over Scenario 2
- Changes for Huron Woods community create more transitions than Scenario 2
- Huron Woods community loses access to in-boundary French Immersion program
- Portion of each cohort impacted; severs existing relationships with peers

Q: How many Huron Woods French Immersion student (and siblings) can stay at Jean Steckle PS?

R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that there are 3 students this year.

### SCENARIO 4 (SLIDES 17 - 24)

Referring to the map of Scenario 4 on slide 17, Mr. Hercanuck noted that Scenario 4 is a combination of Scenarios 2 and 3) and 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 assigned to the New School for JK-8 (JK-7 in Sept 2018).

### PROJECTED ENROLMENT – SCENARIO 4 (SLIDE 18)

Referring to the table on Slide 18, 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 a heading over capacity in 2028.

**PROPOSED SCENARIO 4 TRANSITIONS (SLIDES 19-21)**

Mr. Hercanuck outlined the following transition allowances by school:

**SOUTHRIDGE PS**

- 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**

- 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**

- 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**

- 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**

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

**SCENARIO 4 – DRAFT OBJECTIVES – SCENARIO EVALUATION (SLIDES 22 AND 23)**

Referring to the chart on slide 22, Mr. Hercanuck advised that with respect to the Draft Study Objectives Scenario 4:

- **Establish school attendance boundary for the new elementary school**
  - Yes
- **Reduce enrolment at Jean Steckle PS**
  - Yes. Peak enrolment reduced by 255 students. More than all other scenarios.
- **Maximize the use of built permanent capacity/Minimize the need for Portables**
  - Reduces portables at Jean Steckle PS. More than Scenario 2.
  - Accommodates more students in permanent capacity at the new Seabrook Dr. More than Scenario 2.
- **Minimize transitions where changes are proposed**
  - Transitions for Queen Elizabeth, Southridge and Laurentian PS students from the Wildflowers community taken into account with the grandparenting options suggested.
  - Transitions for Queen Elizabeth, Southridge students to new school.
  - Students 'graduate' into new school from Jean Steckle when changing to JK-6 organization.
  - Students 'graduate' to stay at Jean Steckle when Gr. 7, 8 returned.
  - Transitions for Huron Woods from Jean Steckle to new school (Seabrook)
  - Transitions for Huron Woods from new school (Seabrook) to new school (Tartan).
- **Other**
  - Program challenges – FI grade disconnect at new facility. Staff and resources.

**SCENARIO 4 – DISCUSSION WITHIN CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (SLIDE 24)**

Referring to the chart on slide 24, Mr. Hercanuck advised that this chart outlines which of the concerns expressed from the community are associated with Scenario 4:

- **Pedestrian Crossing at Fischer-Hallman**
  - Some students ineligible for transportation (<1600m from new school) expected to cross. (30 for Sept. 2018, increasing to 90 by 2021).
- **Number of transitions for Huron Woods neighbourhood**
  - Transitions to new Seabrook school (from Gr. 6 to 7) somewhat mitigated with moving entire grade cohorts for Gr 7.

- Many transitions (JK-6) for Huron Woods neighbourhood when considering future opening of new Tartan Ave school.
- **French Immersion (FI) program access**
  - Loss of access to 'in-boundary' FI program for current Huron Woods FI students at Jean Steckle PS.
  - Loss of access to 'in-boundary' FI program for current 'Wildflowers' Southridge PS FI students.
  - New Seabrook Dr. School potential to open with Gr. 1 FI (depending on demand during FI registration).
- **Transitions – impact on students**
  - Only a portion of each cohort (grade) moved to new Seabrook Dr. school; servers existing relationship with cohort (JK-6).
  - Students may be separated from younger siblings earlier than if Jean Steckle PS remained JK-8 (would have separated for high school regardless)
- **Transitions impact on existing caregiver relationships**

#### SCENARIO 4 DISCUSSION

- C: Based on the enrolment numbers, between 2020 – 2022 within the timeframe for the projection that Tartan Ave school would be open, those enrolment numbers are still with the Grades 7 and 8 at the new school and not phased back in at Jean Steckle PS. Jean Steckle is still hovering at capacity and the new school is still below capacity. Moving the 7 and 8s back will have an impact on the Seabrook school with the new Tartan school opening. This will not lend to a good argument for phasing the 7 and 8 program back at Jean Steckle PS in 2020.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that, if we need it to, the new School can do for new development what the holding schools are doing now. We can be designated as a holding school for pockets of development.
- C: Based on our objectives to ideally 'use the brick and mortar' it doesn't seem to make sense that it should be left half empty.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck noted that he would not anticipate that we would leave it half empty.
- C: When Tartan opens, the Seabrook school's enrolment will drop – why would we push Jean Steckle PS enrolment up can we leave them at the Seabrook to reduce transitions.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that matching enrolment to capacity is not the only objective of the study.
- C: It needs to be disclosed that these numbers don't include the Grades 7 and 8 back at Jean Steckle PS.
- R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that if we added a column for Tartan, Jean Steckle PS's numbers would be the same and we could have discussion on when we would put Grade 7 and 8 back at Jean Steckle PS.
- Q: Mr. Hercanuck asked if the goal is to remove all portables at Jean Steckle PS or to return Grades 7 and 8 and have portables.
- C: The best thing is to go with Scenario 4 to impact both neighbourhoods.
- C: Crowding, accessibility, washroom access are all challenges at Jean Steckle PS. This is not just about transitions; it's about the day-to-day overcrowding at the school. We have just squeezed in 3 additional classrooms and have 12 portables. There are parking issues. There are so many layers to the overcrowding.
- C: Portables are a security issues; no one is walking with those students when they need to go into the school.
- C: This shouldn't be just about the numbers; it should be about the kids. If my child has to move to the Seabrook school, there will only be one other kid they will know in their grade. After reading all the feedback, the Fischer-Hallman crossing and Huron Woods transitions are the areas of most concern; no one has mentioned the overcrowding, save one student at Jean Steckle PS.
- C: That might be because one of the purposes of this study is to address the program and space needs at Jean Steckle PS. But I have mentioned it here at our previous meetings and again this evening.
- C: The Huron Woods community move to the new school would keep siblings together.
- R: Kids don't hang out with their siblings at school; they hang out with their friends.



- C: Vice Principal Humphrys commented that opening a new school is an exciting opportunity for students and staff that should be promoted.
- C: If my child is moved from Jean Steckle PS to Seabrook Dr. school and then to Tartan Ave school they will have opened three new schools from JK to Grade 6. How many times should a child have to go through that?
- C: Once the new school opens and everyone decides they want to attend there, it might end up in a similar situation as Jean Steckle PS.

R: Mr. Hercanuck noted that might well be the case, but we can't account for that in the enrolment projections.

Mr. Hercanuck asked if there is a way to achieve balance, is there a way we can be mindful of transitions that students have experienced so far.

C: Superintendent Lemon commented that based on the work done so far, there isn't an answer that will satisfy everyone.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that there seems to be two viewpoints expressed so far:

- Reduce Jean Steckle PS as much as possible
- Transitions for Huron Woods and 7/8 level

Mr. Hercanuck asked if we can't agree on a scenario to recommend, can we agree on a scenario to drop from consideration.

**The Working Group agreed to remove Scenario 3 from further consideration.**

Mr. Hercanuck advised that moving forward we will need to have a draft report and recommended scenario to present at Public Meeting #2.

C: If we go with Scenario 2, what if enrolment continues to go up, would that require another review?

R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that while not impossible, it would be unlikely as Jean Steckle PS's boundary development is built out.

Q: Can we stop new enrolment, there is still potential for new enrolment from people moving into the boundary?

R: No.

C: Mrs. Agar noted that we may be under projecting for the new school as it may attract more people because of the excitement factor of a new school. We may want to be careful to not over load it by taking too much enrolment there.

C: If the new school becomes over enrolled, could we not look at returning the Grade 7/8 program at Jean Steckle PS earlier?

Three of the four Jean Steckle PS parent representatives voiced their support for recommending Scenario 4.

Q: Did Groh Public School have an influx of students (more than were projected) when it opened?

R: Yes. Mrs. Agar noted that enrolment was over what had been projected.

C: Principal Michelutti noted that there has been an increase in student anxiety at Jean Steckle PS in general because of population pressures. Example; moving designated student entry points for arrival. Parents were very upset with the change at first, but they seem to see the benefit now. The primary grades now only get two gym periods per week. There have also been 15 classrooms added to the building when you add the portables to the internal retrofits.

Mr. Hercanuck advised that we need to have a report and recommendations for the December 11, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mrs. Agar noted that the report must be ready by the last week of November to meet our internal review process deadlines.

Mr. Hercanuck advised that in past reviews, we have brought multiple scenarios to the Board of Trustees.

C: Can we bring more than one to Public Meeting #2 and get their comments before deciding?

R: Mr. Hercanuck noted that we want to share the recommended scenario with the public at Public Meeting #2.

Mrs. Agar advised that the report can have a recommended scenario and then when can include the information about an alternative option in case Trustees don't like the recommendation.

C: Will taking two scenarios change the feedback. Don't see the benefit as feedback will still be the same as from the last meeting because the scenarios are the same.

R: Mr. Hercanuck noted that we have already received the feedback and we haven't changed the scenarios.

C: The top two concerns are both in Scenario 4.

Q: Is one of the concerns the overcrowding at Jean Steckle PS?

C: Mrs. Agar noted that the overcrowding is not at the forefront of concerns or is not something that has been expressed in the comments.

C: We know the overcrowding at Jean Steckle PS is the reason Jean Steckle PS is involved in this study. It's a main concern and perhaps that's why it hasn't been expressed in the comments.

One Jean Steckle Parent Representative expressed support for recommending Scenario 2 noting that Scenario 2 addresses both an enrolment reduction at Jean Steckle PS while minimizing transitions the most for those affected.

Three of the four working group parent representative asked for a vote.

C: Principal Michelutti advised that students at Jean Steckle PS aren't happy, they want people gone. The Grade 1 students are upstairs with the older students and they don't like it.

Q: Do advisory staff weigh in on a vote?

R: Mr. Hercanuck advised that while the opinion of advisory staff is welcome, Board staff cannot vote. (Staff will make recommendations based on the discussion of the Working Group. It is not up to the Working Group to vote on a recommendation).

C: Mrs. Agar commented that it is unfortunate that we don't have a neutral voice on the Working Group. But noted that there isn't much for the other school's parent representatives to comment on to bring them out to the meetings.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that if we go with the majority, Scenario 4 would be recommended. He noted that Scenario 2 addresses most of the concerns expressed. He asked if there is anything that can be recommended for the Huron Woods community to make Scenario 4 more palatable.

Mrs. Agar asked if Scenario 4 would be better if it included an option to allow the Huron Woods community to remain at the new Seabrook Dr. school to finish out there rather than moving to the Tartan Ave. school when it opens?

C: The parent representative for the Huron Woods community noted that he is only one voice and cannot speak for all those affected. He advised that he is unsure if that might be something the community would want.

Q: How many students in the Huron Woods could have three transitions?

R: 19 Students total (15 in Grades 4-6 and 4 students in Grade 7).

C: Everyone else will have two transitions.

- C: A parent representative commented that Huron Woods is not the only community having to go through transitions; noting that her family will also have to go through three transitions with the moving of the Grade 7s to the new school; transitioning from Country Hills PS to Jean Steckle PS and to the new school.
- C: The parent representative for the Huron Woods community noted that it will be the little kids in the Huron Woods community that will be transitioning through three schools.
- Q: Mrs. Agar asked if we could provide an option for those students to stay at the new Seabrook Dr school.
- R: The Huron Woods parent representative asked if those kids could be allowed to stay at Jean Steckle PS?
- C: A parent representative responded that Jean Steckle PS is 200 kids over capacity and there is extra capacity at the new school.
- R: The Huron Woods parent representative asked that they be given the option.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that we have a recommendation on the table for Scenario 4 because of the enrolment pressure at Jean Steckle PS and the available capacity at the new Seabrook Dr. school.

- C: The Huron Woods parent representative noted that he is not in favour of Scenario 4.

Mr. Hercanuck advised that the Huron Woods parent representative's disagreement with the recommended scenario is duly noted. Mr. Hercanuck advised that we also have comments from the community that Scenario 4 has an impact on the number of transitions for the Huron Woods students. He asked what we can do, if we move forward with Scenario 4, to mitigate the impact of transition on those students. He noted that Mrs. Agar has suggested that we can offer the Huron Woods students who have had to transition from Jean Steckle to the new Seabrook Dr. to the option to remain and finish out at the Seabrook Dr. school instead of transitioning to Tartan Ave school when it opens.

- R: The Huron Woods parent representative noted that he hasn't had the time to consider if the option would be helpful.
- C: Mrs. Agar advised that time can be given to consider the option.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that we are not discounting the impact of multiple transitions for the Huron Woods community and while the Huron Village community had to go through similar changes; there is potential for one more transition depending on what grade the student is in.

Mr. Hercanuck advised that when the report is presented to Trustees, the report is structured so that it talks about all the implications. We talk about scenario development and how they were developed to address the issues and will include what we've heard back from the community in terms of transitions, overcrowding etc., so that Trustees will fully understand how we came to our recommendation. They will understand that the number of transitions is an issue and how we have tried to deal with it. If Trustees feel that the recommendation is not good enough, they have the ability to change the recommendation however they see fit.

Mr. Hercanuck advised that just because we are bringing the report to them, it doesn't mean that this will be the way it gets implemented or approved. He noted that we have had situations before where we've presented recommendations with the history and provided a backup scenario that takes a different approach so that Trustees have an understanding of implications for each community.

- Q: What is the difference in the amount of portables that Jean Steckle PS will have under Scenario 2 and Scenario 4. Does it make enough difference that you can't wait two years until Tartan Ave school opens?
- C: The Huron Woods parent representative advised that they can include the option to remain at the new Seabrook school, but he is still in favour of Scenario 2. To have the option to remain at Seabrook Dr. school would be somewhat helpful, but for the record I prefer Scenario 2 because it addresses all the objectives and it has fewer transitions for students than Scenario 4.
- C: A parent representative commented that as Mrs. Agar noted earlier, we can recommend Scenario 4 and provide Scenario 2 as an alternative option for Trustees and allow the Trustees to do what they want to do.

Mr. Hercanuck asked if we can recommend Scenario 4 with an option for the existing students from the Huron Woods community at their current address as of December 11, 2017, attending Jean Steckle PS to remain and finish out at new Seabrook Dr. school if they want to avoid that extra transition, once the new Tartan Ave school opens. And that we also include in the report a second choice scenario (Scenario 2) which is more sensitive to the number of transitions as a backup should Scenario 4 be unpalatable to the Trustees. The report will include all the history and discussion and facts.

Q: Do you have the power to give the option to remain at Seabrook once Tartan Ave opens? Is this something that the Board can end up renegeing on? You don't need to get that option approved before you can put it into the report?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that any recommendations that we bring forward from Planning goes to our Coordinating Council and they will have the final say on what goes before Trustees. In our experience, things like this wouldn't necessarily be an issue if it's addressing a stated concern and we believe that it can be achieved within a numbers perspective as well as a facilities and transportation perspective. I am comfortable saying that this is something we can recommend. We will certainly advise you in advance if we hear otherwise. She advised that a copy of the draft recommendations and perhaps the report can be shared with the Working Group before it goes forward.

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that if the option is approved as part of a Trustee vote, there are certain quorum requirements that would need to take place (a certain number of Trustees present) to rescind that motion.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that for cases were we are offering an option we would set a date as to who the option is applied to. i.e., as of this date if you are enrolled at Jean Steckle PS.

Mrs. Agar noted that it will also include your current address. If a student moves, even next door, the option would no longer be valid. This will be included in the letters that we send out based on the information that we have. If the current address is inaccurate right now, people will need to let us know because that will be the information we are going off of. So this could affect people who are not truthful about their addresses.

**Mr. Hercanuck asked if Scenario 4 with the option for Huron Woods and with Scenario 2 as backup is the plan for moving forward.**

**No objections were raised.**

Q: Superintendent Lemon asked how Scenario 2 will fit in the Board Report and how it will be presented. He noted that he wanted to be clear to honour the discussion that has taken place here and the fact that this is not a unanimous decision and that should also be reflected in the report and at the public meeting. How does Scenario 2 appear in the Board Report?

R: Mr. Hercanuck responded that the scenario development and how they achieve the Objectives of the study will be discussed in the report. It will likely include a narrative regarding the opportunities and challenges of the two lead scenarios (2 and 4), why scenario 4 was ultimately recommended by the majority of the working group, and, the modifications to the recommendations to address the transition concerns for the Huron Woods community.

C: Tartan may or may not be built, so we don't know for sure if those extra transitions will come into play.

C: Mr. Hercanuck responded that it might be a moot point about the transition but we hope it is not as we want to get Tartan built.

C: Vice Principal Humphrys commented that the students remaining at Jean Steckle PS will also be affected in that they will lose friends and teachers as well. There will be impacts at Jean Steckle PS with which ever Scenario is chosen. We will lose the 7-8 program and parents will lose the opportunity for older siblings to look out for their younger siblings. The changes will still impact the kids left in this school.

## 6. FUTURE MEETING DATES (SLIDE 25)

The working group decided that another working group meeting was not required before Public Meeting #2.

**Public Meetings:****Public Meeting #2: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 from 7:00-8:30 PM at Jean Steckle PS****Working Group Meetings:****Working Group Meeting #5, Friday November 24, 2017 from 3:30-4:30 PM at Jean Steckle PS (if needed)**

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.

**Committee of the Whole Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Education Centre**

Mrs. Agar noted that there is the opportunity to appear before the Board as a Delegation to speak to the Board and at the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting where the report will be presented to Trustees. You should register by noon on the Thursday prior to the meeting, (by Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>). The delegation process is available on the Board's website at [www.wrdsb.ca/board-meetings/delegations](http://www.wrdsb.ca/board-meetings/delegations)

Mrs. Agar suggested that those interested could register to speak in favour of their chosen scenario speaking to the issues if you feel they haven't been adequately represented and how it will impact your children so Trustees have a face to the issues. She advised that we will go over the [delegation process](#) as part of Public Meeting #2.

Mr. Hercanuck noted that all Board meetings are public meetings and everyone can attend. But you must [register as a delegation](#) to speak before the Trustees.

**7. ROUNDTABLE**

C: Janet Hale, Principal for the new 335 Seabrook Dr school commented that it is important for her to hear all the concerns for looking ahead and building a school community; it is good to know where people are coming from and what challenges they had to go through or are going through in terms of transitions.

C: The parent representative for the Huron Woods community reiterated his support for Scenario 2.

Mrs. Agar thanked the Working Group for their input and volunteering their time to help us get a conclusion. She advised that this may be the last meeting of the Working Group. She commented that we did not land on the conclusion we thought we would have but that goes to show that there is value in the process.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Mr. Hercanuck to prepare draft report recommending Scenario 4 (with an option for the Huron Woods community to remain at 335 Seabrook Dr when Tartan Ave school opens) as the preferred option and to include Scenario 2 as the alternative option.
- Mr. Hercanuck will provide the draft report to the Working Group through the shared folder prior to Public Meeting #2.
- Mr. Hercanuck will share the draft report and recommendations to the public on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at Public Meeting #2
- The Working Group will be updated should Coordinating Council request any significant changes prior to the Report being presented to the Committee of the Whole on Monday, December 11, 2017.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:****Working Group Meetings:**

**Working Group Meeting #5, Friday November 24, 2017 from 3:30-4:30 PM at Jean Steckle PS (if needed) decided post meeting.**

**Public Meetings:**

**Public Meeting #2: Tues., November 21, 2017 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Jean Steckle PS**

**Committee of the Whole Meeting: Mon., December 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Education Centre**