



**WEST WATERLOO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY STUDY**  
**Minutes of Working Group Meeting #5**  
**Thursday, May 14, 2015**  
**4:45 – 6:15 PM**  
**Abraham Erb Public School, Library**

*The fifth Working Group meeting of the West Waterloo Elementary Schools Boundary Study, involving Abraham Erb, Cedarbrae, Centennial, Edna Staebler, Laurelwood, Mary Johnston and (new 2016) Vista Hills Public Schools, was held at Abraham Erb Public School on Thursday, May 14, 2015.*

**Attendees:**

Jan Hansen, Vice Principal Edna Staebler PS, Holly Corman, Vice Principal, Laurelwood PS, Marny St. Pierre, Parent Representative, Edna Staebler PS, Vivian F., Parent Representative, Centennial PS, Ryan Barnett-Cowan, Parent Representative, Laurelwood PS, Shelly Reed, Parent Representative, Edna Staebler PS, C. Lovegrove, Parent Representative, Laurelwood PS, Deb Bergey, Parent Representative, Abraham Erb PS, Mairaj Naveed, Alternating Parent Representative, Cedarbrae PS, G. Sikiladha, Alternating Parent Representatives, Abraham Erb PS, Elaine Ranney, Superintendent of Education, Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary and Lauren Agar, Senior Planner.

**Regrets:**

H. Tinnes, Principal, Mary Johnston PS, Liz Arbuckle, Principal, Laurelwood PS, Don Oberle, Principal, Vista Hills PS, Jeff Parliament, Principal, Edna Staebler PS, T. Stroud, Principal, Abraham Erb PS, Mark McMath, Principal, Cedarbrae PS, Betti Adams, Principal, Centennial PS, Brad Hughes, Vice Principal, Abraham Erb PS and Centennial PS, Tracey Nairn, Parent Representative, Centennial PS, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner.

**1. Welcome/Introductions**

Lauren Agar, Senior Planner, welcomed members of the Working Group at 4:50 PM.

Mrs. Agar led the group through the presentation, available online at

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/west-waterloo-elementary-schools-boundary-study/>

**2. Draft Minutes Review/Approval**

Mrs. Agar asked if there are any errors or omissions in the **Minutes from Working Group Meeting #4** (April 9, 2015). Mrs. Agar noted the removal of an action item (last bullet point on page 12). The minutes were approved with the requested change.

Mrs. Agar advised that the revised minutes will be posted on the Board's website at:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/west-waterloo-elementary-schools-boundary-study/>

**Action Items from Minutes:** (slides 3-5 of the online presentation)

As a result of the boundary change for the opening of Edna Staebler PS in 2008, students living in area F were given a grandfathering option for current students and their siblings at the time of change. Mrs. Agar noted that:

- The number of students currently living in the Columbia Forest (area F) grandfathered area (grandfathered at Abraham Erb PS (JK-6) and Laurelwood PS (7-8)) who have not changed addresses or schools and will still be in elementary school in September 2016: **2 students (both are siblings who were not registered in 2008 and therefore did not have to change schools because of**

**the boundary change).** Mrs. Agar noted that these students could be looked at individually, if necessary).

- Number of current students in the Columbia Forest (area F) grandfathered area (grandfathered at Abraham Erb PS (JK-6) and Laurelwood PS (7-8)) and have switched to Edna Staebler PS (in 2009 or after) and will still be in elementary school in September 2016: **6 students (all will be Grade 8 in 2016).**
- Number of current Edna Staebler PS students north of Columbia St. who were enrolled at another school prior to Edna Staebler PS opening (were directly affected by boundary change), were attending Edna Staebler PS in 2008 and will still be in elementary school in September 2016: **8 students (all will be Grade 8 in 2016):**
  - **Area F1: 2**
  - **Area F2: 1**
  - **Area M: 2**
  - **Area N2: 3**

Mrs. Agar noted that these numbers do not take into account students from this area who would have attended Edna Staebler PS for JK in 2008 because these students were not enrolled at another school at the time of the change. The numbers above only take into account students who had to switch schools because of the boundary change.

Mrs. Agar noted that this information has provided a basis for the grandfathering provisions for each of the scenarios (6-10), to be discussed later in this evening's meeting, which specifically addresses not impacting Grades 8 students.

Q: Would these students still be eligible for transportation?

R: Yes, that is what would be recommended; however, it is up to the Board of Trustees to decide.

#### **Request for a map showing a breakdown by area for enrolment for JK-6 and 7-8,**

Referring to the map on **slide 4** of the online presentation, Mrs. Agar noted that she had provided the requested map to the Working Group via email prior to this evening's meeting.

#### **Revised enrolment projections:**

Referring to the chart on **slide 5** of the presentation, Mrs. Agar noted that she had noticed an error in her spreadsheet (mostly impacting Laurelwood PS's projections) and she has revised the projected student enrolment data accordingly, as well as incorporating the pre-registration (JK-SK) enrolment for September 2015 (as of April 13, 2015) for each school.

Mrs. Agar noted that this resulted in a few changes to the Status Quo projections with Mary Johnston PS numbers most significantly changed from 470 now down to 430 in 2016 (due to projecting another class of FI students).

### **3. Public Meeting #1**

#### **• Feedback**

*Slide 4 of the online presentation*

Mrs. Agar noted the highlights of the feedback received from Public Meeting #1 comment sheets received at the meeting and via email through [boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca](mailto:boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca) as follows:

- *"Any scenario that moves Abraham Erb PS to JK-8 sooner would be best"*
- *Preference to send Abraham Erb PS FI students to Laurelwood PS for Grades 7 & 8 (x 2)*
- *Preference to grandfather Grade 8 students to limit number of times they change schools (x3)*
- *Grandfather FI students at current school if Vista Hills PS does not offer program*
- *"A priority for my family is for grade 7-8 to continue at Laurelwood PS. Preferably with FI instruction"*

- *Columbia Forest resident: "Preference is if we can't stay at Edna Staebler PS that we are sent to Vista Hills PS...not Abraham Erb PS"*
- *Vista Hills PS needs Grade 1 FI in 2016*
- *Columbia Forest resident: "We do not like scenario 8 because it appears to involve two school changes for our children before high school"*
- *Top priority is keeping siblings together (x2) and in FI*
- *Would like to see scenarios 6 and 7 elaborated before next public meeting*
- *"I would like to see scenarios in which French Immersion is clearly planned for and scenarios which do not rely on unconfirmed funding to expand Abraham Erb PS to grade 7-8"*
- *Vista Hills PS requires a lot of bussing*
- *Resident on the north side of Columbia St: Concerned about transportation if remaining at Edna Staebler PS for FI*
- *Accepting Grades 7 & 8 at Abraham Erb PS without an expansion "would put those kids at a disadvantage compared to those attending Vista Hills, Laurelwood and Edna Staebler PSs"*

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Agar asked the Working Group members if they had heard any other concerns expressed during or after the public meeting not covered in the list above.

- C: A parent representative noted that a big concern for her area of the Edna Staebler PS neighbourhood is whether bussing will be continued to Edna Staebler PS for the French Immersion students and/or their siblings not currently in French Immersion, if they are no longer part of the home school boundary.
- R: Mrs. Agar noted that the Working Group could include as a recommendation that we would provide transportation for French Immersion, if they are grandfathered. She noted that whether that recommendation would make it pass senior administration and whether Board Trustees would approve it, is unknown. She noted that while it would make sense to provide that recommendation for students already enrolled in the program – she is not sure if the grandfathering of transportation would be extended to siblings not enrolled in the program in 2016. She noted that a requirement under [Administrative Procedure 4260](#) – Student Transportation, is that an end date must be specified for transportation grandfathering; therefore, there may be some siblings in future years that would not qualify to be grandfathered for transportation.
- Q: If Abraham Erb PS becomes a JK-8 will Laurelwood PS have enough students in Grades 7-8 to sustain the program there?
- R: Mrs. Agar responded that [Board Policy 3002](#) – Elementary School Size and Configuration - states that 2 classes per grade at the 7-8 level is preferable; while Laurelwood PS would have that – those 2 classes may be split between Regular Track and French Immersion programs.
- C: Vice Principal Corman noted that Laurelwood PS's 7-8 program would only have 84 students under Scenario 8; which would not be ideal, especially as that would also be split between regular track and French Immersion. *(Correction after meeting – without grandfathering, Laurelwood PS would have 130 students in Grades 7-8 in 2016 – these numbers take into account out-of-boundary enrolment)*
- Q: If Abraham Erb PS becomes a JK-8 school, would it also be JK-7 in its first year and then add Grade 8 in the second year?

- R: Yes, to avoid unnecessary transitions. Mrs. Agar noted that the first Grade 7 class would become the first Grade 8 class at Abraham Erb PS, if it were to become a JK-8 school.
- C: The Columbia Forest community is concerned about where they will end up. French Immersion (FI) parents are concerned that they will have to choose between moving to the new Vista Hills PS with the rest of the neighbourhood, or to stay at Edna Staebler PS for the FI program.
- R: Mrs. Agar responded that the same concern was expressed at the Public Meeting. She noted that the neighbourhood can be split three ways with kids attending the new Vista Hills PS, Edna Staebler PS for FI and those attending the Catholic school.
- C: The N2 area currently walking to Edna Staebler PS is concerned about what will happen once Columbia Street gets busier, once Vista Hills subdivision fills up – will there still be enough students in the N2 area to warrant a crossing guard (there isn't a crossing guard there now). There are 25 students in that area currently.
- R: Mrs. Agar noted that while she is not sure that this is something that can be addressed, it is worth keeping in mind.

#### 4. Scenario Discussion

Mrs. Agar noted that she has provided grandfathering for Scenarios 6-8 and put together 2 new scenarios (9 and 10) which also include grandfathering.

##### Scenario 6 (slide 7 of the online presentation)

- Abraham Erb PS: area D removed, area F added (from Edna Staebler PS), remains JK-6 the Grade 7-8s go to Vista Hills PS
- Edna Staebler PS: Everything south of Columbia St
- Laurelwood PS: area D added
- Vista Hills PS: areas E, L (from Cedarbrae PS) and M and N2 (from Edna Staebler PS) - JK-8 with Abraham Erb PS feeder
- Mary Johnston PS: No change

##### Scenario 6 – Grandfathering (slide 8 of the online presentation)

Enrolment projections include the following grandfathering provisions:

- All Grade 8 students stay at 2015/16 school and finish there (Vista Hills PS JK-7 in 2016, JK-8 in 2017)
- All French Immersion (FI) students in Grades 2-8 stay at 2015/16 school **if** program is **not** offered at new home school (*assumes a Gr 1 FI class at Vista Hills PS in 2016*) and finish there
- All Grade 7 & 8 FI students in areas A, C, F attend Laurelwood PS
- All Grade 7 & 8 FI students in areas E, L, M, N2 attend Edna Staebler PS

##### Scenario 6 – Enrolment (slide 8 of the online presentation)

- Abraham Erb PS under capacity, but meets size criteria
- Edna Staebler PS high initially because of grandfathering
- Laurelwood PS adding area D puts enrolment over 700
- Vista Hills PS low enrolment initially due to grandfathering; just over 700 long-term

##### Scenario 6 Discussion:

C: Laurelwood PS would be over capacity for the next 10 years under this scenario.

R: Yes. Replacement of the portapak along with additional classrooms would definitely be required at Laurelwood PS under this scenario. We would need to consider the potential for a business case to the Ministry of Education to be able to construct an addition at Laurelwood PS. She noted

that the under-utilization of Abraham Erb PS would negatively impact the size of the addition we would need at Laurelwood PS; essentially, the Ministry would subtract the number of empty classrooms at Abraham Erb PS from the addition at Laurelwood PS. They would tell us to fill up the space we have.

Q: Laurelwood PS would have its portapak replaced by a permanent addition?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that a permanent addition would be the goal.

C: The numbers in this Scenario are either over or under for the schools.

C: Based on the projections for Vista Hills PS it looks like there isn't going to many people living there for a very long time (only 500 students over the next 10 years) but the development plan is to build 1600 homes.

R: Mrs. Agar responded that while there is potential for 1600 homes to be built, the pace at which they are being built is slow (still in Phase 1 of 7 with fewer than 500 homes in the registered plans – based on typical yields, this means 200-250 students in Phase 1). She noted that she is using the information that she has today taking into account the speed of progress to date with a factor for acceleration to allow some wiggle room. She asked if it would be realistic to project for 1600 homes based on the rate of development so far based on the market conditions. There may be more progress with the community once it becomes clear that the school is opening.

*Added after the meeting: Number of building permits by year in Vista Hills area:*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Building Permits</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>2013</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>66</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>19</i>

**Scenario 7** (slide 9 of the online presentation)

- Abraham Erb PS: add area D, convert to JK-8
- Edna Staebler PS: same as Scenario 6
- Laurelwood PS: no change to JK-6, but no feeder for 7-8
- Mary Johnston PS: no change
- Vista Hills PS: same as Scenario 6 (JK-6), but no feeder for 7-8

**Scenario 7 – Grandfathering** (slide 10 of the online presentation)

Enrolment projections include the following grandfathering provisions:

- All Grade 8 students stay at 2015/16 school and finish there (Vista Hills PS and Abraham Erb PS JK-7 in 2016, JK-8 in 2017)
- All FI students Grades 2-8 stay at 2015/16 school **if** program is **not** offered at new home school (**assumes a Gr 1 FI class at Vista Hills PS in 2016**) and finish there.
  - *Mrs. Agar that FI students in area F would switch to Abraham Erb PS and would not be grandfathered at Edna Staebler PS because the FI program is available at Abraham Erb PS.*
- All Grade 7 & 8 FI students in areas A, C, D, F attend Laurelwood PS
- All Grade 7 & 8 FI students in areas E, L, M, N2 attend Edna Staebler PS

**Scenario 7 – Enrolment** (slide 10 of the online presentation)

- Abraham Erb PS: would need an addition for 7-8s - highlighted as a concern at PM 1
- Edna Staebler PS: ok even with grandfathering
- Laurelwood PS: good numbers, but portapak/addition would still need to be planned
- Vista Hills PS: very low in 2016 because of grandfathering, and no feeder; within capacity long-term

**Scenario 7 - Discussion**

- C: Mrs. Agar noted that as she pointed out at the Public Meeting – realistically, we would not be able to add Grade 7-8 to Abraham Erb PS until we have the capacity to do so. She advised that 2016 is not a realistic time frame to add Grade 7-8 unless we would consider using a lot of portables or the use of Sir John A Macdonald SS, which really doesn't have the space to accommodate. She advised that over the long-term Abraham Erb PS would require an addition to be able to accommodate the 7-8 program along with having to accommodate the increased population coming from adding area F.
- C: The difference between Scenarios 6 and 7 for Laurelwood PS is that we would lose Regular Track students from areas D1 and D2 to Abraham Erb PS; and areas A and C for Grades 7-8. Why are the numbers not necessarily adding up?
- R: Mrs. Agar noted that there are other pieces as well that are not included in the area totals shown on slide 4 of the presentation; such as special education area classes and out of boundary enrolment which are included in the overall enrolment.

**Scenario 8 Phase 1** (slide 11 of the online presentation)

- Abraham Erb PS: Status Quo
- Edna Staebler PS: same as Scenarios 6 & 7
- Laurelwood PS: same as Scenario 7, Status Quo for JK-6 and no feeder
- Mary Johnston PS: Status Quo
- Vista Hills PS: all of Edna Staebler PS's boundary north of Columbia (F, M and N2) and E, L

**Scenario 8 Phase 2** (slide 12 of the online presentation)

- Abraham Erb PS: adds area F from Vista Hills PS and becomes JK-8
- Vista Hills PS: loses Abraham Erb PS feed

**Scenario 8 – Grandfathering** (slide 13 of the online presentation)

Enrolment projections include the following grandfathering provisions:

- 2016-2019 (estimated)
  - All Grade 8 students stay at 2015/16 school and finish there (Vista Hills PS JK-7 in 2016, JK-8 in 2017)
  - All FI students Grades 2-8 stay at 2015/16 school (*assumes a Grade 1 FI class at Vista Hills PS in 2016*) and finish there
  - All Grade 7 & 8 FI students in areas A, C, D attend Laurelwood PS (until 2020)
- 2020+ (estimated)
  - All Grade 8 students stay at 2019/20 school and finish there (Abraham Erb PS JK-7 in 2020, JK-8 in 2021)
  - All Area F students Grades SK-8 stay at Vista Hills PS and finish there, except FI students under Grade 2

**Scenario 8 – Enrolment** (slide 13 of the online presentation)

- Abraham Erb PS: under capacity, but within size criteria in Phase 1. Phase 2 would need addition to accommodate 7 & 8
- Edna Staebler PS: still over capacity with grandfathering initially
- Laurelwood PS: within size criteria, but portapak/addition would still need to be planned



- Vista Hills PS: numbers closer to size criteria in 2016 than the other scenarios, but impacted by grandfathering and only JK-7 in that year, and no feeder. Over capacity long-term, but manageable. Grandfathering - Allowed all of area F to remain and finish if they had started at Vista Hills PS; therefore enrolment remains higher. If we needed to reduce enrolment, could consider less grandfathering.

### **Scenario 8 - Discussion**

Q: Why are the numbers different for Scenario 7 and phase 2 of Scenario 8 considering they have the same boundary?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that the numbers are different because of the grandfathering of area F students.

C: Abraham Erb PS would not need an addition to accommodate the Grade 7-8 program until much later under phase 2 of Scenario 8.

R: Mrs. Agar responded that it would have to be evaluated if we would be able to accommodate through internal conversion/renovation which would allow the Board to access other funds not requiring Ministry funding.

Q: Vice Principal Corman asked if all these schools would be offering the French Immersion Program.

R: Yes. Mrs. Agar responded that in each of the scenarios she has made the assumption that Vista Hills PS would open in 2016 with Grade 1 French Immersion and then grow from there. She noted that she has congregated the French Immersion program at the Grade 7-8 level and noted that once the Vista Hills PS program would get to that Grade level (2022) the French Immersion students would have to switch to Edna Staebler PS for Grades 7 and 8 French Immersion. Abraham Erb PS's students would attend Laurelwood PS for Grade 7 and 8 French Immersion. It is shown this way as a result of concerns expressed about the numbers at the 7-8 level to support program. She noted that this does not have to be part of the recommendations and could be decided at a later time by program staff.

C: Mrs. Agar also noted that the pros of congregating the French Immersion at the Grade 7-8 level is to add value to the program by having more students; the cons being that if the program is not offered at your home school, you would have to switch schools for Grades 7-8 if you want to stay in French Immersion and that in all likelihood transportation would not be provided for those students having to switch schools for the program.

Q: If you are forcing them to congregate for French Immersion don't you have to provide transportation for them?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that French Immersion is a choice program and transportation if you are attending the program outside your homeschool boundary.

C: Vice Principal Corman noted that the Grade 7-8 French Immersion program is 44 students at Laurelwood PS and from a staffing perspective if we spread those 44 students over 2 schools, how will we get enough French Immersion teachers who can teach all these subjects which will make running the program more difficult and how much would we be diluting the program.

C: A parent representative commented that adding Grades 7 and 8 to Abraham Erb PS does not make sense.

Q: What would the enrolment numbers look like if the French Immersion program isn't congregated?

- C: Vice Principal Corman responded that changes to the French Immersion Program (increase in instructional hours at the 7-8 level) in the upcoming year may have an effect on the number of students who continue in the program. The increase in instructional hours for French will mean that students will only get three periods of English instruction per week.
- C: Mrs. Agar noted that the French Immersion program might need a longer conversation involving more staff and advised that it is probably not a decision that the Working Group can make.
- C: Superintendent Ranney advised that there are staffing implications that are dependent on the number of students in the program; if the numbers get too low at a school, it could become very problematic not to congregate the program from a staffing perspective; to be able to find those teachers that can teach those specialty subjects in French.
- C: Mrs. Agar advised that once the Working Group has settled on a top Scenario, we can take a look at how it impacts the French Immersion Program.
- Q: Are there other instances in the Board where the French Immersion has been congregated at the 7-8 level?
- R: Mrs. Agar responded that the only circumstance she can think of is where the Grades 7-8 are not offered at the home school.
- C: Vice Principal Corman noted that this area offers the French Immersion program at almost every school in the study area, which is not the norm for the rest of the Board.
- R: Mrs. Agar responded some schools may more classes because they are the only school in the area offering that program.

**Scenario 9 Phase 1** (slide 14 of the online presentation)

Similar to Scenario 8 phase 1 but:

- Abraham Erb PS remains JK-6: add area F1, feeder to Vista Hills PS for grades 7-8
- Vista Hills PS: add area F2

*Mrs. Agar noted that area F is split in this scenario purely on the basis of distance; area F1 can walk to Abraham Erb PS and a portion of area F2 will be able to walk to the new Vista Hills PS once the new infrastructure is built.*

**Scenario 9 Phase 2** (slide 15 of the online presentation)

- Abraham Erb PS – JK boundary remains same as phase 1, but Grades 7-8s of Abraham Erb PS feed Laurelwood PS instead of Vista Hills PS

Q: What year will phase 2 take place?

R: The projections are based on year 2020

**Scenario 9 – Grandfathering** (slide 16 of the online presentation)

Enrolment projections include the following grandfathering provisions:

- 2016-2019 (estimated)
  - All Grade 8 students stay at 2015/16 school and finish there (Vista Hills PS JK-7 in 2016, JK-8 in 2017)
  - All FI students Grades 2-8 stay at 2015/16 school (*assumes a Gr 1 FI class at Vista Hills PS in 2016*) and finish there



- All Grade 7 & 8 FI students in areas A, C, D, F1 attend Laurelwood PS
- All Area F1 Grade 6 students stay at Edna Staebler PS (for Grade 6 only)
- 2020+ (estimated)
  - All Grade 8 students stay at 2019/20 school and finish there
  - All Grade 7 & 8 FI students in areas A, C, D, F1 attend Laurelwood PS

**Scenario 9 – Enrolment** (slide 16 of the online presentation)

- Abraham Erb PS: enrolment within criteria, better use of space long-term (no additions required)
- Edna Staebler PS: high initially because of grandfathering
- Laurelwood PS: long-term numbers, could support business case for addition
- Vista Hills PS: OK – over-capacity in long-term (difference of less than 1 class as compared to Scenario 8)

**Scenario 9 – Discussion:**

Q: Based on my knowledge of Columbia Forest there isn't a good place to divide the neighbourhood - What street in Columbia Forest splits area F?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that from a neighbourhood perspective there isn't a good place to divide the boundary – She noted that area F2 includes all of Royal Fern and directs it to Vista Hills PS; area F1 includes Butternut to Erbsville Road and is directed to Abraham Erb PS.

Q: Mrs. Agar asked the Working Group if they liked this scenario better from the phasing perspective if we were to keep area F together at one school or the other, as it does not move area F around as much because of the grandfathering option.

R: A parent representative commented that the numbers work well in Scenario 9; but asked if it is the Board's preference JK-8 versus JK-6 schools. This scenario keeps two JK-6 schools. How does that work when kids have to move from a JK-6 school to a JK-8 for Grades 7-8 and then move off to high school? It just feels like a lot transitions for kids. My preference would be for JK-8 schools versus the transitions of JK-6.

R: Mrs. Agar responded that Board Policy 3002 states that, *where feasible* we look at moving towards the JK-8 model and that the rationale given for it is fewer transitions for students. She noted that the flip side is that we need to have enough students to support the program at each grade level.

C: A parent representative commented that from personal experience, they felt that transitioning to another senior elementary school for the 7-8 program can be a positive experience. Gives kids the opportunity to make new friends before transitioning to high school.

Q: Mrs. Agar asked in anyone could comment on students transitioning from a JK-6 to a JK-8 school.

R: Vice Principal Corman responded that she has been at both (senior elementary school and congregated JK-8) and that it is a harder transition for students to move from a JK-6 to a JK-8 for Grades 7-8 because they are moving into an already established community with set traditions. It will depend on how welcoming the established school community is. There are also positive as they get to make new friends and most of them will move on to the same high school together. She noted that Regular Track students go to Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School and French Immersion students (who wish to continue in the program) go on to Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Institute.

**Scenario 10** (slide 17 of the online presentation)

Mrs. Agar noted that Scenario 10 is a variation of Scenario 6 and was developed in response to concerns with the phased approach and recommendation to split area D at last Working Group meeting.

- Variation on Scenario 6 but area D split between Abraham Erb PS (area D1) and Laurelwood PS (area D2)
- Abraham Erb PS remain JK-6 and feeds Vista Hills PS for Grades 7-8

Mrs. Agar noted that retaining Abraham Erb PS as a JK-6 is due to concerns expressed about being able to get funding from the province for an addition to accommodate a 7-8 program.

**Scenario 10 – Grandfathering** (slide 18 of the online presentation)

Enrolment projections include the following grandfathering provisions:

- All Grade 8 students stay at 2015/16 school and finish there (Vista Hills PS JK-7 in 2016, JK-8 in 2017)
- Area F Grade 6 students (RT & FI) stay at Edna Staebler PS in 2016/17 school year, start Grade 7 at Vista Hills PS in 2018/19
  - Mrs. Agar noted that consideration can also be given to allowing the Grade 5 area F students to stay at Edna Staebler PS, if the Working Group deems it is appropriate to do so.
- All FI students Grades 2-8 stay at 2015/16 school **if** program is **not** offered at new home school (**assumes** a Grade 1 FI class at Vista Hills PS in 2016) and finish there
- All Grade 7 & 8 FI students in areas A, C, D1 and F attend Laurelwood PS (beyond area F grandfathering at Edna Staebler PS)
- All Grade 7 & 8 FI students in areas E, L, M and N2 attend Edna Staebler PS

**Scenario 10 – Enrolment** (slide 18 of the online presentation)

- Abraham Erb PS: grandfathering and addition of area F would put it over capacity in initial years (requiring portables)
- Edna Staebler PS: enrolment settles down long-term
- Laurelwood PS: long-term enrolment within size criteria, would need addition/Portapak replacement
- Vista Hills PS: about 4 portables needed in the long-term

Mrs. Agar noted that Scenario 10 does not remove any part of the established boundary from Vista Hills PS once the community around the school starts growing.

**Scenario 10 Discussion:**

Mrs. Agar noted that there isn't any real change to Laurelwood PS's enrolment - does not assist with Laurelwood PS over enrolment in the short-term.

Q: What grandfathering provisions will the area D1 families have?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that because area D1 already attends Laurelwood PS for Grades 7-8 – they will be affected very minimally; they would transition there one year earlier to attend Grade 6. The intent is to require only one change, where possible.

Q: Why do the enrolment numbers for Abraham Erb PS increase in the short-term and would that require the use of portables?

R: Enrolment at Abraham Erb PS will increase because areas F1 and F2 will attend Abraham Erb PS for JK-6 in this scenario. Because enrolment settles down it would not be a good candidate for an addition and would have to use portables.

**Scenario Comparison** (slides 19-23 of the online presentation)

The Tables on slides 19-23 provide a comparison of the scenarios (Status Quo, Scenarios 6-10) by school:

- Abraham Erb PS (slide 19)
- Edna Staebler PS (slide 20)
- Laurelwood PS (slide 21)
- Mary Johnston PS (slide 22)
- Vista Hills PS (slide 23)

Q: Mrs. Agar asked the Working Group members if they preferred either of the scenarios presented or would like to remove any from further consideration.

R: A parent representative voiced preference for Scenario 9.

C: A parent representative commented that Scenario 9 better stabilizes enrolments. Whereas Scenario 10 would push Abraham Erb PS over its capacity. Scenario 9 has better enrolment numbers for Vista Hills PS than Scenario 10. If we are looking at pure numbers – Scenario 9 makes sense. In regard to splitting communities, Scenario 9 splits area F and Scenario 10 split area D.

R: Mrs. Agar noted that in terms of community perspective, the difference would be that area F is essentially isolated from everywhere else; whereas area D seems somewhat connected already to the existing (areas G and H) Laurelwood PS community.

C: A parent representative commented that she lives in area D and that this area is much more connected to Abraham Erb PS than to Laurelwood PS. She noted that it is best to keep areas D1 and D2 together and send them to the same school.

C: A parent representative commented that areas F1 and F2 are very connected to each other and there isn't a natural divide that makes sense.

C: Area D1 is just one street and not sure what difference that would make in enrolment but splitting it from area D2.

R: Mrs. Agar responded that for area D1 there are additional residential units planned over the long-term, so we can expect some future growth from this area.

Q Mrs. Agar commented that because one of our Objectives is to have safer walking routes – is the crossing of Erbsville Road a concern that we need to be considering Erbsville Road has a hard divide?

R: A parent representative commented that if that is a concern than we need to go back to the beginning and consider the Erbsville Triangle again.

C: The walking distance was the issue with the area D split, not the crossing.

C: Do we need a Scenario that is similar to Scenario 9 but that keeps together areas F1 and F2 and areas D1 and D2 respectively.

Q: Is there a reason why areas F1 and F2 cannot stay at Vista Hills PS long-term?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that there isn't a reason. If you wanted to look at the numbers long-term, take phase 1 of Scenario 8 with status quo for Abraham Erb PS and for Vista Hills PS we would

assume that the numbers would get bigger than the numbers shown on slide 13 of the online presentation and may be around 700 long-term.

Q: Why are areas N1 and N2 separated?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that Columbia Street is the divide for areas N1 and N2.

C: A parent representative asked if another Scenario might be (a variation of Scenario 6) to keep Abraham Erb PS a JK-6, keep areas F1 and F2 together and send areas A and C to Laurelwood PS for Grades 7-8.

R: Mrs. Agar responded that Scenario 6 would have Laurelwood PS's enrolment over 700 already and the addition of areas A and C would push the numbers to 750. She advised that the aim should be to keep the numbers below 700. This would also leave Abraham Erb PS underutilized.

Q: Would it help reduce the numbers if we took areas F1 and F2 out of Laurelwood PS's boundary?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that the other option might be that area F does not go to the same senior elementary school as the rest of the students that they attended junior elementary school with; which is an option we don't like.

C: Mrs. Agar noted that we won't find a "perfect" scenario and we need to determine which scenario best meets our objectives.

Q: What is the required enrolment needed for the opening of Vista Hills PS? Concern that we would be moving students into a very small school community ( $\pm$  250 students) then sending out to a high school (2000+ students).

R: Mrs. Agar responded that an enrolment under 250 would cause significant concerns with programming. Most likely would not have the required number of Grade 1 students to start the French Immersion program; would need to have enough Grade 1 students to be able to run both the Regular Track and French Immersion programs. Mrs. Agar advised that even though she has assumed a Grade 1 FI at Vista Hills PS, she is not sure that it would be a reality based on the numbers in many of the scenarios.

Q: Is there a possibility of using Vista Hills PS as a holding school for another area that is over enrolled?

R: Mrs. Agar noted that while we do have a few schools that are using portables we would not be able to consider that without adding those schools to the boundary study process.

Q: Mrs. Agar asked the Working Group if there are any scenarios that can be removed from consideration based on tonight's discussions.

Mrs. Agar did a quick run through of Scenarios 6 – 10 and asked for a show of hands for those Scenarios that that require further discussion.

### **Scenario 6 versus Objectives**

Con - exceeds size criteria (over 700) in 3 circumstances (including Laurelwood PS)

Pro – long-term Edna Staebler PS is okay

Pro – safety – eliminated for the regular track students, the crossing of Columbia St.

Con – for FI students not qualifying for transportation.

Pro - cost Effectiveness – we would only require an addition at Laurelwood PS.

**The Working Group agreed to remove Scenario 6 from further consideration** because the Vista Hills PS enrolment numbers are too low and enrolments at the other schools are way over or way under built capacity.

#### **Scenario 7 versus Objectives**

Pro - Abraham Erb PS size for JK-8 okay – but would need to determine if actual 7-8 numbers are sufficient for programming.

Pro - Fewer than 700 at all schools long-term.

Con – Vista Hills PS enrolment (180) too low in 2016.

Con – cannot implement Grades 7-8 at Abraham Erb PS in 2016 and timeline for funding unsure.

**The Working Group agreed to remove Scenario 7 from further consideration** because funding to implement Grade 7-8 at Abraham Erb PS cannot be guaranteed and enrolment at Vista Hills PS is too low in 2016 with only 180 students.

#### **Scenario 8 versus Objectives**

Pro – Vista Hills PS – short-term enrolment is good

Con - Vista Hills PS – long-term enrolment is high

Pro – Edna Staebler PS – enrolment is better

Con - Cost-effectiveness:

- Will it be possible to get an addition at Abraham Erb PS for the 7-8 program.
  - Or might require internal renovations and use of portables
- Laurelwood PS would still need portapak replacement and additional classrooms.

**The Working Group agreed to remove Scenario 8 from further consideration** because it is not cost-effective.

#### **Scenario 9 versus Objectives**

Edna Staebler PS will still be over 700 students initially because of the grandfathering but is expected to stabilize by 2018. But, will be under capacity in the long-term under phase 2.

Con – Phase 1 walkability – requires a lot of bussing for Grade 7-8 students.

Pro – Phase 2 walkability – increases in the long-term.

Unknown whether an addition at Laurelwood PS could be funded and ready to accommodate the additional 7-8 students by 2020.

Q: Would that mean more boundary changes?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that the intent of the 2 phased approach is to pre-establish what the changes in boundaries would be. The Board does not like to revisit boundaries inside of a 5 year period and wouldn't do so unless there is a significant change in the projected enrolment.

C: Scenario 9 is the most promising scenario so far.

C: Would like to keep areas F1 and F2 together to keep those kids together and not to separate a small number of students from their cohort to go to a different school.

**The Working Group requested a variation of Scenario 9 to look at keeping areas F1 and F2 together at Vista Hills PS.**

#### **Scenario 10 versus Objectives**

Con – splits area D

Con – Vista Hills PS numbers low in 2016 (FI unlikely)

Pro – keeps area F together

**The Working Group agreed to keep Scenario 10 for further consideration, but will look at revising the boundaries to create a new scenario.**

Q: What will be the bell times for Vista Hills PS?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that bell times likely won't be established until January or February 2016.

Q: Do all schools have extended day programs?

R: Mrs. Agar responded that not every school has an extended day program. Because the program is interest based, Vista Hills PS will need to have enough kids in 2016 to generate interest.

Q: A parent representative reminded the group about concerns expressed with the "Erbsville Triangle" students' safety, having to cross a busy street to attend Edna Staebler PS and asked that the Working Group look at a scenario that moves this area back to Mary Johnston PS.

R: Mrs. Agar advised that she would put together a Scenario to look at moving area T (130 students) from Edna Staebler PS back to Mary Johnston PS.

## **5. Meeting Schedule**

### **Working Group Meetings**

Our next meeting will be to discuss the new scenarios and pick a preferred scenario and discuss recommendations and any changes to grandfathering options, including transportation.

**Working Group Meeting #6 – Thursday, June 4, 2015 from 4:45-6:15 PM at Laurelwood PS**

### **Public Meetings**

**The Working Group decided to hold Public Meeting #2 in September 2015 to be our preferred scenario and recommendations to the Board.**

- **Public Meeting #2:** September (mid-late) 2015

## **6. Roundtable**

Mrs. Agar thanked the Working Group for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

### **Action Items:**

- **Mrs. Agar to develop Scenario 11 – to be a variation on Scenario 9 that would keep areas F1 and F2 (Columbia Forest) together.**
- **Mrs. Agar to develop Scenario 12 to move area T (Erbsville Triangle) to Mary Johnston PS.**

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### **Future Meetings:**

#### **Working Group Meetings:**

- **Working Group #6: Thursday, June 4, 2015, 4:45 – 6:15 PM at Laurelwood PS, Library**

#### **Public Meetings:**

- **Public Meeting #2: September 2015 (date TBD)**