



WEST WATERLOO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY STUDY

Minutes of Working Group Meeting #8

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

7:00 – 7:30 PM

Edna Staebler Public School, Library

The eight Working Group meeting of the West Waterloo Elementary Schools Boundary Study, involving Abraham Erb, Cedarbrae, Centennial, Edna Staebler, Laurelwood, Mary Johnston and Vista Hills (new 2016) Public Schools was held at Laurelwood Public School on Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

Attendees:

Paul Fracas, Principal, Edna Staebler PS, Heather Schumann, Principal, Abraham Erb PS, Liz Arbuckle, Principal, Laurelwood PS, H. Tinnes, Principal, Mary Johnston PS, Jan Hansen, Vice Principal Edna Staebler PS, Deb Bergey, Parent Representative, Abraham Erb PS, Marny St. Pierre, Parent Representative, Edna Staebler PS, Vivian F., Parent Representative, Centennial PS, Tracey Nairn, Parent Representative, Centennial PS, G. Sikiladha, Alternating Parent Representative, Abraham Erb PS, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Andrea Kean, Recording Secretary and Lauren Agar, Senior Planner.

Regrets:

Mark McMath, Principal, Cedarbrae PS, Betti Adams, Principal, Centennial PS, Don Oberle, Principal, Vista Hills PS, Holly Corman, Vice Principal, Laurelwood PS, Brian Weigel, Vice Principal, Centennial PS, Ryan Barnett-Cowan, Parent Representative, Laurelwood PS, C. Lovegrove, Parent Representative, Laurelwood PS, Mairaj Naveed, Alternating Parent Representative, Cedarbrae PS, Shelly Reed, Parent Representative, Edna Staebler PS, Peter Rubenschuh, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being, Elaine Ranney, Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well-Being, and Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner.

1. Welcome/Introductions

Lauren Agar, Senior Planner, welcomed members of the Working Group at 7:20 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. Area T Meeting Summary

Based on a request from the previous Working Group meeting (#7) the Working Group met with residents of area T to discuss whether safety concerns regarding the Erbsville Road crossing were accurate as the issue had come up at multiple Working Group meetings and led to the development of Scenario 14 but the alleged safety concerns had never been raised by area T residents.

The meeting with area T residents took place directly prior to tonight's meeting (from 6:30 – 7:15 PM) and feedback received is summarized below:

- Concern was raised that their children would be required to walk 45 minutes to school if they are moved to Mary Johnston PS; currently they are walking for 10 minutes to Edna Staebler PS; noting that the longer walk in inclement weather without an adult crossing guard would be of more concern than the crossing of Erbsville Road.
- Concern was raised with moving area T residents into an already established school (Mary Johnston PS) and the affect that might have intellectually and socially.
- It was noted that there is more concern with crossing the street directly in front of Edna Staebler PS (Bernay and Chablis) than at the Erbsville Road crossing.

- The Community Meeting with projection Area T families concluded that there are few people with concerns over crossing Erbsville Road. Those that expressed concern, believe it is safe today, but that it could be safer by adding additional Adult Crossing Guards or traffic signals.
- This group expressed that other objectives of the study should take priority over the concerns for crossing Erbsville Road - specifically that students who live closest to the schools should attend there.

Survey Feedback received from Area T residents (slides 3-16 of the online presentation)

Mrs. Agar went over the results of the survey sent out to area T residents prior to tonight's meeting; the results of which are outlined on slides 3-16 of the online presentation and reiterate the feedback received from area T residents at the meeting.

It was noted that the Board does not have control over the placement of crossing guards (City responsibility) and traffic signals are a Region of Waterloo responsibility. Mrs. Agar advised that the Board could raise these concerns with the appropriate government agency but would have no control over the outcome.

3. Draft Report and Recommendations

Based on the feedback received from area T residents the Working Group concluded that safety concerns with the Erbsville Road crossing is not an issue for area T residents.

Mrs. Agar advised that moving area T to Mary Johnston PS would mean that a new gym and at least 3 additional classrooms would be required there.

C: Principal Tinnes commented that Mary Johnston PS already has 3 portables on site and the need for 3 additional portables could mean a 6 classroom addition would be required.

C: The Abraham Erb PS parent representative noted that the reason Abraham Erb PS was no longer being considered for the Grade 7-8 program was because it would have required an addition there, which would hurt the business case for an addition to right size Laurelwood PS.

The Working Group therefore concluded that Scenario 14 should be eliminated from further consideration.

The Working Group concluded that the recommended scenario to be presented at Public Meeting #2 is Scenario 11. This scenario would see projection area T remaining at Edna Staebler PS.

Mrs. Agar noted that she had noticed an error in the enrolment projections and has revised them accordingly. The enrolment projections for Scenario 11 are located on slide 20 of the online presentation; and Scenario 14 located on slide 25.

Scenario 11 (slides 17-22 of the online presentation)

Mrs. Agar did a brief recap of Scenario 11 – see slides 17-22 of the online presentation for more details including:

- Scenario Description and boundary maps (slides 17 and 18)
- Grandfathering provisions (slide 19)
- Grade Breakdown (slide 20)
- Objectives versus the Scenario phases 1 and 2 (slides 21 and 22)

For more information on Scenario 11 please see the minutes of Working Group Meetings 6 and 7 (available online at <http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/west-waterloo-elementary-schools-boundary-study/>)

Mrs. Agar noted that she will provide more detailed Scenario 11 display boards for next week's Public Meeting #2 and will make them available online on the West Waterloo Boundary Study website prior to the public meeting.

Draft Report/Recommendations: slides 29 – 33 of the online presentation

Mrs. Agar did a brief run through of the Draft Report/Recommendations available on slides 29-33 of the online presentation, including:

- Overall Recommendation: Implement Scenario 11
 - Recommendation #1: Establish a boundary for Vista Hills PS:
 - JK-6 boundary map (slide 30)
 - Grade 7-8 boundary map (slide 31)
 - Recommendation #2: Realign Edna Staebler PS's boundary (map & details on slide 32)
 - Recommendation #3: Realign Laurelwood PS's boundary (map & details on slide 33)

4. Public Meetings:

Public Meeting #2 October 6, 2015 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Abraham Erb PS

C: It was noted that the other areas being moved to Vista Hills PS may ask why they were not invited to individual community meetings and asked for feedback on Scenario 11 prior to the public meeting.

R: It was noted that the area T meeting was necessary because Scenario 14 was solely based on addressing a perceived issue (safety of students crossing at Erbsville Road) and the meeting was required to determine if the issue was real or perceived by those residing outside the area. She noted that it is safe to assume that most people will not want to move and will have valid arguments for why they should be allowed to stay. It was also noted that Scenario 8 phase 1 presented at Public Meeting #1 is the same as Scenario 11 Phase 1, so these areas have already provided feedback on this proposal.

Next Steps

Staff Report to Committee of the Whole

Tentatively Monday November 23, 2015

WRDSB Education Centre Boardroom - 51 Ardelet Ave, Kitchener; 7:00 PM

5. Roundtable

Mrs. Agar thanked the Working Group for attending and noted that this may be the last meeting of the Working Group unless another meeting is deemed required based on the feedback received at Public Meeting #2; the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Action Items:

- Mrs. Agar to revise the Draft Report and Recommendations to include Scenario 11 as the preferred option.
 - Mrs. Agar to provide more detailed Scenario 11 display board and post online prior to Public Meeting #2.
-

Future Meetings:

Working Group Meetings:

- TBD (if necessary)

Public Meetings:

- Public Meeting #2: Tuesday, October 6, 2015 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at Abraham Erb PS