

West Kitchener Accommodation Review Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Accommodation Review Committee was held on October 22, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre.

Present:

Committee Members:

John Sullivan (Principal - Blessed Sacrament), Paul Boucher (Principal - John Sweeney), Paul Smith (Principal - Monsignor Haller), Kathryn Peace (Principal - Our Lady of Grace), Laurie Maschio-Hanson (Principal - St Timothy), Wayne Buchholtz (Trustee), Louise Ervin (Trustee), Dave Bennett (Senior Manager of Capital Planning), Heather Cullen (Superintendent – Chair), Kevin Freeland (Parent - Blessed Kateri), Chris Spere (Parent - Blessed Sacrament), Joan MacDonald (Parent - Blessed Sacrament), Lori Palubeski (Parent - John Sweeney), Joe Potworka (Parent - John Sweeney), Edgar Najera (Parent – Monsignor Haller), Dalia Najera (Parent – Monsignor Haller), Steve Ross (Parent – Our Lady of Grace), Chris Gehan (Parent – St. Timothy), Sandra Street (Parent – St. Timothy).

Staff Support:

Lindsay Reinhardt (Planner)
Shuyu Zhou (Planner & recording secretary)

Regrets:

Bill Haber (Principal - Blessed Kateri), John Shewchuk (Senior Manager of Public Affairs)

Next Meeting:

November 17, 2008 at John Sweeney (Library)

1. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Prayer:

The meeting opened at 6:05 p.m. with a prayer led by Heather Cullen. Committee members introduced themselves.

Binders have been provided to all committee members – parent reps from the same school will share a binder. There will be folders containing all information/handouts for committee members to pick up at future meetings.

Two parent representatives from each school were requested. Only one is required to attend the committee meetings, however both are always welcome. If the ARC ever decides to do a vote then they would only get one vote between the two of them. Principals are required to attend each meeting.

2. Presentation – Lindsay Reinhardt

Lindsay Reinhardt began the presentation by covering general demographic trends, board-wide enrolment trends, and highlighting specific issues in Southwest Kitchener including enrolment vs. capacity, student distribution and transportation issues. A brief explanation of funding was also given. The significant issue that needs to be addressed is that the majority of residential growth is located within the boundaries of John Sweeney, Our Lady of Grace, St. Timothy and Blessed Kateri. These schools will be facing to growth pressures over the next 10 years.

There are two types of accommodation reviews: a boundary review and a consolidation process. Following the Board's Policy Pupil Accommodation Review Process, the Southwest Kitchener accommodation review will follow the boundary review process (Part A) because there are no schools closed or consolidated. The first public meeting will be held in December and a decision is expected near the end of February.

The goals for the Southwest Kitchener boundary review are: alleviate growth pressures at St. Timothy and John Sweeney (short-term goal); determine the attendance boundary for a new school in southwest Kitchener (medium-

term goals); examine the long term sustainability of Monsignor Haller & Blessed Sacrament and explore the need for additional schools in the future (long-term goals).

ARC members' roles and responsibilities are to analyze data including enrolment projections, walking/bussed students, residential growth and location of schools; to develop accommodation options that reflect the goals of the review; and to develop recommendations to the Board regarding a preferred boundary alternative and implementation strategies.

3. Secure website for the committee

A secure website with user name and password has been set up for use by the ARC. This will be used to distribute information to ARC members rather than sending large files via email. The files that will be posted on this site will be working versions and most of the information will be made available to the public once the ARC has had the chance to look over the information and revise.

4. Set dates/times/locations for future meetings & school tours

ARC members decided on the schedule of future meetings listed below. The meetings will rotate from school to school.

- ARC meeting #2 will be November 17th, 2008 at 6:30pm at John Sweeney
- ARC meeting #3 will be December 2nd, 2008 at 6:30pm at St. Timothy
- ARC meeting #4 will be January 14th, 2009 at 6:30pm at Blessed Sacrament
- ARC meeting #5 will be February 4th, 2009 at 6:30pm at Our Lady of Grace
- First Public Meetings will be between Dec 8th and Dec 11th, 2008

Preliminary locations of meetings were determined but the confirmed results will be sent later.

ACTION: Lindsay will send out email with the confirmed locations and times of the each meeting.

5. Preliminary accommodation concepts

Lindsay introduced eight preliminary accommodation concepts from short term to long term. They are listed below:

Short Term: Approximately timing of short-term is for next September

Concept #1 – Short Term

Primary reason for doing the review is to alleviate growth pressures at St Timothy since it cannot easily accommodate any more portables because of the topography of its site. Only logical place to accommodate the students is at Blessed Kateri.

Growth pressures at John Sweeney (9 portables) may be relieved through a boundary change and/or an addition. Some students located at the west of Fischer-Hallman within John Sweeney could move to Blessed Sacrament.

Concept #2 – Short Term

Students living north of Ottawa Street within John Sweeney's boundary could move to Monsignor Haller.

Medium Term: approximately 2-3 years from now

Concept #3 – Medium Term

There's a need for a new school in this area. The Board has one school site reserved in a draft plan of subdivision near Plains Road and Huron Road. Students generated by the development expected surrounding the corner of Fischer-Hallman Rd. and Huron Rd. may be accommodated at the new school.

Concept #4 – Medium Term

The new school boundary could help alleviate growth pressures at John Sweeney by re-directing students in the New Dundee area to the new school.

Long Term: no set timeline. Accommodation scenarios will be examined in order to provide the Board with a strategy to deal with growth.

Concept #5 – Long Term

There are two new schools. One school would be located near Plains Rd. and Huron Rd. and built within a few years and another school could be built in the area southwest of Fischer-Hallman Rd. and Bleams Rd. at some point in the future.

Concept #6 – Long Term

There are two new schools. One school would be located near Plains Rd. and Huron Rd. and built within a few years and another school could be built in the south Doon area at some point in the future. The development area southwest of Fischer-Hallman Rd. and Bleams Rd. could be sent to Blessed Sacrament.

Concept #7 – Long Term

There are 3 new schools. One school would be located near Plains Rd. and Huron Rd. and built within a few years, and two schools could be built in the south Doon area and the area southwest of Fischer-Hallman Rd. and Bleams Rd. at some point in the future. Monsignor Haller and Blessed Sacrament could then be consolidated into a single school.

Concept #8 – Long Term

There are 3 new schools. One school would be located near Plains Rd. and Huron Rd. and built within a few years, and two schools could be built in the south Doon area and the area southwest of Fischer-Hallman Rd. and Bleams Rd. at some point in the future. Monsignor Haller and Blessed Sacrament could then be consolidated into a single school. Our Lady of Grace could then close and students could be redistributed to Monsignor Haller and Blessed Sacrament.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.