

# **Boundary Review Committee 114 & 115**

## **Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2012**

**7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Abbey Park High School**

**Present:** Sharon McDowell, Dalia El-Farra, John Hardcastle, Meike Payne, Sharon Cotwal, Darlene Darragh, Christina Talford, Jennifer Poirier, Sarah Ecclestone, Sandev Purewal, Michael Fiorelli, Lindsay Patrick, Meryll Nash, Jill McFarland, Joanne Rasmussen, Jean Brewer, Stuart Miller, Kelly Amos, Jeff Blackwell, Laureen Choi, Kathryn Bateman-Olmstead, Dom Renzella, David Euale, Don Vrooman

**Absent:** Odette Bartnicki

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J. Blackwell, Associate Director, welcomed members

- Opened the meeting by reviewing the goal, as a team to closely examine scenarios 21 to 28. Consensus to be reached tonight on the two or three scenarios that will go to the BRSC.
- Review of goals of committee.
- Review of one of the themes related to history. LTAP indicated the need for some options that will relieve some of the challenges in Ward 4.
- Group took the time to share the themes of what they have heard from people.
- A review of norms by Trustee Kelly Amos

Themes from each school heard at Open House:

### **Captain R. Wilson**

- Grandfathering and new siblings going to other schools
- Liking scenarios that don't chop up community
- Want more dual track

### **Emily Carr**

- No splitting siblings
- Neighbourhood schools with not as many portables
- No more single track FI

### **Forest Trail**

- Viability of program, number of classes, splitting of resources computers/teachers/libraries
- Splitting of families
- Fiscal responsibility with draining resources for FI

### **Pilgrim Wood**

- How many moves and viability of Gifted kids to stay Pilgrim Wood

- Asked if culture would be welcoming to FI
- Process too rushed
- Keep community school
- Maximize dual track around ward
- Parents want policy to protect English tracks within dual track schools

### **West Oak**

- Grandfathering, resources
- Would culture be accepting of a new program in a school.
- Concern. Wish we weren't in the accommodation situation / Grandfathering / keep as neighbourhood school

### **Palermo**

- Parents who were at Lorne Skuce originally were promised they would graduate at Palermo. Don't want to move again.
- Grandfather their sibling
- Want it to be a dual track community school for the Palermo boundary. 71% of Palermo students live in the Palermo boundary (English and French) and 29% live in the CRW and Emily Carr boundaries (FI)
- Votes for Palermo to become STFI coming for the most part from non-Palermo boundary residents (Heritage Glen, Emily Carr, and CRW boundaries)

### **Heritage Glen**

- Want to remain English and not have dual track. Worried about FI uptake
- Want policy providing caps to FI, Ministry intervention

### **Abbey Lane**

- Number of moves, positive feedback for dual track
- Policy scope issue, more dual tracks

### **Issues staff heard:**

- Concern of moving regional program / should they be part of a boundary revue
- Comment from Palermo lived in same house for many years and have had number of moves
- Program viability – robust numbers in both programs
- Tremendous volume, some contradicting some not
- Remember we don't want to come back in 2 or 3 years
- Most emotive concern – number of moves
- Grandfathering and viability

**Planning shared quick data from feedback:**

Not all feedback was input and it was emphasized that these numbers DO NOT REPRESENT a vote.

Abbey Lane..... 32	English .....162	<u>Scenario Support</u>
Capt R Wilson..... 20	French Immersion .....171	#16..... 65 (18%)
Emily Carr..... 5	Gifted .....17	#18..... 137 (37%)
Forest Trail..... 136	Other/blanks ..... 16	#21 ..... 62 (17%)
Heritage Glen ..... 53		None .....89 (many didn't support any scenario but pro ST FI)(24%)
Palermo ..... 38		Different scenario.....11 (13%)
Pilgrim Wood..... 36		
West Oak..... 24		
Other/blank ..... 21		

Prefer ST FI.....142 (39%)

Prefer Dual Track.....50 (13%)

Keep sibs together.....82 (22%)

Request Grandfathering .....63 (17%)

Don't move Gifted .....21 (6%)

**Common Themes / Concerns:**

- Many in support of 18 proposed a variation with only 1 dual track South of Upper Middle
- Many people seemed in favour of Palermo ST FI, a lot seemed to have come from Heritage Glen PS
- Process/Timing concerns were raised
- Questions about the data/projections/FI uptake were common
- Dual track feasibility / Split Grade concerns came up regularly
- FI Program startup costs were a concern
- Not moving Gifted kids
- Not wanting kids moved that had already been at FT, Lorne Skuce then Palermo
- Childcare space was a common concern Child care with working children and different school times

**Ready to look at Scenarios 21 – 28:**

- Not a vote, looked at criteria BRC established and criteria comments in feedback. Planning sent out scenarios 21 – 25 last week
- Scenario 26-28 worked on today (Tuesday)
- Foolscap pages with grade breakdown for all scenarios
- Never the intent to overload Heritage Glen in Scenario 21.

**Break** for people to study new scenarios

### **Scenario 26**

1 single track FI (Forest Trail), 3 dual track (Heritage Glen, Palermo, Pilgrim Wood), 4 single track English (Abbey Lane, Captain R. Wilson, Emily Carr, West Oak)

- Direct result from member of BRC
- Scenario 18 & 21 combined with FI starting 1-3
- Northwest corner of Palermo boundary moves to Forest Trail for FI

### **Scenario 27**

6 dual track (Captain R. Wilson, Forest Trail, Heritage Glen, Palermo, Pilgrim Wood, West Oak)  
2 single track English (Abbey Lane, Emily Carr)

- Like 16 but Spec Ed left at Pilgrim Wood, want them left alone

### **Scenario 28**

7 dual track (Abbey Lane, Captain R. Wilson, Forest Trail, Heritage Glen, Palermo, Pilgrim Wood, West Oak), 1 single track English (Emily Carr)

- Similar to 16 but Abbey Lane becomes dual track
- Spec. Ed stays at Pilgrim Wood

### ***Remaining Scenarios:***

#### **Scenario 23**

##### Positives

- Similar to 22, own homes – reduced areas of Palermo to go to Heritage Glen
- 4 FI in four corners
- Program viability
- Not chunk of kids bused northwest corner to southwest
- Most of the chopping of Palermo is okay with 13 portables, keeps community in tact ( if CRW has 10 portables is that fair. Won't upset too many parents)
- Jeff clarifies that juggling portables at 10 is over utilized
- Children in carved up section should go to same school

##### Challenges

- Viability of FI at Pilgrim Wood
- Sped program moved out of Pilgrim Wood
- People in north Palermo being sent to Heritage Glen not given voice
- By carving up that pocket does not look good
- Palermo is over utilized
- A neighbourhood does not get community school (Forest Trail)
- Palermo numbers go too high further out.

Q. There are schools in Halton with low numbers for dual track – 3 schools in same neighbourhood in Burlington are viable with splite classes / same teacher teaches both French and English at one - why can't we have that in Oakville?

A. Want to ensure we open a program that will be sustainable for all our students

## Scenario 22

### Positives

- Movement of gr 1-3 minimizes displacement
- More balance enrollment
- FI option in 4 corners of ward
- Doesn't put Heritage Glen over capacity

### Challenges

- Possibly split siblings
- Single track school does not offer neighbourhood school
- Palermo kids moved to Pilgrim Wood (distance)
- Heritage Glen and Pilgrim Wood will not like this.
- No policy to protect enrolment balance and program numbers

Q. Is Gr 1-3 a positive or a negative?

A. Reduces number of moves for kids who have already moved. Does not address Grandfathering.

Comments:

- If 95% of parents choose FI, why stop their right to enrol in FI?
- Dual track can run English out of school
- 250 students don't live in Palermo boundary, hearing from FI people who live in Emily Carr and CRW who don't want to move. Palermo community is fine
- If numbers change in 2 or 3 years could those moved out have the option to move back in?
- Hard to do projections with only 2 years history. Can it be said that if Palermo hits 12 portables, the townhouses at the top would be moved out then?

## Scenario 24

### Positives

- Same as 23 but regional program stays at Pilgrim Wood

### Challenges

- Over utilization 5 years down the road
- ELD gets moved to Abbey Lane because they are short term programs

## Scenario 25

### Positives

- Improvement in West Oak and Forest Trail boundaries modified to natural boundary using West Oak Trail and Proudfoot as boundaries
- Alleviates most of pressures but overutilization at Heritage Glen in the short term

### Challenges

- Emily Carr split into 3 schools
- Palermo community split
- Forest Trail kids moved to too many areas
- West Oak FI will go overtake English
- Abbey Lane under capacity

## **Scenario 26**

### Positives

- Combination of 18 & 21
- Less student movement
- Program viability
- Can we give more to Forest Trail

### Challenges

- Pilgrim Wood over utilized
- Can Pilgrim Wood boundary come further south
- Doesn't meet community schools criteria
- FI boundaries don't work for West Oak, CRW as a community school, or northwest boundary of Palermo
- A community still doesn't get community school

## **Scenario 27**

### Positives

- Same as 16 as Pilgrim Wood keeps Gifted
- More natural English boundary for West Oak

### Challenges

- Abbey Lane underutilized
- 2017 numbers raise accommodation issues at Abbey Lane and Heritage Glen
- Culture viability

- Palermo too chewed up. Could scenario 24 be applied to 15's boundaries?

## **Scenario 28**

### Positives

- Community schools

### Challenges

- West Oak and Forest Trail English boundary
- Finding resources with so many dual track
- Less program viability
- In 2017 Pilgrim Wood only has 96 students in gr 1-8 FI program
- English or FI- programs not working

## **Break - 5 minutes**

- Have to use criteria language
- Have to break down to 1-3 scenarios to take back to steering committee
- BRSC wants to honour your views
- Options of balance and deal with overutilization
- Do not want to come back again, long term boundaries
- Robust numbers in both programs
- Spec Ed kids stay at Pilgrim Wood. Community has voiced that they should not be moved.
- Palermo kids in grade 4 and up had lots of moves

Which is better scenario 27 or scenario 16?

- Only difference is the spec ed students
- **Remove 16 and keep 27**
- Move communication classes to Abbey Lane and keep Gifted at Pilgrim Wood

Which is better scenario 23 or scenario 24?

- **Eliminate 23**
- **Keep 24**

Scenario 28?

- **Eliminate 28**

Scenario 26?

- Pilgrim Wood boundary would have to move

Is there a scenario we like best from remaining? Scenarios 18, 21, 22, 24 25 26 and 27

Which is better scenario 21 or scenario 25?

- Heritage Glen is over utilized in both
- **Scenario 21 and 25 eliminated**

What criteria does Scenario 24 meet?

- Fiscal responsibility
- Accommodation
- Red spot at top of boundary needs to be tweaked
- Meets program viability and utilization
- Take little crown removed and keep them at Palermo

Remaining scenarios 26, 24, 22 and 18

- **Scenario 26 eliminated**
- Agreed **Scenario 24 to go forward** with a tweak to the northwest area of Palermo

Scenario 18

- If Gr.1-6 moved from Palermo, kids who went to Lorne Skuce for holding school will be moved
- Palermo goes up to 18 portables
- Proviso for scenarios 18 and 27 that if 5 yrs out they split that northwest section? When you move into a school, you can't be told that if the school goes over a certain mark that

you have to move. Parents won't like it. Could say that there might be room in a class when the numbers still go under the set mark

- Too difficult to have a proviso like this

**Scenario 24 goes forward and 18 is eliminated**

Remaining scenarios – 22, 24, 27

**Comments / Concerns:**

- Fiscal responsibility for dual track start up for 6 schools will take 5-7 years for full libraries
- Where do fundraising dollars go?
- Save on busing
- While growing classes, older grades do get bigger
- Policy to cap FI programs was discussed
- Displacement of many kids if making Forest Trail and West Oak dual track
- Forest Trail kids split into 5 schools.
- Can we just send 3 scenarios to BRSC to decide - scenarios 22, 24, 27?
- Scenario 27 look at English boundary for West Oak and look at northwest corner of Palermo

Director Euale told the committee that they have the same power that the last BRC had. Have we reached a scenario for the long term?

Committee thanked for hard work to get to 3 scenarios.

- Thoughtfulness and difficulty getting to some points. Some points pretty contentious.
- We have heard all your points.
- Recommendation to the board will have some points that some people won't like.
- What goes to the board will be a very good decision and will be good for kids.
- We have really good program

Q. Will the scenarios that go to director go out to BRC.

A. Yes, on the same day that it goes to Board on March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Q. Can school rep can tell community that they are going on web

A. Yes. Scenarios will go up tomorrow

Q. Is there an appellate body after decision of Board

A. David can only appeal if they have break a rule

**Timelines:**

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> .....Director's Report to the Trustees in Board package
- March 7<sup>th</sup> .....Scenarios and Director's recommendation presented to Board
- .....Open Meeting
- March 21<sup>st</sup> .....Trustee decision made at Open Meeting
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> .....Press release to public.



Chair of the Board, Don Vrooman, explained delegation process.

Committee thanked by Co-chairs for hard work, dedication, always knowing scenarios, staying on task. Did a marvellous job affecting a lot of people. Pace kept focus and continuity. Feel mandate met.

Trustee Amos made a commitment to reflect BRC views at Board table.

Meeting Adjourned.