

Boundary Review Committee 114 & 115

Minutes

Monday, February 6, 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, Merryl 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

J. Blackwell and K. Amos welcomed everyone.

The public gallery was welcomed and reminded not to interact with the BRC.

- Discussed minutes, 2 minor changes, approved
- Norms re-visited
- Went over criteria
- Superintendent of Special Education David Boag was introduced.
- Outlined the agenda for the evening
- 10 scenarios will still be on the table
- Discussion about the public meeting and its purpose

D. Boag:

- Context for classes at Pilgrim Wood
- There are 30 self-contained classes in Oakville
- Pilgrim Wood has 3 gifted classes and 3 regional language classes
- Growth of 2 gifted classes per year, to complete Gr 1-4, then the students move to Morden for Gr 5-8
- There was space at Pilgrim Wood when classes moved there. Also appeared there would continue to be space
- Languages class is 3 yrs but they can consider moving to another sight

Q. Why move these classes to Northwest Oakville when this area is so crowded? Why split the lower grades at Pilgrim Wood and Grs 5-8 at Morden?

A. D. Boag replied that the reason Pilgrim Wood was chosen because at the time there was room. Moving all those north kids to the south is difficult.

Q Are closed schools in Ward 3 available for use?

A. No, they are not available.

Q. Parent asked about scenarios with 2 or 3 Spec. Ed and viability

A. Explanation that 3 is the number of students. D. Boag explained that some children have been identified but not in self-contained classes. ELC is a program.

Explanations of what special classes are in which schools. These kids are bused into the school area. The blue number on scenarios identifies a self-contained class that typically has a max of 8 students.

- CR Wilson – junior behaviour class 8 max
- Emily Carr - LD self-contained 8 max
- PLC is a 1 yr or 2 yr program, behaviour is longer
- West Oaks LD with max 8

Parents had consensus to leave self-contained classes where they are.

Thank you to D. Boag

J. Blackwell started looking at scenarios without making decisions about moving gifted classes.

Q. What number are we looking to OTG or capacity?

A. When looking at balanced enrolments, some schools will have portables and some will not.

Scenario 12

Positives

- Immediate Palermo relief
- All kids at community schools
- Community harmony
- Reduced busing
- Immediately relieves pressure on Forest Trail
- Allows each family to decide on program at community school
- Siblings stay together

Negatives

- Similar to 5
- Low fi viability in some schools south of upper middle
- Emily Carr and. Palermo over utilized
- Short term pressures at West Oak
- Imbalance of English/French

Comments:

- With just a few tweaks, this is the scenario that works for all.
- Too many kids north of Upper Middle Rd. and fewer south
- Explanation how to resource FI when growing program. Viability for a program looks like 2 classes per grade. Some schools will appear to have more viability than others
- How much are we spending on buses in Ward 4?
- None of the scenarios solve all the problems

Scenario 13

Positives

- Relieves Forest Trail and Palermo
- More than just 1 grade of program
- Over all balanced except Abbey Lane

Challenges

- A lot of displacement
- Forest Trail still remains single track
- Community does not have school
- Abbey Lane under utilized
- Palermo does not have long term relief
- West Oak on steady decline and Palermo is imbalanced

Comment:

- What is the walk-to number for Forest Trail?

Two new scenarios handed out and planning working on another. Possibly more scenarios to be emailed to members by Wednesday.

Scenario 14

Positives

- Overall better utilization
- Immediate relief for Forest trail
- Gr. 1-3 program growth

Challenges

- Heritage Glen is over capacity and needs more portables than it can have
- Same with Palermo
- Forest Trail still no community school

Scenario 15

Positives

- 5 dual tracks, better viability of program
- Neighbourhood schools
- Balance portable use
- Relief at Palermo

Challenges

- Palermo
- Sending students out of pal to 3 different schools –
- No English viability at Forest Trail
- No FI viability at Pilgrim Wood
- Imbalance between English and FI at Forest Trail
- Economic feasibility of 5 dual track

K. Amos brought group around for discussion. Would like to come to consensus on which scenarios go forward with tweaks for growing program one grade at a time or growing by primary division and/or junior division.

Q. Can you actually place these numbers of portables on sites?

A. Yes it is possible. Not probable and not necessarily good for kids.

Last week's homework was to rate viability. Look at scenarios and find which ones can be grouped together and then which one is more viable.

Scenarios 3 & 9

- Positives and challenges of each reviewed
- Scenario 9 had more positives
- Only difference is growing by 1 grade per year versus starting with the primary department .
- More robust program by bringing more kids in at one time
- Down side – moving more kids.
- Better to grow in bigger bundles to see relief sooner, minimum Grades 1-3 or possibly Grades 1-5
- Imagine you have registered your child for single track FI and then get moved to a dual track
- Consensus wants to grow by grades 1-3
- Parent concerned about Abbey Lane with large disruption all at once. Size of school is big consideration
- **Consensus that scenario 3 is eliminated and 9 kept**

Scenarios 6 – 7

- Read all positives and challenges.
- Differences is migration out of Forest Trail
- Both have Palermo at 17 portables
- **Consensus to eliminate both scenarios**

Scenarios 10 & 11

- Positives and Challenges reviewed
- Neither are viable because as with 9 all schools stay community, both scenarios bused kids out to different schools
- Balancing large numbers and the busing issues
- Trade off is to move more kids
- How can ideas be on positive list for some scenarios and as a negative on other scenarios?

Q. What do we want to see in Ward 4?

A. LTAP said we needed to look at boundaries given size of some schools. This is the mandate.

- Do we do this slowly or quickly to manage this.
- Is that not why we need to do it right this time so that we are not back in a few years.

(back to discussion of scenarios 10 & 11)

- There is going to be busing because some schools do not have accommodation at community school.

- A parent suggested a new scenario that is similar to number 12. Planning staff is working on this suggestion.
- Doesn't work because Palermo children do not all go to neighbourhood school.
- Heritage Glen does not have good FI numbers
- Do we give the schools relief or respect the natural boundaries?
- **Consensus 10 stays with concerns**

Scenario 12

- Positives and challenges reviewed,
- Emily Carr cannot have that many portables,
- Program viability at Abbey Lane and Heritage Glen
- Doesn't relieve Palermo
- This scenario will cause the most pain at beginning. In 10 yrs. time each school will have a program of choice for their child
- There will be transportation cost relief
- Not balanced
- **Consensus to eliminate 12**

Scenario 13

- Workable for Palermo
- No grandfathering problem
- Kids back to Emily Carr
- Abbey Lane under-utilized and Pilgrim Wood has special classes
- **Consensus to keep**

Scenario 14

- Why pull and not tweak, change boundary a bit
- Not moving as many kids
- Near term effect on Palermo
- **Consensus to eliminate**

Scenario 15

- Pilgrim Wood not viable
- Palermo not walk to / or community school
- **Consensus to keep**

We have gone full circle with these scenarios now and are left with Scenarios 9, 10, 13, 15. One member feels strongly that if scenario 15 is being left with the possibility of some tweaks, then she wants scenario 12 kept as well. Agreement that scenario 12 could stay for discussion on Thursday night.

Communication

Abbey Lane wants to invite parents, via home notification to a special meeting of School Council on Wednesday at 7 pm. They will also send out message about the Open House.

Revised minutes for BRC meeting, February 2 will be on website tomorrow.

Q. This boundary review seems rushed. Why?

A. D. Euale explained that there have been many BRCs this year. Alton elementary and Garth Webb schools had them because they were new schools. The LTAP mandated this committee. It affects contracts, staffing, program decisions. These all go forward by March.

Next meeting: **Thursday, February 9, 2012**
 Abbey Park H.S. Library
 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.