

# Boundary Review Committee 114 & 115

## Minutes

Thursday, February 9, 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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Welcome to members and gallery

Norms reviewed

S. Miller talked about volume of messages. Thank you for all the work you are doing with calls and emails you are taking.

K. Amos - tonight we would like to get to 3 scenarios to take forward

J. Blackwell talked about FI model - numbers in classes/schools. No caps on class size, no caps in program. Question about resourcing – if we have 2 new classes funding would be \$3500 first year and \$1200 second year. Library would get additional \$10 per student

Pilgrim Wood question about Spec Ed. We will look at those numbers when a specific scenario presents itself questioning if the Spec Ed stays. We may not have to call the question.

Revisit goal – relief to Forest Trail and Palermo Schools

K. Amos – we will reach decision of which scenarios to go forward by using criteria.

Scenarios handed out.

### Scenario 16

#### Positives

- Spreads everything out more evenly for enrolment
- FI spread out
- Good number of portables
- Stable long-term

#### Challenges

- Some of boundaries not natural
- Fiscal responsibility with 6 dual track – would cost too much in teachers
- Moving Spec Ed from Pilgrim Wood
- CRW and Emily Carr boundary changes

- Like concept that certain areas are self-sustaining with dual track home schools
- Program viability natural for FI in CRW, Emily Carr school, English at Forest Trail
- Gr 1-5 being splintered into several schools and splintering cohorts

Opinion that Palermo should stay blue square. L. Choi explained the development in Palermo and that they have little historical data to work with for that school for numbers.

### **Scenario 17**

Q. Should decision be based on number of portables

A. In terms of over and under utilization, we have to look all of the scenarios portable numbers, students etc. This will impact some children right away.

#### Positives

- Fiscally responsible
- Keeps Palermo together
- Program viability looks good

#### Challenges

- Over utilization at CRW, Palermo and Pilgrim Wood
- Imbalance between Pilgrim Wood and Abbey Lane – would work better if Spec Ed moved to Abbey Lane
- Different boundaries for FI and English at Emily Carr and CRW
- Not an over all balance
- recommended tabling
- Moving too many students after they have had a move

### **Scenario 18**

#### Positives

- Overall balance
- Palermo stays together
- 4 FI programs off to strong start
- gives program viability early
- Forest Trail is over utilized 2012, 2013 and then levels out

#### Challenges

- Forest Trail still single track, not community school
- Regional programs moved from Pilgrim Wood
- Year 1 Pilgrim Wood would present split classes
- You will have one teacher that would have a split in morning and different split in the afternoon

## Scenario 19

### Positives

- Palermo stays together
- Forest Trail is dual track for local schools
- All dual tracks look okay
- reflects reasonable boundaries

### Challenges

- Stable long term boundaries at risk if one program overwhelms another
- Forest Train English French imbalance
- Busing from Emily Carr

Q. Can we ask Trustees say that if we are changing schools to dual track that they won't let one program over-run the other?

A. That question is not part of the BRC.

Q. Would parents of English students at West Oak be okay with children moving to Forest Trail?

A. Parents generally did not want to move their English track children from West Oak to English Track at Forest Trail. But there was an agreement from some of the West Oak community that it would not be a bad idea.

## Scenario 20

### Positives

- Program viability
- Significant cohorts
- Fiscal responsibility

### Challenges

- Not enough dual track schools for sense of community in neighbourhood
- Over utilization at Palermo and Pilgrim Wood

Explanation of this scenario:

- trying to find viable program and not too many dual track
- want the children to have a sense of community at school.
- Utilization of Heritage Glen and Pilgrim Wood off the map
- Big difference in percentage of students north and south of Upper Middle Rd.
- FI numbers south of Upper Middle will change once FI is south. Parents have made conscious decisions to send to neighbourhood school
- Other people purchase houses to specifically to go to single track school
- Must remember FI is an optional program

Starting with tonight's scenarios:

## Scenario 17

- suggested to eliminate.
- Positives and challenges reviewed.
- Consensus reached to eliminate

Parent made point that dual track works perfectly in Palermo. 80 percent of Ward 4 is English. If you ever opt out of FI in a single track school you lose whole school where in dual track you can stay in same school with friends.

### **Scenario 16**

- Planning explained the square FI boundary for Heritage Glen is a geographical boundary to relieve FI issues at 3 schools

At this point, scenarios 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20 remain

### **Scenarios 13 & 18 are very similar**

- Abbey Lane get Spec Ed is only difference
- Program viability in both
- Can you have 3 programs in 1 school? Yes.
- Why move kids (spec ed) when you don't need to
- Scenario 13 does not give Palermo relief where they want

D. Euale explained this is a boundary review and Spec Ed does not have boundaries

- Scenario 18 meets more criteria than 13 – is best of the two
- Consensus reached to *eliminate scenario 13 and keep scenario 18*

### **Scenarios 15 and 19 similar**

- Difference is how Palermo is deal with
- Scenario 15 does better job balancing Palermo but splitting community to too many schools.
- Palermo's concerns are of displacement
- Agree that 19 is better
- One parent doesn't understand since Palermo has more portables
- Can we bring a scenario that brings the number of portables down
- Should we tweak 15 in Palermo boundary down creek and send some FI to other school(s)
- Palermo will always be busy a high density
- make sure that the scenario does not send us back here in 2 years

K. Bateman Olmstead wants to hear from Forest Trail parents who have experienced 15 portables.

J. Blackwell stressed we need to find relief for Forest Trail and Palermo.

Consensus *Scenario 15 to go to the steering committee to consider with changes and scenario 19 is eliminated*

### **Scenarios 12 and 16 similar**

- Scenario 12 was tweaked and is now 16.
- *Scenario 12 eliminated*

### **Scenario 20**

- doesn't work because balance some schools over utilized some under
- doesn't relieve Palermo
- *Scenario 20 eliminated*

### **Scenario 10**

- relieves accommodations issues
- doesn't help Palermo
- other scenarios offer better solutions
- *scenario 10 eliminated*

### **Ten Minute Break**

Review criteria

Thank you for hard work and being respectful of each other

### **Scenario 9**

- Overcrowding at Palermo in very near future, doesn't seem responsible
- Abbey Lane not good
- consensus to *eliminate scenario 9*

### **Scenario 15**

- could be possible with tweak not taking English students from Palermo
- English at Forest Trail not really viable
- Use natural boundary and not pipeline
- When redoing could this be sent out before Monday night
- Lose opportunity for Emily Carr and CRW to offer FI
- *Keep scenario 15 but becomes scenario 21*

### **Scenario 18**

- Similar to 9 but addresses Palermo more
- *Keep scenario 18*

### **Scenario 16**

- Gifted stay at Pilgrim Wood
- Rejig West Oak and Forest Trail boundary
- Don't like 6 dual tracks but wants a scenario showing dual tracks and a single track
- Concern about 6 dual tracks with division of kids

- Flip side, kids will be at their home/neighbourhood school
- FI numbers at Heritage Glen never rise above 200
- *Keep scenario 16*

**Issues raised by the BRC to be discussed at BRSC:**

- There has been a transparent process, web use, meetings transparent, we have to do our evaluation now
- The rest of Halton has dual track, why should Oakville be different?
- Alton BRC talked of program cost and then an extra FI program turned down.
- At staff level we look at financial side and long term costs and program viability
- Will the tight timeline be considered when suggestion goes to the Board?
- Parent – what we have to make clear on Monday, we came to make long term solutions. This BRC is unprecedented because of timeline. Done best. We want responsible program, and for communities to get along,
- The tweak on 15 will be done for Monday. Not others.
- Forest Trail parents feel that there will be a strong push on Monday for single track schools. Heritage Glen doesn't want to be dual. Do we have numbers that make sense?
- K. Bateman Olmstead said some of these children have moved 2 and 3 times. When thinking about moving kids, please think about this. Number of moves have to be taken into consideration.
- Oakville is offering single track except at Palermo and James W Hill, which is dual track with no options to go south to E.J. James
- If we had opened dual track schools in 2003 we wouldn't be here now.

J. Blackwell asked for consensus that BRC is comfortable with taking these 3 scenarios to the community on Monday – **scenario 21 (15 tweaked), scenario 16 and scenario 18. Agreed.**

- you have no idea how we appreciate the headaches you have had
- walked through Monday night

Q. Why not do it as a town hall?

A. Open mike is 2 fold, takes too long, and the passion sharing feelings can anger others and create divisions, political statements and dictatorial statements. Public has opportunity for

input up to and including February 17, 2012. They will are also likely to have a delegation evening.

Q. If BRC members go to Open House what happens?

A. name tags, front row

Michael Fiorelli and Jennifer Poirier will speak on Monday evening.

Lindsay Patrick to say thank you to crowd.

Comments that cafeteria is too small

**Next BRC meeting:                      Thursday, February 21, 2012**  
**Abbey Park H.S. Library**  
**7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**