

# **Boundary Review Committee 114 & 115**

## **Minutes**

**Wednesday, January 30, 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, Odette Bartnicki, Kelly Amos, Jeff Blackwell, David Euale, Lauren Choi, Kathryn Bateman-Olmstead, Don Vrooman,

---

### **1. Introductions**

O. Bartnicki welcomed everyone, thanked members of the committee, introduced staff and explained everyone's roles. The role of BRC members is to:

- advise the board to help them make informed decisions with regard to over utilization pressures
- help to review the scenarios created by the BRSC and raise possible new scenarios
- receive scenarios and view them more broadly from the community/parent/guardian perspective
- help to advise/inform the board by bringing input from the school as the representative to the BRC
- input will then be taken back to the BRSC who will advise Administrative Council and the Director of Education
- the Director will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees who will make the final decision

### **2. Purpose / Boundary Review Administrative Procedure / Norms / Timelines**

K. Amos and O. Bartnicki reviewed BRSC names and roles

- It was noted that Superintendent David Boag's (Special Education) name should have been included with that of Superintendent Tricia Dyson (Program) on the powerpoint.
- look at enrolments, program and boundaries per school for accommodation
- 2 reps from each school
- committee members introduced themselves; two adults observed from the gallery
- examine scenarios and offer suggestions or revisions
- after the public meeting BRC will then look at all the public's suggestions and come up with approximately 3 possible scenarios to go to the BRSC
- decision making process explained
- consensus through fair, informed and transparent discussions
- BRSC meets weekly
- one public meeting on Monday, February 13, 2012
- timelines and anticipated timelines explained

### **Questions and Answers:**

Q. Will tonight's information be any different than what goes to the Public Meeting?

A. O. Bartnicki explained

- purpose of these meetings is to come to viable scenarios that will be taken to the public meeting

Q. Will there be a certain time frame that boundaries will not be revised again?

- A. • presently unknown new school funding and / or future high density residential development could cause the need to revise again
- the work of the BRC is important to creating the best possible long-term options based on currently known information

Q. Is there any consideration that the kids will stay in certain schools for 5 years?

A. It was explained that gr. 7 and 8 are usually grandfathered.

- Criteria include program viability in English, FI and Spec Ed.

Q. There is a lot of community frustration with Boundary Review process and result. Did not understand that when it comes down to vote, our opinions are ignored and therefore becomes a waste of time.

A. This process will hopefully bring good recommendations to take to Administrative Council and then to the Board of Trustees to inform their decision. Comments:

- previous BRC did not understand that the Director could in fact make changes to our requests.
- committee needs to understand that the BRSC and the Director can make "tweaks" to the scenarios recommended by the BRC
- found the last process very helpful and the process was fair
- D. Euale, Director of Education, explained that his final recommendation for the last BRC in Oakville to the Board included a minor change to reflect what the community wanted with regard to FI in September 2012 and that the Secondary BRC group helped to create a good decision for the high school.
- group has to keep in mind that they are representing all of the kids in Northwest Oakville and not just their own kids.

### **3. Criteria for evaluating scenarios discussed**

- Small groups were asked to review the long list of criteria and to rank their top 3
- Program viability and fiscal responsibility were considered non-negotiable criteria.
- Explanation of possible criteria.

Top criteria from groups:

- Proximity to schools
- Accommodation of students in permanent school facilities.
- Balance of overall enrolment
- Stability of long term boundaries
- Grandparenting of students

#### 4. Scenarios and Maps

Laureen Choi distributed two packages:

- walk-to boundaries for all of the schools as measured by transportation.
- 11 scenarios created by the BRSC

Q. Why is the Gifted program being bussed to an over-full ward rather than going to a less utilized ward?

A. We are using the assumption that current special programs will remain where they are. This follows the current Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP).

#### **General assumptions pertaining to the 11 scenarios were explained by Laureen.**

- FI uptake in dual track is higher than if the children are moved out of their community school

Q. Asked for explanation of factors used as assumptions when grandfathering at Forest Trail has been granted to 2014 and English boundaries may change.

A. O. Bartnicki explained all the criteria involved with Optional Attendance.

- pointed out the chart representing present numbers
- explained the scenario one handout including:
  - number of portables as decided by site plan
  - Special Ed. Students,
  - English student numbers,
  - French Immersion,
  - On the Ground (OTG).

K. Bateman Olmstead explained that although the scenario cited that Emily Carr could have 12 portable, it is actually too small for 12 portables due to a large raised berm. Some sites have more flexibility.

Question asked: Could planning bring numbers for Kindergarten kids at each school. Deferred until after the scenarios are all reviewed.

Scenario 1 explained how to read the scenarios. Assume numbers in FI will stay the same except for Abbey Lane if changed to dual track due to a higher uptake.

- only change is opening a new dual track growing FI at Abbey Lane.

Homework was assigned.

- learn terms – OTG, Portable Capacity
- review/compare all scenarios
- find the pros and cons of each scenario.
- consider scenario(s) not presented
- use criteria, consider which scenarios are not feasible

## 5. Communication

- discussion on information to be posted and when
- questions to be directed to the Q and A on the Board website
- Minutes will be approved before posting
- BRSC will use synervoice / home notification for public meeting announcements
- committee members should e-mail directly to [millers@hdsb.ca](mailto:millers@hdsb.ca) about process questions

Please tell community to continue checking the web for updated information.

**Next meeting:** Thursday February 2, 2012  
Abbey Park H.S. Library  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.