

**Alton School Boundary Review Committee
Minutes**

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

7:00-9:00 p.m.

J.W. Singleton Board Room

Present: Kim SedorDorder, Tracy Davis, Michelle Stone, Susan Rankin, Jeff Cockshutt, Roula Sousa, Shazia Syed, Chris Roszell, Michelle Paradis, Jeff Peeters, Jaymz Cossitt, Tricia Hammell, Mark Cernjul, Simona Rosenblood, Karen Hobbs, Remy Campbell, Ying Wang, Sohail Iqbal, Jen Nielson, Ersan Alper, Steve Naylor, Karen Hill, Denise Nacev, Mark Zonneveld, Amy Collard, Tricia Dyson, Rob Eatough, Dianna Bower, Lucy Veerman, Dane Tutton, Domenico Renzella, Michelle D'Aguiar, Jennifer Hlusko, Jeff Blackwell, David Euale

Welcome to all committee members and members of the gallery. People who could not attend last week's meeting, have now had a quick review of information they missed.

New people introduced themselves.

Reviewed Norms

Norms were trimmed down to 6 that were chosen by the group. They are now on the back of your name cards for reference.

- Be prompt
- Listen generously and critically to others
- Ask questions
- Confine your discussion to the topic.
- Only one person should talk at a time
- Provide constructive feedback and receive it appropriately

Revisit and Finalize Criteria

The first 2 Criteria that were agreed upon by the group were:

1. Proximity to schools (walking distances, safe school routes, natural boundaries)
2. Balance overall enrollment in schools and balance program opportunities.

Explanation of the different criteria from which to choose 1 or 2 more priorities.

Explanation of artificial growth in rate of capacity by Ministry changing class size caps.

Decision making process and group agreement:

- Grandparenting taken off list since it can be attached to any scenario. Can have different scenarios of grandparenting for different schools in final decision.
- Can we actually establish long term boundaries with other new building happening at the same time? Planning has no numbers from City of Burlington? Discussion held regarding new planning numbers for areas under construction,

“holding” schools included in discussion. Explanation of which 6 existing schools are being considered in this scenario.

Final 2 choices to be added to list:

3. accommodation of students in permanent school facilities and minimal use of portable classrooms
4. Stable long-term boundaries

Steering committee meets every week. This past week they came up with 2 new scenarios. They also found scenarios that can immediately come off the list for consideration because they are not feasible.

- Numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23 were all eliminated
- Discussion over #3 with CRB over capacity and other schools low in pupil population. A request was made to keep #3 on the grounds that it displaces the least amount of students. It was agreed to keep this scenario for the time being
- Continued below

Discussion reverted to answer a question from last week regarding staffing and cut-point numbers required. Report answered our Ministry caps for classes and funding

- Grades 1-3 at 20, 4-8 at 26, but these classes can go much higher
- No hard and fast rule for number of SERTs. For 700 students it would be 1.5-3 depending on the needs of the individual school's students.
- Student Success teacher (formerly Guidance) is for Grade 7-8. 1-150 Gr. 7-8 students would be .3 teacher
- Administration – usually get a VP at 350 students, however some schools require a second administrator for fewer students.

A brief reminder that this boundary review is for Alton and its students. Other schools (Clarksdale and Rolling Meadows) are now benefiting from having those students as part of their present population. To answer a member's question, a principal wants a working number of students for the school and it is not in relation to capacity.

Criteria being kept:

- 3, 19+11+13, 10+10, 21+20, 22

Next steps required placing 2 stickers on preferred scenarios. This process eliminated scenario numbers 3 and 10 +10

Kept for further discussion are: #19-11-13
#21+20
#22

Now time to digest these scenarios.

If you have any new scenarios please present them within the next few days.

Consider deeply these groupings. Think about possible additional scenarios (quickly- by Thursday) so that it can all go back out to committee members before next week's meeting.

Questions from members:

- Q.** Could we get an estimate of students in quadrants of Florence Meares and Charles R Beaudoin school boundaries for English and French Immersion student populations?
- A.** Planning will try
- Q.** Could the Steering Committee let this committee know what they see as strengths and weaknesses of the scenarios?
- A.** This information will be made available
- Q.** Could IT set up a Chatt account for each area so that parents can send questions to their area representative? The email to these sites would then be rerouted to the individual representative for that area.
- A.** We will ask IT

Regarding new scenarios:

- Extend French Immersion boundary for Rolling Meadows and Clarksdale,
- Move gifted to Rolling Meadows or Clarksdale, or another underutilized school. Occupy more seats in southern schools, or just move primary.
- Look at scenarios 19 and 21 with grandparenting at Florence Meares and at Charles R Beaudoin
- Decision has already been made that this discussion only affects these 6 schools (Rolling Meadows, Clarksdale, CH Norton, CR Beaudoin, Florence Meares, Orchard Park).

Where are we now? Difficult decisions have been made. Thank you for all your hard work. We are still in process with these 6 scenarios. Is there more communication that you think we need to do? Public consultation will be on November 29 if we are ready after next weeks meeting. The public will also be able to delegate to the board in January.

Do we need to give people more lead time about November 29th or wait until next week to post this information? It is important that the committee not feel pressured to get this finished by next week. Decision is to save December 1 tentatively as the public consultation, if a venue is available. However, it was felt that a "save-the-date" should be sent to communities for November 29.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, November 22, 2011**
7:00-10:00 p.m.
M.M. Robinson High School
Theatre
2425 Upper Middle Rd,
Burlington