

Alton High School Boundary Review Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, April 10, 2012
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Board Room – JWS

Staff Present: Dane Tutton, David Euale, Jeff Blackwell, Dom Renzella,
Michelle D’Aguiar, Rob Eatough

Trustees: Kristen Lochhead, Amy Collard, Dianna Bower, Don Vrooman
Jennifer Hlusko (regrets)

BRC Members: 17 members present

Review of Agenda

D. Tutton called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Last week’s minutes were accepted with one correction – Kristen Lochhead is a Trustee, not Board staff.

D. Tutton began by reviewing the agenda and advising the Committee that the goal for tonight’s meeting is to forward the best scenario(s) to the Steering Committee.

D. Tutton reviewed the Group Norms and the five Criteria that were prioritized at last week’s meeting. Dane reminded members that the sixth criteria which all members chose as a priority was a focus for overcrowding in a school - “Balancing the overall enrolment in each school.” This specific criterion should not be a top priority for the groups.

New Scenarios

Michelle D’Aguiar presented the four new scenarios that Planning had “put on paper” since last week’s meeting.

Scenario Three

This scenario is similar to Scenario 2 but late FI go to MMR.

Question: What was the reasoning? This was a request from committee member possibility to increase numbers at MMR.

Scenario Four

Similar to Scenario 1 but J.W. Boich English catchment south of Upper Middle Road go to L.B. Pearson.

Question: Is that the area of Orchard students who have been moved 3 times? Yes.

Scenario Five

Similar to Scenario Four but rural Burlington students attend the new high school

Scenario Six

Similar to Scenario 2 but Florence Meares P.S. English catchment west of Walker’s line attend MMR.

Question: Are the English and French students at two different schools in that area? Yes.

Rob Eatough spoke to Scenario Three noting that one of the jobs of the Steering Committee was to identify schools being impacted by the Boundary Review. Rob Eatough advised that Steering Committee never suggested moving late Immersion and so Pearson does not have any representation on the BRC. Member noted that Scenario Three does not really meet the parameters of the BRC. In effect, this Scenario is related to balancing not related to who attends the new high school. The role of the BRC is to identify students who will attend the new high school. (1200 students)

Question: Are English and French students in rural Burlington going to different high schools? Rural Burlington students are split among several high schools.

BRC divided into four groups and were asked to choose two “best” scenarios using the prioritized five criteria.

Comparing Scenarios to the Criteria

Scenario Two

All four groups chose this scenario as the best scenario with two groups choosing only Scenario 2.

Pros: Keeps cohorts together; proximity to schools; rural Burlington included; new school not overcrowded; stable boundaries – “boundaries you could live with.”

Cons: Possibly decreased enrolment in other schools – MMR, Pearson; potential for numbers to increase over 1400 at the new high school (potential boundary issue in 10 years)

Scenario One

The group that chose Scenario One chose this scenario as the second choice to Scenario Two, because directions asked for “two” scenarios. Scenario Two makes better sense.

Scenario Five

Pros: Stable long-term boundaries, better solution to the “unknown” re development.

Cons: Splits cohorts (Corporate Drive area); but the split occurs at a transition time from elementary to high school.

Question: Why is the area identified as “to be determined?” Planning advised that the City of Burlington has moved forward with a plan that this area may contain residential development. Other areas are definitely not residential development at this time.

The BRC voted unanimously in favour of forwarding only one scenario - Scenario Two – to the Steering Committee.

Public Consultation

The Public Consultation meeting will be held at John W. Boich P.S. on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 from 7 – 9 p.m. in the gymnasium. Past public consultation meetings have included speakers from the Boundary Review Committee. D. Tutton encouraged BRC members willing to speak to the process to advise Rob Eatough or himself after the meeting or electronically if they would be willing to speak to the process at the upcoming meeting.

Rob Eatough advised that since this group had all been in agreement about the best scenario – Scenario Two – he asked the committee’s preference for an information or consultation meeting. The BRC agreed that the consultation process was preferable rather than an information process. All scenarios will be available on the website and there will be a feedback form available for community input. The consultation process will ensure public input in case “something has been missed” by the BRC or Board Staff.

There will be a newspaper ad to notify the community about the Public Consultation and the Board synervoice system will contact school communities. BRC members were advised to inform their School Councils and information will be posted on the Board Website.

Other Questions/Discussions

How many Grade 10’s in Scenario Two. 225 Grade 10 students – English and French Will “no grandparenting” be an issue? If no grandparenting is in place, then the only option of continuing at existing school would be the optional attendance process. Staff reminded members that there is no transportation provided with optional attendance. (courtesy seat only) Optional attendance would not affect 1200 number for the new high school to reach in four years.

One member advised that the Board link had been provided to LBP parents – there were only two responses and they were program-related. Member asked that a “common” communication message be sent to all BRC members to share with school community.

Trustee noted that courtesy seating has been an issue at Kilbride for rural Burlington. A member who lives in the Kilbride area did not believe that grandparenting/optional attendance/courtesy seat would be a major issue. However, the trustee requested that the issue of grandparenting and information on the optional attendance process should be available at the public consultation meeting.

Dane Tutton closed the meeting by thanking all the Committee members on behalf of the Board for taking the time to be involved in the Boundary Review process. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

