



Waterford Boundary Review Public Meeting #1

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

5 pm

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

- Grand Erie Staff:** Chair, W. Baker, Superintendent of Education
R. Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business
N. Hercanuck, Planning Supervisor
K. Graham, Superintendent of Education
T. Rodrigues, Principal - Boston Public School
A. Cunningham, Principal - Waterford Public School
L. Butler, Principal - Teeterville Public School
I. Summers, Principal - Delhi Public School
S. Nicholson, Principal - Bloomsburg Public School
C. McGrath, Vice-Principal - Delhi Public School and Waterford Public School
J. Della Fortuna, Principal - Waterford District High School
- Community:** L. Rockefeller, Boston Public School Parent Council
C. Crotta, Bloomsburg Public School Parent Council
L. Helder, Waterford District High School Parent Council Co-Chair
C. Locke, Waterford District High School Parent Council Co-Chair
- Trustees:** E. Dixon
D. Werden
- Recorder:** W. Kipp, Executive Assistant

A - 1 **Opening**

Superintendent Wyszynski read the Land Acknowledgement

B - 1 **Setting the Stage for Public Consultation**

Superintendent Baker reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines and information on how to share comments or concerns regarding this boundary review.

C - 1 **Boundary Review**

Background

N. Hercanuck, Planning Supervisor, provided an overview of the purpose of the Boundary Review and timelines. It was noted that school closures cannot be considered during a Boundary Review. Schools involved in the Waterford Boundary Review are Bloomsburg Public School (BLO), Boston Public School (BOS), Delhi Public School (DPS), Teeterville Public School (TEE), Waterford Public School (WAT), and Waterford District High School (WDH). Current and projected enrolment numbers were shared.

N. Hercanuck presented two accommodation options for discussion,

- 1) Excess Waterford PS Junior and/or Intermediate students accommodated at Waterford District High School (WDH)
- 2) Excess Waterford PS students accommodated at surrounding elementary schools.
- 3) Other options shared from the public.



Waterford Boundary Review Public Meeting #1

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

5 pm

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

D - 1 Public Discussion

Grouping of these questions do not reflect the order they were asked.

OPTION #1

If move students to high school, not opposed to keeping my child in Waterford, does that change the structure of the high school, junior high?

Two separate entities, it would be a school within a school. Parent concerns with junior or intermediate in with older kids are concerns of bad habits passed on and safety issues. Elementary aged students would have separate areas, lunch hours and recesses. In the past, the Principal of the school has been a secondary principal and elementary vice principal.

Committee will look at how the dynamics of two schools in one will look like.

Are there any funding increases or any negative ramification in terms of allocating students? How does moving students from WAT affect the school's funding? If kids move to the high school, will that impact the course options offered?

Moving students from WAT would not have any significant impact on the revenues that we receive from the Ministry. There may be some negligible shifts in terms of how much a certain school would get but not impactful in terms of the kind of scope we are looking at.

Elementary students would not affect course offerings for high school students; two completely different things.

If 6, 7 and 8 go to WDH, level 2 would be a middle school with their own building within a building. Level 4 is teachers office.

Something J. Della Fortuna and central staff would work out.

A lot of cities go with the model of bringing in Grade 8 to the High Schools, but my concern would be starting to look at Grade 6, Grade 7 attending High School is these children are too young to be in this environment. We are talking about kids as young as 10 years old.

The committee will discuss the pros and cons of each option; that concern will be included in the discussion.

Parent perspective, how are you maintaining kids being kids moving 6, 7 and 8's to a high school?

The planning would involve elementary and secondary staff as part of the team for the transition to ensure all interests were reflected in terms of student needs getting the setting ready.

What kind of data if any is there for moving grades 6-8 or 7-8 into a high school? What challenges or issues have come from doing that?

This kind of move has been done in Grand Erie. Several considerations, including staffing, supervision, and resources, are unique but manageable.



Waterford Boundary Review Public Meeting #1

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

5 pm

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Could or would rural school 7 and 8's joins the amalgamation at WDH? My reasoning is we lost the transition between public school and high school when we closed Townsend years ago and that's something, I think a lot of students have missed the little steppingstone or stepping block and it gets them ready for high school. But my biggest concern is that it could help retain students at WDH. This may be something we should take to the committee to consider because I think that there would be implications if we remove seven and eight students from surrounding schools. The committee hasn't considered this option, but I think they should.

Can you confirm that it would be only Waterford 6/7-8 students that would be going to WDHS not Boston, Bloomsburg etc.?

That would be a question for the committee to answer.

Just my two cents, but it would seem to make more sense for grade 6-8 to leave Waterford Public and go to WDHS as a "school within a school", rather than pulling grade 7 & 8 students from the surrounding rural schools, which sounds like it would create transportation issues and low enrollment in the other schools. It would keep students from the town of Waterford, in Waterford, which is also a better option for parents for extracurricular activities.

Need the operational details of what option 1 would look like.

OPTION #2

What percentage of students are coming from the outer areas? Would we be okay for numbers at the school for the boundary of the town? Helpful to see where the percentages lie.

Yes, we can get those numbers.

If we were to re-draw boundaries, what will they look like?

The Next step with the committee is to discuss the targets at WAT and then how to achieve those reductions. If boundary changes are the option, the committee will determine the recommended changes.

When was last boundary line changed for WAT?

WF Hewitt and Townsend were closed, and Ada B. Masecar was reconfigured shortly after. Has been changed before to try to fix boundary areas.

Are children who are at WAT going to be grandfathered in, if they would like to stay?

Always a possibility to apply for out of attendance area status which might accommodate the problem. But if everyone had a child grandfathered it would almost be undoing what we are doing here.

How many kids might make the transition to St. Bernard's, so kids don't have to leave Waterford or have a long bus ride?



Waterford Boundary Review Public Meeting #1

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

5 pm

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

The committee had briefly mentioned this significant consideration.

I am also interested in the Rural placing; we live just outside town. My youngest son is ready for school but because he is a Jan baby he must wait until Sept 2023. His older brother is already getting bussed to Waterford public. By moving the 6-8 students would that mean 2 different busses to bring the kids to 2 different schools.

What is going to be the cost to bus kids OUT of Waterford that currently walk to school? There currently aren't enough drivers as it is.

Transportation costs would depend on how the school boundaries are reconfigured.

I understand that moving the boundaries will have an impact in transportation costs but negative impact to children needs to come first.

OTHER

Capacity number for WAT is 285 capacity, is that capacity based on 0 portables or is that based on the 7? Aim to get to the baseline with 0 portables.

285 is based on the bricks and mortar, school building. It does not include the portables.

What is the acceptable number of portables at WAT?

WAT was not on the school board radar in 2019 and if we wanted a boundary review, we should approach the board. TEE has little growth, DPS not much growth over next 5 years but there is development there. My confidence is a bit shaken and I don't see a great connection between planned growth and the numbers.

Acceptable number of portables on the site is something we are going to work through with the committee. There is a difference between maximum capacity according to the Ontario building code. What we have now and what we project to have going forward is not the ideal situation and we can utilize the space at surrounding areas. If we want to get to 3 portables, we will have to move 75 students. To maintain the 7 portables, we would have to maintain an enrolment of 400 students, so in 2032 would have to divert 150 students away from the facility. The point is to reduce the number of portables on site, we need to remove a certain number of students from the current and projected attendance area boundaries. Every 25 kids would mean you would need one less portable.

In addition to looking at the number of portables that is considered acceptable, the committee should also consider the age at which it is acceptable to have students learning in a portable (e.g., young children may not be able to safely go between the portable and the washrooms in the school without supervision). With the accommodation options, what would be the number of remaining portables at WAT?

That depends on which option is chosen.

From a county perspective, when we receive a planning application for potential subdivisions our planning department reaches out to the Board of Education to



Waterford Boundary Review Public Meeting #1

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

5 pm

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

find out if there are any concerns regarding development in terms of enrollment, we often hear back that there are no concerns, so my concern is the past few years there has been a concern in terms of growth and the inability for WAT to handle the strain. I would like to see the county and the board work together in the future, so we don't find ourselves in this position again.

Was the ratio of students to washrooms considered? Building code take the portables into account? No gender-neutral washroom.

The board must be in compliance with the Ontario Building Code, (OBC). We can confirm that WAT is compliant with all aspects of the OBC including washroom ratios. 2 sets of washrooms at WAT, gender neutral and separate staff washroom.

What kind of criteria was used in the decision making? Seems like there was a bit of a short coming in evaluating the decision for the current state. Looking forward have some sort of stopgap measure where there needs to be addressing of current capacity issues.

School boards and municipality work together to support appropriate infrastructure to support the development.

School board is a commenting authority on municipal development applications.

How was the forecasting model built that is being used to guide the decision making?

Why is there a shortcoming of enrolment vs capacity versus years ago in terms of planning? How has this changed with respect to the application of new subdivisions.

Your prediction from 2022 to 2023 is an increase of 120 students approximately for Waterford Public School?

Yes, looking at going from 403 students now to 550.

In 2009 Townsend was on the block for closing and at that time community was told the subdivisions were for seniors only and there would never be a portable at WAT. I am suggesting your numbers may be low at 120 students. I would just hope that going forward that our numbers are a little bit better than they were.

The world has changed a lot in the last 12 years and some of the assumptions and knowledge we had back then obviously haven't held true.

We are constantly looking at official plan, zoning by-laws and we update our numbers and projections with the best information that we have available at the time. We do work with the County because they are ultimately the ones who approve the development and scale of development. These numbers presented here represent our best thinking.

What types of population projections methodologies are utilized in Waterford? Do the numbers consider multi-generational families?

We apply student yields by housing type to anticipated residential development. Yields are calculated based on observed data. Accessory apartments and multi-generational families are included in those yields in so much as they exist currently.



Waterford Boundary Review Public Meeting #1

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

5 pm

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

If you have some numbers that you think we have not taken into consideration, please share them with us.

When will the change take affect? How much influence do the parents have? Trustee list shared?

Depends on when the accommodation solution is approved. Earliest would September 2023.

Only one set of decision makers within Grand Erie District School Board and that is the Trustees, but they reflect the views of the community. List of Trustees is posted on the board website.

Meeting posted on website?

Minutes along with the questions and comments.

Schools you are looking at under review for a closure?

No, currently a moratorium on school closures.

How firm are they (Ministry of Education) on the 6-classroom addition?

The project was submitted to the Ministry twice. Once in 2021, and again in 2022. Both requests for funding were denied. The Ministry's response in both cases was the same; 'there seems to be spare local capacity that could be utilized before prior to constructing new capacity'.

Where are the other schools that are being considered for boundary reviews?

Paris and the surrounding rural areas and the Brantford East area.

Will legacy of students be considered?

The committee will address this issue.

E - 1 Next Steps

- a) How many portables are manageable on WAT school site?
- b) 7 & 8 from surrounding schools be included in the amalgamation at the high school?
- c) Figure out how many students attend WAT public school and do not live in the town of Waterford.
- d) Next two Ad Hoc committee meetings. October 26, 2022 and November 8, 2022 will address what is discussed tonight and what will present at the next public meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 5 pm.

F - 1 Adjournment

6:46 pm

G - 1 Next Meeting

October 26, 2022, Ad Hoc Committee Meeting #2