



Boundary Review Meeting – South West Brantford

May 23, 2017

Ryerson Heights Elementary School

Time: 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Working Group members:

- Liana Thompson – Superintendent of Education (Chair)
- Jamie Gunn – Superintendent of Business
- Carol Ann Sloat – Trustee
- Rita Collver – Trustee
- Grant McKinnell – Principal, Walter Gretzky Elementary School
- MJ Shahi – Parent, Walter Gretzky Elementary School
- Sarah Rudge – Parent, Walter Gretzky Elementary School
- Lisa VanLeeuwen – Principal, Ryerson Heights Elementary School
- Susan Atkins – Parent, Ryerson Heights Elementary School
- Shelly Snow – Parent, Ryerson Heights Elementary School

Superintendent Thompson commenced the meeting at 6:00 pm by reading the Land Acknowledgement, introducing the working group members and welcoming guests, including Board representatives David Dean, Chair of the Board, Brenda Blancher, Director of Education and Michelle LeDressay, Resource to the Working Group.

Superintendent Gunn shared enrolment and accommodation data, boundary options for consideration and administration's recommendations for boundary amendments. Superintendent Gunn shared that a review of the elementary school catchment areas for South West Brantford had been initiated by the Board of Trustees after consideration of long term accommodation forecasts and recommendations from the Board's Quality Accommodations Committee. The review indicated a need to accommodate growth in population in both Walter Gretzky Elementary School and Ryerson Heights Elementary School.

Superintendent Gunn shared the plan to manage the capacity shortfall. Planning for a new school is underway. Grand Erie is partnering with the City of Brantford and Brantford Public Library Board as a joint facility. Other likely partners could include child care and an early years Hub. Superintendent Gunn shared that the project still needs Ministry of Education capital approval as well as funding approvals for facility partners. The projected new school could be ready for the 2020-21 school year.

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Superintendent Gunn shared the location of the proposed school on a map of South West Brantford. He explained that in the short term, the capacity shortfall will be accommodated by adding 8 portable classrooms to both Walter Gretzky and Ryerson Heights. He explained that the current school catchment boundaries will need to be amended to create a holding school boundary for the new school. The proposed holding school boundary was shared on a map of South West Brantford. Superintendent Gunn shared that new students from the holding school boundary will be directed to Ryerson Heights until the new school is constructed. A map showing the 1.6 km walking area for the holding school boundary was also shared.

Superintendent Gunn provided information how to provide feedback to the Board and that the Board would consider the boundary change at its Committee of the Whole Board meeting on June 12, 2017 with final consideration at the June 26, 2017 Regular Board meeting.

Superintendent Thompson thanked Superintendent Gunn for the overview and information shared and opened the floor to questions.

Questions or Items for Discussion

1. Will Blackburn and Diana Ave be a part of this review?
Answer: This area will stay in the Ryerson catchment area
2. To clarify, all the students going to the new school will go to Ryerson?
Answer: Yes. The new catchment is going to be Ryerson – students in the holding catchment will attend Ryerson Heights.
3. Can public signage go up to alert families of the proposed school?
Answer: Signage belongs to the developer so it would be the developer's decision.
4. Will portables coming to the schools to accommodate growth?
Answer: Yes, 8 portables projected for each school.
5. Are the Catholic Schools participating?
Answer: No. Not at this time. The timing isn't right for the Catholic board, but in future they may need to build to accommodate growth.
6. What is the timing for the build of the new school?
Answer: The hope is 2020-2021.
7. How will almost 700 children and 8 portables on the playground be able to provide a safe space for students?
Answer: This is the way it was before. When strategies are put in place, it really runs very smoothly.



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SO Gunn – please be the eyes and ears of your community to provide us with further input if you hear of it.

Please provide us with input by June 2, 2018.

The hope is the Board will make final decision by end of June.

No grandfathering in. Purposefully created the holding boundary area so that they know that their temporary school is Ryerson and permanent school is the new school. This will be made clear in the registering process.

In Ryerson, will the students be housed in the school as in new school groups? No – not in the interim if they are going to finish the year with the same class. When the dates come up, plan accordingly.

Families buying property and moving into a rental property, attend the home school of the rental area.

Inform the sales representatives once this plan is approved.

Provide a letter to the secretaries to provide to families that are going to be attending the holding school eventually.

School Council will share this information with parents and educate them moving forward.

Blackburn and Diana Ave, stacked homes, have a different demographic, generally not family units.

Report to Board provided to committee members on June 8th, through principals.

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