

**West Flamborough Accommodation Review Committee  
Working Group Meeting # 5  
Wednesday, November 27, 2013  
6:00 p.m.**

**Spencer Valley Elementary School  
441 Old Brock Road, Greensville, ON**

**Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

**Chair** - Mag Gardner

**Voting Members** - Sara Ardiel, Pamela Beach, John Belanger, Tania Brittain, Jessica Dymont, Colleen Evans, Kristin Glasbergen, Candice Goodale, Cairine Grantham, Brett Humphrey, Anthony Hunter, Rachel Kott, Patti Lee, Callie Matthews, Shelley McGuire, Stephanie Munro, Melissa Slote, Sue VanEgdom

**Non-Voting Members** - Stewart Cameron, Doug Dunford, Kate Fischer, Eddie Grattan, Kim Short, Karen Turkstra

**Regrets**

**Voting Members** - Karen Baille, Heather Ryan, Janine Vandenneuval, David Wardell

**Non-Voting Members** - Nil

**Resource Staff**

Bob Fex

**Recording Secretary**

Kathy Forde

**Public** - Public attendees present - Nil

**1. Call to Order**

Mag Gardner called the meeting to order. The goal of the meeting was to select three preferred options from the seven preliminary options through discussion and comparative analysis to be presented at the next Public Meeting. The options are not final. The three options will require public response as work proceeds.

**2. Agenda**

**2.1 Additions/Deletions**

Nil

**2.2 Approval of Agenda**

Agenda approved by consensus by a show of hands.

**3. Minutes from Working Group Meeting #4**

**3.1 Clarification**

As part of correspondence under Item 6.7, the two documents referenced by Karen Turkstra are posted on the website for committee and public information.

**3.2 Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved by consensus by a show of hands.

**4. Minutes from Public Meeting #2B**

**4.1 Clarification**

Public input is recorded as provided.

**4.2 Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved by consensus, by a show of hands.

**5. Correspondence**

Members indicated they have received correspondence for information and consideration.

**6. Review of ARC Option Summary - chart**

**6.1 Discussion**

Members were reminded of the three reference items that continue to provide grounding for informed thinking and decision making (guiding principles developed by the committee; binders containing data and information; public voice and correspondence). The four guiding principles were reviewed (program offerings; transportation; resources; 21<sup>st</sup> learning environment). Members have had time to think about their three preferred options from the seven options formulated. Breakout groups were formed according to preferences between Options 1 to 7 (attached). Ideas were shared and discussed. Comments are noted below.

**Option 1** - Due to lack of interest removed from list. Members agreed by consensus by a show of hands.

**DECISION: Eliminate Option 1**

**Options 2 & 3** - Merged. Remains on the list for further discussion.

Positive

- Spencer Valley as K-8 minimizes transitions - transportation remains under guideline
- Transportation from Freelon to Spencer Valley too far - i.e. Millgrove is closer (keep open)

- Septic capacity is 440 at Spencer valley (this would accommodate Greenville)
- Want to maintain “country school” feel (just for Millgrove)
- Boundaries would not change
- Maintains smaller schools

Negative

- Old structures
- Seaton is not a central site
- Transportation - Seaton will be over guidelines (kids from Beverly)
- French Immersion to be decided
- Enrolment numbers still low
- Millgrove (K-8) would still have only one grade 6,7,8 class for each (22-24 pupils/class)
- Extensive renovation needed at Millgrove to accommodate 6,7,8
- Millgrove only has 3.5 acres
- Want new buildings
- K-5 at Millgrove would increase transitions

General

- One central school for Beverly and Seaton
- One central school for Greenville, Millgrove, Spencer would be approximately 600 kids - infrastructure would be a problem so Millgrove should perhaps stay separate
- Septic is a concern
- Spencer and Millgrove can already service a school of 300 kids
- Transportation - busing from the southern corner will need to be considered
- Distance is a concern but bus rides may change if boundaries change
- Review boundaries after ARC for elementary (Balaclava, Greenleaf)

**Option 4** - Remains on the list for further discussion.

**Option 5** - Remains on the list for further discussion.

**Option 6** - Remains on the list for further discussion.

Positive

- Boundary change to reduce travel time for students and right-size the schools
- Good balance of students between schools
- Accommodates public request for new school for two schools involved
- No students move until renovations complete
- Close all five schools - new on Spencer site - new on Beverly Community site

Negative

- Renovations could result in students in a non-complete school or in portables
- Renovated school will not provide students with a current/modern school design

- Programming could be better with a new school build
- Location of school and property will not allow for good use of land if Spencer is renovated
- No central property exists for a new build - will add cost/time
- Public has repeatedly asked for new school and avoid renovations

**Option 7** - Remains on the list for further discussion.

Positive

- Minimizes transitions
- Supports 21<sup>st</sup> century programming
- New site for Beverly/Seaton would improve transportation
- Utilization of school e.g. shared space could be properly structured
- Right-size schools
- Takes care of FCI
- Reduces administrative costs
- Revenue from selling three to four sites
- Increased number of kids to create more extra-curricular activities
- Creates two situations
- Everyone loves new schools
- Transportation is o.k.
- Indoor air quality

Negative

- Concerned it creates shell of infrastructure
- Too costly for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning
- Boundary change to right-size schools and transportation
- No land at this time
- You lose the history of the schools
- Unlikely for trustees to support two new schools
- Could impact EQAO because teachers go back to pool
- May change extra-curricular activities depending on teachers
- Impact to taxes
- No control of post ARC boundary review
- Freelton to Spencer Valley is longer for transportation for JK-5
- Missing the public voice on where to put internal boundaries

General

- If supported, will need boundaries to right-size the school
- Septic is a concern and a restraint
- Septic is restricted due to the needs of many people on a 5-day basis in schools
- New school for Beverly at (1) Beverly Community Centre or (2) Beverley site
- Spencer Valley renovated JK-8 - all of Greenville here

- Millgrove as (1) JK-8 or (2) JK-5
- Beverly might be the best option for building on the same site - better capacity for septic and has natural gas - approximately six acres needed for an elementary site
- A reason not to renovate Seaton is due to location - if Seaton was in a better location would be more feasible
- Beverly site is quite small
- Availability of new property is a challenge but we have existing property
- If Beverly Community Centre lands are considered for a school, the city would need to be contacted to determine viability of the site - feasibility and any restrictions would need to be identified
- Keep arena site on table to give us more flexibility
- Would have to adapt boundaries if Beverly and Seaton merge
- Option 6 and 7 are similar and should perhaps be merged

#### **General Comments**

- Seems the overall preference is for segregating schools into 2 groups (Beverly and Seaton) (Greensville, Millgrove, Spencer) although Millgrove is a bit of an anomaly
- If two school communities are created, boundaries will need to be carefully considered
- A post boundary review may be needed to tweak the lines
- Cannot look at someone else's boundary to increase enrolment numbers
- The public seems to want new buildings
- Public would prefer two new schools
- Septic will need to be considered regardless of location
- As the options are further explored, septic and capacity must be carefully considered
- Any new builds will need to meet standards
- New or modified septic services would likely require an environmental review to ensure numbers to be can be supported
- It is not feasible for staff to study all options in full detail - a few preferred options will need to be identified for further investigation as sound options
- Student population, grade organization and full versus split classes can change
- Impact on sports teams and band to be considered
- Middle school programming will be needed
- Transportation, distance, number of transitions expected to remain main concerns
- Various interests associated with viability of K-5 versus K-8 schools
- It is expected that the public will be emotional about their own schools
- Impact to staff was discussed in terms of surplus and new schools - union/contract guidelines must be followed
- New builds on existing property can be done with construction barriers installed for safety - down time for school activities would be minimized as much as possible but should be considered as short term pain for long term gain

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- Utilization rate of 95-110% is the target so that schools are full and running efficiently in terms of costs

Bob Fex provided an overview on septic capabilities (thresholds) for each school: Beverly (473); Seaton (406); Greenville (338); Millgrove (313); Spencer (440). If thresholds are exceeded a Ministry of Environment study would likely need to be initiated.

The need to keep or eliminate French Immersion as an item of interest was discussed. Currently, 22 students travel outside their boundary to attend French Immersion. However, many students may choose not to attend French Immersion due to transportation barriers not by choice. The point of entry for French Immersion is grade 1 so a full class is needed for the program to be viable and sustainable. Startup is a challenge. Members agreed that there not been enough interest expressed from the public for French Immersion to be sustainable. As such, French Immersion as an item of interest was removed and will not be further considered.

**DECISION: French Immersion as an item of interest was removed**

General agreement for moving forward, as concurred by consensus by a show of hands:

- 2014 too early to close
- Greenville school and site to close
- Seaton school and site to close
- Beverly Central school to close, site is an option for a new school
- Spencer Valley site to stay open
- French Immersion not part of our recommendations

**DECISION: Members concurred with general agreements by consensus by a show of hands**

## 6.2 Refine Option Numbers

From discussions, three options were formulated as follows for presentation at Public Meeting # 3:

- 1) Close all 5 schools. New school on Spencer (for Spencer, Millgrove and Greenville) and new site (Beverly Central Community Centre) for Beverly and Seaton. This involves a realignment of catchment area to generally balance the two schools' populations.
- 2) Close Millgrove and Greenville and renovate Spencer Valley (making it a K-8). Close Beverly and Seaton with a new K-8 school on the Beverly Central school site. This involves a realignment of catchment area to generally balance the two schools' populations.



- 3) New school for Seaton and Beverly at a central location. Greenville goes to a renovated Spencer Valley (K-8). Millgrove remains open status quo or we explore the viability of a K-8. There would be no change in current catchment area.

**DECISION: Members concurred with the three options developed by consensus by a show of hands**

Caveats can be added as options are developed. Bob Fex will add numbers and input to each option in terms of feasibility and will approach the City regarding septic capacity on the Beverly site.

Rationale behind the staff option was requested for information (viability, efficiency, site size, disruption, costing).

Presentation of information at the public Meeting was discussed in terms of preamble, principles, and general agreements. Jessica Dymont and Stephanie Munro volunteered as co-facilitators for the Public Meeting.

Mag Gardner reminded members that conversations will get tough and will be a challenge so it will be important to consider ideas from a third lens without reaction and to share thoughts constructively.

**7. Next Steps**

- **Next Public Meeting # 3 - December 04, 2013 at Dr. Seaton**
- **Next Working Group Meeting #6 - December 11, 2013 at Greenville**

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**Handouts**

- Agenda
- Presentation
- Draft Minutes - Working Group Meeting # 4
- Draft Minutes - Public Meeting #2B
- Options Summary
- Correspondence