

## Working Group Meeting #1 Discussion Notes

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Steve MacLean Library

### Introductions

### Overview & Background

- Purpose of the working group meetings are to come up with one or more than one attendance boundary scenarios to present to a public meeting.
- Before 2024, we will be making a recommendation for the Board to establish the boundary upon the opening of the school.
- Schedule of construction for September 2025
  - o Although Board has given approval to proceed, there is a feeling that there is a delta between funded amount from the Ministry and the current market costs. We have approached the Ministry about this and anticipate a positive response soon. Should that occur, we are confident that a September 2025 opening is achievable.
- Construction schedules/materials availability are improving in general, the last few school have been late because of pandemic-related delays.
- Funding is for 7-12. That means changes to feeder schools.
  - o 7-12 are typically more stable high schools.
  - o Our experience thus far with this grade format is that it gives more flexibility over the years and is less impacted by demographic change.

Question: is the design of the school already done?

Karyn: Yes. But if you have suggestions or something you think is critical you wish to put forward to Facilities, you can do so. We typically repeat designs.

Q: is the intention to still have a daycare?

K: yes

Q: when was the design developed? The intermediate section for Longfields-Davidson High School was built after the fact – will the new school be built with an intermediate wing?

K: yes.

Q: can you share the design of the school for us?

K: yes. However we want to focus this meeting to be boundary-setting. It is not design.

- We will have the completed and edited package up on the website shortly after this meeting.
- Members of the public can attend as well.

- Our task is to come up with boundaries that we think will work long-term.
- We are always concerned about the bulge of the population within that growing community.
  - o When you have a new school going into a community where it is the “first” there is typically more interest. This can increase the school’s enrolment starting-out.
- In addition to the boundary; we look for input on opening grade structure.
  - o We usually open a 7-10 and let it feed year after year, but we are interested in hearing suggestions.

#### Map Drawn on Whiteboard

- We know in Barrhaven we have high enrolment at both John McCrae and LDH, so when formulating the draft boundary for discussion, we considered whether we could amend John McCrae and LDH boundaries in order to alleviate pressures and have the LDH boundary go over to Riverside South. We discounted that notion because of the lack of sustainability and the geographic logic of the boundary.

#### Proposed Boundary

- This boundary is a starting point for discussion.
  - o It is subject to change based on preferred grade and communities.
- Currently, the bulk of the boundary directs students to either Merivale HS or South Carleton District HS. Most choose Merivale HS with 60 students choosing South Carleton HS.
- The biggest assumption staff made in coming up with the draft boundary is that Findlay Creek is to be included. Currently students from Findlay Creek are directed to Ridgemont HS. Ridgemont is a school that has rebounded as far as enrolment goes, but it is not a large facility.
- We need to consider the MFI Boundary as well, in addition to consolidating the Riverside South elementary boundary in Riverside South.

Q: a lot of public board students go to St. Francis Xavier because they don’t want to go far away to other OCDSB high schools. A lot of population may come from St. FX. This individual personally likes this boundary because the Findlay Creek community is included.

K: yes, a lot of OCDSB students go to St. FX. St. FX is the only secondary school in the community.

Q: Has the city shared community-based transportation for the Findlay Creek families?

K: 600 series (bus service to high school and middle school students) are typically utilized for students to travel from a home community to a designated school. This will have to be discussed with OSTA and OC Transpo.

Q: is there not enough in Vimy Ridge for it to have its own high school?

K: in the fullness of time, perhaps a high school serving the far east of the South Urban Community, but not yet.

Q: would it not make sense to build that now?

K: We could never build a business case for this at this time: the province overruled and expanded the urban boundary to the area south of bank and east – what happens when the development happens?

Q: (comment) this individual liked the current site plans because they provide for portable space on the plan.

Q: this individual is suggesting to have Findlay Creek have the option to go to Osgoode (so to add an option area).

K: We can look into that. Option areas are not ideal. It makes it hard from a planning perspective.

Q: what about ENG programs for Vimy? They have 1 class per grade. The students are with the same students for 8 years. This is not ideal for their student careers.

K: that won't be answered by this boundary. We appreciate this is a challenge we with the ENG Core French Program but it will not be remedied by a boundary.

Q: Why is Mantoick oddly looped into the boundary? (Referring to the JK to 5 composite maps).

Taylor: the boundary was drawn around Merivale and South Carleton's boundaries that is why Manotick is included. You can see this logic if you look at the secondary composite map.

Q: what about a scenario of keeping a portion of option area that Manotick goes to and keeping them at Osgoode?

K: Again, Option Areas do have some benefits but perhaps more difficulties.

Q: the west side of Farley Mowat's boundary would go to LDH?

K: Yes. In this draft proposal.

Q: will we be facing portables for RSSS?

K: That is likely.

Q: This individual feels like the boundary seems logical. The Findlay Creek students have to go somewhere. Biggest reservation is rate of growth and risk of having these overcrowding schools. Riverside South and Findlay are still growing.

K: This is the inherent risk.

Q: how long do we think RSSS can sustain this catchment?

K: we are thinking about 15-20 years out. We will be looking to build another high school within that time period. Changes with Provincial development policies may accelerate that timeframe.

Q: there is frustration in Riverside South in sending students so far out of the community. This person thinks that there will be an appetite for people to come for grade 10. And if they can walk to school, do extracurricular activities, and don't have to get up for the bus, they won't mind transferring after only being in high school for one year. The biggest risk is when you get into option areas.

K: We want to make sure that if we open to grade 10 it is a viable grade 10 population.

Q: Important to take a big picture on this – i.e. communities – a 7-10 opening structure will give these students a really good secondary population to get as close to 1000 as you can for the graduating class

because you can do more for them. i.e. there won't be a lot attending 11 and 12 and therefore they won't be able to do as much for these students. 7-10 seems to be the money spot.

K: Block moves 7-10 seems to be ideal.

Q: what will RSSS SHSM be?

K: We do not know right now. It is typically developed because of the championing of the school itself.

K: we want you to focus on the boundary itself and maybe not so much the numbers right now – but rather the logic of the geography. We would like to hear from the feeder schools. The high school will serve this boundary so we want to hear about how to appropriately phase in and phase out and how to look after the students that are there now. What we have proposed here, that is what we see. For some schools it takes away pressures that they have now.

### Wrap-Up

#### Next Meeting

- Looking at next meeting for March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Looking into coming back here at Steve MacLean PS.

Q: when we come back to meet can we look at the Osgoode option area – the bottom part below the black line – the dots (referring to the secondary composite boundary map). If we took the bottom half of the hashes and put that to Osgoode would that help?

K: We will look at that boundary.

K: the only other thought on this is MFI and where. More concerned with the number of students rather than the community. We don't think the MFI for Kars on the Rideau can be relocated and have sustainable numbers.

Q: if we alter the Farley boundary, can we put the MFI there?

K: not sure that we would do that. Triple tracking a school is a concern.

Q: is there any merit in having a conversation about putting all MFIs at Vimy #2 so that they can have a cohort?

K: We can look, we can definitely have this conversation.

### Conclusion

By early next week you will have links to the website. Ideally, we'd like to circulate the draft minutes and get your feedback so we can post it with the amended Information Package.

Meeting adjourned