

Vimy Ridge Accommodation Consultation

Notes from Working Group Meeting #1

The meeting commenced at 7 pm with the following people in attendance

Jennifer Jennekens
Kaveeta Ajwani
Ahmed Fawal
Cheryl Sevigney
Genevieve Gauthier King
Kevin McGowan
Emilie Nichols
Lynn Vanasse
Laurie Rogers
Reg Lavergne
Karyn Carty Ostafichuk

An overview was given about the development of Findlay Creek in general

An overview of the general consultation process

What we are hoping for from the working group before proceeding to Public Meeting(s)

The issues at Vimy Ridge Public School were discussed

Overcrowded
Nearing 5500 of 7000 homes in Findlay Creek with one school
VRPS built for 674 K-8 pupils. Currently 1081 (1023 in person, 58OCV at October count date)
2022-23 projections (as outlined in report) 1219 or 181% utilization (UF), 21 portables
2023-24 projections 1370 or 203% UF, likely 25-28 portables

Indicated the OCDSB has acquired a new site at Kelly Farm and Miikana for the 2nd school planned for the community

Discussion of Capital Funding Process from the Ministry of Education

Impressions of the impact of “ranking”
When Capital calls come (typically almost annually)
Uncertainty about when the Ministry announces approvals
Important to note that while we have not been assured funding for the new Findlay Creek Elementary School nor have we been told we’re NOT getting funding

Discussion of options considered by staff

Status quo
Creating a 7-12 school at Ridgmont HS
Diverting students to Sawmill Creek or Blossom Park or both
Diverting students to SMPS, either K-8 or just 7-8 phased in

Options and ideas from the working group

- Status quo for as long as possible, using portables or other temporary accommodation (2 storey Accommodation, portapacks)
- Reporting simply that to Board, and commencing another accommodation review if required in the future
- Or reporting a desire for status quo (with portables) and an interim solution to be enacted when required
- Splitting cohorts by program and redirecting to both Sawmill Creek and Blossom Park
- Building a temporary school made up of portapacks etc on the new site at Kelly Farm and Miikana site
- Seeking a method of diverting new residents from Findlay Creek and leaving current students in place

General thoughts expressed

- SMPS doesn't want to go back to the numbers it sustained in the past
- Shouldn't include a new development area (Findlay Creek) with different HS feed etc, when not all of Riverside South is even directed to SMPS
- This is all a broken system
- Have staff taken into account the impact of the OCSB School to be built (we will, but it won't impact until it's open. Not likely for 23-24 school year)
- We want a solution that accommodates students, but doesn't take the pressure off the Ministry to fund the next school
- Where are we getting the busing from?

Consultation and outreach

- Do we have ideas about reaching out to the Arabic-speaking community in the area?
- Are there other communities we need to address and make feel included?
- How best to do this (with thanks to the VRPS community for offers to translate, reach Out)
- MLOs will be asked to support

Information from staff

- The working group asked for the following
 - Information on Business Cases
 - Information on 2 storey portables, portapacks
 - The status of the French Board(s) schools in Findlay Creek
 - Other options that staff can come up with for the Working Group to consider

Next meeting: Thursday February 3, 2022. 7-9 pm