

**St. Thomas Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review
Elgin Court Public School
Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

School Community:

Elgin Court

Date and Time of Subcommittee Meeting:

Monday, March 6, 2023 – 7:00PM

Number of Attendees:

Ten (10) Attendees:

1. Suzette Evert
2. Brittany Goode
3. Laura Robinson
4. Laura Pereira
5. Jennifer Richardson
6. Marianne Ostrander
7. Sam Hart
8. Katie Jeffries
9. Heather Moore
10. Jennifer Crowe

Number of Participants In Discussion:

Six (6) Participants

1. Suzette Evert
2. Brittany Goode
3. Laura Robinson
4. Laura Pereira
5. Jennifer Richardson
6. Heather Moore

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- Laura Robinson Call to Order a
- Laura Pereira Second

2. Overview of AARC Meeting and Initial Attendance Area Review

- A) Laura Robinson provided overview of AARC Meeting and Initial Attendance Area Overview by reviewing the PowerPoint, as provided by TVDSB
- B) Identified that there is, indeed, a need for the Attendance Area Review given the ongoing growth and development in our community, and further identified that, and notwithstanding certain concerns (as outlined in the Q&A portion below) that Elgin Court has the capacity to accommodate additional students.

3. Q&A

A) Question re Boundaries

- i. An Elgin Court subcommittee member had put a question to the board regarding the proposed boundaries and the logic re same (i.e. During the initial meeting, TVDSB advised that the next new school in St. Thomas would be in the Talbotville area, given that this is the area that is projecting the most growth. The subcommittee sought clarity on this, as there is also a significant amount of growth happening in the South-west (Southdale line between Sunset and Fairview).
- ii. TVDSB provided a response and confirmed that while significant growth is also projected for the South West, they rely on information received from the City re “approved development permits” when they make the determination for the location of the next projected school.
- iii. The subcommittee will be responding with a request for further clarity as to what will happen once the South-West development starts to receive “approved development permits”. Will another AARC be conducted at this time? If yes, has this been considered in the initial AAR? Concerns are that if this were to happen again, that certain children, depending on grade, could end up being moved twice.

B) Capacity (i.e. portables, parking, safety, access to the school property)

Access to the school grounds is an existing issue at Elgin Court, as is safety at the cross walks during drop-off and pick-up. Need to understand the board’s plans for:

- iv. **Access to the school property for pick-up/drop off.**
At present, the front of the school is incredibly congested with buses and very limited parking. Many parents park in the church parking lot directly behind the school during pick-up and drop off; however, this parking lot is already full most days during pick-up and drop off times. Existing on-site parking at school is very limited.

v. **Safety**

This ties into the access situation, as parents are already parking on the street during peak pick-up and drop-off times. The school does not have a designated crossing guard, and the streets (both in front of the school and behind the school) are high-traffic areas during pick-up and drop off times.

vi. **Portables**

What assurances, if any, can the board give us that with this AAR, that this will not result in the addition of portables on school property, thereby eliminating coveted outdoor area for recess, etc.

C) Question re implementation of proposed changes

Confirmed that changes are to come into effect as of September, 2024 (the earliest)

D) Question re pulling students from Mitchell Hepburn Area to Elgin Court

Sub-Committee to put question to the board

4. Feedback Regarding Options

- a. Discussed and agreed that all are opposed to the proposal of a future middle school option (grade 7 and 8);
- b. Discussed and agreed on proposed boundary relocation, pending responses to the questions posed above;
- c. Identified requirement for “thoughtful procedure” when onboarding new students. Have determined that we will endeavor to create a social committee within the PTA to ensure that all new students/families coming to Elgin Court experience community and inclusivity.

5. Additional Information Requirements

Awaiting response from TVDSB to following questions:

- a. Seeking clarity as to what will happen once the South-West development starts to receive “approved development permits”. Will another AARC be conducted at this time? If yes, has this been considered in the initial AAR? Concerns are that if this were to happen again, that certain children, depending on grade, could end up being moved twice.
- b. Questions re capacity (i.e. access to school property, parking, safety around school area and portables)
- c. Question re pulling students from Mitchell Hepburn

6. Need for Future School- Level Meetings

Likely not, but will confirm once we receive requested information from the board.