

Transition Committee Meeting Update
March 27, 2014.
Transition of JWG Grade 5/6 students to Doon P. S

Q/A

The Transitions Committee held its second meeting on Thursday, March 27, at J W Gerth Public School.

These questions were generated from a flyer that was distributed to staff and families prior to the first meeting. In addition, Grade 4 and 5 students were invited to pose their own questions regarding the transition to Doon Public School.

Included below are the answers to the questions that were discussed at this month's meeting.

What Child Care opportunities will be available to the families of the Grade 5/6 students going to Doon?

A survey was sent out to all Grade 3, 4 and 5 students at JWG asking about the need for a Youth Development Program to be operated by the Y next September, either at Doon or at JWG. Lianne Horne, from the Y, will look at the numbers and determine the Before and After School programming that will be available to our students for September. We will notify parents as soon as possible.

What is being done about our safety concerns with students walking to and from Doon and those in JK-4 who have to cross Apple Ridge Drive?

Ron Schirm, Transportation Services, City of Kitchener

- City has intention to build multi-use trails on:
 - The west side of Doon South Drive between Windingwood Cres & Doon Village Road – will aim to have completed for September 2014
 - Through open space connecting Doon Mills Drive to Doon South Drive (1approx. Sugarmill Crt to Windingwood Cres) – timing TBD
- Doon Village Rd traffic study 2012 yielded the following information:
 - Fewer than 1000 vehicles/day, lower than average for a “side street.”
 - Average speed is 58 km/hr
 - Visibility is excellent
 - Edge line installed specifically for Doon P.S. students
 - Bridges have segregated pedestrian & vehicle paths
- Adult Crossing Guards
 - Doon South Dr & Doon Village Rd

- City will re-evaluate need, will look specifically at school times (40 mins before morning bell time and 5 mins before afternoon bell time for another 35 mins)
- Evaluation of:
 - Gaps in traffic
 - 5 or more gaps in 5 minute segment, adult guard not warranted
 - 4 or more gaps in 5 minute segment, adult guard not warranted, student standing patrol would be recommended
 - 3 or fewer in a 5 minute segment, adult guard warranted
 - Operating speeds
 - Road widths
 - Presence of crossing assistants (e.g. pedestrian islands, traffic signals, etc.)
- Doon South Dr & Doon Mills Dr roundabout
 - City will evaluate need at beginning of school year because it is unclear at this time which segments students will cross and if a guard is warranted
- Pine Valley Dr & Apple Ridge Dr
 - Recent assessment completed - traffic in the area has not changed, there are adequate gaps – this is an area of growth, so City will continue to monitor the situation
 - Traffic is almost entirely parents driving to J.W. Gerth P.S.
 - Since the school won't have standing patrols for 2 years, would need to ask City Council to supply an Adult Guard in an unwarranted location
- Safety Day – Student Training
 - It was agreed that the City and Board will organize a safety training day for all students who are interested (invitation will be extended to Brigadoon, Pioneer Park, J.W. Gerth and Doon Public Schools)
 - Will focus on:
 - basic pedestrian safety skills (e.g. how to walk against traffic, crossing roads, crossing at roundabouts, etc.)
 - basic cycling safety rules
 - what to do in case of an emergency
 - access points to the schools
 - where bike racks are
 - To be scheduled before the end of the 2013/14 school year

Benoit Bourgault – Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region

- Doon Village Road
 - Used in distance calculation to Doon P.S. for many years –including when there were Gr. 6 students at the school.
 - Observations on March 26/14:
 - A total of 3 cars drove down Doon Village Road while students were around
 - Vehicles are slowing down when approaching students
- Bus Patrols at J.W. Gerth for 2014/15
 - Can use mature Gr. 4 students
 - May not require patrols

What celebrations will be held for the Grade 4 and 5 students who will be leaving JWG?

The staff at JWG met to discuss what to do for our Grade 4 and 5 students and determined that all of the students and teachers will go to Chicopee for a final celebration together on June 25. There will be no graduation for the Grade 4/5 students. We will maintain a graduation and camp for our Grade 6s only. School Council will be approached with the idea of parents organizing a bbq lunch for our Grade 4 and 5 students and their parents, sometime in June.

What current JWG staff will be going to Doon?

The following staff will be going to Doon in September. Their teaching assignments there will be determined by the Doon Administration through the regular staffing process. Mrs. Underwood, Mr. Daines, Mme Weltz, Mrs. Haves, and Mr. Davies.

Next Transition Committee meeting will be held April 29 at 4:00 pm at Doon P S.