

HWDSB

Ancaster High and Dundas Valley Secondary Boundary Review

Public Meeting

Thursday November 30, 2017

6:00 pm

Dundas Valley Secondary School
310 Governor's Road, Dundas, Ontario

Attendance:

HWDSB Resource Staff – Superintendent Michael Prendergast, Randy Gallant, Gail Cipriani, Cori Pillinini, Ian Hopkins

Trustees – Ward Trustees Greg Van Geffen, Alex Johnstone

Public – (7) members of the public

Recording Secretary – Michele Lambie

6:10 Start Up

Welcome everyone to the meeting:

Introductions: Superintendent Michael Prendergast, Greg Van Geffen, Alex Johnstone, Ian Hopkins, Principals and Vice Principals. Thanks to our advisory committee for their dedication and hard work.

The Purpose of Tonight's Meeting:

- The opportunity to lend your voice and collect your feedback of what is being proposed to align a clear secondary path with the already approved elementary boundaries for the 2018/2019 school year.
- School communities will benefit, as they will be able to remain together as they transition from elementary to secondary school.
- Feedback will be forwarded to the advisory committee, consisting of representation from each of the schools' parents.
- Recommendations are sent to the Finance & Facilities Committee, and then the Trustees will make further recommendations to the Board.
- The Boundary review will follow HWDSB's Boundary Review Policy and Directive.
- All information presented at this meeting will be posted on the Board website:
- <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/boundary-reviews/>
- Questions for clarification: boundaryreview@hwdsb.on.ca

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Boundary Review Timelines:

Date	Event	Location
Thursday November 9, 2017	Advisory Panel Meeting	Ancaster High
Thursday November 30, 2017	Community Consultation (Public Meeting)	Dundas Valley
Wednesday December 6, 2017	Advisory Panel Follow-Up Meeting	Ancaster High
Wednesday January 17, 2017	Submit Final Report to Finance & Facilities Committee	Ed Centre
Monday January 29, 2018	Approval Final Report to Board	Ed Centre

Boundary History and Rationale for Change:

The Ancaster Accommodation Review was completed throughout the 2016/17 school year, with the primary goal to include the new builds and to ensure that boundaries are not divided. On Monday May 29th, 2017, the Trustees approved the closure of CH Bray, Fessenden, Queen's Rangers and Rousseau pending Ministry funding for the two new schools (New CH Bray and Rousseau) and funding to convert Ancaster Senior to a K-8 school. The new Rousseau school was approved to open a French Immersion program, whereupon that boundary will be determined once funding is secured from the Ministry of Education.

The Approved Elementary Boundary:

- All students residing on Power Line Road West and north of Power Line Road West will attend the New School on the Beverly Community Centre site.
- All new students on Power Line Road East will attend the new CH Bray School.
- Students residing on Middletown Road south of Highway 5 will attend the New Greensville School.
- Students residing on Governors Road up to an including Old Highway 99 and Old Governors Road (off of Binkley Road) will attend Sir William Osler School.

Rationale for Boundary Review:

- Seeking community input on aligning the secondary boundaries between Ancaster High and Dundas Valley with the approved elementary boundaries.
- Create a clear path of associated schools for students and families as they move from elementary to secondary school.
- School communities will remain together as they transition.

Boundary Proposal:

The objective is to align the secondary boundaries between Ancaster High and Dundas Valley with the approved elementary boundaries and to provide some choices during this adjustment period while school communities transition together.

- New school on the Beverly Community Centre site will feed into Dundas Valley.
- New CH Bray School will feed into Ancaster High.

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- **Ancaster High** will consist of students from Ancaster Meadow (K-8); Ancaster Senior (K-8); Mount Hope (K-8); New CH Bray (K-8); New Rousseau (K-8); and Tiffany Hills (K-8).
- **Dundas Valley** will consist of students from Dundana (K-6)/Sir William Osler (K-8); Yorkview (K-6)/Dundas Central (K-8); New School on Beverly Community Centre Site (K-8); and the New Greensville (K-8).

Enrolment & Facility Utilization Impacts:

- As of September 2017, 42 Ancaster High students reside in the impacted area.
- The projected overall impact is approximately a 40 student increase to Dundas Valley, and a 40 student reduction at Ancaster High by 2021.
- The enrolment projection proposals will provide more space at Ancaster High to run their programs.

Implementation:

- All current secondary students residing in the impacted area will be able to remain at their current secondary school.
- There will be a transition period for existing Ancaster Senior students from the Queen's Rangers junior elementary boundary.
- The proposed secondary boundary would divide the current Ancaster Senior (Queen's Ranger junior boundary) along Power Line Road West.

Ancaster Senior Students from Queen's Rangers Boundary:

- Ancaster Senior Grade 8 graduates who are living within the boundary for the new school on the Beverly Community Centre site will have the option of attending either Ancaster High or Dundas Valley Secondary school. Students who choose Ancaster High will be granted Out-of-Catchment status.
- This option will only be available for Ancaster Senior grade 8 graduates living in the boundary for the new school on the Beverly Community Centre site who graduate in June 2018, 2019 and 2020. (Approximately 22 students over the next three years).

Transportation Impacts:

- Transportation will be available to eligible students as per HWDSB Transportation Policy.
- Current secondary students who remain at their existing secondary school will continue to receive transportation until graduation.
- Students entering secondary school *after* the boundary change (effective September 2018) will be identified as Out-of-Catchment and consequently transportation will *not* be provided. However, families will have the opportunity to apply for Courtesy Transportation at the end of September, should space be available on the buses.

Community Consultation:

There was an opportunity for the public/stake holders who attended tonight's meeting to collaborate and share their concerns and questions on the proposed boundary with a facilitator to ensure each

HWDSB

community member's voice was heard to be shared with the group. This feedback will be reviewed by the advisory panel and shared with the Trustees. There were two guiding questions to lead the conversation:

1. **What are the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed boundary change?**

Advantages:

- Students will be able to travel from elementary through to secondary with peers and classmates.
- Distance to elementary school is similar to high school.
- The group's overall feeling is that it is advantageous to the communities to align the elementary pathway with the secondary.

Disadvantages:

- Lengthy transportation rides, in terms of time spent on the bus/taxis (45-50 minutes); extra bus stops may potentially increase the time.
- Crowded bus may be even more crowded (currently 69 students of 160 on one bus).
- Rural communities typically have only 4 or 5 students living on the same street, and therefore only provided a single bus in this area, impacting upon the availability of Courtesy seats.
- Lack of bus driver continuity.
- Disruption of continuity of schools, as some families had started their child(ren) at one school and then had to change to another school, and now with the boundary change will once again have to move their child(ren) to another building.
- Students may lose their rural sense of community, as families attend the same church, shopping malls, and sporting areas. With the proposed boundaries, the older children who had historically attended Ancaster High, will now have their younger siblings go to Dundas Valley.

2. **What additional factors would you like the advisory panel to consider?**

- Can an additional bus/route be added to reduce the time spent on the bus, primarily in the Lynden area?
- Need to consider that rural streets are customarily long roads with no sidewalks without street lights, thus impacting upon student safety, as well as the road closure on Middletown Road.

Additional concerns/questions:

Q1. Why was Ancaster High and Dundas Valley's My Path, My Way information meeting held on the same night?

A.1. Superintendent Michael Prendergast will investigate and take this away for a response.

Q.2. Why are boundary decisions being made prior to the new schools being built?

A.2. In regards to boundaries, if it has been determined that there is available space, then it is necessary to initiate the transition process before the school is built, including forecasting transportation.

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Transition Committees are imperative in this process to ensure a smooth and soft landing for students as they move into their new buildings, thus providing the community with opportunities to collaborate and voice their concerns.

Q.3. Who do parents contact to resolve bussing issues?

A.3. Parents first contact is Hamilton-Wentworth Transportation Services, then the Principal, who will work through the issues with the Superintendent. Conflict resolution processes can be found on the HWDSB public website (Have a Concern-Addressing Concerns). The main objective of the Board and HWSTS is to make the most of our funding and resources to maximize student transportation, and consequently continue to investigate shared routes to see if there is the potential for better choices.

8:35 pm

Other Items:

- Both new schools (Beverly Central new school and Greensville new school) are currently waiting for approvals from the Ministry of Transportation and Environment, and once achieved, then commencement of construction is dependent upon site approvals from the City. The provincial ministry funding approvals are anticipated for spring 2018. We are currently targeting a spring construction start, dependent on regulatory approvals outside of our control.
- Proposed upcoming community meeting in February for new Beverley Central and new Greensville to provide updates and share information with our Board personnel, including invitations to the Greensville Library staff and City Councillors, however the date is dependent upon Ministry approvals.
- Prior to recommendations to Finance & Facilities submitted by the advisory committee, it will be publically posted by January 15th. This will give the community the opportunity to view the recommendations, as well as express opinions/concerns that can be brought forward to the Trustees.