

# HWDSB

## Boundary Review Public Consultation Meeting

Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

6:00 p.m.

HWDSB Education Centre

### In Attendance:

Becky Buck	Trustee Ward 8 & 15
Beth Woof	Principal – Sherwood
Bob Fex	Senior Planner – Planning & Accommodation, Rentals
Dawn Danko	Board Vice Chair & Trustee Ward 7
Donna Taylor Adams	School Council, Ridgemount
Ellen Warling	Manager – Planning & Accommodation, Rentals
Gord Carey	Principal - Ridgemount
Greg Clarke	Principal – Sir Allan MacNab Executive Assistant to Superintendent of Student Achievement
Jessica MacDonald	Achievement
Jolene Andrews & Julie Carr	School Council, GL Armstrong
Karen Koop	Principal – GL Armstrong
Kathy Archer	Trustee Ward 6
Laura O'Neil	School Council, Pauline Johnson
Laura Romano	Superintendent of Student Achievement
Paul Denomme	Superintendent of Student Achievement
Rachel Lang	School Council, Franklin Rd
Rochelle Butler	School Council, Sir Allan MacNab
Sandi Horton	School Council, Sherwood
Scott Dicker	School Council, Nora Frances Henderson
Steven Yull	Principal – Franklin Road
Terri Trimble	Principal- Pauline Johnson
Timothy Powell	Principal – Nora Frances Henderson
Becky Buck	Trustee Ward 8 & 15

### Welcome & Introductions:

Laura Romano welcomed all and introduced the interpreters for the audience to sit with if required. It is acknowledged that Chairman of the Board Todd White sends his regrets.

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The boundary review meeting is the beginning of a process for change. HWDSB is seeking feedback, concerns and suggestions from our public for the proposed boundary change. No final decisions have been made. Trustees make the final decision, therefore, this committee's goal is to gather feedback from the public and take this information to the trustees for consideration in their final decision.

Questions are invited during or after the presentation.

## Rationale – Why We Are Here:

In 2011-2012, there were system wide secondary accommodation reviews. The South Secondary Accommodation Review saw the closure of Barton and Hill Park and the current secondary boundaries.

In 2013-2014, the Central Mountain Elementary Accommodation Review concluded. Created more boundary changes due to school consolidations and closures – Cardinal Heights, Eastmount Park, Linden Park.

Boundaries remained until a better understanding of the construction completion of Nora Frances Henderson. This presented the opportunity to evaluate existing secondary boundaries.

## Boundary Review Procedure & Timelines:

At the April 15, 2019, Board meeting, Trustees approved the Accommodation Strategy Schedule. As part of the schedule, "the secondary boundary review including Nora Frances Henderson, Sherwood and Sir Allan MacNab was identified for 2019-20"

Examine the current secondary and elementary boundary alignments.

To seek input from the school communities on:

- The benefits, challenges, and considerations of realigned boundaries; and
- Planning for the public meeting.
- The mandate of the Boundary Review Advisory Panel is to advise the Superintendent of Student Achievement of possible options after reviewing the guiding principles, receiving community input and providing local expertise.

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The Boundary Review Advisory Panel may include the following members:

- Family of Schools Superintendent(s)
- Planning & Accommodation Staff
- Trustees of affected schools
- Principals of affected schools
- Up to two School Council Representatives from affected schools
- Up to two Home and School Association Representatives from affected schools

Address the short- and long-term accommodation requirements of the impacted communities in a timely manner;

Be mindful of the best and most prudent use of all resources available to HWDSB;

Adhere to the guiding principles as defined in the Long-Term Facilities Master Plan including optimal school capacity, grade organization, transportation, facility requirements, site size and the balance between French Immersion and English track students in dual track schools

Consult with the impacted school communities

Be mindful of the distance to the nearest school and the ability for students to safely travel to school

- The Superintendent of Student Achievement and Planning & Accommodation will hold a public meeting to allow the community an opportunity to provide input regarding the recommendation(s).
- The Superintendent of Student Achievement and Planning & Accommodation will review community feedback and make a final recommendation(s) at a Standing Committee or Regular Board meeting.
- The Superintendent of Student Achievement and Planning & Accommodation will present their recommendation, through the Director of Education, as well as the results of community consultation to the Board for their approval.

Current Boundaries and Enrolments:

Currently, three elementary schools do not align with secondary boundaries:

Franklin Rd  
Pauline Johnson

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## Ridgemount

GL Armstrong's boundary aligns with their secondary school, however many students have choice to attend another secondary school.

### Noteworthy Policies & Procedures:

Students residing in all urban and rural areas as defined by the City of Hamilton Official Plan will be eligible for transportation services to their in-catchment school when the walking distance exceeds the following:

Elementary School	Kindergarten	1.0km
Elementary School	1-8	1.6km
Secondary School	9-12	3.2km

The board allows for out-of-catchment requests on an annual basis. The criteria for determining schools open to out-of-catchment requests includes:

- If there is space available within a school, as determined by the Board's Planning and Accommodation Department. However, some schools may also have unique accommodation pressures.
- If the school is NOT experiencing significant new development pressures.
- If the school is NOT undergoing a boundary review in the upcoming year.
- If the school is NOT currently holding students for a new school.
- If the school does NOT offer a French Immersion program.
- If the school is NOT involved in a pupil accommodation review during the upcoming school year.

\*Acceptance as Out-of-Catchment is until graduation or the student withdraws from the school.

### Exercise – Examining Elementary and Secondary Boundary Alignments:

#### Questions & Comments:

#### Next Steps - Community Consultation:

#### Noted:

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On June 6, 2016, Trustees approved the following for Lower Stoney Creek:

- Collegiate Avenue, Eastdale, Green Acres, Memorial SC, Mountain View and R. L. Hyslop will be closed.
- Pending funding from the Ministry, three new JK-8 elementary schools would be built on the sites of Collegiate, Eastdale and Memorial SC

On June 6, 2016, Trustees approved the following with respect to Lower Stoney Creek and East Hamilton:

- A boundary review be undertaken between Lake Avenue and Green Acres upon Ministry of Education approval of the accommodation review areas of East Hamilton and Lower Stoney Creek.

Ministry Funding was approved on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for the following:

- The building of a new JK-8 elementary school for 564 students on the existing Eastdale site.
- The building of a new JK-8 elementary school for 495 students on the existing Memorial SC site.
- The funding for an addition to Collegiate Elementary School to accommodate 213 students.

## **Boundaries**

- Lake Avenue and Green Acres school boundaries are affected by the change
  - Currently the enrolment at Lake Avenue is 482 but has a capacity of 516
  - This allows for the opportunity to have Green Acre students living in the area (identified by the surrounding streets of Queenston Road, Delawana Avenue and Highway 20) move to Lake Avenue School
  - Both schools affected by the accommodation and review are closed to Out of Catchment as this process is going forward
- The Riverside West area needs to be looked at for the boundary review
  - Families living close to Lake Avenue are attending Green Acres School and we are looking at the opportunity to address this as best we can
  - The area is identified by the surrounding streets of Queenston Road, Delawana Avenue and Highway 20
  - Would be effective this coming September 2018
- When the new addition at Collegiate Avenue School is completed then Green Acres and R. L. Hyslop students will be in this catchment area

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## Questions and Comments

- With an on-going problem with school busing, how will this be solved by putting three schools together?
  - Bus runs will be reduced
- Strong public reaction that the condition of our schools affect the education of our students, therefore, new buildings or upgrades are needed and wanted
- Grade 7 students have built relationships since JK. Are they required to transfer if only one more year until graduation?
  - Requests to stay will be looked at by the Superintendent on a case-to-case basis
  - No guarantee but we recognize the important of peer relationships and wanting to graduate with their friends
- Will this boundary review make Out of Catchment requests easier?
  - Currently all schools in lower Stoney Creek are closed to OC request, however, with a boundary review, there is a chance to look at each case individually
- Will Green Acres School be the holding school for some French Immersion students at Glen Brae?
  - This review is separate from the French Immersion Boundary review
- When a school closes and new one opens is there a process for the teachers to get new positions?
  - Teachers have access to positions in an equitable way that has been established with their unions.
- Older daughter is attending Orchard Park but now with the boundary changes, my younger daughter will need to attend Glendale. I want my children to attend the same secondary school. Is this a possibility?
  - A boundary review may take place for secondary but until this happens Green Acres will go to Orchard Park
- When does Green Acres close?
  - Currently it will be in a couple of years, however, the boundary change will take place this coming September 2018
- Can middle school students choose to stay at Green Acres instead of moving to Lake Avenue so they complete school as well as graduate with their peers?
  - Can be looked at on a case-to-case basis
  - Need to take into consideration that bus service will not be available to these students

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## Next Steps

- Advisory Panel to meet following public meeting
- If you have any questions please connect with principal who will in turn connect with either Jeff Gillies, Bob Fex or Tanya Shaver
- When the final decision is made by the board it will be communicated to both Lake Avenue and Green Acres Communities

## Noted

- 58 Riverdale shows as Green Acres boundary but actually is a Lake Avenue boundary
  - Bob Fex to investigate and connect with families affected