

HWDSB

Boundary Review Public Consultation Meeting

Thursday January 9th, 2020

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
Gord Carey	Principal - Ridgemount
Ellen Warling	Manager – Planning & Accommodation, Rentals
Greg Clarke	Principal – Sir Allan MacNab
Jessica MacDonald	Executive Assistant to Superintendent of Student 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

Paul Denomme welcomed all, introduced the Trustees, board members and advisory panel members. Paul Denomme reviewed the agenda.

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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.

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.

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.

1. Mandate:

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.

(Boundary Review Policy 2.1)

2. Guiding Principles:

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- 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

Boundary Review Procedure

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.

Timelines

Board of Trustee Approval	April 15 th , 2019
Advisory Meeting Panel	December 17 th , 2019 & January 9 th , 2020
Public Consultation	January 9 th , 2020
Report to Board of Trustees for Final Decision	January 20 th , 2020
Implementation	September 2020

Current Boundaries and Enrolments

1. Boundaries:

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

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- Franklin Rd
- Pauline Johnson
- Ridgemount

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

2. Enrolment:

	Current OTG	New OTG		Oct 2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Nora Frances Henderson	1092	1250	Enrolment	890	911	998	1026	1039	1039	1014	1037
			Utilization	82%	73%	80%	82%	83%	83%	81%	83%
Sherwood (includes FI)	1374		Enrolment	1166	1227	1283	1279	1344	1307	1253	1268
			Utilization	85%	89%	93%	93%	98%	95%	91%	92%
Sir Allan MacNab	1350		Enrolment	946	1001	1021	956	970	960	963	983
			Utilization	70%	74%	76%	71%	72%	71%	71%	73%

Exercise – Examining Elementary and Secondary Boundary Alignments & Options

Franklin Road	
Option A	Existing Boundary – students attend either Sherwood or Sir Allan MacNab (As per current boundary) Transportation – provided to in catchment students (HSR passes for distances greater than 3.2 KM)

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Option B	<p>Sherwood's Boundary – All students attend Sherwood</p> <p>Transportation - provided to in catchment students (HSR passes for distances greater than 3.2 KM)</p>
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GL Armstrong	
Option A	<p>Existing Boundary – students attend Sir Allan MacNab</p> <p>Transportation – provided to in catchment students (HSR passes for distances greater than 3.2 KM)</p>
Option B	<p>Sherwood's Boundary – All students attend Sherwood</p> <p>Transportation - provided to in catchment students (HSR passes for distances greater than 3.2 KM)</p>
Option C	<p>Sir Allan MacNab & Sherwood's Boundary – GLA's Boundary is divided to attend either Sir Allan MacNab or Sherwood School</p> <p>Transportation - provided to in catchment students (HSR passes for distances greater than 3.2 KM)</p>

Pauline Johnson	
Option A	<p>Existing Boundary – students attend either Nora Frances Henderson or Sir Allan MacNab (divided by the LINC)</p> <p>Transportation – provided to in catchment students (HSR passes for distances greater than 3.2 KM)</p>
Option B	<p>Nora Frances Henderson – All students attend Nora Frances Henderson</p> <p>Transportation - provided to in catchment students (HSR passes for distances greater than 3.2 KM)</p>

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Ridgemount	
Option A	Existing Boundary – students attend either Nora Frances Henderson or Sir Allan MacNab (divided by the LINC) Transportation – provided to in catchment students (HSR passes for distances greater than 3.2 KM)
Option B	Sir Allan MacNab – All students attend Sir Allan MacNab Transportation - provided to in catchment students (HSR passes for distances greater than 3.2 KM)

Policies and Procedures

1. Transportation

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

(Policy No. 3.10)

2. Out of Catchment

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. (Policy No. 6.10)

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Acceptance as Out-of-Catchment is until graduation or the student withdraws from the school.
(Policy No. 2.13)

Questions and Answers

Q: *Two groups were interested in option to attend different schools. Is it possible to pilot boundaries set so that two schools are options for elementary schools?*

A: The board would need to run data to see what implications would be for this scenario. This will be taken forward to the Associate Director and Planning and Accommodation to consider options.

Q: *Advisory Panel member seeking clarification on the GL Armstrong option proposal.*

A: The first choice option is based on location of the Lincoln Alexander Parkway and not knowing which option families in the south end of the catchment prefer.

Comments and Concerns

Comment: Secondary Principal wanted the panel to know they are interested in the projected enrollments for the different scenarios; their goal is to have secondary populations that are equal and healthy and that would allow for equitable programming.

Comment: The GL Armstrong School Council chair; wanted to make it clear to the panel that no one from GL Armstrong is happy that their pathway is to SAM, it means a lot to the families that this opinion is heard and considered.

Advisory Panel Evaluation of Feedback from Public Meeting

Franklin Road
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendation was Option B where all Franklin Road students would go to Sherwood. The rationale was this would lead to a streamlined secondary transition process; one set of information would go to families for one secondary school.• They felt the challenge of this option could be long-term capacity for Sherwood.

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- Comments for Option A were that the only benefit was that it would be status quo. The challenges of Option A would be the distance to SAM for students and that peer groups are being divided.

GL Armstrong

- The public offered a fourth option in which students from GL Armstrong would be given a choice to attend either NFH or Sherwood. Their second choice would be all students going to Sherwood.
- If the fourth option could not be considered they would choose Option B, this option being more economical, transportation would be easier and students could walk.
- They felt there were challenges to the SAM options, it is too far for students, they would need two busses and the busses would be full leading students to get to class late.
- Like idea of all students and siblings attending one school.

Pauline Johnson

- All Students attending Nora Frances Henderson, option B was the preferred option for the Pauline Johnson representatives. The bus and walking routes are good, families will stay together, and they feel it would ensure equity in programming.
- They would like consideration be given to grandfathering siblings. Expressed concern with bell times, wondering if they could they be aligned with HSR routes so that bus stop waits are not extensive.

Ridgemount

- Ridgemount's first choice was option A where students would be given the option to attend NFH or SAM, but they want option of attending NFH for all students in the Ridgemount area.
- They expressed concern over the potential overcrowding of the new school.

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- They saw challenges with option B as a large portion of students who would have to walk to school.
- Ridgemount historically goes to SAM so transition planning is in place; they felt there might be pressure to continue to attend SAM. Students may choose SAM because of having no exposure or knowledge of NFH being an option.

Next Steps

Date	Event	Location
Thursday January 9 th , 2020	Advisory Panel Follow Up Meeting	Board Office @ 7:15pm
Monday January 20 th , 2020	Report to Board	Board Office @ 6:00pm