

**Notes for Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Boundary Review
Public Meeting
December 5, 2023
Gatestone Elementary School**

Attendance

Present

Chair: Gerry Smith, Superintendent of Student Achievement, FOS 1
Gatestone Principal: Dianne Barlow
Gatestone VP: Kristy Lucker
Trustee: Kathy Archer
Two representatives from Gatestone School Council (Paul Uzarowski and Jennifer Sarkis)
Shannen Koostachin Principal: Tricia Nelson
Shannen Koostachin VP: Louise Van Der Put
Trustee: Amanda Fehrman
Two representatives from Shannen Koostachin School Council (Kylie Gallagher and Saima Mirza)
Ellen Warling- Manager Accommodation and Planning, HWDSB
Ian Hopkins- Senior Planner, Accommodation and Planning, HWDSB
Lorraine Valmadrid, Research Officer, HWDSB
Karolina Grochowska- Executive Assistant to Superintendent Smith, HWDSB

Regrets

Matthew Gerard- Associate Director, HWDSB
David Anderson- Senior Facilities Manager, HWDSB

Meeting Start Time: 6:08 PM

Land Acknowledgement- Superintendent Gerry Smith

Superintendent Smith welcomed trustees, principals and vice-principals from both schools, resource staff, interpreters, and the public.

Superintendent Smith began the presentation by going over the agenda and talked about the meeting format and the importance of receiving public feedback that can be collected in many ways:

- Round table discussion.
- Ask resource staff.
- Feedback wall.
- By email at planning@hwdsb.on.ca or visiting <http://www.engagehwdsb.ca/>.

Superintendent then discussed what a boundary review is and the reason behind it. Further, he talked about who is included in the membership under both Advisory Panel and Resource Staff.

In addition, Superintendent Smith spoke about the advisory panel mandate, boundary review timelines, and the short- and long-term goals.

Ian Hopkins, HWDSB Senior Planner, walked us through the area's history, the enrolment growth due to residential development, the historic and current projected enrolment.

In addition, Ian discussed the proposed boundary change reflected on the provided map, the boundary changes projected enrolment, the boundary implementation, and finally the transportation impacts.

Superintendent Smith acknowledged the feedback from the community:

- Traffic congestion.
- Additional portables.
- Out of catchment students.
- Transportation service.
- Impacts on siblings of Gr. 7 students.

After the presentation participants were invited to the round table discussion and provide feedback. Each group discussed 2 questions. Feedback was gathered by facilitators.

Q&A

After the small group discussions feedback was shared to all and then a small question and answer session took place. Questions included:

- *Do parents know that the boundary review is happening?*
 - Superintendent Smith- We have communicated about this with parents by sending a letter, via SchoolMessenger and all the information is posted on our website.
 - Superintendent Smith- All the information can be found on our website. However, if we can identify families' needs/language barriers we can set up a thirty-minute meeting with them.
- *What would the transition for students starting in September 2024 look like?*
 - Superintendent Smith- We will make sure that our administrative staff work on that, and we are prepared for it.
- *How about special needs students? It is a significant change for students.*
 - Superintendent Smith- There are many programs available within our Board, we can include Specialized Services to help with the transition.
- *Will the Educational Assistants go with the students?*
 - Superintendent Smith- Education Assistant are assigned to schools not students.
- *Will Shannen Koostachin face a boundary review in the future?*
 - Ellen Warling, Manager Planning and Accommodation – We don't have a boundary for the second school in Binbrook. We are projecting that the new school will be built in 2028.

Dates:

Advisory Panel Meeting scheduled for **December 12, 2023, at 6 pm** at Gatestone school – learning commons.

Online Feedback: <https://www.engagehwdsb.ca/gatestone-and-shannon-koostachin-boundary-review>

Meeting End Time: around 7:26 pm. Participants were thanked for attending.