

AGENDA: 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. HWDSB Land Acknowledgement
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Boundary Review – Final Report
5. Waterdown Short-Term Accommodation Strategy – Final Report
6. Eastdale Elementary School Accommodation
7. Resolution into Private Session as per the Education Act, Section 207(2)
A meeting of a committee of a board, including committee of the whole board, may be closed to the public when the subject/matter under consideration involves,
 - a) the security of the property of the board;
 - b) the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
 - c) the acquisition or disposal of a school site;
 - d) decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; or
 - e) litigation affecting the board. R.S.O. 1990, c.E.2,s.207 (2);2021, c. 4, Sched.11, s. 7 (1)

Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Boundary Review – Final Report

Submitted By: Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of Education

Prepared By: Matthew Gerard - Associate Director of Business Services and Board Treasurer
Gerry Smith - Superintendent of Student Achievement
David Anderson - Senior Manager, Facility Services
Ellen Warling - Manager of Planning, Accommodation and Rentals
Ian Hopkins – Senior Planner, Planning, Accommodation and Rentals

Recommendation:

That the following recommendations for the Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Boundary Review be approved:

- A. That the geographic area described below is moved from Shannen Koostachin's boundary to Gatestone's boundary:

Commencing at the corner of Rymal Road East and Regional Road 56, moving south along the centre of Regional Road 56 until Dalglish Trail. The boundary continues west along the back property lines of the homes on Dalglish Trail and continues west along the back property lines of the homes on Dolomiti Court. The boundary then moves north along the back property lines of the homes on Dolomiti Court until Cittadella Boulevard. The boundary then moves west along the centre of Cittadella Boulevard until moving north along the back property lines of the homes on Rockledge Drive until Dalglish Trail. The boundary then moves east along the centre of Dalglish Trail until Terryberry Road where it moves north along the back of the Terryberry Road property lines until Rymal Road East. At Rymal Road East the boundary moves east, returning the corner of Rymal Road East and Regional Road 56. Maps available in [Appendix A](#).

- B. That existing grade JK to 5 students in the identified boundary change area move from Shannen Koostachin to Gatestone.
- C. That current grade 6 and 7 students attending Shannen Koostachin and residing in the identified boundary change area may remain at Shannen Koostachin for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years. All siblings of current grade 6 and 7 students residing in identified boundary change area to attend Gatestone.
- D. That all existing out of catchment students attending Gatestone may continue to attend Gatestone under the out of catchment practice. All siblings of current out of catchment students may attend Gatestone in accordance with HWDSB's [Out-of-Catchment Process](#).

- E. That a Transition Committee is struck upon approval of a boundary change by the Superintendent of Student Achievement.
- F. That the boundary change is effective September 2024.

Background:

At the April 13, 2023, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting, Trustees approved a boundary review for Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Elementary Schools to commence in October 2023 and be completed by February 2024.

At the May 8, 2023 Board Meeting, Trustees approved the 2023-24 Accommodation Strategy Schedule ([Resolution #23-63](#)). The boundary review process commenced in October 2023.

This boundary review was undertaken to establish a new boundary between the two schools to better balance enrolments and reduce reliance on portables at Shannen Koostachin. The short-term goal of the review was to alleviate increasing accommodation pressure at Shannen Koostachin and utilize existing space at Gatestone. The long-term goal was to ensure the schools are operating within the Long-Term Facilities Master Plan Guiding Principles of an optimal utilization range of 90%-110% to ensure equitable access to school facilities and programming.

Status:

The Advisory Panel and public consultation portions of the Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Boundary Review have been conducted as per the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Boundary Review [Policy](#) and [Procedure](#). Commencing in October 2023, the boundary review process included two advisory panel meetings, one public meeting and two additional Shannen Koostachin family information sessions. Community members were able to provide feedback at the public and families meetings, online via [EngageHWDSB](#), through their schools and through email.

This report contained in [Appendix A](#) serves as the Final Report to Board of Trustees as per the Boundary Review Procedure.

Financial Implications:

All associated costs are contained within existing budgets.

Strategic Direction:

Building a Sustainable Education System – We will adapt to a rapidly changing world through responsible fiscal management, investing equitably in accessible and sustainable facilities, and supporting a robust workforce.

Appendix A – Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Boundary Review Report

Executive Summary

Due to accommodation pressure at Shannen Koostachin, continued residential development south of Rymal Road and Gatestone's current enrolment; staff recommended a boundary review to better balance the enrolments between the two schools and reduce reliance on portables at Shannen Koostachin. The short-term goal of the review was to alleviate increasing accommodation pressure at Shannen Koostachin and utilize existing space at Gatestone. The long-term goal was to ensure the schools are operating within the Long-Term Facilities Master Plan Guiding Principles of an optimal utilization range of 90%-110% to ensure equitable access to school facilities and programming.

During the boundary review process, including two advisory panel meetings, one public meeting and two additional Shannen Koostachin family information sessions, community members provided feedback on the proposed boundary change. The following report outlines the work completed during the Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin boundary review process.

Area History

The Upper Soney Creek and Binbrook communities are areas of significant ongoing and future residential development which have impacted enrolment in the area schools. In response to the development, HWDSB has implemented a series of accommodation changes to better balance enrolment and improve student accommodation. The accommodation changes in this area include:

Gatestone and Mount Albion Boundary Review 2012-2013: Allocated a portion of Gatestone's boundary to Mount Albion to better balance enrolment and reduce reliance on temporary accommodation.

Shannen Koostachin Construction and Boundary Creation: In November 2016, the Ministry of Education awarded HWDSB funds to construct a new elementary school in the Summit Park neighbourhood. The purpose of the construction was to alleviate ongoing enrolment pressure at surrounding schools. In response to new school funding, HWDSB planning staff conducted a boundary review during the 2017-2018 school year with the purpose for forming a boundary for the newly funded school. The boundary review included Billy Green, Janet Lee and Tapleytown schools. Through community consultation the boundary was established for the new school and was implemented upon completion of Shannen Koostachin in 2019.

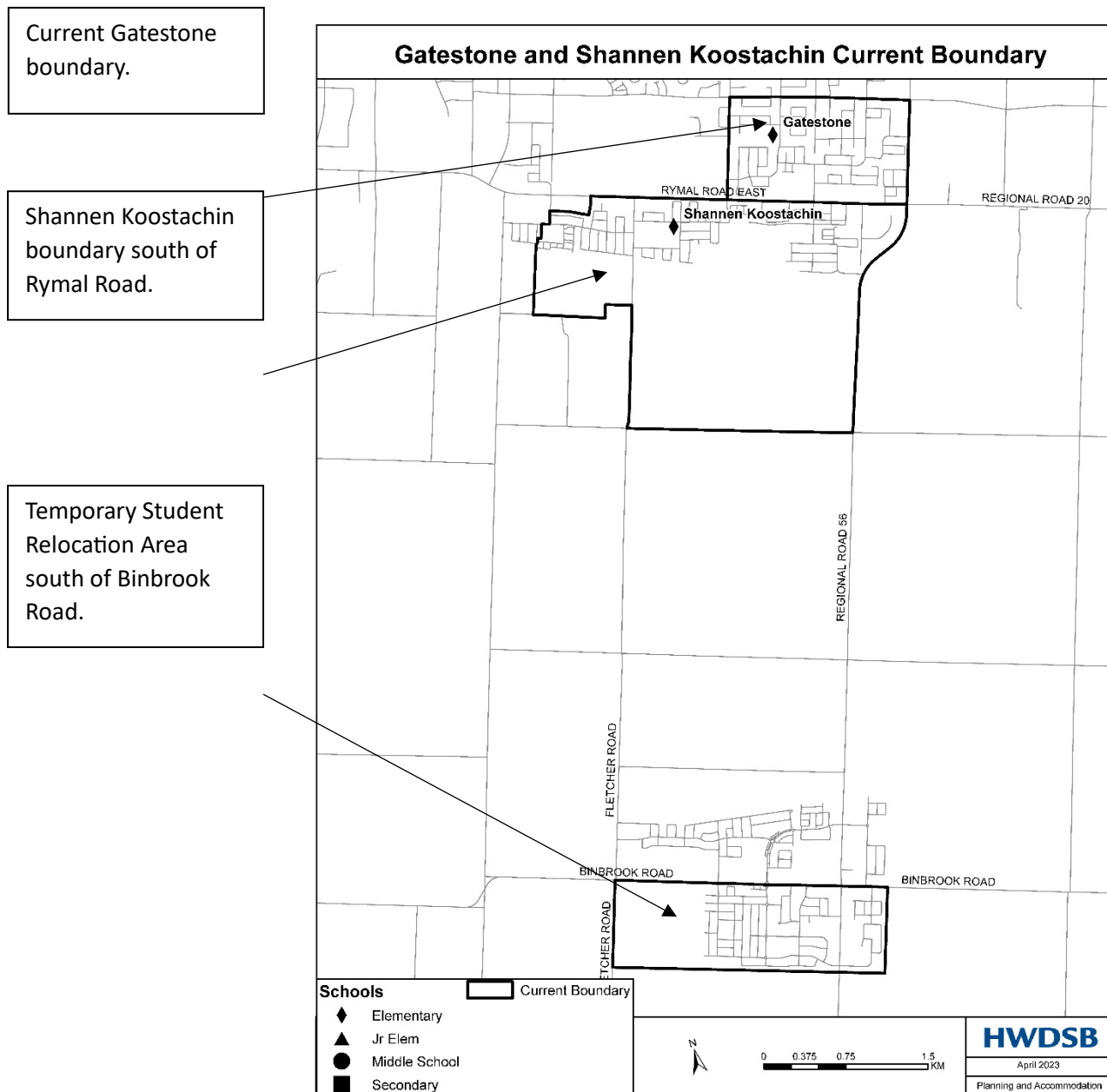
Shannen Koostachin and Bellmoore Temporary Student Redirection: In response to the accommodation pressure at Bellmoore School located in Binbrook, Trustees approved a temporary community redirection of new Bellmoore students residing south of Binbrook Road to Shannen Koostachin until a second K-8 school could be constructed in Binbrook. This has resulted in the accelerated enrolment growth at Shannen Koostachin.

Construction of a 10-room addition at Mount Albion in 2021: In response to the projected growth at Mount Albion due to residential development, HWDSB received funding for a 10-classroom addition, that was completed 2021.

Current Status

The study area of this boundary review included Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin schools. The current boundaries are depicted below in [Map 1](#). Shannen Koostachin’s boundary has two geographic areas, one directly south of Rymal Road which was the original approved boundary and a second boundary located in Binbrook, approved via the temporary student redirection.

Map 1 – Current Boundaries



Current Enrolment Projections

As of October 31, 2023, the projected enrolment at Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin with no boundary change are outlined in the table below. Gatestone's enrolment has declined over the past 5 years and is expected to continue to decline. The slow decline in enrolment is due to the age of homes within Gatestone's current boundary. The neighbourhood has become more mature in recent years and yields less students than newer homes.

Shannen Koostachin's enrolment is projected to increase due to residential development in both Upper Stoney Creek and Binbrook as depicted in the table below. Shannen Koostachin's enrolment projections are broken down into two groups of students. The students residing in the original Shannen Koostachin boundary in Upper Stoney Creek are identified under the 'enrolment' heading while the students temporarily attending Shannen Koostachin from Binbrook are identified as 'Holding Students'. Shannen Koostachin currently has 9 portables on site to accommodate students.

Table 1: Current Enrolment Projections

School	OTG		Current Enrolment	Projected Enrolment				
			2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Gatestone	582	Enrolment	521	508	495	478	476	478
		Utilization	90%	87%	85%	82%	82%	82%
School	OTG		Current Enrolment	Projected Enrolment				
			2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Shannen Koostachin	599	Enrolment	641	649	658	670	689	700
		Holding Students	194	207	215	262	303	345
		Total Enrolment	835	856	873	932	992	1045
		Utilization	139%	143%	146%	156%	166%	174%

With no boundary change, Shannen Koostachin's enrolment will continue to grow beyond 900 students within 3 years.

It is anticipated that a second school in Binbrook will be constructed by the 2027-28 or 2028-29 school year. HWDSB is currently awaiting the registration of a designated school site for purchase in Binbrook. The Ministry of Education has already awarded HWDSB funding to construct the school.

Projected enrolment in the area south of Rymal Road is also expected to increase as new development advances. Currently, there are four development applications in the Summit Park neighbourhood that propose to build approximately 350 single family homes, 390 townhomes and 227 apartment units. The timing of this development is dependent on City of Hamilton development application approvals, servicing, and construction.

Community Consultation

Community consultation is an important component of a boundary review. There were three channels of consultation available for the Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Boundary Review. They included advisory meetings, public meetings, and online consultation via [EngageHWDSB](#).

Following the initiation of the boundary review, an Advisory Panel was formed in October 2023 to act as a conduit for information between the community and school board. The Advisory Panel, over two meetings, was tasked with discussing, analyzing, and commenting on the initial boundary change recommendation. Throughout the advisory panel meetings, the Advisory Panel members expressed several ideas and concerns for Trustee consideration when finalizing the boundary.

A public meeting provided an opportunity for families, staff, and other community members to acquire more information regarding the boundary review, ask questions and express their ideas and concerns. The public meeting was advertised on the Board website, through automated phone calls and electronic letters home.

In addition to the public meeting, HWDSB hosted two meetings for the Shannen Koostachin community directly impacted by the proposed boundary change. These meetings provided translation services and another avenue for potentially impacted families to comment on the process and proposed boundary change. These additional family meetings were held as a result of concern from the Advisory Panel wanting to ensure that affected families were aware of the boundary review process and its impacts.

[Table 2](#) below outlines the Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Boundary Review community consultation timelines.

Table 2: Community Consultation Outline

Meeting	Date	Summary	Documents
Advisory Panel #1	November 14, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review boundary review process, timelines, roles/responsibilities, area history, current enrolment and accommodation, projected enrolment and proposed boundary. Question and answer period with advisory panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Minutes
Public Meeting	December 5, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review boundary review process, timelines, roles/responsibilities, area history, current enrolment and accommodation, projected enrolment and proposed boundary. Feedback from Advisory Panel was shared with the community. Received facilitated feedback from the community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Minutes Key themes from community feedback
Advisory Panel #2	December 12, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed key themes from public meeting #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Minutes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question and answer period with advisory panel 	
Family Meeting #1	January 18, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review boundary review process, timelines, roles/responsibilities, area history, current enrolment and accommodation, projected enrolment and proposed boundary. • Feedback from Advisory Panel was shared with the community. • Question and answer period with community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation • Minutes
Family Meeting #2	January 23 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review boundary review process, timelines, roles/responsibilities, area history, current enrolment and accommodation, projected enrolment and proposed boundary. • Question and answer period with community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation • Minutes

Advisory Panel Membership and Feedback

The Advisory Panel's mandate was to provide feedback and advice through discussions and inquiries about staff recommendations, scenarios, and information. Throughout the boundary review process Advisory Panel members were asked to comment and provide input on the proposed boundary change to ensure Trustees receive meaningful feedback. The Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Boundary Review Advisory Panel consisted of the following school council representatives and resource staff:

Table 3: Advisory Panel Membership

Name	Role
Jennifer Sarkis	Gatestone School Council Representative
Paul Uzarowski	Gatestone School Council Representative
Kylie Gallagher	Shannen Koostachin School Council Representative
Saima Mirza	Shannen Koostachin School Council Representative

Table 4: Resource Staff Available

Name	Role
Kathy Archer	Trustee – Wards 6 & 9
Amanda Fehrman	Trustee – Wards 11 & 12
Gerry Smith	Superintendent of Student Achievement
Ellen Warling	Manager - Planning, Accommodation and Rentals
Ian Hopkins	Senior Planner – Planning, Accommodation and Rentals
Lorraine Valmadrid	Research Officer - Research and Analytics
Dianne Barlow	Principal – Gatestone
Kristy Luker	Vice Principal – Gatestone
Tricia Nelson	Principal – Shannen Koostachin
Louise vander Put	Vice Principal – Shannen Koostachin

Anna Ricci	Vice Principal – Shannen Koostachin
Sherry Roswell	General Manager - Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services
David Anderson	Senior Manager – Facility Services

The following items were concerns brought forward by the advisory the Advisory Panel:

- Traffic, congestion, and student safety during drop off and pick up times.
- Additional portables on site and loss of green space.
- Impacts on out of catchment students.
- Impacts on transportation.
- Impacts on students enrolled in before and after care being potentially moved to Gatestone.
- Impacts on siblings of grade 7 students remaining at Shannen Koostachin.

Presentation and meeting minutes link can be found in [Table 2](#) and [URL list](#) at end of report.

Public Meeting Feedback

As per HWDSB's Boundary Review Policy, one public meeting was held on December 5, 2023, at Gatestone Elementary School and had 22 public attendees. The meeting began with a staff presentation. After the presentation, attendees broke into groups to examine the recommended option led by facilitators. Facilitators wrote any questions, concerns, and feedback from the attendees. Resource staff were also available to answer any questions. Poster sized descriptions and details of the proposed boundary change were posted throughout the gym, attendees were asked to write any questions, concerns, or comments on the posters. There was then a short question and answer period prior to the meeting concluding. Presentation and meeting minutes link can be found in [Table 2](#) and [URL list](#) at end of report.

Feedback Themes

Below is a list of themes that emerged from the public meeting.

- Transportation
- Communication gaps
- Students with special needs
- Siblings of grade 7s
- Before and after care
- Portables
- Boundary lines
- Voluntary enrolment
- More transition time
- Impact on Binbrook students
- Traffic safety
- Out of catchment students
- Resources to support students
- Timelines for new Binbrook school
- Impact on secondary school
- Bell times
- Proactive vs reactive
- Think outside the box
- Opportunity to vote

The complete [Key themes from community feedback](#) document can be viewed online, link to document available in [Table 7](#). The key themes document is an overview of the public meeting feedback, email feedback and comments received on EngageHWDSB. The comments were analyzed and themed by the Board Research and Analytics Department.

Accommodation Suggestions from Community Feedback

Below is a list of suggestions proposed by community members through either the advisory panel meeting, public meeting or online (Engage HWSDDB or email).

- 1) *Move the Binbrook holding students from Shannen Koostachin to Gatestone until new school is constructed in Binbrook.*

The recommended boundary change is intended to reduce multiple transitions for any portion of the school community. The recommended boundary change limits the number of transitions for Shannen Koostachin students residing in the proposed boundary change area and the Shannen Koostachin students residing in Binbrook. If the Binbrook holding students were to be moved next year, it is likely that a boundary review will still be required for Shannen Koostachin and Gatestone due to the volume of homes being constructed in the Rymal Road area.

- 2) *Allow all students residing in the proposed boundary change area to remain at Shannen Koostachin and send only new registrations to Gatestone.*

The short-term goal of the review was to alleviate increasing accommodation pressure at Shannen Koostachin due to residential development and utilize existing space at Gatestone. By immediately reducing the need for temporary accommodation at Shannen Koostachin it allows better access to shared educational spaces such as the gym, learning commons, science room, art room and music room.

Accommodating only new registrations from the proposed boundary change area would create logistical issues for transportation and create two separate communities within one geographic area for the next 10+ years. The proposed boundary and its implementation are consistent with HWDSB boundary changes in the past. Moving the existing and new K-5 students ensures that neighbourhood students are kept together, no new families to the area are excluded and there is a well-defined and clear boundary for future families.

- 3) *Modify the boundary to move only vacant residential lands to Gatestone.*

Moving future residential development would not meet the short-term goal of the boundary review. The majority of proposed new development south of Rymal Road is within the 1.6 km walking distance of Shannen Koostachin. The recommended boundary is intended to maximize the walkability of Shannen Koostachin's boundary.

Rationale for Decision

The initial boundary change will shift approximately 150 students from Shannen Koostachin to Gatestone in September 2024. The projected enrolment assumes that all current grade 6s and 7s will remain at Shannen Koostachin. The original recommendation included only current grade 7s remaining at Shannen Koostachin but based on public feedback there were concerns regarding students transitioning to a new elementary school and spending only one or two years at Gatestone prior to transitioning to secondary school. Moving the current K-5 students ensures that the current grade 5s will have three years at Gatestone prior to transitioning to secondary school.

The proposed initial shift in students provides the immediate accommodation pressure relief to Shannen Koostachin as their enrolment will decrease by approximately 115 students and their utilization will decrease from 139% to 120%. Shannen Koostachin is estimated to require 4 portables in 2024 but use of additional portables will continue as enrolment is expected to increase. By moving the current JK-5s residing in the boundary change area to Gatestone the school's enrolment will increase to approximately 643 students and the utilization will be 111%. The enrolment at Gatestone is projected to remain steady for the next five years. The mix of newly constructed neighbourhoods and maturing neighborhoods should produce a stable enrolment at Gatestone. Gatestone is estimated to require 2-3 portables depending on the number of students who choose to remain at Shannen Koostachin for grades 7 and 8. Enrolment projections are depicted in [Table 5](#) on the following page.

Within 5 years, Gatestone is projected to remain near 110% utilization while Shannen Koostachin is expected to continue to grow due to new housing. A second school in Binbrook is anticipated to be constructed by the 2027-28 or 2028-29 school year. HWDSB is currently awaiting the registration of a designated school site for purchase in Binbrook. The Ministry of Education has already awarded HWDSB with funding to construct the school. Once the new school in Binbrook is complete, students identified in enrolment [Table 5](#) as holding students will be accommodated at the new school leaving Shannen Koostachin slightly underutilized. Shannen Koostachin will then have space to accommodate new students from the future residential development in the Rymal Road area.

Recommended Boundary Change Implementation

That the following recommendations for the Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin Boundary Review be approved:

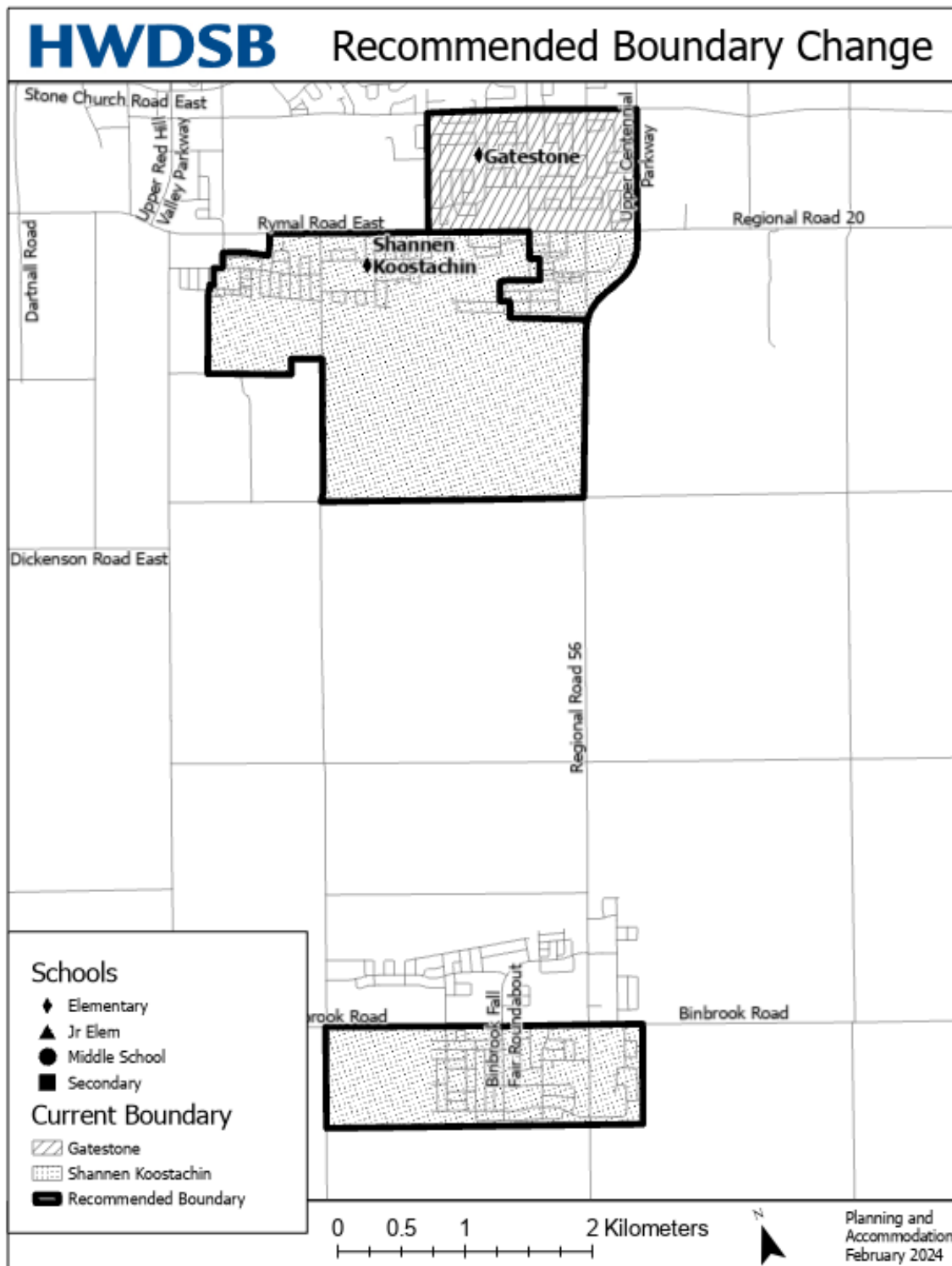
- A. That the geographic area described below is moved from Shannen Koostachin's attendance boundary to Gatestone's attendance boundary:

Commencing at the corner of Rymal Road East and Regional Road 56, moving south along the centre of Regional Road 56 until Dalglish Trail. The boundary continues west along the back property lines of the homes on Dalglish Trail and continues west along the back property lines of the homes on Dolomiti Court. The boundary then moves north along the back property lines of the homes on Dolomiti Court until Cittadella Boulevard. The boundary then moves west along the centre of Cittadella Boulevard until moving north along the back property lines of the homes on Rockledge Drive until Dalglish Trail. The boundary then moves east along the centre of Dalglish Trail until Terryberry Road where it moves north along the

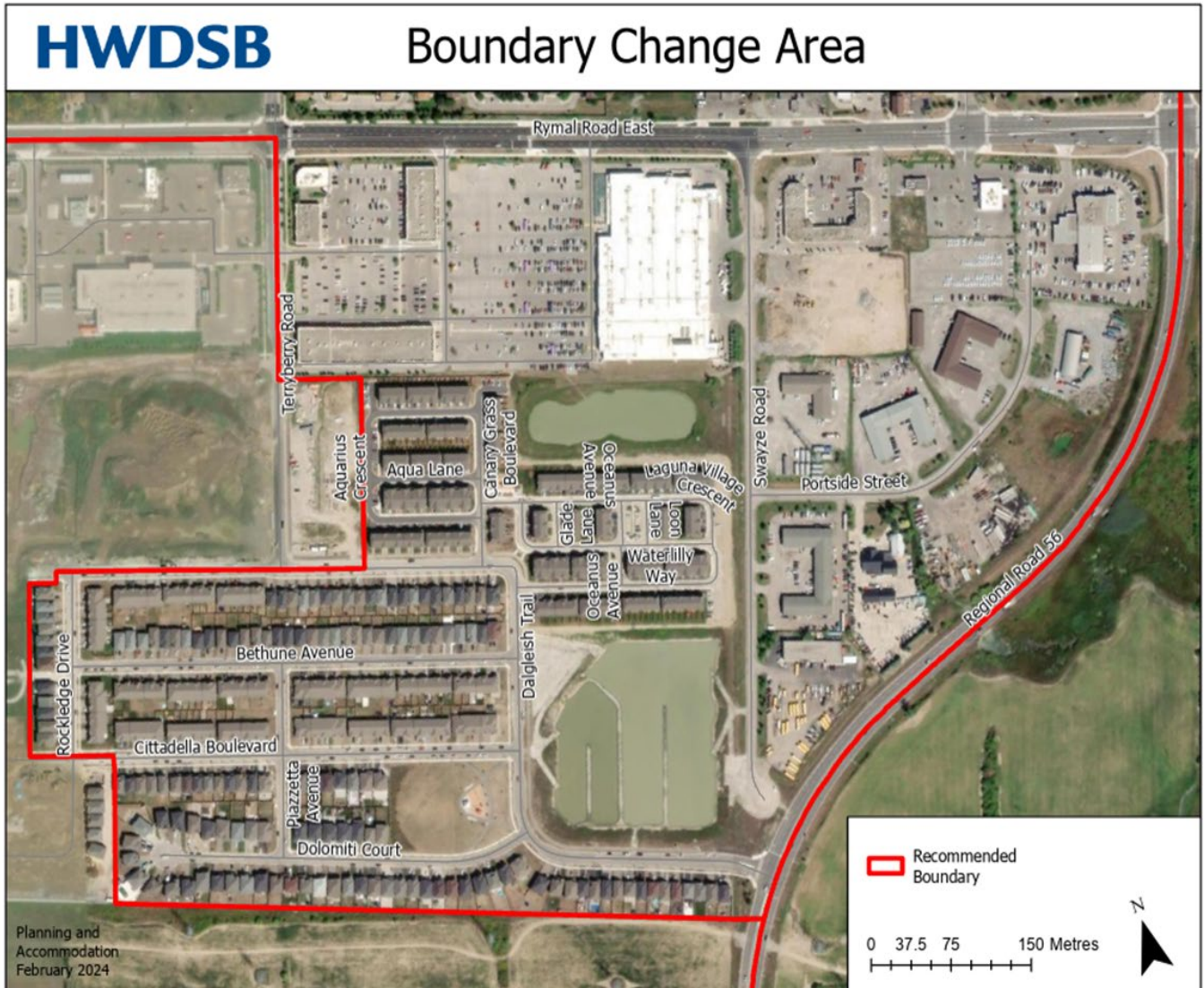
back of the Terryberry Road property lines until Rymal Road East. At Rymal Road East the boundary moves east, returning the corner of Rymal Road East and Regional Road 56. See [Map 2](#) and [Map 3](#).

- B. That existing grade JK to 5 students in the identified boundary change area move to from Shannen Koostachin to Gatestone.
- C. That current grade 6 and 7 students attending Shannen Koostachin and residing in the identified boundary change area may remain at Shannen Koostachin for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years. All siblings of current grade 6 and 7 students residing in identified boundary change area to attend Gatestone.
- D. That all existing out of catchment students attending Gatestone may continue to attend Gatestone under the out of catchment practice. All siblings of current out of catchment students may attend Gatestone in accordance with HWDSB's [Out-of-Catchment Process](#).
- E. That a Transition Committee is struck upon approval of a boundary change by the Superintendent of Student Achievement.
- F. That the boundary change is effective September 2024.

Map 2 – Recommended Boundary Change



Map 3 - Boundary Change Area



Enrolment Projections

Table 5: Boundary Change Enrolment Projections

School	OTG		Current Enrolment	Projected Enrolment				
			2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Gatestone	582	Enrolment	521	643	648	646	642	644
		Utilization	90%	111%	111%	111%	110%	111%

School	OTG		Current Enrolment	Projected Enrolment				
			2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Shannen Koostachin	599	Enrolment	641	513	506	502	522	535
		Holding Students	194	207	215	262	303	345
		Total Enrolment	835	721	720	764	825	879
		Utilization	139%	120%	120%	128%	138%	147%

Guiding Principles

Table 6: Alignment with LTFMP Guiding Principles

Long-Term Facilities Master Plan – Guiding Principles	Boundary Change Impact
1. HWDSB is committed to providing school renewal by optimizing opportunities to invest in improved school facilities.	No impact
2. Optimal utilization rates of school facilities is in the range of 90-110%.	Long-term (5 years) it is anticipated that both schools would remain close to the 90%-110% utilization. Shannen Koostachin would temporarily remain above 110% utilization until the new Binbrook elementary school is constructed.
3. School facilities reflect both the Elementary and Secondary Program Strategies by providing students access to flexible and specialized learning spaces.	No impact.
4. The scheduled length of time on a vehicle provided through HWSTS shall not exceed 60 minutes one way.	No impact.
5. School facilities will enable 21 st Century teaching and learning by providing spaces that support collaboration, citizenship, and community.	Both schools meet elementary school benchmark requirements.
6. Identify, remove and prevent barriers to people with disabilities who work, learn, and participate in the HWDSB community and environment, including students, staff, parent(s)/guardian(s), volunteers and visitors to HWDSB and its schools.	No impact.

7. Promote equity of opportunity and access to board facilities, including schools, for students and the school community	Boundary change allows more equitable access for students to shared educational spaces within the schools.
Long-Term Facilities Master Plan – Guiding Principles	Boundary Change Impact
Elementary Panel Specific:	
a. School Capacity – optimal school capacity would be 450 to 650 students, which creates two to three classes for each grade.	The capacity of schools will remain within the optimal school capacity while the use of temporary accommodation at both schools long-term will be reduced.
b. School Grade/Organization – Kindergarten to Grade 8 facilities.	Both Gatestone and Shannen Koostachin remain K-8 schools.
c. School Site Size – optimal elementary school site includes play fields, parking lot and building. For new site acquisition, optimal size approximately 6 acres and for existing schools is based on local circumstances.	Site sizes remain the same at both schools. Gatestone site is slightly undersized at 4.6 acres but has accommodated 3 portables and 650 students in the past.
d. In dual track schools, enrolment between French Immersion and English track should ensure that the balance supports ideal program delivery. i.e. There should be enough French Immersion enrolment to support a successful program but should not exceed 60%.	Not applicable – both schools are single track English

Transportation Impacts

Gatestone:

- Currently has one full-size bus run, one mini-size bus run and one minivan.
- Three additional full-size bus runs would be required.
- All students in proposed boundary change area will receive transportation.

Shannen Koostachin:

- No change in bussing for existing students.
- Potential reduction of three buses.

Next Steps:

Should the recommendation be adopted by the Board of Trustees, a Transition Committee led by the Superintendent of Student Achievement and school Principals will be struck. The purpose of the transition committee is to allow the impacted communities to provide input, advice, and recommendations to ensure a smooth implementation of the short-term accommodation strategy.

Board staff will take further steps to:

- Communicate the boundary change to the affected to school communities;
- Engage the City of Hamilton on issues of student safety issues around both school sites;
- Carefully place of portables at Gatestone to minimize impact on play yard; and

- Continue semi-annual reviews of enrolments at the affected schools to monitor impact of boundary change on the Gatestone community.

Documents URL List

Table 7: Meeting and Document Links

Document	Link
Boundary Review Policy	hwdsb.info/BR_Policy
Boundary Review Procedure	hwdsb.info/BR_Procedure
Resolution #23-63	hwdsb.info/Res23-36
EngageHWDSB	https://www.engagehwdsb.ca/
Advisory Panel #1 – Presentation	hwdsb.info/GSK_AP01_Pres
Advisory Panel #1 – Minutes	hwdsb.info/GSK_AP01_Min
Public Meeting – Presentation	hwdsb.info/GSK_PM01_Pres
Public Meeting – Minutes	hwdsb.info/GSK_PM01_Min
Public Meeting – Key Feedback	hwdsb.info/GSK_PM01_FB
Advisory Panel #2 – Presentation	hwdsb.info/GSK_AP02_Pres
Advisory Panel #2 – Minutes	hwdsb.info/GSK_AP02_Min
Family Meeting #1 – Presentation	hwdsb.info/GSK_FM01_Pres
Family Meeting #1 – Minutes	hwdsb.info/GSK_FM01_Min
Family Meeting #2 – Presentation	hwdsb.info/GSK_FM02_Pres
Family Meeting #2 – Minutes	hwdsb.info/GSK_FM02_Min



FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

February 20, 2024

Waterdown Short-Term Accommodation Strategy - Final Report

Submitted By: Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of Education

Prepared By: Matthew Gerard - Associate Director of Business Services and Board Treasurer
Nicole Lee - Superintendent of Student Achievement
David Anderson - Senior Manager, Facility Services
Ellen Warling - Manager of Planning, Accommodation and Rentals
Robert Fex – Senior Planner, Planning, Accommodation and Rentals

Recommendation:

That the following recommendations of the Waterdown Short-Term Accommodation Strategy be approved:

- A. That Allan A Greenleaf receive all new K to 8 English program students south of Highway 5 (Dundas St E). The area is defined as south of Highway 5 East (Dundas St E) to the Burlington boarder between Hamilton Street South to the west and Kerns Road to the east. Map available in [Appendix A](#).
- B. That Flamborough Centre French Immersion program be relocated to Guy B Brown; Flamborough Centre remains a K to 8 English school.
- C. That Guy B Brown receives all grades 5 to 8 French Immersion program students from the Mary Hopkins/Flamborough Centre boundary (as applicable).
- D. That Mary Hopkins grade 5 French Immersion students be directed to Guy B Brown; that Mary Hopkins grade 5 English students be directed to Flamborough Centre; Mary Hopkins becomes a K to 4 English, and 1 to 4 French Immersion school.
- E. That applications for out of catchment follow out of catchment practices in accordance with HWDSB's [Out-of-Catchment Process](#).
- F. That special consideration be provided for Flamborough Centre students applying for Out-of-Catchment to Balaclava.
- G. That transportation be provided for Flamborough Centre students applying for Out-of-Catchment to Balaclava.
- H. That a transition committee be struck upon approval of the short-term strategy by Superintendent of Student Achievement.
- I. That the strategy be effective September 2024.

Background:

At the April 13, 2023, Finance and Facilities Committee meeting, Trustees approved an accommodation review strategy for the Mary Hopkins and Flamborough Centre elementary schools to commence in October 2023 and be completed by February 2024.

At the May 8, 2023, Board Meeting, Trustees approved the 2023-24 Accommodation Strategy Schedule ([Resolution #23-63](#)). The accommodation strategy review process commenced in October 2023.

At the December 4, 2023, Board meeting, Trustees approved a motion to add Allan A Greenleaf, Balaclava and Guy B Brown to the Waterdown short-term accommodation strategy review to allow additional relief options to be considered. Resolution #23-63 [was amended](#).

This short-term accommodation strategy was undertaken due to accommodation pressures at Mary Hopkins and Flamborough Centre. These pressures will continue as residential development continues south of Highway 5 East in Waterdown. This strategy had the goal of better balancing the enrolments between the Waterdown elementary schools and share the use of temporary accommodation across the Waterdown community. The long-term solution to the enrolment pressures is a new school to be built in the Mountainview Heights development in southeast Waterdown. HWDSB has submitted a capital priority funding request for a 500-pupil place school plus a 5-room childcare centre on an owned site in the neighbourhood.

Status:

The Advisory Panel and public meeting portions of the Waterdown Short-Term Accommodation Strategy Review have been conducted as per the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Boundary Review [Policy](#) and [Procedure](#). Commencing in October 2023 the accommodation strategy review process included one Advisory Panel meeting and one public meeting. Commencing in January 2024 the expanded review process with all five schools included two Advisory Panel meetings and one public meeting. Community members were able to provide feedback at the public meetings, online via [EngageHWDSB](#), through their school Advisory Panel members and through email.

The report contained in [Appendix A](#) serves as the Final Report to Board of Trustees as per Boundary Review Procedure.

Financial Implications:

All associated costs are contained within existing budgets.

Strategic Directions:

Building a Sustainable Education System – We will adapt to a rapidly changing world through responsible fiscal management, investing equitably in accessible and sustainable facilities, and supporting a robust workforce.

Appendix A – Waterdown Short-Term Accommodation Strategy Report

Executive Summary

A short-term accommodation strategy was undertaken due to accommodation pressures at Mary Hopkins and Flamborough Centre. These pressures will remain as residential development continues south of Highway 5 in Waterdown. The short-term accommodation strategy goals are to better balance enrolments between Waterdown elementary schools, reduce the number of portables at Mary Hopkins and share the use of temporary accommodations across the Waterdown community.

In addition to the Long-Term Facilities Master Plan Guiding Principles, Guiding Principles created by the Advisory Panel and community feedback formed the basis of staff's recommendation to Finance and Facilities Committee.

After consultation began in the fall additional schools were added to the short-term accommodation review and the process commenced with a larger Advisory Panel of 5 elementary schools. During the restarted review process, including two Advisory Panel meetings, one public meeting, community members provided feedback on the proposed strategy. The following report outlines the work completed during the Waterdown Short-Term Accommodation Strategy.

Area History

Southeast Waterdown has experience significant residential development over the past five to six years and there remains future residential development to be built. In response to the development, the board has implemented a series of accommodation changes to better balance enrolments and reduce the reliance upon temporary accommodations. The accommodation changes in the area to date include:

- 2017-2018 Mary Hopkins introduces French Immersion program to alleviate enrolment pressure at Guy B Brown.
- 2022-23 Flamborough Centre receives French Immersion grade 6 students from Mary Hopkins

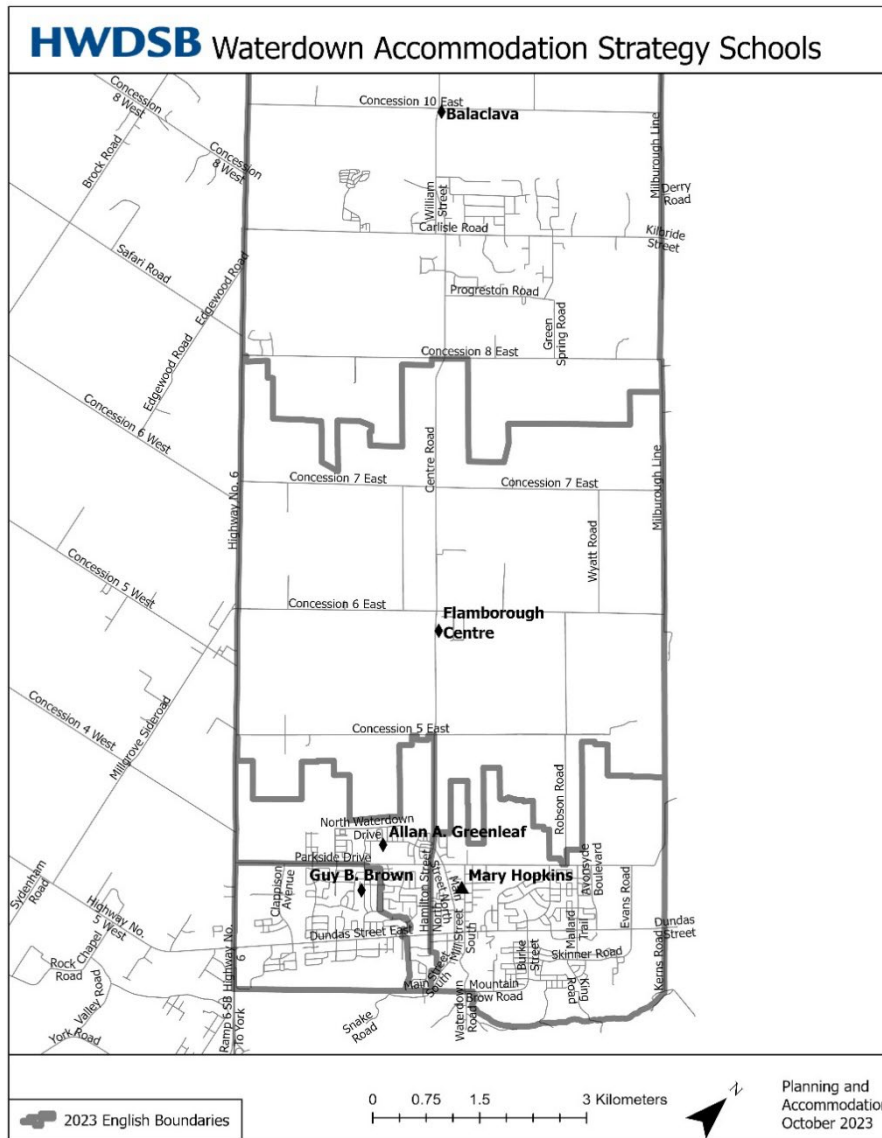
The long-term relief to this current situation is a new school to be built in the Mountainview Heights development in southeast Waterdown. The board has submitted a Capital Priority funding request for a 500-pupil place school plus a 5-room childcare centre to be constructed on a site ([Map 2](#)) purchased in 2021 in the neighbourhood. A funding announcement is expected by the end of March 2024.

Current Status

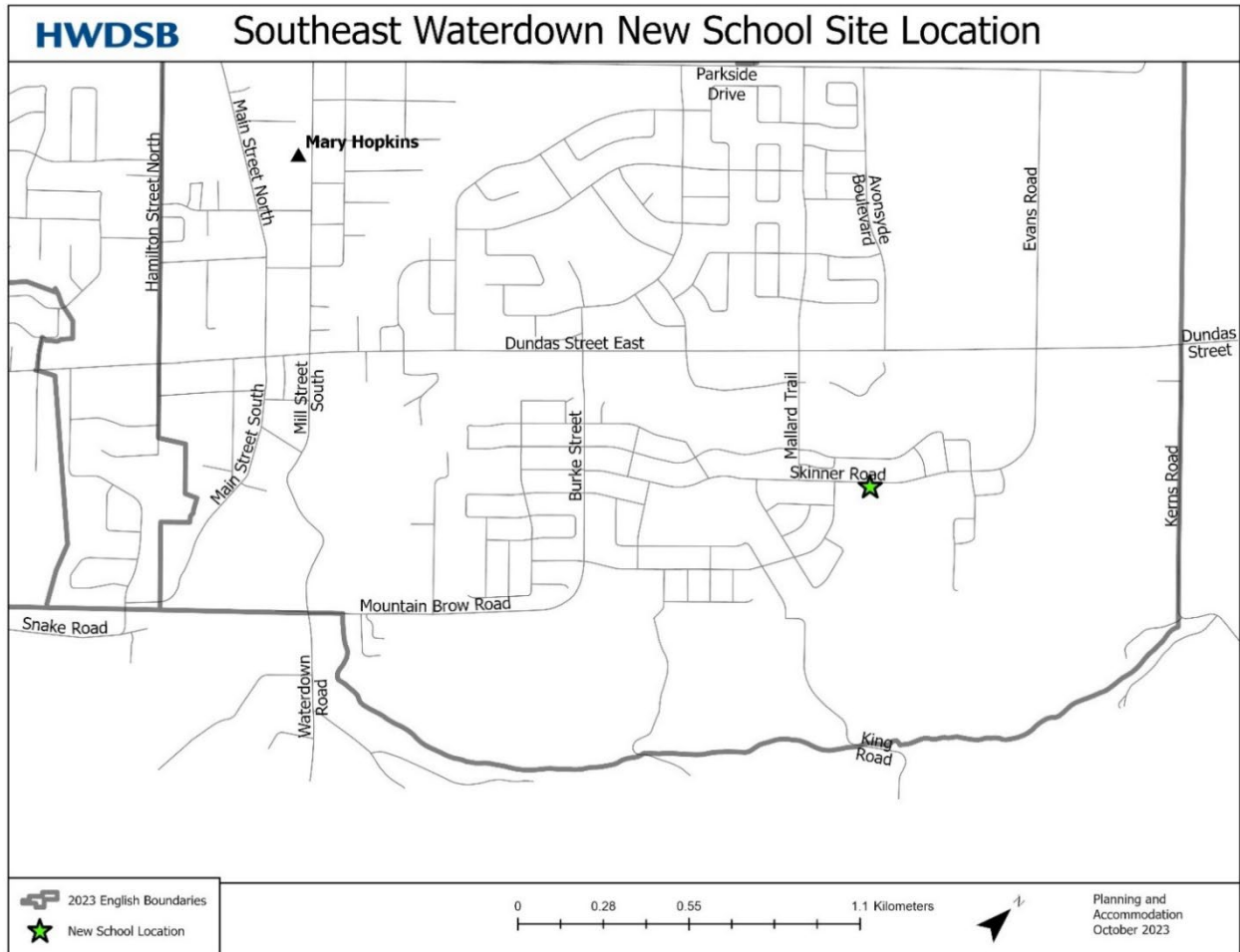
The short-term accommodation review strategy included five schools: Allan A Greenleaf, Balaclava, Flamborough Centre, Guy B Brown, and Mary Hopkins. The goal of this review was to identify opportunities to alleviate enrolment pressure both in the short-term at Mary Hopkins, and subsequently at Flamborough Centre. Enrolment pressure relief was sought by redirecting grades, geographic areas, and programs to shift enrolment to other Waterdown elementary schools. The existing schools and

boundaries are depicted below in [Map 1](#).

Map 1 – Review Schools and Attendance Boundaries



Map 2 - Location of New HWDSB School Site



Current Enrolment Projections

As of October 31, 2023, the projected enrolments for the five schools are outlined in the table below.

Table 1 – Current Enrolment Projections

School	Building Capacity	Portable Capacity	Total Capacity	Program	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Allan Greenleaf	548	69	617	Eng (JK-8)	600	591	625	695	745
				Total	600	591	625	695	745
				Building Utilization	109%	108%	114%	127%	136%
				Utilization w Portables	97%	96%	101%	113%	121%
				+/- Over Total Capacity	-17	-26	8	78	128
Balaclava	381	0	381	Eng (JK-8)	321	313	305	294	296
				Total	321	313	305	294	296
				Building Utilization	84%	82%	80%	77%	78%
				Utilization w Portables	84%	82%	80%	77%	78%
				+/- Over Total Capacity	-60	-68	-77	-87	-85
Flamborough Centre	243	138	381	Eng (JK-8)	299	343	351	374	375
				FI (6-8)	44	61	59	60	68
				Total	343	404	410	434	443
				Building Utilization	141%	166%	169%	178%	182%
				Utilization w Portables	90%	106%	108%	114%	116%
				+/- Over Total Capacity	-38	23	29	53	62
Guy Brown	632	46	678	Eng (JK-8)	404	413	403	400	396
				FI (1-8)	239	237	248	269	269
				Total	643	650	651	669	664
				Building Utilization	102%	103%	103%	106%	105%
				Utilization w Portables	95%	96%	96%	99%	98%
				+/- Over Total Capacity	-35	-28	-27	-9	-14
Mary Hopkins	401	230	631	Eng (JK-5)	538	546	550	538	508
				FI (1-5)	135	154	177	193	206
				Total	673	700	727	732	714
				Building Utilization	168%	174%	181%	182%	178%
				Utilization w Portables	107%	111%	115%	116%	113%
				+/- Over Total Capacity	42	69	96	101	83
Total	2205	483	2688	Eng	2162	2206	2235	2302	2319
				FI	418	452	484	522	543
				Total	2580	2658	2719	2824	2862
				Utilization w Portables	96%	99%	101%	105%	106%
				+/- Over Capacity	-108	-30	31	136	174

Each of the schools included in the review have a utilization of 90% or more except for Balaclava. In absence of a change to its boundary, Mary Hopkin's enrolment will continue to grow well beyond 700 students within 3 years. There are continued enrolment pressures in Waterdown as new home construction in both the Mary Hopkins and the Allan A Greenleaf boundary will continue over the coming years.

The following represents the number of portables each site can accommodate, before significant capital work is required:

- Allan A Greenleaf – 10 portables
- Guy B Brown – 8 portables
- Mary Hopkins – 12 portables
- Flamborough Centre – 5 portables
- Balaclava – 6 portables

Community Consultation

Community consultation is an important component of this accommodation strategy. There were numerous channels of consultation available for the Waterdown Short-Term Accommodation Strategy Review. They included advisory meetings, public meetings, email, and online consultation via [EngageHWDSB](#).

Following the review's initiation, an Advisory Panel was formed in October 2023 to act as a conduit for information between the community and the school board. Tasked with discussing, analyzing, and commenting on the initial short-term strategy recommendation, the evolution of the Advisory Panel began with Mary Hopkins and Flamborough Centre only. Upon completion of an advisory meeting and one public meeting, it was deemed necessary to pause the process and expand it to include Allan A Greenleaf, Balaclava, and Guy B Brown. On December 4, 2023, Trustees approved the expansion to include these schools in the accommodation strategy review. Therefore, there were an additional two advisory meetings and another public meeting representative of all 5 school communities. Throughout the Advisory Panel meetings, the Advisory Panel members expressed ideas and concerns for Trustee consideration when finalizing a strategy that was amenable to all schools.

Public meetings provided an opportunity for families, staff, and other community members to acquire more information about the review, ask questions and express their ideas and concerns. The public meeting was advertised on the Board website, through automated phone calls and electronic letters home.

[Table 2](#) below outlines the review community consultation timelines. Presentations (slide decks) and meeting minute links are listed at end of this report.

Table 2: Community Consultation Outline

Meeting	Date	Summary	Documents
Advisory Panel #1	November 16, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review boundary review process, guiding principles, timelines, roles/responsibilities, area history, current enrolment and accommodation, projected enrolment, and proposed strategy. Question and answer period with Advisory Panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Minutes
Public Meeting #1	November 30, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review boundary review process, guiding principles, timelines, roles/responsibilities, area history, current enrolment and accommodation, projected enrolment, and proposed strategy. Feedback from Advisory Panel was shared with the community. Received facilitated feedback from the community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Minutes Key themes from community feedback Letter to parents
Advisory Panel #2	January 11, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review boundary review process, guiding principles, timelines, roles/responsibilities, area history, current enrolment and accommodation, projected enrolment. Question and answer period with Advisory Panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Minutes
Public Meeting #2	January 22, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review boundary review process, guiding principles, timelines, roles/responsibilities, area history, current enrolment and accommodation, and scenarios. Feedback from Advisory Panel was shared with the community. Received facilitated feedback from the community members on scenarios. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Minutes Key themes from community feedback
Advisory Panel #3	February 8, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed key themes from public meeting #1 Reviewed questions from public meeting Reviewed additional scenarios. Question and answer period with Advisory Panel. Next steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Minutes

Advisory Panel Membership and Feedback

The Advisory Panel's mandate was to provide feedback and advice through discussions and inquiries

about staff recommendations, scenarios, and information. Throughout the review process, Advisory Panel members were asked to comment and provide input on proposed guiding principles and short-term strategies (scenarios) to ensure Trustees receive meaningful feedback.

Staff wish to thank and recognize the hard work and commitment of the Advisory Panel throughout the process. This work was challenging and their dedication to reaching a solution that meets the needs of the community is appreciated.

The Waterdown Short-Term Accommodation Strategy Review Advisory Panel consisted of the following school council representatives and resource staff:

Table 3: Advisory Panel Membership

Name	Role
Glen Spry	Allan A Greenleaf School Council Representative
Matthew Lingard	Allan A Greenleaf Council Representative
Jacky Small	Balaclava School Council Representative
Angela Devall	Flamborough Centre School Council Representative
Leah Young	Flamborough Centre School Council Representative
Priyanka Aroa	Guy B Brown School Council Representative
Kelly Kokerus	Guy B Brown School Council Representative
Carley Casey	Mary Hopkins School Council Representative
Mohamed Khamis	Mary Hopkins School Council Representative

Table 4: Resource Staff Available

Name	Role
Graeme Noble	Trustee – Wards 15
Matthew Gerard	Associate Director of Business Services & Board Treasurer
Nicole Lee	Superintendent of Student Achievement
David Anderson	Senior Manager – Facility Services
Ellen Warling	Manager - Planning, Accommodation and Rentals
Sally Landon	Manager – Research & Analytics
Robert Avery	Manager – Facilities Services
Sherry Roswell	General Manager - Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services
Robert Fex	Senior Planner – Planning, Accommodation and Rentals
Jeremy Koop	Research Officer - Research and Analytics
Lorraine Valmadrid	Research Officer - Research and Analytics
Steven Yull	Principal – Allan A Greenleaf
Kristi Keery Bishop	Principal – Balaclava
Nancy Kucic	Principal – Flamborough Centre
Josie Dalley	Principal – Guy B Brown
Susete Bloom	Principal – Mary Hopkins
Paula Thomas	Vice Principal – Mary Hopkins

Public Meeting Feedback

Utilizing HWDSB’s Boundary Review Policy as a process template, public meetings were held on November 30, 2023, at Mary Hopkins Elementary School and January 22, 2024, at Waterdown District High School. Meetings included a staff presentation followed by a public feedback session. Resource staff were available to answer any questions and record feedback. Poster sized descriptions and details of the proposed accommodation strategies were posted throughout the room and on tables. Presentation and meeting minutes link can be found in [Table 2](#) and the [URL list](#) at end of report.

Feedback Themes

Below is a list of themes that emerged from the public meetings.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School is at a “breaking point” -enrolment pressures at Mary Hopkins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic system - aged
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate facilities – aging infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portable costs and locations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate facilities: lack of washrooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well water – sufficient supply and quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic safety – rural parent pick-up/drop-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tension in neighbourhood – parking and safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic safety – at urban schools, the ability to walk safely to and from school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited green space – play area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate staffing – short staffed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gym time and space
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education not equitable – unable to access shared facilities (gyms, libraries, resource rooms) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hallway safety
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siblings Exemption/Out of catchment process – want siblings at same school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Waterdown District High School - for 7 and 8 students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Immersion program – equitable education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports for students – more Educational Assistants required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bell times – orchestrate to ease multiple student bus pick-up/drop-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolment projections – are they accurate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Split geographies – divide area south of HWY 5 and assign students to multiple schools 	

The complete key themes from the community feedback document can be viewed online, link to document available in [Table 9](#). The key themes document is an overview of the public meeting feedback, email feedback and comments received on EngageHWDSB. The comments were analyzed and themed by the Board Research and Analytics Department.

The table below lists the themes by school from all data sources analyzed. Note many themes apply to all schools but may not be listed for all schools.

Table 5: List of Themes by School

Mary Hopkins	Flamborough Centre	Allan A. Greenleaf	Balaclava	Guy B. Brown
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Splitting cohorts 2. Renovations 3. Portables 4. Building code 5. Green space 6. Lowering enrolment 7. Skepticism regarding projected numbers 8. Building condition 9. Equitable education (access to spaces) 10. Access to before and after school care 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Septic system 2. Well water 3. Bussing 4. Parking and traffic safety 5. Minimal student moves 6. Bell times 7. Splitting siblings and school communities 8. Lack of gym space 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field condition, loss of blacktop 2. Use of Waterdown District High School 3. Traffic safety 4. Green space 5. Capacity 6. Correlation between large enrolments and student outcomes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Condition of school 2. Septic system 3. Well water 4. Splitting school community 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parking 2. Green space 3. Bussing 4. Splitting up students 5. Gym time 6. Space for portables 7. Supervisory sight lines

Accommodation Scenario Development

The initial creation of scenarios for consideration was based on a staff developed and Advisory Panel reviewed set of guiding principles. Through feedback from the public meeting and discussions with the Advisory Panel additional guiding principles were created. See [Table 6](#) and [Table 7](#). Each scenario developed was then tested against these guiding principles.

These two sets of guiding principles along with feedback on the original scenarios led to the final scenarios reviewed by the Advisory Panel on February 8, 2024. A final scenario has received strong support from the Advisory Panel.

Short-Term Strategy

The final recommended scenario is ([Map 3](#)):

- A. That Allan A Greenleaf (AAG) receive all new K to 8 English program students south of Highway 5 (Dundas St E). The area is defined as south of Highway 5 East (Dundas St E) to the Burlington boarder between Hamilton Street South to the west and Kerns Road to the east.

- B. That Flamborough Centre (FC) French Immersion program be relocated to Guy B Brown (GBB); FC remains a K-8 English school.
- C. That Guy B Brown receives all grade 5-8 French Immersion program students from the Mary Hopkins/Flamborough Centre boundary (as applicable).
- D. That Mary Hopkins (MH) grade 5 French Immersion students be directed to Guy B Brown; MH becomes a K-4 English, 1-4 French Immersion school.

Enrolment projections for the scenario can be found in [Table 8](#).

For the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, the following reliance on portables are estimated as follows:

- Allan A Greenleaf will require no additional portables.
- Balaclava – no change.
- Flamborough Centre – may require 1 portable
- Guy B Brown – may require 3 additional portables (total of 5 on site).
- Mary Hopkins – will see a reduction in numbers of portables on site to approximately 7

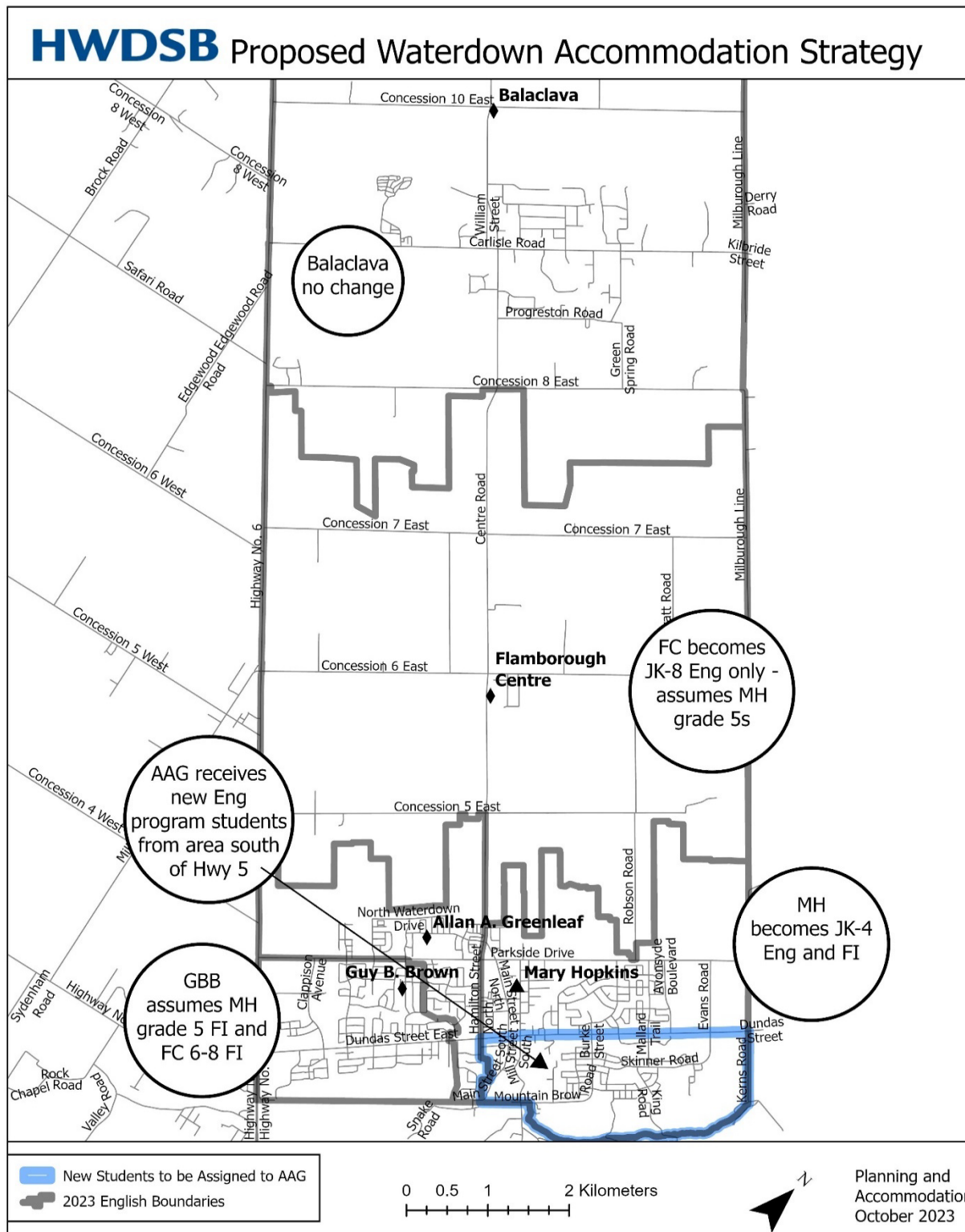
For the beginning of the 2025-26 school year, the following reliance on portables are estimated as follows:

- Allan A Greenleaf will require 3 portables for a total of 6.
- Balaclava – no change.
- Flamborough Centre – no change 1 portable on site).
- Guy B Brown – no change (5 portables on site).
- Mary Hopkins will further reduce their reliance on portables by 1 – total of 6 required.

For the beginning of the 2026-27 school year, the following reliance on portables are estimated as follows:

- Allan A Greenleaf will require 4 additional portables for a total of 10.
- Balaclava – no change.
- Flamborough Centre will require an additional portable for a total of 2.
- Guy B Brown will require an additional portable for a total of 6.
- Mary Hopkins will further reduce their reliance on portables by 3 – total of 3 required.

Map 3 – Proposed Accommodation Review Strategy



Rationale for Decision

The recommended scenario is based on public feedback and Advisory Panel input. This scenario, as illustrated below, meets the most important guiding principles;

- Disrupts as few students as possible;
- Maintains a balance of English and French immersion students (where applicable);
- Better balance of enrolments between Waterdown elementary schools;
- Share the use of temporary accommodations across the Waterdown community;
- Keeps cohorts together; and
- Easily explainable option to the community.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles were discussed, developed, and agreed upon by the Advisory Panel. Each scenario was then measured against these guiding principles. The guiding principles became the tool that allowed staff and the panel to determine the best short-term accommodation strategy for the community.

Table 6: Advisory Panel Feedback Guiding Principles Matrix

Guiding Principles Matrix	Short-term strategy Impact
1. School enrolment does not exceed building and maximum temporary accommodation capacity	Criteria met for all schools
2. Reliance on temporary accommodation is minimized	Criteria met for all schools except Allan A Greenleaf
3. Fully utilize existing facilities (minimize underutilization)	Criteria met for all schools except Balaclava
4. Limit number of school moves for affected students	Criteria met for all schools except Flamborough Centre
5. Minimum of 1 class of students per grade	Criteria met for all schools except Flamborough Centre
6. Balance of enrolments between English and French Immersion Programs	Criteria met for all schools
7. Minimize students' time on school busses	Criteria met for all schools
8. Catchment areas improve possibility of viable before and after school program	Criteria met for all schools except Flamborough Centre
9. Availability of before and after school childcare	Criteria met for all schools except Flamborough Centre

Table 7: Additional Advisory Panel Feedback Guiding Principles Matrix

Additional Guiding Principals	Short-Term Strategy impact
Disrupt as few students as possible (direct and indirect)	Criteria met
Consider a shared load of temporary accommodations	Criteria met
Keep cohorts/communities together	Criteria met
Keep scenario/reconfiguration easily explainable	Criteria met

Enrolment Projections

Table 8: Short-term Strategy Enrolment Projections

School	Building Capacity	Portable Capacity	Total Capacity	Program	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Allan Greenleaf	548	69	617	Eng (JK-8)	600	644	732	834	745
				Total	600	644	732	834	745
				Utilization	97%	104%	119%	135%	121%
				+/- Over Capacity	-17	27	115	217	128
Balaclava	381	0	381	Eng (JK-8)	321	313	305	294	296
				Total	321	313	305	294	296
				Utilization	84%	82%	80%	77%	78%
				+/- Over Capacity	-60	-68	-77	-87	-85
Flamborough Centre	243	138	381	Eng (JK-8)	299	409	412	453	226
				FI (6-8)	44	0	0	0	68
				Total	343	409	412	453	295
				Utilization	90%	107%	108%	119%	77%
				+/- Over Capacity	-38	28	31	72	-86
Guy Brown	632	46	678	Eng (JK-8)	404	413	403	400	396
				FI (6-8)	239	318	330	354	269
				Total	643	731	733	754	664
				Utilization	104%	119%	119%	122%	108%
				+/- Over Capacity	-35	53	55	76	-14
Mary Hopkins	401	230	631	Eng (JK-5)	538	427	383	321	221
				FI (1-5)	135	134	155	168	206
				Total	673	561	538	489	427
				Utilization	107%	89%	85%	77%	106%
				+/- Over Capacity	42	-70	-93	-142	26
New South-East Waterdown School	500	0	500	Eng (JK-8)	0	0	0	0	435
				Total	0	0	0	0	435
				Utilization	0%	0%	0%	0%	87%
				+/- Over Capacity	0	0	0	0	-65
Total	2705	483	3188	Eng	2162	2206	2235	2302	2319
				FI	418	452	484	522	543
				Total	2580	2658	2719	2824	2862
				Utilization	96%	99%	101%	105%	97%
				+/- Over Capacity	-108	-30	31	136	-96

Next Steps:

Should the recommendation be adopted by the Board of Trustees, a Transition Committee led by the Superintendent of Student Achievement and school Principals will be struck. The purpose of the transition committee is to allow the impacted communities to provide input, advice, and recommendations to ensure a smooth implementation of the short-term accommodation strategy.

Board staff will continue monitoring enrolments at Waterdown elementary schools and to suggest further actions to support the wellness and safety of both students and staff in these school communities. Monitoring includes, but is not limited to the following items:

- Health and Safety concerns
- Program delivery effectiveness
- Enrolments – has enrolment projections been realized (below, sustained, above)
- Availability of resource or ‘flex’ spaces in schools
- Traffic or parking concerns

Monitoring will be done through regular discussions by the Superintendent and Facility Services staff with the Principal, School Councils, and ongoing site visits. Staff will engage the City of Hamilton staff on items such as traffic calming measures, crossing guard placement, and Active and Sustainable School Travel (ASST) for the three urban sites.

Continued review will be required to determine if additional adjustments need to be enacted based on actual enrolments realized in fall 2024 thru 2026.

- Fall 2024 monitor implementation
- Discuss/meet with Principal and SOSA
- Solicit feedback from School Councils
- Monitor enrolment

Table 9 – Meeting and Document Links

Documents URL List – work ongoing.

Document	Link
Boundary Review Policy	hwdsb.info/BR_Policy
Boundary Review Procedure	hwdsb.info/BR_Procedure
Resolution #23-63	hwdsb.info/Res23-36
EngageHWDSB	https://www.engagehwdsb.ca/
Advisory Panel #1 – Presentation	hwdsb.info/WAT_AP01_PRES
Advisory Panel #1 – Minutes	hwdsb.info/WAT_AP01_MIN
Public Meeting #1 – Presentation	hwdsb.info/WAT_PM01_PRES
Public Meeting #1 – Minutes	hwdsb.info/WAT_PM01_MIN
Public Meeting #1 – Key Feedback	hwdsb.info/WAT_PM01_TH
Letter to Waterdown Community	hwdsb.info/WAT_LET
Advisory Panel #2 with AAG, GBB, and Balaclava added– Presentation	hwdsb.info/WAT_AP02_PRES
Advisory Panel #2 with AAG, GBB, and Balaclava added– Minutes	hwdsb.info/WAT_AP02_MIN
Public Meeting #2 with AAG, GBB, and Balaclava added - Presentation	hwdsb.info/WAT_PM02_PRES
Public Meeting #2 with AAG, GBB, and Balaclava added - Minutes	hwdsb.info/WAT_PM02_MIN
Public Meeting # 2 – Key Feedback	hwdsb.info/WAT_PM02_TH
Advisory Panel #3 with AAG, GBB, and Balaclava added– Presentation	hwdsb.info/
Advisory Panel #3 with AAG, GBB, and Balaclava added– Minutes	hwdsb.info/



FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

February 20, 2024

Eastdale Elementary School Accommodation

Submitted By: Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of Education

Prepared By: Matthew Gerard, Associate Director, Business Services and Treasurer
David Anderson, Senior Manager, Facility Services
Ellen Warling - Manager of Planning, Accommodation and Rentals
Ian Hopkins – Senior Planner, Planning, Accommodation and Rentals

Recommendation:

That the report be received as information by the Committee.

Background:

As a result of the Lower Stoney Creek Pupil Accommodation Review, the original Eastdale facility was closed in June 2018, reconstructed, and reopened in January 2020. The Pupil Accommodation Review also resulted in the closure of Green Acres Elementary School, Memorial (Stoney Creek) Elementary School, Mountain View Elementary School and the construction of South Meadow Elementary School, which opened in January 2021 and a 213-pupil place addition at Collegiate Elementary School, which reopened in September 2021.

Since the Accommodation Review was completed in 2016, enrolment has increased in the Lower Stoney Creek area due to neighbourhood regeneration, migration, and the introduction of French Immersion to Stoney Creek. Since opening in 2020, Eastdale's English enrolment has increased from 517 students to 625 students in 2023. An increase in kindergarten registrations along with high growth rates in grades 1-8 has led to increased enrolment.

The French Immersion program opened at Eastdale in 2020 and since, the program's enrolment has increased from 131 students to 225. The French Immersion enrolment is expected to continue to grow to approximately 285 students within 5 years. Prior to Eastdale's French Immersion program, there was no public elementary French Immersion programs available in Stoney Creek. The introduction of the program has led to a 234% increase in French Immersion enrolment within the Lower Stoney Creek area.

Status:

On February 5, 2024, the area Trustee Todd White, Superintendent Gerry Smith and Manager of Planning, Accommodation and Rentals Ellen Warling met with Eastdale School Council to discuss the current accommodation issues and next steps in providing immediate and future accommodation strategies.

Currently, Eastdale is a dual track K-8 facility with an on-the-ground capacity of 565. The school currently has 12 portables on site increasing the facility capacity to 841. The addition of 12 portables has created accommodation and operational issues at the school which include: washroom access, use of portables, access to outdoor space and gym access. Based on the projections in [Table 1](#) in [Appendix A](#), staff anticipate Eastdale will require an additional portable in 2024 and 2025 for a total of 14. See [Table 2](#) in [Appendix A](#) for portable estimates. Currently, the grade 6 English cohort at Eastdale is 92 students, the average grade 1-8 English cohort size is 55 students. The unique size of this cohort is adding additional accommodation pressure to the facility. Eastdale's enrolment is anticipated to stabilize by 2026.

Based on the current and projected enrolment at Eastdale, staff have identified a list of short, medium, and long-term accommodation strategies.

Accommodation Strategies - Short Term**1) Washroom Access**

Staff are in the process of retaining a consultant to expand the existing lower-level washrooms. This plan involves repurposing the existing changerooms to create 6 new washroom fixtures. Updates will be provided to the school administration, as available. In the short-term, caretaking will increase washroom inspections (for cleanliness and supplies) and action as required throughout the day.

2) Outdoor Space Access

HWDSB staff have engaged City of Hamilton staff regarding an access agreement for Eastdale Park located directly adjacent to Eastdale Elementary School. City staff have placed it on their work plan to finalize an agreement with HWDSB for use of the park during school hours. Currently, the school is accessing the park for additional outdoor play space with the use of an excursion form which requires parent/guardian consent. Staff will also review supervision requirements when using the park.

3) Use of Portables vs Portapaks

Portapaks can only be funded through Temporary Accommodation Funding, provided by the Ministry on an annual basis. Each year HWDSB receives an annual allocation and is typically underfunded by approximately \$1 million, given the number of portable moves and increased costs every year. Staff have sought other funding opportunities for Eastdale in the past but have

not been successful. Unfortunately, portapacks cannot be funded by renewal or capital dollars at this time. Staff will continue to explore funding options for portapaks with the Ministry of Education.

4) Grade 1 – French Immersion Space Allocation

Through the grade 1 application process, HWDSB staff have allocated 1.5 classes of grade 1 French Immersion to Eastdale in 2024 to reduce accommodation pressure. HWDSB staff will monitor registrations for grade 1 French Immersion for the 2025-26 school year in conjunction with the overall school enrolment to determine French Immersion class allocations.

5) Review of Gym Use

Use of gym space is being reviewed by the Superintendent of Student Achievement and the Principal.

Accommodation Strategies - Medium Term

A boundary review may be considered by the Board. A boundary review would include surrounding schools and both English and French Immersion boundaries. As part of the annual review process through the Long-Term Facilities Master Plan, staff will determine if the current conditions warrant a boundary review and initiate the following year if approved by the Board of Trustees. The boundary review process could be initiated in Fall of 2024 with boundary change implementation for September 2025.

Accommodation Strategies - Long-Term

HWDSB intends to purchase an identified school site in the Fruitland-Winona Secondary Plan area on Jones Rd. The purpose of the new school site is to accommodate the new homes proposed to be built in the Fruitland-Winona area and potentially provide accommodation relief to Lower Stoney Creek and Winona. A boundary review will need to be completed once the site is acquired and funding for construction is received from the Ministry of Education. The anticipated site acquisition date is approximately 2030. Future land purchase is identified in the Long-Term Facilities Master Plan Accommodation Strategy Schedule and the Board's Education Development Charge Background Study Report.

Financial Implications:

The renovation costs are estimated at approximately \$150,000 and will be funded by SCI, which has historically ranged between \$18-\$22 million per year.

Strategic Directions:

Building a sustainable Education system. We will adapt to a rapidly changing world through responsible fiscal management, investing equitably in accessible and sustainable facilities, and supporting a robust workforce.

Appendix A

Table 1: Historic and Projected Enrolment

School	Capacity	Program	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Eastdale	565	English	517	565	590	625	621	627	592	579	585
		Fl	131	170	197	226	245	261	277	283	278
		Total	648	735	787	851	866	889	868	862	863

Table 2: Projected Portable Counts

School	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Eastdale	4	8	10	12	13	14	13	13	13