



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

May 5, 2016

Education Centre, Room 308

AGENDA

6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. French Immersion Strategy
4. Next Program Committee Meeting: May 19, 2016
5. Adjournment



EXECUTIVE REPORT TO PROGRAM COMMITTEE

TO: PROGRAM COMMITTEE

FROM: Manny Figueiredo, Director of Education

DATE: May 5, 2016

PREPARED BY: Peter Joshua, Executive Superintendent, Leadership and Learning
Pam Reinholdt, Superintendent - Transitions

RE: French Immersion Strategy

Action Monitoring

Recommended Action:

That the Program Committee approve the following recommendations for consultation, which are included in the French Immersion Strategy.

Background:

The French Immersion Strategy has been developed as one component of the Elementary Program Strategy. The planning for French Immersion from a system approach will allow the Board to be proactive in monitoring accommodation challenges and ensure a balanced enrolment in both French and English programs. It will provide a consistent and transparent approach to program location and student placement in programs that can be clearly communicated to parents.

The attached report outlines the current status of French Immersion, including boundaries, program locations, and enrolments.

The report also includes proposed program locations, boundaries, and enrolments for French Immersion, and an application process for student placement in FI programs, with a recommended start for implementation in September, 2017.

The following recommendations are being made:

1. Following a decision from the East Hamilton 2 and Lower Stoney Creek Pupil Accommodation Reviews, staff consider next steps for FI in these areas, if any, related to the decisions of the Board;
2. Surveys be conducted with parents of Lower Stoney Creek and Winona in early November 2016 to determine interest in French Immersion;
3. A Boundary Review be considered for Earl Kitchener, Bennetto, A.M Cunningham;
3. A Boundary Review be considered for Guy Brown, Mary Hopkins, and Flamborough Centre to address current accommodation pressures in Waterdown for French Immersion;
5. A proposed Pupil Accommodation Review for Ancaster include consideration of current and potential future

locations for FI, and associated boundary reviews that may need to be recommended;

6. A system-wide application process for Grade 1 entry to French Immersion programs be established to allow for program placement of students, monitoring of accommodations, balance of enrolment, and long-term-stability of the French Immersion program;

7. The following criteria be established for placement of pupils:

- Availability of the program closest to the student's home address, based on the French Immersion boundary;
- Balance of English and French Immersion enrolment in dual track schools (50-60% in English or French); Grade 1 siblings entering French Immersion may attend the same school as their older sibling, currently in FI, space permitting;
- Year over year impact as pupils progress through grades 1-8;

8. A monitoring report be provided to Trustees each fall with an update on French Immersion programs with specific reference to number of applications received, enrolments, program locations, accommodation challenges, and trends.

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

FRENCH IMMERSION STRATEGY (Elementary)

OVERVIEW

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) has been offering French Immersion (FI) to non-French speaking students for many years. We recognize that French is one of Canada's two official languages and it is a language that is used widely around the world. Proficiency in French is a valuable skill and an element of student achievement. We have been, and will continue to provide quality programs which develop students' ability communicate in French.

HWDSB believes in equity of access and outcomes in terms of our program delivery. It is our belief that all students have the ability to learn French. Our French language programs include English language learners and students with special education needs and are inclusive and reflective of our diverse communities

French Immersion in HWDSB is an optional program offered beginning in Grade 1. Elementary students are taught French as a subject and French serves as the primary language of instruction for other content areas in the beginning years of the program. HWDSB exceeds the Ministry guidelines for the minimum number of hours of instruction required for French Immersion in grades 1 through 8, which provides a solid foundation for students who wish to pursue French Immersion in secondary school.

Transportation for French Immersion is offered as per our Transportation Policy, which is available on our Board website.

CURRENT STATUS OF FRENCH IMMERSION IN HWDSB

We currently have 15 elementary schools offering French Immersion. Michaëlle Jean and Norwood are single track FI schools. The remaining 13 are dual track schools.

The current enrolments indicate some pressure points in accommodations. For the upcoming year, these pressure points have been addressed at Earl Kitchener, Guy Brown, and A M Cunningham. As well, Ancaster Senior currently accommodates Grade 7 FI students from Fessenden. Grade 8's FI students from Fessenden attend Norwood. In the 2016-17 school year, Ancaster Senior will accommodate Grade 7 and 8 FI students from Fessenden.

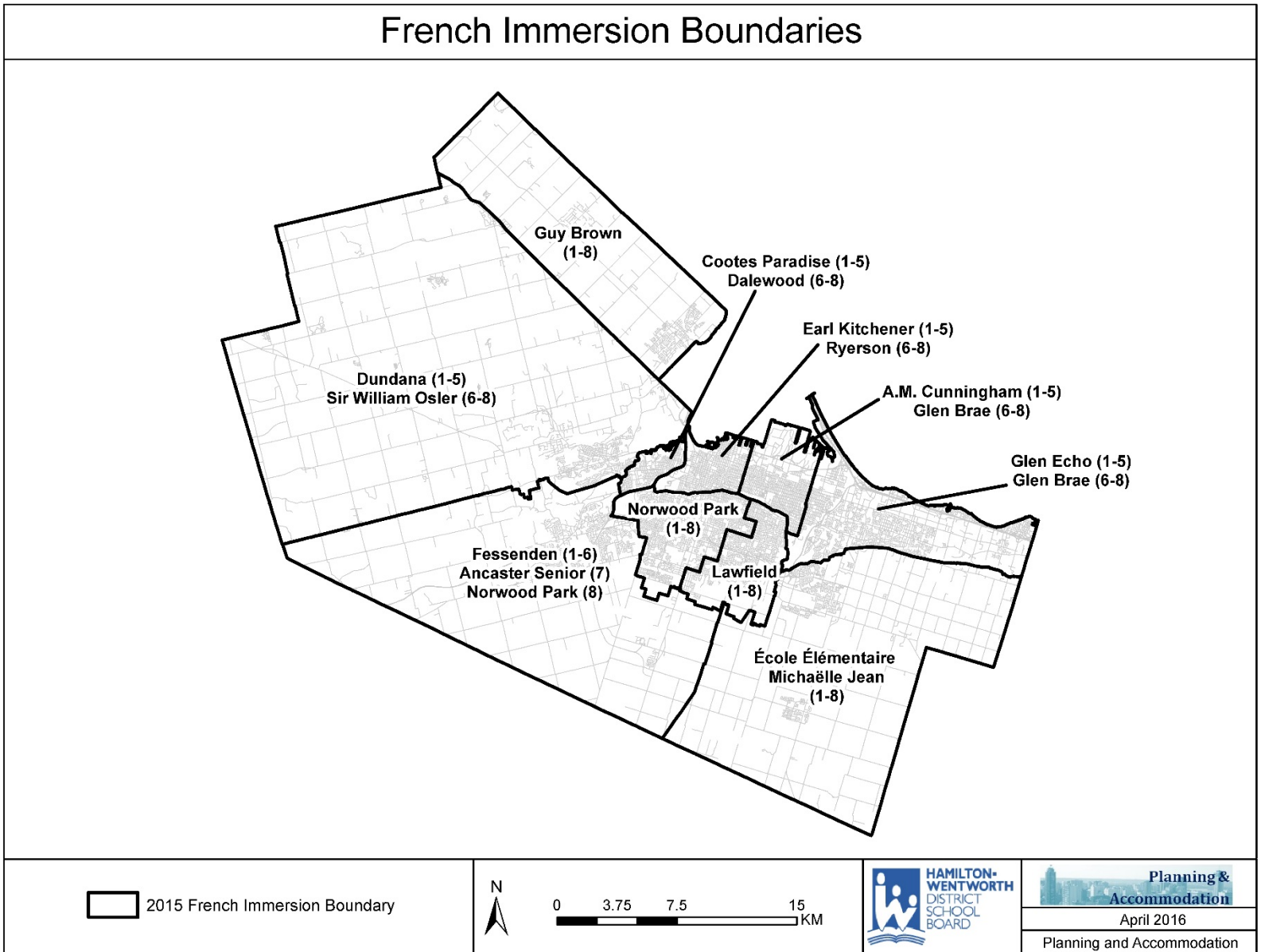
To provide equity of access to FI locations, ensure viability of the FI program as it grows, and balance between FI and English in schools, it will be necessary to consider boundary reviews during the 2016-2017 school year.

Current Boundaries, Locations and Enrolment of All French Immersion Programs

School	English	FI	OTG*	Portables**
AM Cunningham	JK-5	1-5	409	5
Ancaster Senior	7-8	7	375	0
Cootes Paradise	JK-5	1-5	678	0
Dalewood	6-8	6-8	366	6
Dundana	JK-5	1-5	398	0
Earl Kitchener	JK-5	1-5	557	0
Ecole Elementaire Michaele Jean	-	1-8	274	0
Fessenden	JK-6	1-6	383	6
Glen Brae	6-8	6-8	331	0
Glen Echo	JK-5	1-5	314	3
Guy Brown	JK-8	1-8	632	2
Lawfield	JK-8	1-8	602	4
Norwood Park	-	1-8	464	3
Ryerson	6-8	6-8	343	4
Sir William Osler	JK-8	6-8	602	0

***OTG: On-the-Ground Capacity:** The rated capacity for a facility (number of students the permanent structure can accommodate) as indicated on the Ministry of Education's School Facilities Inventory System which is a web- based database containing facility- related data of all schools in Ontario. Depending on the type of room, the space will have a different loading (i.e. elementary classroom at 23 pupil places and kindergarten rooms 26 pupil places). This value does not represent the physical limit of the space within the building.

****Portable count as of April 2016**



Map I: All French Immersion Boundaries

Current Enrolment Projections by FI Catchment Area**East Hamilton**

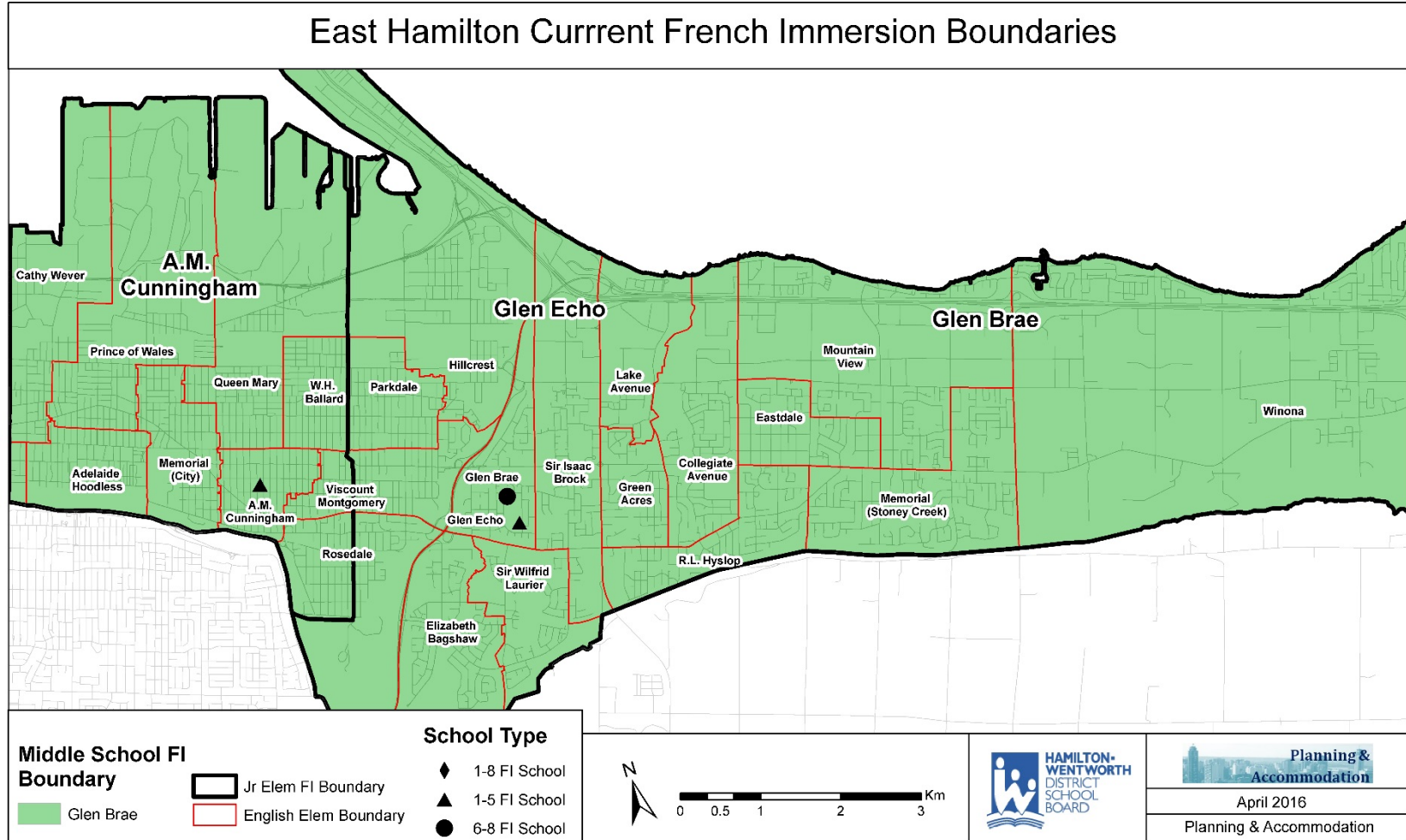
AM Cunningham	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-5)	151	150	151	156	165	169
French (1-5)	255	251	230	216	216	206
Total	406	402	382	372	380	375
Utilization	99%	98%	93%	91%	93%	92%
Utilization with Portables	77%	77%	73%	71%	73%	72%

A.M. Cunningham has 5 portables on site

Glen Brae	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (6-8)	166	167	176	176	181	183
French (6-8)	163	174	181	191	176	179
Total	329	340	357	368	357	362
Utilization	99%	103%	108%	111%	108%	109%

Glen Echo	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-5)	172	178	178	182	192	192
French (1-5)	120	111	112	109	113	106
Total	292	289	289	291	305	298
Utilization	93%	92%	92%	93%	97%	95%
Utilization with Portables	76%	75%	75%	76%	80%	78%

Glen Echo has 3 portables on site



Map 2: East Hamilton FI

West Hamilton

Earl Kitchener	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-5)	204	195	185	175	175	176
French (1-5)	355	362	361	357	343	334
Total	559	557	545	532	518	510
Utilization	100%	100%	98%	96%	93%	92%

Ryerson	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (6-8)	228	226	227	215	219	206
French (6-8)	142	154	165	167	180	183
Total	370	380	392	382	399	389
Utilization	108%	111%	114%	111%	116%	113%
Utilization with Portables	85%	87%	90%	88%	92%	89%

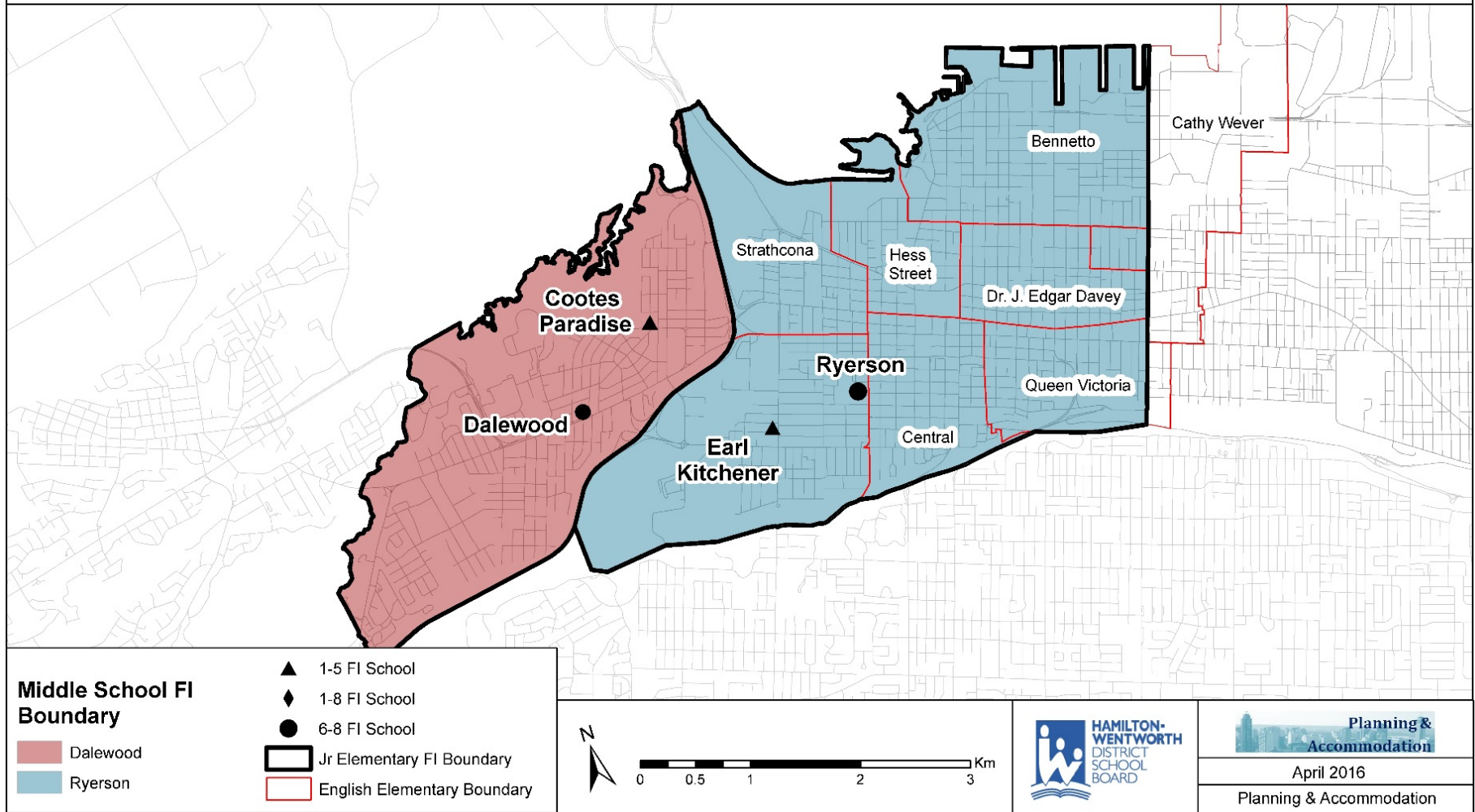
Ryerson has 4 portables on site

Cootes Paradise	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-5)	375	362	357	348	341	342
French (1-5)	195	203	213	219	222	237
Total	570	565	570	568	563	579
Utilization	84%	83%	84%	84%	83%	85%

Dalewood	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (6-8)	196	204	186	181	170	163
French (6-8)	91	94	100	92	98	92
Total	287	298	286	273	268	255
Utilization	78%	81%	78%	75%	73%	70%

Dalewood has 6 portables on site due to renovations to facility and will be removed summer of 2016

West Hamilton Current French Immersion Boundaries



Map 3: West Hamilton FI

Dundas / Waterdown/Flamborough

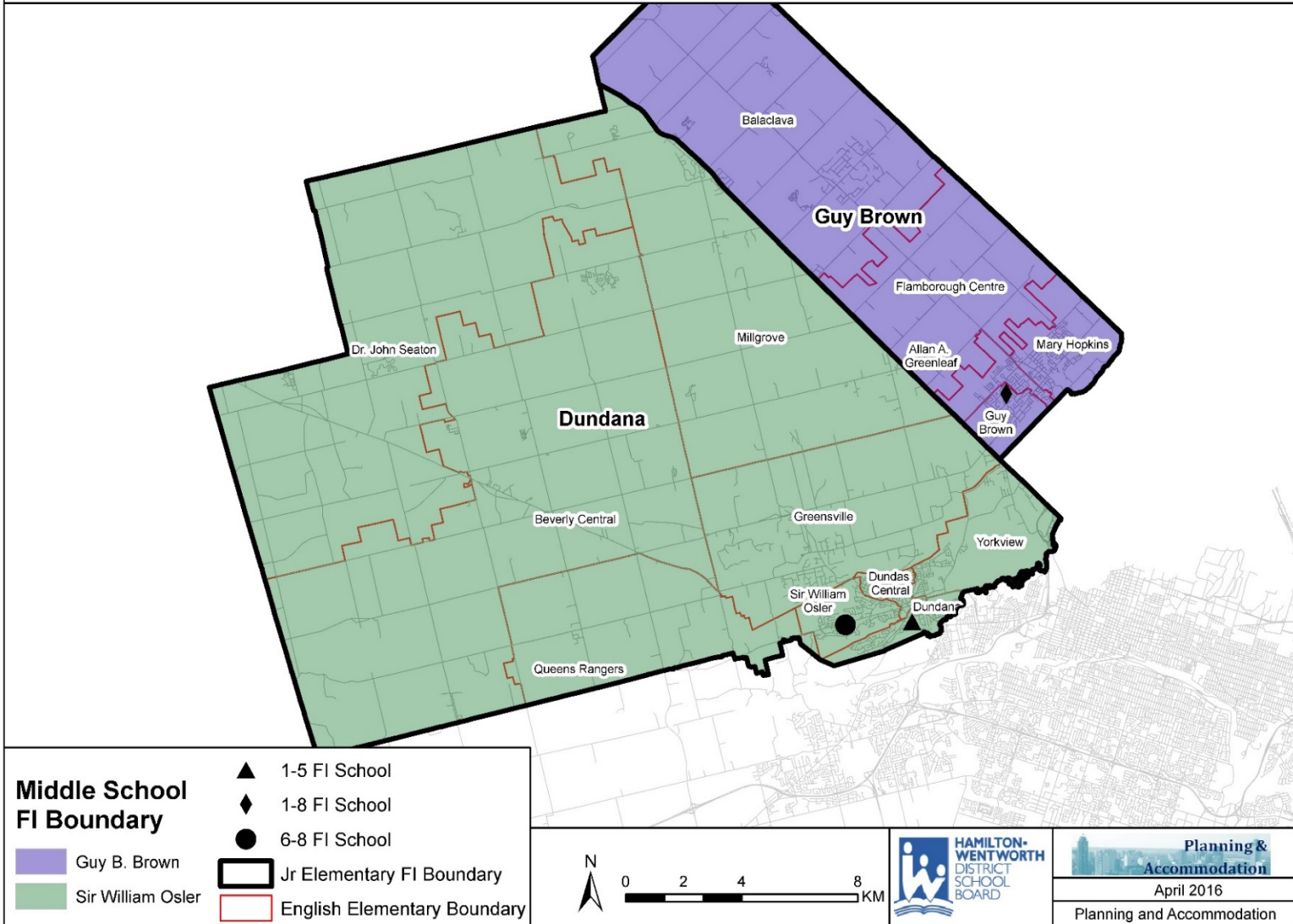
Sir William Osler	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-8)	520	504	481	483	468	459
French (6-8)	80	86	102	100	116	105
Total	600	590	583	583	584	564
Utilization	100%	98%	97%	97%	97%	94%

Dundana	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-5)	160	163	163	162	169	177
French (1-5)	196	207	196	203	199	203
Total	356	369	359	366	367	380
Utilization	89%	93%	90%	92%	92%	95%

Guy Brown	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-8)	356	363	357	363	381	368
French (1-8)	346	365	386	397	416	429
Total	702	728	743	760	797	798
Utilization	111%	115%	118%	120%	126%	126%
Utilization with Portables	104%	107%	110%	112%	118%	118%

Guy Brown has 2 portables on site

Dundas, Flamborough and Waterdown Current French Immersion Boundaries



Map 4: Dundas, Waterdown and Flamborough FI

Ancaster / Mountain/Upper Stoney Creek/Glanbrook

Ancaster Senior	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (7-8)	287	281	268	259	256	215
French (7)*	12	39	54	65	88	84
Total	299	320	322	324	344	300
Utilization	80%	85%	86%	86%	92%	80%

*In September 2016 Ancaster Senior will accommodate grade 7 and 8 French Immersion. Current grade 8 FI students in this area attend Norwood Park.

Fessenden	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-6)	275	253	241	231	227	232
French (1-6)	223	240	252	254	244	250
Total	498	493	493	485	471	483
Utilization	130%	129%	129%	127%	123%	126%
Utilization with Portables	96%	95%	95%	93%	90%	93%

Fessenden has 6 portables on site

Norwood Park	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
French (1-8)	476	488	492	483	480	475
Total	476	488	492	483	480	475
Utilization	103%	105%	106%	104%	103%	102%
Utilization with Portables	89%	92%	92%	91%	90%	89%

Norwood Park has 3 portables on site

Lawfield	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-8)	433	412	408	408	401	396
French (1-8)	294	308	299	303	307	304
Total	727	720	708	711	707	699
Utilization	121%	120%	118%	118%	117%	116%
Utilization with Portables	105%	104%	102%	102%	102%	101%

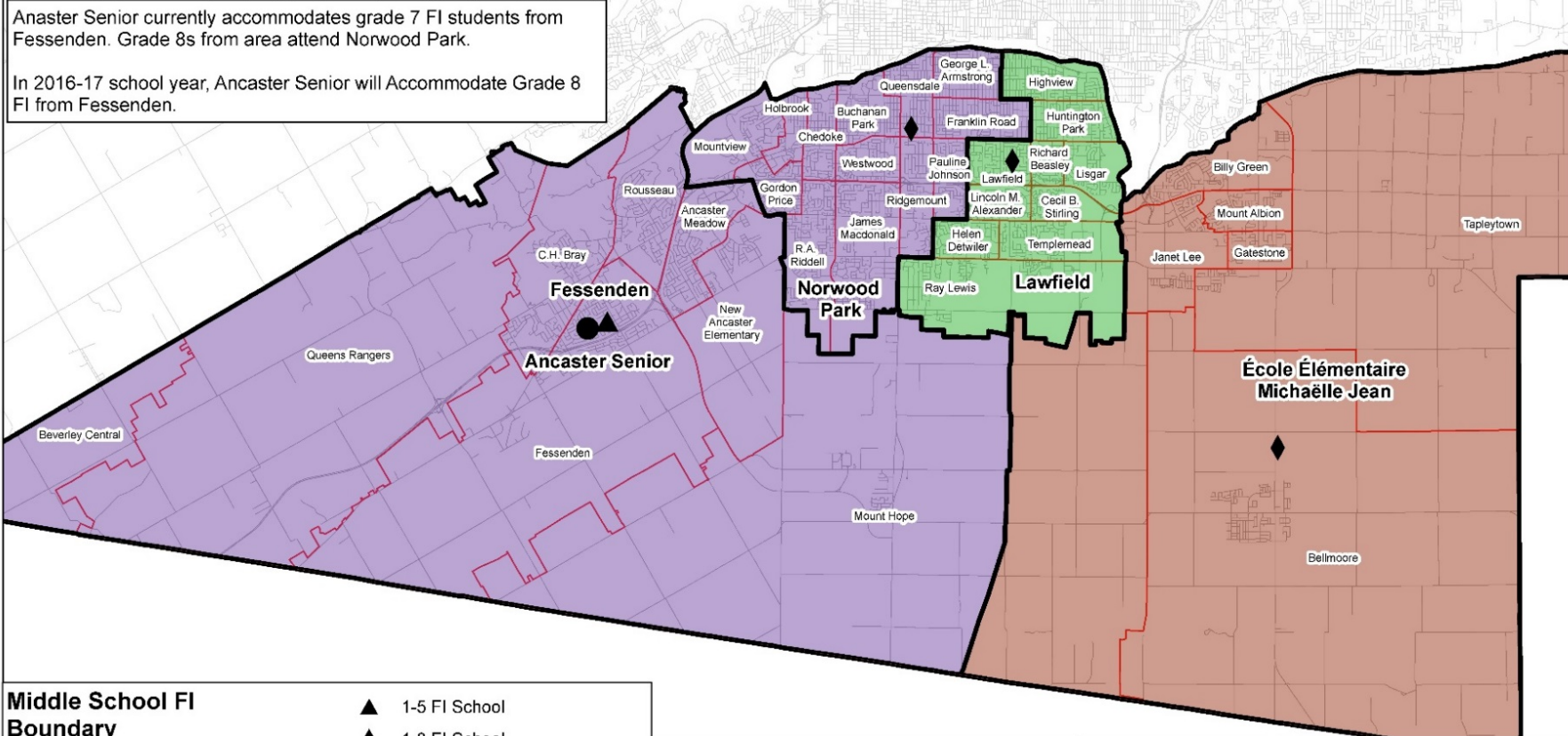
Lawfield 4 portables on site

Ecole Elementaire Michaele Jean	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
French	156	182	208	223	241	253
Total	156	182	208	223	241	253
Utilization	57%	66%	76%	81%	88%	92%

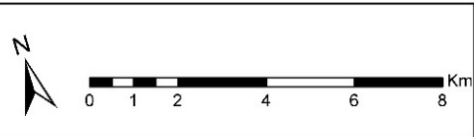
Ancaster, Glanbrook, Mountain & Upper Stoney Creek Current French Immersion Boundaries

Anaster Senior currently accommodates grade 7 FI students from Fessenden. Grade 8s from area attend Norwood Park.

In 2016-17 school year, Ancaster Senior will Accommodate Grade 8 FI from Fessenden.



Middle School FI Boundary	▲ 1-5 FI School
■ Lawfield	◆ 1-8 FI School
■ Norwood Park	● 6-8 FI School
■ École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean	▭ Jr Elementary FI Boundary
	▭ English Elementary Boundary



Planning & Accommodation

April 2016

Planning & Accommodation

Map 5: Ancaster, Mountain, Upper Stoney Creek and Glanbrook FI

PROPOSED FRENCH IMMERSION BOUNDARIES AND LOCATIONS

The French Immersion Strategy is focussed on ensuring that all students who wish to enrol in French Immersion are able to do so.

Due to a continuing interest in French Immersion, a long term plan is necessary to address the accommodation issues for the 2017-18 school year and beyond. This would allow the Board to provide stability of program placement, ensure a balanced approach to student enrolment for English and French Immersion, and effective communication to parents and students regarding program placement. Below are proposed boundaries and school locations for French Immersion. It is recommended that boundary reviews take place early in the 2016-2017 school year to allow for timely communication to parents regarding FI locations.

It is the goal of HWDSB to provide access to French Immersion programs for those who wish to pursue it. The Planning and Accommodation Department have recommended proposed boundaries and proposed program locations for future FI programs.

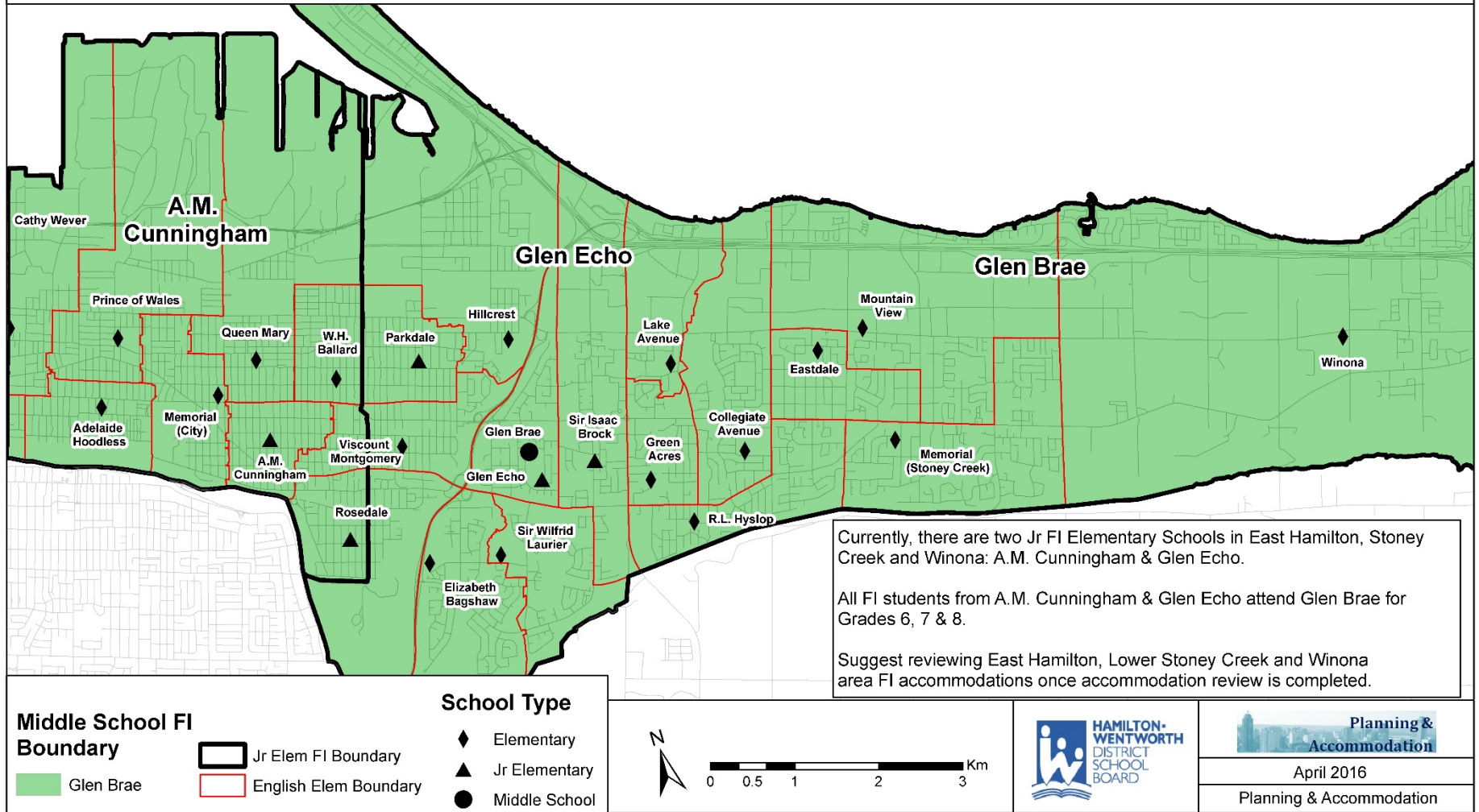
Proposed Boundaries, Locations, and Enrolment in French Immersion Locations (2017)

East Hamilton, Lower Stoney Creek, Winona, A.M. Cunningham

East Hamilton draws from Lower Stoney Creek, Winona, and A.M. Cunningham. The FI students from Glen Echo attend Glen Brae Middle School for Grade 6, 7, and 8. The FI students from A.M. Cunningham attend Glen Brae for grade 6, 7, and 8. East Hamilton is currently involved in a Pupil Accommodation Review, as is Lower Stoney Creek. The French Immersion numbers at Glen Echo and Glen Brae have been included in the current status for East Hamilton in this report, the same as they have been included in the Accommodation Review information. We would recommend a review of the French Immersion Program locations in this area once the accommodation reviews are completed and decisions regarding pupil accommodations for this area have been made by the Board of Trustees. Until that time, the program is scheduled to continue at Glen Echo and Glen Brae.

We also heard from the Lower Stoney Creek Pupil Accommodation Review that there may be interest in having French Immersion in this area. Therefore, we are recommending that surveys be conducted with parents of Lower Stoney Creek and Winona in early November 2016 to gauge interest in an FI program east of Centennial Parkway.

East Hamilton, Lower Stoney Creek and Winona



Map 6: East Hamilton FI Expansion

West Hamilton: Proposed Expansion for September 2017

A program located at Bennetto School would alleviate the accommodation pressures at Earl Kitchener and allow for the alignment of English and French Immersion boundaries in this area. This program location would begin with Grade 1 students. If space allows, students currently attending grade 2 at Earl Kitchener and A.M. Cunningham may choose to move to Bennetto or continue at Earl Kitchener or A.M. Cunningham.

It is recommended that a Boundary Review be considered for Earl Kitchener, Bennetto and A.M. Cunningham.

AM Cunningham	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-5)	151	150	151	156	165	169
French (1-5)	255	251	200	180	175	171
Total	406	402	351	336	339	339
Utilization	99%	98%	86%	82%	83%	83%
Utilization with Portables	77%	77%	67%	64%	65%	65%

A.M. Cunningham has 5 portables on site

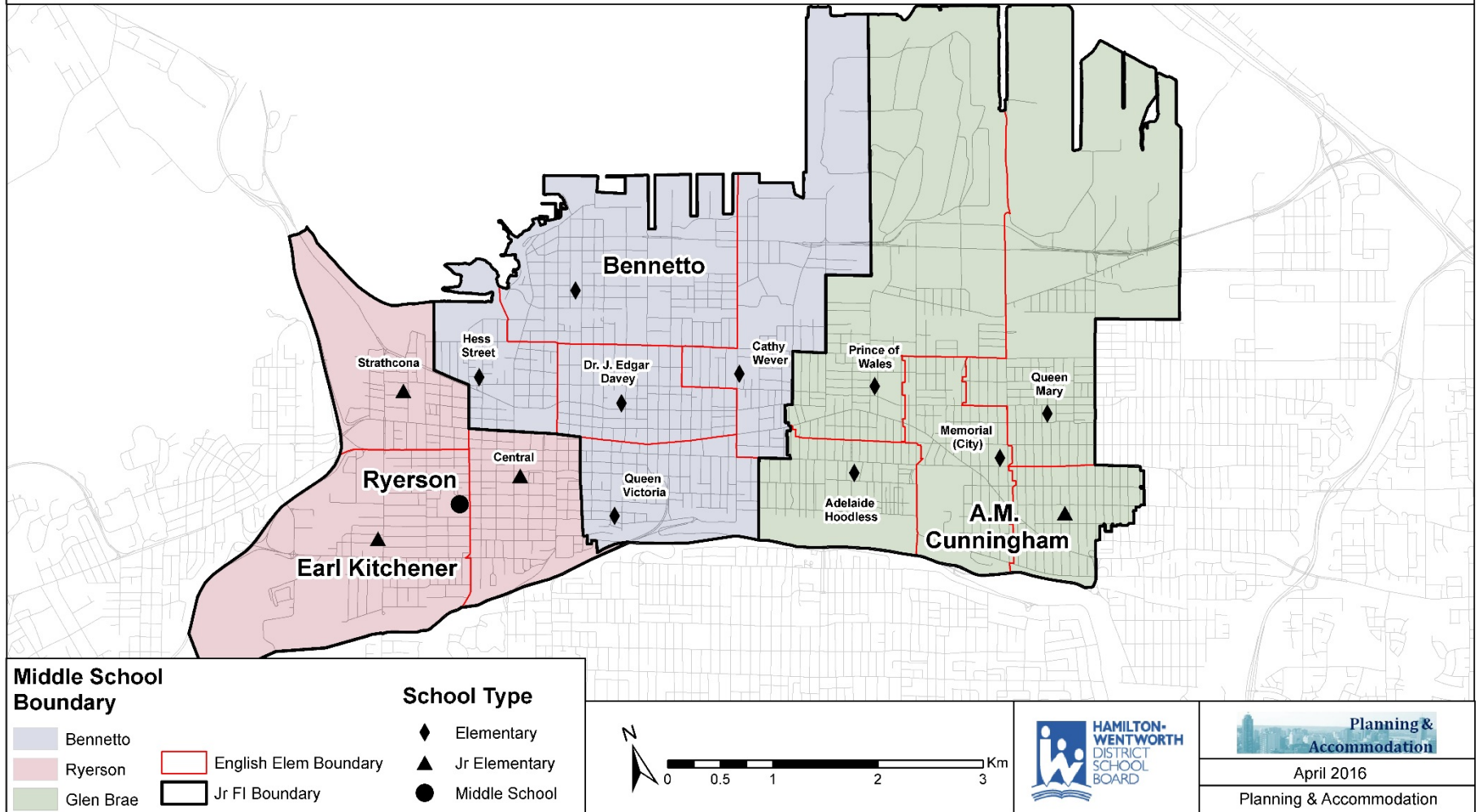
Bennetto	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-8)	491	476	467	455	442	421
French (1-8)			68	92	117	139
Total	491	476	544	559	571	581
Utilization	66%	64%	73%	75%	77%	78%

Earl Kitchener	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (JK-5)	204	195	185	175	175	176
French (1-5)	355	362	330	320	299	293
Total	559	557	515	495	474	469
Utilization	100%	100%	92%	89%	85%	84%

Ryerson	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English (6-8)	228	226	227	215	219	206
French (6-8)	142	154	165	167	180	174
Total	370	380	392	382	398	380
Utilization	108%	111%	114%	111%	116%	111%
Utilization with Portables	85%	87%	90%	88%	91%	87%

- Enrolment projections depict Bennetto program implemented with grades 1-3

West Hamilton: Proposed Expansion for September 2017



Map 7: West Hamilton FI Expansion

Waterdown and Flamborough Expansion for September 2017

A plan is in place for the 2016-2017 school year to address the accommodation challenges at Guy Brown. As the program continues to grow, a temporary relief plan needs to be in place for September, 2017. It is suggested students who are in FI Grades 1 to 3 in September 2017 residing in the Mary Hopkins, Balaclava and Flamborough Centre English catchment areas attend Mary Hopkins for French Immersion. This program would expand to grade 5 and in 2020, the students would move to Flamborough Centre for grade 6, 7, and 8 French Immersion. The Board is planning a new school for the East Flamborough area in the future, and Mary Hopkins/Flamborough Centre would be a holding schools for French Immersion until such time as the new school is built.

Therefore, it is recommended that a Boundary Review be considered for Guy Brown, Mary Hopkins, Flamborough Centre and Balaclava to address current French Immersion accommodation pressures in Waterdown and Flamborough.

Flamborough Centre	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
English	250	251	243	250	275	296	326	331	347	338	323
French						23	45	60	57	63	77
Total	250	251	243	250	275	319	371	391	405	402	400
Utilization	103%	103%	100%	103%	113%	131%	153%	161%	167%	165%	165%
Utilization with Portables	66%	66%	64%	66%	72%	84%	97%	103%	106%	106%	105%

Flamborough Centre has a 6 room portapak on site

Guy Brown	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
English	356	363	357	363	381	368	363	358	356	360	360
French	346	364	321	323	330	330	334	334	353	375	379
Total	702	728	679	686	711	699	697	693	710	735	739
Utilization	111%	115%	107%	109%	113%	111%	110%	110%	112%	116%	117%
Utilization with Portables	104%	107%	100%	101%	105%	103%	103%	102%	105%	108%	109%

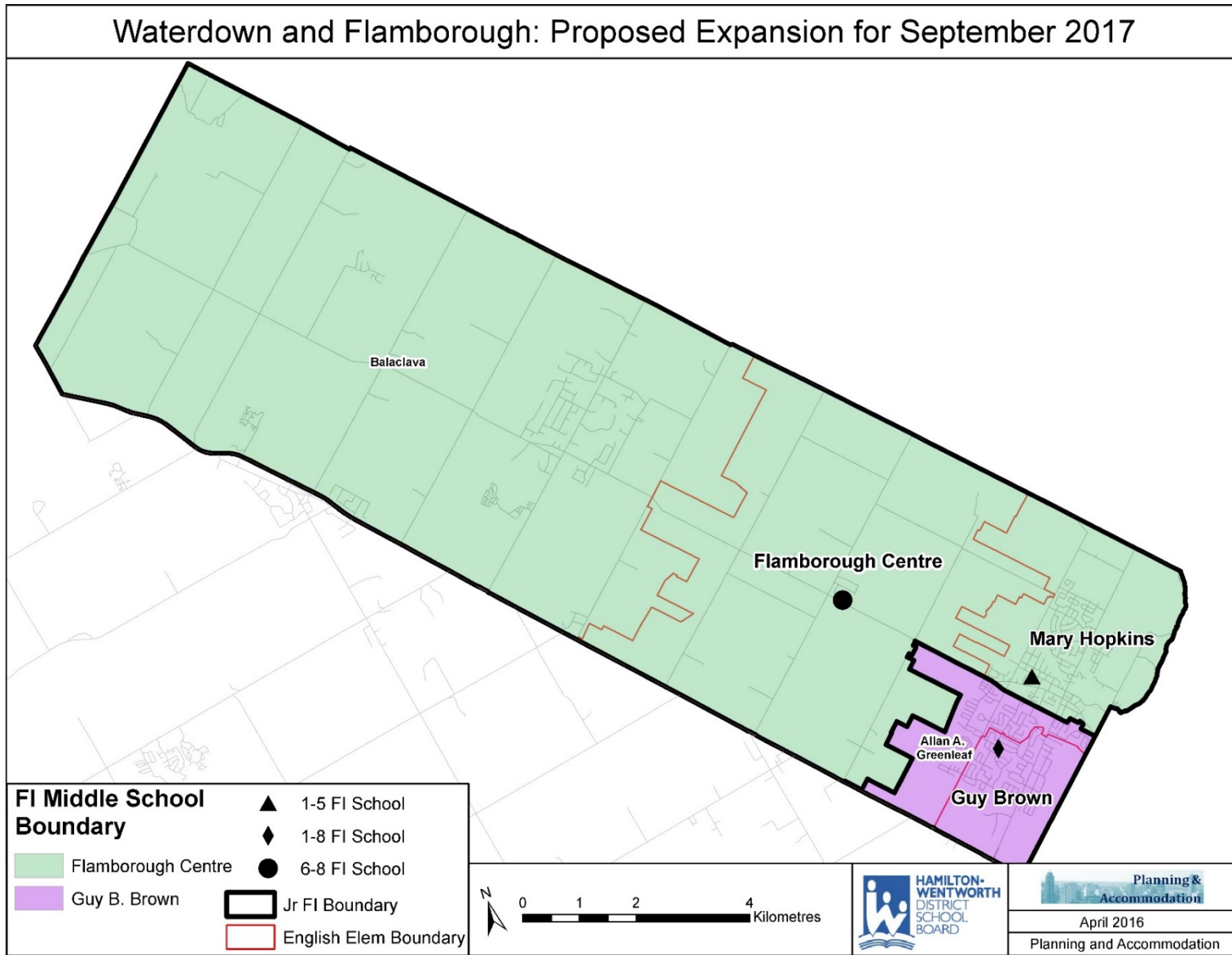
Guy Brown has 2 portables on site

Mary Hopkins	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
English	318	319	347	377	385	402	406	418	432	447	439
French			72	94	123	130	140	156	169	177	184
Total	318	319	419	472	508	531	546	574	601	624	623
Utilization	79%	79%	104%	118%	127%	133%	136%	143%	150%	156%	155%
Utilization with Portables	59%	59%	78%	88%	94%	99%	101%	106%	112%	116%	116%

Mary Hopkins has a 6 room portapak on site

Mary Hopkins currently has a 6 room portapak constructed on site. Although the portapak is currently not being used it has been properly maintained to remain on site for future enrolment growth from program change and new development. Flamborough Centre also has a 6 room portapak on site.

- Enrolment projections depict Mary Hopkins program implemented with grades 1-3.



Map 8: Waterdown FI Expansion

Ancaster, Mountain, Upper Stoney Creek, Glanbrook

Ancaster is awaiting approval and scheduling for a Pupil Accommodation Review. In the interim, it is suggested that the status quo remain in these areas. It is recommended any Pupil Accommodation Review for Ancaster includes consideration of current and potential future locations for French Immersion, and associated boundary reviews that may be needed.

Mountain, Upper Stoney Creek, and Glanbrook

These areas will be monitored as growth occurs. At present, there are no immediate accommodation or boundary concerns.

SYSTEM (Central) APPLICATION PROCESS FOR FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

The purpose of a system application process is to ensure that all students who wish to take French Immersion programming are able to do so. In addition, the Board is able to plan accommodation needs to prevent accommodation pressures within the system. It is recommended that a system-wide application process for grade I entry to French Immersion programs be established to allow for program placement of students, monitoring of accommodations, balance of enrolment, and long term stability of the French Immersion program. It is important that any new registration process for French Immersion be communicated to FIAC and parents in advance of any changes.

When a student is accessing French Immersion, placement is determined by availability of openings within schools providing the Program. The guarantee is to the FI program, not a school location. The placement committee strives to place students within their French Immersion boundary, based on the home address, but it is recognized that this is not always possible.

The system application process for grade I students entering French Immersion would be advertised each year with specific dates attached to the applications. The overall timelines are as follows:

- 1) Late November: Application Process opens
- 2) Mid December: Application Deadline
- 3) Mid-January: Program Location offered to Parent/Guardian
- 4) End of January: Deadline for Program Acceptance and Registration

The above timelines align with staffing allocations to schools.

NOTE:

1) Deadline dates for applying, notification of location of program offering, and deadline for registering at the program offering location will be provided on an annual basis.

2) Late Admission: Students moving to HWDSB from another board after the registration deadline may be offered a French Immersion program location for grades other than the grade I entry after a review of student records or confirmation of an equivalent background in French, as determined by Program staff from French as a Second Language. The Committee that reviews applications will also review late admissions to determine student placement.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

Committee to Review and Determine Program Offering Locations *(Grade 1 French Immersion)*

The Executive Superintendent –Leadership and Learning, a School Superintendent, the French as a Second Language Consultant, and a Planning and Accommodation representative will meet to determine Grade 1 placement for all French Immersion sites. The committee will also review all late admission applications.

Should the demand illustrated by the application process exceed the maximum space at any given school, a placement will be offered at the named alternative location for the catchment area.

Criteria for Program Offerings

It is recommended that the following criteria be used for Grade 1 FI program placement offerings

- Availability of the program closest to the student's home address, based on the French Immersion boundary
- Balance of English and FI enrolment in dual track schools (50-60% in English or French)
- Grade 1 siblings entering French Immersion may attend the same school as their older sibling currently in FI, space permitting
- Year over year impact as pupils progress through grades 1-8

Acceptance of Program Placement Offering by Parent/Guardian

Parents/guardians accept the program placement by registering at the school named in the program placement offering prior to the registration deadline date.

Class Size:

Class size requirements are determined annually by the Ministry and are aligned with Class Size Legislation. French Immersion programs are subject to the Ministry requirements.

As in all schools, combined grades may be utilized.

Designated Pathways:

Each elementary school offering French Immersion has a designated secondary school catchment area where students attend should they wish to continue French Immersion in secondary school.

Associated French Immersion Schools

Sherwood	Westdale
Ancaster Senior (2017)	Dalewood
Ecole Elementaire Michaelle Jean	Guy Brown
Glen Brae	Sir William Osler
Lawfield	Ryerson
Norwood Park	

*Future sites will be added based on approved FI boundaries

Secondary Enrolment Projections

School	Eng	FI	OTG	Portables
Sherwood	9-12	9*	1,374	0
Westdale	9-12	9-12	1,461	0

Sherwood	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English	965	992	910	911	899	862
French	49	105	168	230	258	321
Total	1,014	1,097	1,078	1,141	1,157	1,183
Utilization	74%	80%	78%	83%	84%	86%

Westdale	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English	854	702	925	855	858	914
French	545	461	415	417	430	476
Total	1,399	1,163	1,340	1,272	1,288	1,390
Utilization	96%	80%	92%	87%	88%	95%

*In September 2016, Sherwood will offer grades 9 and 10 and will continue to expand until 2018 when grade 9-12 are offered

Monitoring Report

It is recommended that a monitoring report be provided to Trustees each fall with an update on French Immersion programs with specific reference to the number of applications received, enrolments, program locations, accommodation challenges, and trends.