



# SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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**MONDAY MAY 28, 2012**

7:00 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

R. Barlow

## **ACTION ITEMS**

4. King George Boundary Review
5. Capital Priorities Submission to Ministry

P. Rocco  
K. Bain

## **MONITORING ITEMS**

6. Adjournment



## EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**DATE:** Monday, May 28, 2012

**TO:** Committee of the Whole

**FROM:** Pat Rocco, Superintendent of Student Achievement  
Robert Fex, Senior Planner, Accommodation and Planning

**RE:** Boundary Change Proposal: Memorial (City)/Queen Mary/Prince of Wales

Action       Monitoring

### Recommended Action:

That the Board approve the boundaries for Memorial (City), Queen Mary, and Prince of Wales schools effective September 2012 as outlined in Appendix A.

### Rationale/Benefits:

To more evenly distribute students among the three schools - Memorial (City), Queen Mary, and Prince of Wales as a result of the closure of King George Elementary School in June 2012.

### Background:

At the January 24, 2011 Board meeting, Trustees of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board approved a recommendation to initiate an Accommodation Review Process which included King George, Memorial (City) and Prince of Wales elementary schools. The mandate of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) was to produce an Accommodation Report to the Board of Trustees which addressed a number of different criteria including accommodation, facility condition, program, transportation, funding and implementation.

On February 27, 2012 a motion close King George Elementary School was passed. Students were to be distributed to Memorial (City), Queen Mary, and Prince of Wales as per boundary review process.

A King George Boundary Review Committee was formed consisting of the following:

Susan Neville (King George)	Bob Fex (Accommodation & Planning)
John Bradley (Memorial - City)	Tim Simmons (Trustee)
Meagan Wilson (Memorial - City)	Ray Mulholland (Trustee)
Darrin Griffiths (Queen Mary)	Janet VanDuzen (Prince of Wales)
Richelle Bratuz (Queen Mary)	Joanna Cascioli (Prince of Wales)
Pat Rocco (SOSA)	Gail Tessier (Executive Assistant)
Stacey Roulston (King George Parent Rep.)	

The Committee met April 11, 2012, 3:30pm at the Education Centre. Minutes from the meeting are attached (Appendix B)

*Background con't.*

The proposed boundary (Appendix A) was adopted and brought to the community for consultation on May 1, 2012, 6pm, at Queen Mary school. The meeting was attended by approximately 25 parents from all three school communities who received a presentation concerning the boundary change followed by a question and answer period to address their concerns.

**Community Concerns:**

- 1) Busing Eligibility:
  - a. Residential area north of Centre Mall (see map Appendix C)
  - b. Apartment building - 468 Ottawa St N., north of Barton (see map Appendix D)
  - c. Grades 1- 8 in residential area in north-west corner of new Memorial boundary (see map Appendix E)
- 2) Grandfathering Grade 6's from residential area north of Centre Mall (see map Appendix C)
- 3) Current Out of Catchment requests:
  - a. for Prince of Wales
    - i. 2 grade 1's
    - ii. 1 grade 4
    - iii. 3 grade 7's
  - b. for Memorial
    - i. 1 grade 1
    - ii. 1 grade 4
    - iii. 3 grade 7's
  - c. for Queen Mary
    - i. 1 grade 1

**Accommodation/Enrolment Projections** (see Appendix F):

All three schools' projected utilization for the 2012-13 school year are in the mid to high 80 percentile range. The projected enrolment for the next 5 years is estimated to remain in the 90%-95% range.

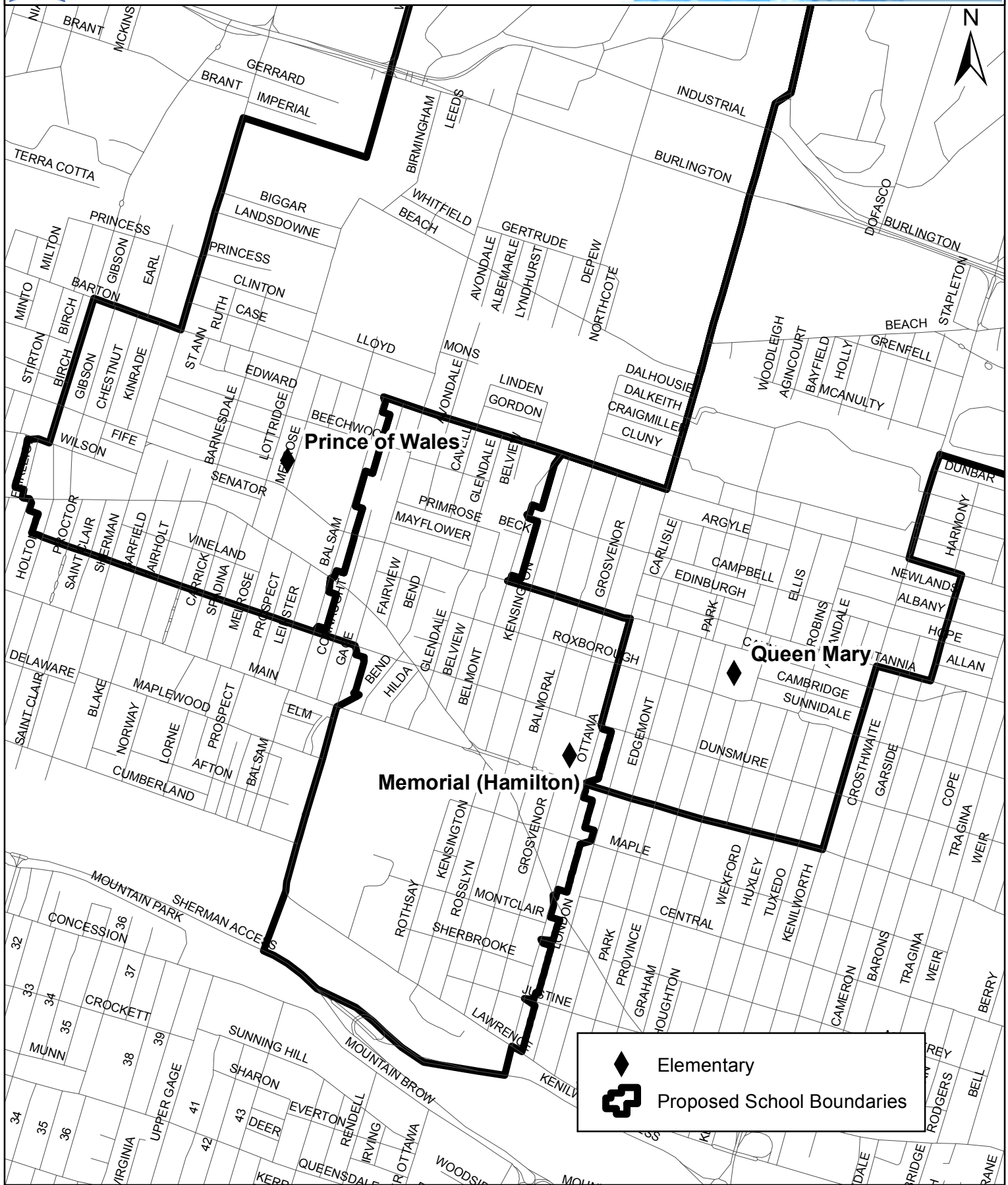
**Transportation Impacts**

The existing number of fleet vehicles will be more than adequate to transport eligible students to the consolidated Memorial, Prince of Wales and Queen Mary. There will be some shifts in ridership between the bus routes.

**Implementation Considerations:**

Parents/guardians would be informed of the boundary change and the need for their children to attend their in-catchment school as of September 2012. Parents/guardians who wish their child(ren) to attend a school other than their in-catchment school would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis as out-of-catchment. Parents/students who wish to continue at Memorial for Grade 8 would be allowed to continue as out-of-catchment students (grandfathered). Any student new to the area would attend the in-catchment school as per the boundary change. All other Out-of-Catchment requests (beyond the scope of schools identified in this report) would not be approved until late September at enrolment count dates in order to establish available spaces.

A transition plan for students moving from King George to Memorial (City), Queen Mary, and Prince of Wales schools will be established to maintain continuity in each child's education. Parents and school administration of the receiving schools will discuss academic planning for students as well as class placement beginning this June 2012 for the upcoming school year.



## Item

**Committee:**

*Pat Rocco (Supt.), Bob Fex (Senior Planner, Accommodation & Planning), Tim Simmons (Trustee & Board Chair), Ray Mulholland (Trustee), Sue Neville (Principal, King George), Rita Knapp (Principal, Cathy Wever), Mary Anne Gage (Vice-Principal, Cathy Wever), John Bradley (Principal, Memorial), Meagan Wilson (Vice-Principal, Memorial), Darrin Griffiths (Principal, Queen Mary), Richelle Bratuz (Vice-Principal, Queen Mary), Janet VanDuzen (Principal, Prince of Wales), Joanna Cascioli (Vice-Principal, Prince of Wales),*

**Rationale:**

**North ARC Report:**

Trustees approved boundary review at that time.

- to relocate students closer to their home schools (46 students – closer to Queen Mary) – had travelled farther to get to King George

Consideration – 5 gr. six students and 8 gr. seven students. Historically, younger siblings have not been allowed to go out of catchment.

S. Neville – explained many parents believe they will be taking their students to Prince of Wales. Some families are closer to POW.

Grandfathering may be considered (out of catchment—FDK, etc. needs to be reviewed) – Grade 6 and 7.

Class sizes/staffing are issues.

**Options:**

- Status Quo: would skew staffing/numbers and parents dealing with more than one school.
- Preferred option (proposed boundary maps) – There would be one girl only moving to Queen Mary – no peer support, according to R. Roulston (K. George parent rep. and mother of the female student). There are 5 grade six's of 46, only one female); 8 – grade seven's go to Memorial (will be grandfathered). Considerations: 37% of King George students are bused.

Letters are ready to go home to students explaining each student's new school boundary, however, awaiting for approval – needs public consultation, Exec. Council and Board approval.

Suggestion: Letter home to K. George parents that explains implications **if** certain scenarios, requesting parental input at a meeting. The meeting would be held at school (P. Rocco suggested Queen Mary as the location). We would offer daycare, food, etc.

For the boundaries that have been approved by the ARC process, it was suggested that letter go home to parents (explaining they are out of catchment because of ARC decision).

## Item

Recommendation: To grandfather the grade 6's and 7's. This should avoid losing our students the Catholic system.

The letter needs to be clear – P. Rocco will take it away for wording.

Bob Fex agreed to get a breakdown of the 46 students.

**Facility Impacts** – staffing given to principals today (balance between the three schools) Enrolment can be skewed by grandfathering. This will need to be reviewed.

**Financial Impacts / Transportation**

Memorial – certain renovations may have to be considered –facility renewal for the 46 students.

Transportation will be a concern. If students walk to Queen Mary, behind centre mall, students have to cross railway tracks. Parents expressed their concern over safety.

If they are grandfathered, it was suggested that transportation be approved.

Bob Fex agreed to check into transportation. ARC has approved some transportation (west of Ottawa).

The committee agreed to send a letter home to King George parents of students who would be affected, inviting them to attend an information meeting at **Queen Mary School, Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

**Suggested Timelines:** The recommendation to go forward the following week – May 8<sup>th</sup> to Exec. Council – then to CTW.

It was decided that all King George parents be invited to the meeting at Queen Mary, not just the 46 students/families affected.

It was agreed that letters would go home to the K. George community and grade 7's at Memorial who would be in QM's boundary for grade 8 with the proposed boundary change.

Refreshments will be offered for all parents and students at the meeting at Queen Mary School on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Communication to all school communities will be organized by school administration.

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It is expected that the recommendation/s go forward for May 30th – Board meeting – for approval.

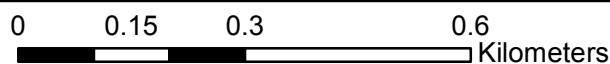
***Draft letter from S. Neville to go to Corp. Communications for review prior to issuance.***

***Bob Fex to get a breakdown of the 46 students***

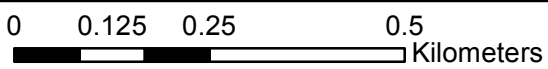
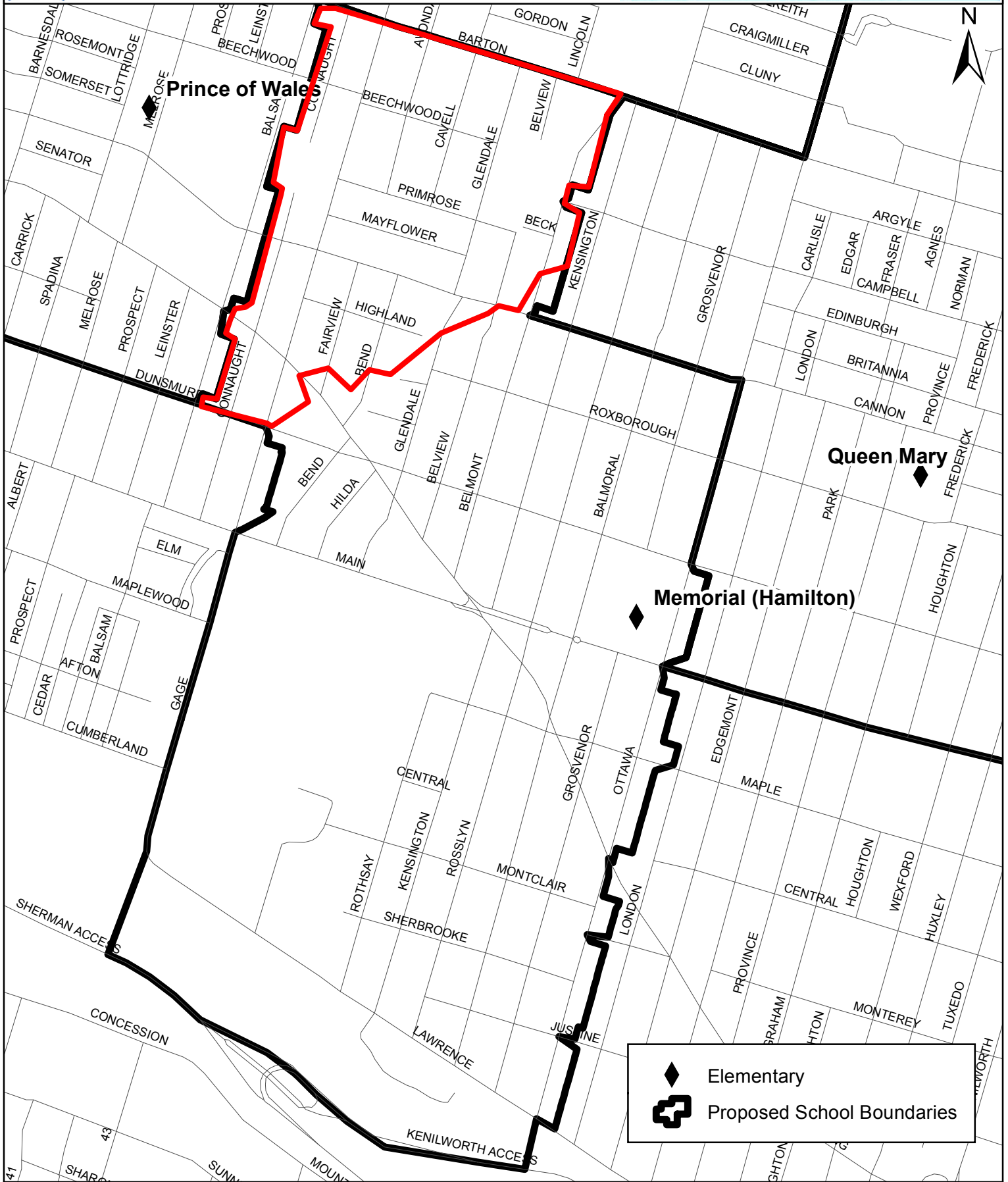
***Bob Fex – to look into transportation***

***Principals – to invite school community to meeting***









4-9

2012- 2013 Projected Enrolment															
School	Grade											Total	OTG	2012 Util'n	Current Util'n
	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SPED				
Memorial	60	60	43	42	43	50	40	56	75	84	12	565	634	89%	68%
Prince of Wales	71	75	88	67	69	70	56	49	37	57	11	650	746	87%	73%
Queen Mary	67	63	60	62	54	56	43	57	53	43	24	582	671	87%	79%

5 Year Enrolment Projections							
School	Enrolment Projections						Capacity
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Memorial	565	568	570	585	608	608	634
Prince of Wales	650	669	703	726	744	749	746
Queen Mary	582	602	605	605	619	620	671
<b>Total</b>	<b>1797</b>	<b>1839</b>	<b>1878</b>	<b>1916</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>2051</b>

