



Boundary Review Working Committee Meeting #1

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

5:00 pm

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Grand Erie Staff:

Chair, Julie White, Superintendent of Education
R. Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business
N. Hercanuck, Planning Supervisor
J. Pathak, Planning Officer
L. MacNab, Principal – River Heights Public School
C. Kelly, Principal – Caledonia Centennial Public School
M. Liao, Principal – Seneca Central Public School
S. McDonald, Principal – J. L. Mitchener Public School
M. Fraser, Principal – New Caledonia Elementary School

Community:

A. Hewson – Parent, Caledonia Centennial Public School
A. Dayle – Parent, Caledonia Centennial Public School
L. Bryan – Parent, River Heights Public School
C. Wendzich – Parent, River Heights Public School
C. Nash – Parent, Seneca Central Public School
M. Faiz – Parent, Seneca Central Public School
S. Terry – Parent, J.L. Mitchener Public School
J. Smith – Parent, J.L. Mitchener Public School

Absent with Regrets:

Recorder:

Stacie Fehrman, Executive Assistant

Additional Resource Personnel:

T. Duncan-Smith, Vice - Principal – River Heights Public School
T. Rooth, Vice - Principal – Caledonia Centennial Public School
L. Rowntree, Vice - Principal – J.L. Mitchener Public School

A - 1 Opening & Welcome

Chair Superintendent White welcomed the group and read the Land Acknowledgement and group introductions.

B - 1 Boundary Review Working Committee Terms of Reference

N. Hercanuck presented the Terms of Reference.

C - 1 Boundary Review

(a) Background

N. Hercanuck, Planning Supervisor, provided an overview of the purpose and timelines of this boundary review and the working committee. It was noted that school closures cannot be considered under a boundary review process. Hercanuck also noted that the committee will provide a recommendation to the Trustees who will make the final decision.

(b) Current Situation/Enrollment Projections

J. Pathak, Planning officer, provided an overview and identified the following:

- Schools are currently over capacity. All four schools are over 100 % capacity.
- There is a new joint-use school between Grand Erie and Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic DSB that will be opening in September 2025.
- Boundary Review process will establish an attendance area boundary for the New



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Caledonia Elementary School.

- GEDSB new school capacity: 441 students.
- New students within CCPS boundary area are directed to J. L. Mitchener until the new school is constructed
- Effective September 2024, French Immersion program for grades JK-3 will transfer from CCPS to River Heights School.

(c) Accommodation Option

- The boundary review takes into consideration the catchment areas of Caledonia Centennial, River Heights, Seneca Central and J.L. Mitchener
- The new school will take the current students living in the Boundary of the New Caledonia School.
- Currently all students will be considered walkers within the new school boundary. STSBHN will make the ultimate decision if there is a bus.
- Outside of the boundary of the New Caledonia school, once the enrollment is at its maximum capacity, an overflow of students will be pointed to J.L. Mitchener.
- More growth is expected within the next 10 – 14 years within Caledonia. This will increase school enrollment within Caledonia.
- There is the expectation that within the next 10 years a new school will be considered in the Empire Community.

D-1 Round Table

- Superintendent Wyszynsk indicated that there would be before and after school childcare at the school for both Public and Catholic.
- S. Terry felt GEDSB was on the right track stating that the new school will make
- M. Faiz stated that everything has been sold in P8 in the Empire Community.
- J. Smith was concerned that the projected numbers at JL Mitchener were high. N. Hercanuck assured her that they wouldn't get that high and it's a continuation of the holding boundary and doesn't include the second Avalon school.
- M. Faiz showed concern that his daughter who is in grade 6 would like to not have to move to another school and would like to be grandfathered in at Seneca for the remainder of the two years she has left. N. Hercanuck noted that we have made provisions in the past to grandfather students. We can look into this.
- L. Bryan asked the question if the school board is saving money by not having to transport all of these students, will it open courtesy bussing back up for the schools that could use it.
- C. Nash has a concern that Seneca is operating at 120 % up to 2027 but four of the streets from the Avalon Community will no longer be going to Seneca. N. Hercanuck indicated that Seneca is only built to hold 164. The percentage is going to look high but over time it will go down.
- J. Smith is concerned about J.L. Mitchener and enrollment rising and students losing their library learning commons, gym etc. She was assured that come September a large number of their students will be going to the new school.



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D - 1 Round Table

- In response to questions about expanding the boundary, Superintendent Wyszynski explained that we will not be expanding the boundary or the committee at this time.
- In response to a question about further meetings, community members were polled and requested the meetings be virtual for flexibility.
- In response to a question about how it is decided which families move, N. Hercanuck explained that they would look at reducing enrolment at Woodman-Cainsville through boundary changes.
- In response to a question about building a new school, N. Hercanuck advised that they don't have information that would justify a new school build. Projections indicate there seems to be enough space across all the current schools for students. Projected pupil place deficit of 137 by 2032. The Ministry of Education would not fund new school construction for 137 students.
- In response to a question about who parents/families should contact should they have questions, N. Hercanuck provided the committee with the email address planning@granderie.ca and asked that it is noted in the email that the question is about Brantford East as there are other Boundary Reviews currently taking place.

E - 1 Next Meeting

October 16, 2024 - Caledonia Boundary Review – Working Committee Meeting #2

F - 1 Adjournment

6:07 pm