



## GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: John Forbeck, Director of Education & Secretary

FROM: Jamie Gunn, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

RE: **Quality Accommodations Update**

DATE: June 8, 2015

**Recommended Action:** It was moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
 THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Quality Accommodations Update as information.

### **1.0 Background:**

The Board received a Quality Accommodations Committee Report April 20, 2015 that reviewed a number of options to address growth in the French Immersion Program and related pupil accommodation issues. A copy of the report is attached for reference.

Since the options suggested are not simple boundary changes nor are they school consolidation/closure processes, senior administration was asked to bring suggested processes for implementing each of the options discussed in the April report for consideration by the Board.

The recently released Ministry memorandum **2015:B12 Request for Capital Priorities Business Cases** highlights that “projects related to only addressing an accommodation pressure of a specialized or alternative program such as French Immersion” should not be submitted as Capital Priorities. Clearly, the Board will need to explore other options to resolve accommodation pressures of the French Immersion program.

### **2.0 Accommodation Options:**

Following are the options from the April report, restated with suggested implementation plans.

*a) Accelerate the implementation of FI program at Burford Elementary by adding grades 5 and 6 in September 2016 and complete the implementation with grades 7 and 8 added in September 2017. Beginning with September 2016, all Brant County resident FI students would be assigned to the FI program provided in Brant County.*

Pending Board approval, a letter would be provided to parents of all children affected to inform them of the changes to attendance areas and the new location of the program for their children effective September 1, 2016. All parents would be invited to attend a meeting to be held at their school, one at Dufferin, one at Fairview to receive information and provide feedback about the change in attendance areas for the FI program for their children. This process would be completed in the fall of 2015 before the Christmas break to allow ample time for families to plan.

*b) Implement a new dual track program at Branlyn for students residing in the Brier Park, Cedarland, Banbury and Branlyn school catchment area. The initial program would include JK to Grade 2 commencing September 2016 and be expanded in future years by adding one cohort per year.*

Pending Board approval, a letter would be provided to parents of all children affected to inform them of the changes to attendance areas and the new location of the program for their children effective September 1, 2016. All parents would be invited to attend a meeting to be held at their school, one at Dufferin, one at Fairview to receive information and provide feedback about the change in attendance areas for the FI program for their children. This process would be completed in the fall of 2015 before the Christmas break to allow ample time for families to plan.

*c) Amend the North Ward and Cobblestone Boundaries to include the current catchment area of Paris Central School and assign FI students from north Brant County to Paris Central making it a single track FI school effective September 2016.*

The Board would follow the Boundary Review process as set out in Board procedure FT119. Given the nature of the change, we would recommend the addition of a delegations meeting to the process set out in FT119 to solicit community feedback prior to a final Board decision. This review would be initiated in the fall of 2015 so that a final board decision on the matter could be communicated before the Christmas break to allow ample time for families to plan.

**d) Establish a second FI program at North Park or Pauline Johnson in September 2016.**

Program staff and Senior Administration would bring a recommendation forward for Board consideration in the fall of 2015. Pending Board approval, the recommendation would be communicated to parents at a "townhall" meeting. Letters communicating the changes planned for the program effective September 2016 will be provided to parents of students affected by the change.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Gunn  
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer