



# BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

## Minutes

Catholic Education Centre  
322 Fairview Drive  
Brantford, ON N3T 5M8

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### Southwest Brantford (Elementary) School Attendance Boundary Review Monday, March 27, 2023 6:00 pm Teams Meeting

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**St. Basil Catholic Elementary School:** Lexie Beaudoin, Donna Bozdarov  
**St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary School:** Amanda Gowan, Hillary Miles-Smiley  
**St. Theresa School:** Alix Consorti

#### RESOURCE PERSONNEL:

**Administration:** Scott Keys, Lorrie Temple, Jack Ammendolia  
**Principals / Vice-Principals:** Joe Atanas, Kerri Chartrand, Jennifer McLaren-Gibbons, Giovanna Oviedo-Kinrade

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1. **Opening Prayer**  
Superintendent Temple opened the meeting with prayer.
2. **Land Acknowledgement**  
Superintendent Keys gave thanks and acknowledged the land that we are gathered on today.
3. **Committee Members**  
Superintendent Keys asked Committee members to introduce themselves and their role on the Committee.
4. **Presentation**
  - 4.1 **Committee Mandate**  
Jack Ammendolia reviewed the mandate of the Committee, specifically;
    - To create an awareness regarding boundary reviews and to determine / communicate why school boards conduct boundary reviews.
    - To provide boundary options based on scenarios, with relevant data and relevant guidelines, both technical data and *voices on the ground* data, and obtain feedback on the options or scenarios.
    - Committee members represent all students, in all schools in the review and the larger Board as well.
  - 4.2 **Why an Attendance Area Review?**  
Mr. Ammendolia noted that, in some cases, school boundaries may never need to be changed. However, boundary reviews are conducted to create a balance as a result of one or more of the following:
    - Enrolment imbalances.
    - The opening of a new school.
    - To relieve enrolment pressures as a result of demographic trends, border-crossing or grade structures.
    - To accommodate program changes, i.e., French Immersion.



He noted that in southwest Brantford, all schools have experienced high enrollments and utilizations, relative to the schools' capacities, i.e., St. Basil School is operating at 140% of its permanent capacity and requires several portables to accommodate the school's population.

#### 4.3 **Possible Outcomes, Limitations and Considerations**

Mr. Ammendolia noted that some of the possible outcomes may be to reduce overall enrolment at one of the schools, i.e., St. Basil, or it may be to try to balance enrolment at the three schools. However, there will be limitations, i.e., the ability to move boundary lines, and the Committee will not be able to change everything.

When reviewing projections, the data indicates that the Board will need capital (new school(s) and has submitted business cases to the Ministry of Education to receive funding for a new school(s). Nevertheless, if the Board is approved for capital funding, it will take approximately 2 - 4 years before a school site is located and purchased, project managers and architects are hired, etc. and the Board can begin construction of the new school. The Committee must determine what can be done in the interim, so transitional provisions should also be considered in the options.

#### 4.4 **Current Situation: Demographics, Projections, Maps**

Mr. Ammendolia reviewed current demographics in southwest Brantford and the schools' historical enrolments and utilizations. He briefly touched on current attendance boundaries and the anticipated residential growth areas in the City of Brantford. Specifically,

- The City of Brantford, and especially southwest Brantford, is experiencing incredible growth, both population and residential, and is attracting families.
- Anticipated residential growth areas, noted in orange and red, indicate areas of the City where concrete plans are currently being developed. Orange area development will be constructed in 3 – 5 years and red area development are currently underway.

#### 4.5 **Next Steps**

- A quick survey will be forwarded to the Committee to obtain feedback and track responses.
- If Committee members have any questions, comments, concerns, feedback, etc., please forward an email message to [swbrantford@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:swbrantford@bhncdsb.ca)
- All presentations, agendas, minutes, etc. will be posted on the Board's website at <http://www.bhncdsb.ca/page/school-attendance-boundary-review>
- The Committee will discuss options and scenarios at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and it is hoped that some options will be presented to the public at the April 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting to obtain more generalized feedback from the general public.
- Final options will be prepared for the Board of Trustees meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Keys noted that the Committee will not make the decision to move boundaries, etc. Trustees will make the decision based on information, scenarios, recommendations, etc. provided to them. He also reiterated that this process does not contemplate closing any schools and will not be considered in any scenario.

#### 4.6 **Questions**

Question: Have school boundary reviews been completed at other school boards where students have been moved from one school to go to another?



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Answer: Mr. Ammendolia commented that school boundary reviews happen at other school boards all the time and he is aware of 20 boundary reviews currently underway. He noted that school board trustees, as part of their deliberations, make the final decision to approve boundary changes, the timing of the changes, the grades affected; the urgency of the situation, public feedback, etc. He also noted that when school boards submit requests for capital to the Ministry, the Ministry requires information regarding if any schools have surplus space, and if so, they want school boards to use that space.

Question: Will any boundary changes become effective as quickly as September 2023 and, if so, when would parents be notified?

Answer: Mr. Ammendolia noted that changes could become effective for September. However, this decision will be part of the process. If the Board of Trustees approve a September start, parents would be informed in late April or early May.

Question: Will the mental health of students be taken into consideration if students are moved from one school to another?

Answer: Mr. Ammendolia noted that this type of feedback would be welcomed by the Committee in order to balance all the information.

Question: Will the Board look at data to ensure students are in their home school boards or living within their school boundaries before they begin to change school boundaries or move students?

Answer: Mr. Ammendolia commented that this type of data will be presented at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Question: Will the Board look at data regarding students who are not baptized Catholic and do not follow the Catholic faith?

Answer: Mr. Ammendolia commented that the admission of non-Catholic students has not been specifically addressed in boundary reviews as those decisions are normally made based on school board policy. Superintendent Temple noted that decisions to admit students based on faith are decided on a case-by-case when the student registers at a school. As a result, it is not likely that those students will be asked to leave their school.

Question: Is the meeting at Assumption College School live or virtual?

Answer: Superintendent Keys commented that it will be hosted in-person in the Cafetorium at Assumption College and virtually for community members who cannot attend in-person.

### 5. Future Meetings

- Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 6:30 pm (Virtual)
- Monday, April 17, 2023 – 6:30 pm (Virtual & Cafetorium, Assumption College School)

### 6. Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm. The next meeting has been scheduled on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm and will be held virtually.

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**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – 6:30 pm  
Monday, April 17, 2023 – 6:30 pm