



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

Minutes

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

Southwest Brantford (Elementary) School Attendance Boundary Review
Thursday, April 27, 2023
5:30 pm
Room 1040, St. Basil School
365 Blackburn Drive, Brantford and via Teams

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

RESOURCE PERSONNEL:

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

1. Land Acknowledgement

Superintendent Keys gave thanks and acknowledged the land that we are gathered on today.

2. Opening Prayer

Vice-Principal Oviedo-Kinrade opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Presentation / Discussion

Mr. Ammendolia commented that as a result of the feedback from the public meeting and the subsequent survey, three new scenarios have been prepared for input and comment. He hoped that the Committee would be able to come to a consensus on a preferred option(s).

3.1 Recap and Feedback from the Public Meeting / Survey

Mr. Ammendolia noted that valuable feedback was received as a result of the public meeting and subsequent surveys. Parents' main concerns were:

- Keeping neighbourhoods and communities together.
- There was less of a willingness for students to go from St. Basil School to St. Theresa School.
- Legacy arrangements for senior grades and families.
- The recommendation should be the least disruptive to students.
- Concern for proper growth.
- Parents want the Board to be very clear that a new school is part of the recommendation.

3.2 Options for Consideration

Mr. Ammendolia reviewed the following possible boundary options with the Committee and, once again, noted that the Board does not have the option of moving large numbers of students to a school with space as there are no schools in the Board with space. Based on recommendations of the survey and feedback, these are the new options:



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Option #1: Southwest Brantford

- Extend the existing St. Basil School boundary into the St. Theresa School catchment.
- Extend the existing St. Basil School boundary into the St. Gabriel School catchment.
Mr. Ammendolia noted that, in previous years, in order to address some of the existing pressures at St. Basil School, students were given the opportunity to cross boundaries to attend St. Gabriel School. This option will make this scenario a permanent arrangement.
- Extend the existing St. Theresa School boundary into the St. Gabriel School catchment.
- This option reduces enrolment by approximately three classrooms at St. Basil School (utilization decreases to 121%).
- This option increases utilization rates at St. Gabriel School to 117% and St. Theresa School to 99%.

NEW Alternate Boundary Option #1B

- The St. Gabriel School students in #1 on Page 9 of the map will attend St. Theresa School.
- The St. Gabriel School students in #2 on Page 9 of the map will attend St. Basil School.
- The Committee preferred Option #1B over Option #1.
- This boundary change makes more sense as the St. Gabriel School catchment students in #3 on Page 11 of the map have been moved to the St. Basil School catchment.
- In response to public feedback, this option has similar utilization rates at Option #1, however, there is some exchanging of areas between St. Theresa and St. Gabriel Schools.

Option #2: Southwest Brantford

- Extend St. Teresa School catchment into St. Basil School catchment.
- Extend St. Gabriel School catchment into St. Basil School catchment.
- This option directs a larger area to St. Theresa School; however, it reduces St. Basil School enrolment by approximately three classrooms (utilization decreases to 120%).
- The utilization rates increase at St. Gabriel School to 109% and 115% at St. Theresa School.

Option #3: Southwest Brantford

- Extend St. Teresa School catchment into St. Basil School catchment.
- Extend St. Gabriel School catchment into St. Basil School catchment.
- Extend St. Gabriel School catchment into St. Basil School catchment.
- This Option builds on Option #2, with an additional area from St. Basil School to St. Gabriel School.
- This Option reduces enrolment at St. Basil School by approximately 4.5 classrooms (utilization decreases to 112%).
- The utilization rates increase at St. Gabriel School to 120% and 115% at St. Theresa School.

NEW Possible Option #4

- Extend St. Gabriel School catchment into St. Basil School catchment.
- This Option moves enrolment from St. Basil School to St. Gabriel school in the shared walking area.
- This Option reduces enrolment at St. Basil School by approximately 3.5 classrooms (utilization decreases to 119%).
- The utilization rates increase at St. Gabriel School to 124%.



NEW Possible Option #4B

- Extend St. Gabriel School catchment into St. Basil School catchment.
- Extend St. Theresa School catchment into to St. Basil School catchment.
- This option builds on Option #4, with an additional area from St. Basil School to St. Theresa School.
- This Option reduces enrolment at St. Basil School by approximately 4.5 classrooms (utilization decreases to 114%).

3.3 Next Steps

Mr. Ammendolia noted that

- His firm will complete the analysis based on the following recommendations:
 - Option #1B and Option #3, Area #3 as the preferred boundary changes.
 - Current Grade 7 students and their siblings currently attending St. Basil, St. Gabriel and St. Theresa Schools be grandfathered (legacy).
- A Special Meeting of the Board will be scheduled. Parents will be advised of this date and time.
- The Southwest Brantford (Elementary) School Attendance Boundary Review report, which will be presented to trustees at a Meeting of the Board, will be made available to parents so that parents can review it, use the Interactive Map, make a decision regarding making a Delegation to the Board of Trustees, etc.
- Information regarding Delegations to the Board of Trustees will be made available for parents.
- Parents can input their address into the Interactive Map to obtain information regarding the school their child(ren) will attend, bussing information, etc. Parents will be advised when the Interactive Map becomes available.

3.4 Questions, Concerns, Comments

Daycare Centres / Before and After School Care

- Will parents still be able to access childcare services / before and after school care if they child(ren) attend new schools?
- These services are typically based on demand. When students move schools, these organizations try to meet that demand.
- Daycare centres have been notified of the boundary review and possible boundary changes.

Bussing

- Recommended new boundaries will be provided to Student Transportation Services of Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN), so that they can update bus routes, determine students eligible for busing, update *Find my School* information, etc.
- STSBHN will be running projections regarding how many busses will be transporting students to each school. It is likely that additional busses will not be added to the routes, however, St. Gabriel School may have a few busses transporting students to their school (they currently do not have any busses).



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Out of Boundary Students

- If parents do not agree with the Board's boundary decision, they can apply for an Out of Boundary exception using the Board's [Admission of Elementary Students, 200.14 Policy](#) to seek approval to remain at their current schools.
- Out of boundary decisions are made considering the rationale for the exemption and in consultation with the student's current principal, teacher, etc.
- If an out of boundary exemption is granted, the student is not eligible for transportation.
- Currently, the Board does not complete a yearly review of out of boundary students as the need did not exist. As enrollments continue to grow, families and principals may struggle with this. Administration will bring this matter to the Board's Policy Committee for review.

Catholicity

- Principals meet with non-Catholic families and the families must agree to participate in religious-based community events, such as masses, etc.
- Permission for non-Catholic students to attend our schools are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- As per our Catholic faith, children who have not been baptized Catholic, cannot participate in the sacraments of communion and confirmation.
- Some blended families may have Catholic and non-Catholic children attending our schools.

Other

- Municipalities have begun to delay development because there are no schools scheduled to be built in the new development. School boards have become more proactive to be able to provide that input. Improving communication between school boards and municipalities is key.
- Implementation Committees / Transition Plans will be organized / planned for students who will attend a new school, i.e., special events, tours of the school, meet the teachers, etc.
- Parents will be notified of the Board's decision via a school messenger email, notification on the Board's website, via school newsletters and the school's website, etc.

4. Future Meetings - May 2023 – Board of Trustee Presentation

Superintendent Keys thanked the Committee for their time in attending meetings and for their honest and valuable input. He also thanked parents for attending the Public Meeting and for responding to the Committee's surveys and feedback. Parents are welcome to continue to provide feedback to the swbrantford@bhncdsb.ca email address or through their principal or School Committee Representative(s).

5. Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Next Meeting: May 2023 – Board of Trustee Presentation