



# BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK Catholic District School Board

## Minutes

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

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### County of Brant Boundary Review Thursday, June 15, 2023 5:30 pm Teams Meeting

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

<b>Blessed Sacrament School:</b>	Lisa Henrique, Kailey Keresturi, Erin Smith
<b>Holy Family Catholic Elementary School:</b>	Allison Langille, Rachael Morton, Shelley Vlasic
<b>Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School:</b>	Julie Rosbrugh, Jessica Ryan
<b>St. Theresa School:</b>	Alix Consorti, Amanda Sanderson

#### RESOURCE PERSONNEL:

<b>Administration:</b>	Scott Keys, Lorrie Temple, Phil Wilson, Jack Ammendolia
<b>Principals / Vice-Principals:</b>	Bill Acres, Jennifer Davidson, Joe Ernst, Kim Spencer

**Regrets:** Kerri Chartrand, Lisa Henrique, Allison Langille, Julie Rosbrugh, Lorrie Temple

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- 1. Land Acknowledgement**  
Superintendent Keys gave thanks and acknowledged the land that we are gathered on today.
- 2. Opening Prayer**  
Superintendent Wilson opened the meeting with prayer.
- 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.
    - Assist Administration in determining *on the ground truths*, i.e., staffing requirements, parking, travel time, walking distances, etc.
    - Assist Administration in presenting boundary options to trustees.



#### 4.2 **Why an Attendance Area Review?**

Mr. Ammendolia noted that, 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 the County of Brant, the majority of the schools in Brant County have experienced high enrollments and utilizations relative to the schools' capacities, i.e., Holy Family and Sacred Heart Schools are operating at 133% capacity and Blessed Sacrament School is operating at 103% capacity.
- The Board does not have the luxury of a school with surplus space.

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

Mr. Ammendolia noted that some of the possible outcomes may be to balance and improve school utilizations by:

- Using excess space in one school to alleviate over capacity in another school.
- Creating opportunities to better serve all students.
- Reducing the need for portable classrooms.

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 the County of Brant and the schools' historical enrolments and utilizations. He briefly touched on current attendance boundaries and the anticipated residential growth areas in the County of Brant. Specifically,

- Total populations have increase by 33%.
- School utilizations exceed the schools' capacity.
- French Immersion is offered at Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School.
- There are a number of reasons why students attend schools which are out of boundary to their home address, however, border crossing is not a significant cause for the schools over capacity.



#### 4.5 **Next Steps**

- Early next week, a quick survey will be forwarded to the Committee to obtain feedback and track responses regarding issues or considerations at your school, i.e., What are the good things about your school? The responses from the survey will assist Senior Administration in providing possible scenarios and options.
- If Committee members have any questions, comments, concerns, feedback, etc., please forward an email message to [brantcounty@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:brantcounty@bhncdsb.ca).
- All presentations, agendas, minutes, etc. will be posted on the Board's website at <https://www1.bhncdsb.ca/boundary-review-county-of-brant-elementary/>
- The Committee will discuss options and scenarios at the September 2023 meeting and it is hoped that some options will be presented at the Public Meeting in the fall to obtain more generalized feedback from the general public.
- Final options will be prepared for the Board of Trustees meeting November 2023.

Superintendent Keys noted that the Committee will not make the decision to move boundaries, etc. Trustees will make the final 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. Any boundary decisions made by the Board of Trustees will most likely become effective for the 2024-25 school year.

#### 4.6 **Questions**

The Committee wondered how many portables can be added to the schools. Mr. Keys noted that the municipality makes the final determination regarding the number of portables at each school. The municipality takes into consideration operational concerns such as septic, supervision, the number of washrooms, electrical capacity, parking, building and electrical codes, etc. With this in mind:

- Limited portables can be added to the Blessed Sacrament School site.
- Six portables will be added to the Sacred Heart School Site in September, which will increase the number of portables to 12 portables classrooms. As a result, any further portables will need to be discussed with the County.
- Holy Family School currently has three portables and they may be able to add one more portable.
- St. Theresa currently does not have any portables, however, a portable will be added to the school site in September.

#### 5. **Future Meetings**

- Attendance Boundary Review Committee Meeting #2 – September 2023
- Public Meeting #1 – September/October 2023
- Committee members should expect some communications in August so that Committee and Public Meetings can be scheduled.

#### 6. **Adjournment**

The Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm. The next meeting will be scheduled for September 2023.

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**Next Meeting:** Committee Meeting #2 – September 2023 (Virtual)  
Public Meeting #1 – TBD  
Board of Trustees Meeting – November 2023