



County of Brant (Elementary) Attendance Boundary Review
Monday, November 24, 2025 - 5:30 pm
Microsoft Teams Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blessed Sacrament School:	Erin Smith
Holy Family School:	Allison Langille, Shelley Vlasic
Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School:	Emily Gardiner, Haley Stallman
St. Theresa School:	Alix Consorti,

RESOURCE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Administration:	Michael Lawlor, Rajini Nelson, Jack Ammendolia, Adam Brutto, Sarah Lees
Principals / Vice-Principals:	Helene McConnell, Jennifer McLaren-Gibbons, Kim Spencer, Rachel DeDominicis
Recording Secretary:	Katherine Reddicliffe

1. Land Acknowledgement

Principal McLaren-Gibbons gave thanks and acknowledged the land that we are gathered on today.

2. Opening Prayer

Principal Spencer opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Presentation

3.1 Committee Contributions

Several schools in the area are currently experiencing enrolment pressures, with a significant number of portables in use. To address this, the Board has been approved for a new school, and work is underway to establish its attendance boundaries.

We have identified specific areas for potential boundary adjustments and have asked the committee to provide feedback on which areas they believe should or should not be moved. A summary of the rationale for these considerations is provided in slide 4 of the presentation the blue under "Why should these areas move/not move?"

Key discussion points include:

- **Municipal Boundary Alignment:** The committee was asked to review areas 6, 9, and 10, which do not align with municipal boundaries, along with other similar areas.
- **Further information on Area 11:** This area was highlighted in survey feedback, and the committee requested further discussion.
- **Princeton/Dumbo Areas:** Requesting further insight into the Princeton/Drumbo areas that may not have been considered in the boundary change options. The student primarily falls within Sacred Heart for French Immersion only, not for the English track. Additional clarification may be required from transportation services.

Committee Preferences: Feedback was mixed, with no strong consensus leaning significantly in one direction.



3.2 Refresher: Current Situation

Understanding Existing Boundaries and Future Planning

It is important to keep in mind the current school boundaries for English-track attendance. All schools in the area are operating well above their original capacity, which is why the Board has been approved to build a new elementary school. French Immersion boundaries were also reviewed, and maps included other French Immersion schools in Brantford to provide an overall perspective. The clusters represent the pockets where many students currently reside.

As part of the review process, we first examine students attending schools outside their designated boundaries and consider returning them to their home schools. This helps determine whether such adjustments could significantly improve enrolment balance across schools. We also consider future residential growth with the new subdivision developments and the approximate number of units planned for construction.

Both existing boundaries and study areas have been carefully reviewed.

3.3 Refresher: Preliminary Ideas for Consideration

We are exploring ways to create an attendance boundary for the new school that will help ease enrolment pressures on existing schools and address future growth. The new school will be located near two other schools, which makes defining the boundary a careful and thoughtful process.

Idea for Consideration 1

The shaded areas are proposed to shift of students from one school to another. The slide show that both St. Theresa and Sacred Heart's utilization rates would drop significantly. Holy Family's numbers would slightly go down, and Blessed Sacrament would remain the same. The tables present the enrolments, utilizations and portables in use. This format creates a boundary for the New Paris School and has them opening with a lower utilization.

Idea for Consideration 2

This option builds on the first scenario, Consideration 1. The new Paris school would serve as the central hub, Holy Family would remain at the centre, and Sacred Heart would form the outer ring. This approach incorporates more of the anticipated residential growth into the new Paris school, helping to maintain balanced enrolment at Holy Family and Sacred Heart over the long term. The New Paris School would open at a slightly higher utilization.

3.4 Committee Considerations

The committee's feedback has been carefully reviewed, particularly regarding Areas 6, 9, and 10, where alignment with municipal boundaries was suggested. While this approach was considered, it presents significant challenges. The Board is currently undertaking three boundary reviews, and shifting these areas into Brantford would impact Our Lady of Providence and St. Pius schools, both of which are operating at approximately 90% capacity and are projected to experience further growth due to planned development along Powerline Road. Although aligning boundaries would provide clarity, it could create additional pressures on other Brantford schools, making this option difficult to implement.



Adjusted Idea for Consideration 1

This option would result in notable impacts on Holy Family and St. Theresa schools. If the approach is too conservative, the new school may open substantially below its intended capacity.

Adjusted Idea for Consideration 2

This alternative allows for a more balanced distribution of growth and enrolment, ensuring the new school receives a greater share of students.

3.5 Key Questions

The consultant has provided a series of questions intended to encourage brainstorming among committee members. These questions should be considered over the coming weeks in preparation for our next meeting.

Feedback can also be shared through the survey that will be distributed in the days ahead. Your input is valuable and will help guide the discussion moving forward.

3.6 Next Steps

- Consultants will promptly liaise with the transportation department to clarify details for the area in question. Should it be confirmed that the area falls within the Sacred Heart catchment, necessary adjustments will be implemented, and the committee will be informed accordingly.
- The public consultation will occur January 2026.
- Presentation of the final options to the Trustees for approval in the spring 2026.
- If Committee members have any questions, comments, concerns, feedback, etc., please forward an email message to brantcounty@bhncdsb.ca
- All presentations, agendas, minutes, etc. will be posted on the Board's website at <https://www1.bhncdsb.ca/county-of-brant/>

3.6 Questions

Projections

When assessing projected growth in these areas, we consider anticipated student numbers based on future developments. These projections can change for various reasons. Attendance boundary reviews are essential because schools are originally designed for a specific capacity. As communities grow and development occurs, enrolment can exceed the building's intended capacity, requiring adjustments to ensure schools can accommodate all students effectively.

Intermediate Students

Plans for the grade 7 & 8 students.

Mr. Ammendolia explained that once a final recommendation has been reached, it will be presented to staff for review. Staff will then engage in further discussion with the Board of Trustees. Regarding legacy students, the Board has historically implemented a variety of approaches. Typically, students in grades 7 and 8 have been offered the option to remain at their current school or attend the new school. However, certain conditions must be considered, as opening a new school with very low enrolment is not feasible. The goal is to strike an appropriate balance between continuity for students and ensuring the viability of the new school.



Out of Boundary

The Board has an established policy regarding out-of-boundary enrolment. Staff may need to review and fully understand this policy to ensure consistent application at the Board level. It is important that clear mechanisms are in place to manage and respond to requests from families seeking out-of-boundary placements.

Legacy and Boundary Clarifications

Students from the Drumbo and Princeton areas were previously grandfathered under arrangements following a school closure and may currently fall under a legacy status. Consultants and Board staff will review the number of affected students, the schools they attend, and the details of the original decisions. Findings will be reported back to the committee in due course.

4. Future Meetings

- Public Consultation – January 26, 2026

5. Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm
