



County of Brant (Elementary) Attendance Boundary Review
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - 5:30 pm
Microsoft Teams Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blessed Sacrament School:	Erin Smith, Lisa Henrique
Holy Family School:	Cheryl Szombati, Shelley Vlasic
Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School:	Emily Gardiner, Haley Stallman
St. Theresa School:	Sandra Szczechura

RESOURCE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

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

1. Land Acknowledgement

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

2. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Nelson opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Presentation

3.1 Purpose of Committee Meeting #2

The purpose of the committee meeting is to facilitate the sharing of information, data, ideas, and feedback.

The committee plays a key role in providing valuable insight into community connectivity. At our next meeting, we will begin refining our approach and determining the content to be presented during the public consultation.

3.2 Refresher

Many of these schools were part of a review a couple of years ago which was aimed at securing government funding for capital build. The approval for a new school was achieved due to high utilization rates and the extensive use of portables across the area. Therefore, the primary focus of this boundary review process will explore opportunities for minor adjustments that could benefit the community, alongside establishing a new attendance boundary. A significant emphasis will be placed on addressing the needs of the Paris community.

3.3 Current Situation / Student Distribution

We reviewed historical and projected enrolment figures along with facility utilization data. In addition, we mapped the distribution of students enrolled in both the English program and French Immersion.

A snapshot was provided showing the number of students currently attending schools outside their designated boundaries and the potential impact if they were to return to their home schools. The Board has an established policy on this matter, and any exceptions are determined at the Board level. In this case, returning students to their home boundaries would have minimal impact.



We also highlighted active residential developments and plans for upcoming subdivisions. These represent only a portion of the anticipated growth and the number of housing units expected. This information helps us understand the future challenges the area will face, as significant growth is projected.

3.4 Preliminary Ideas for Consideration

Summary Chart

The chart illustrates the three schools where boundary adjustments may be considered. These options are intended to initiate discussion and provide an overview of the different areas under consideration.

Idea for Consideration 1

Most schools will continue to require portables in this situation, which is a fairly normal part of the process. Based on the data, this focuses on the hatched area which represents Sacred Heart and a small portion of St. Theresa which could be moved.

This area includes many students who currently travel by bus. Adjusting boundaries here is technically feasible, as these students are accustomed to transportation. This approach would also create opportunities to accommodate future growth and optimize enrolment. The next slide provides a closer look at this option.

Consideration 2

This option expands on the previous scenario. Students who currently walk to Sacred Heart would not be bussed to the new school, resulting in two walkable schools: Sacred Heart and the new school built.

The new school can be designed to handle increased traffic and transportation needs, which existing schools cannot easily accommodate. This scenario anticipates higher enrolment and utilization from the outset.

Key Questions for Future Planning

Does this approach align with projected growth?
How will transportation requirements be managed?
Are facilities adequate for parking and washrooms?

These considerations will be addressed in later stages. For now, we ask you to review these areas and think about the outcomes for your communities.

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 Implementation Decisions

The Board will oversee decision-making and guide the implementation process, considering the following key considerations:



- School Space Audits – including temporary spaces and transportation requirements
- Staffing Needs – ensuring appropriate resources and support
- Transition Planning – to facilitate a smooth change for students and families

3.7 Next Steps and Questions

- Development and presentation of alternative attendance boundary scenarios for Committee Meeting #3.
- 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/>

Questions

Holding Zones

The Board has worked diligently to accommodate students wherever possible, and our current hope is that holding zones will not be required. However, we did not anticipate the significant growth as quickly as it presented itself and many schools have reached capacity due to this unexpected influx of students.

Sacred Heart French Immersion School

Will Sacred Heart remain a dual track FI school?

At this time, we cannot confirm the outcome. The scenarios presented this evening assume that Sacred Heart will continue as a dual-track French Immersion school. If the committee proposes alternative options, these will be carefully reviewed.

A previous review indicated strong public support for keeping the French Immersion program at Sacred Heart, and that feedback has been an important consideration in our planning.

Portables – Holy Family

Do we know if Holy Family CES can accommodate additional portables while the new school is being built?

At this time, there is no available space for additional portables at Holy Family CES, and funding for the new school has not yet been secured. While future options may be explored as circumstances evolve, we recognise the principal's concern about next year and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Sacred Heart – Extended Boundary

The area near Drumbo/Princeton was grandfathered when a local school closed, and those students were welcomed into our system. These families currently experience bus rides of approximately 35 minutes or more for both French Immersion and English programs. We will work with Watsons to confirm that this information is accurately reflected.

4. Future Meetings

- Monday, November 24, 2025 at 5:30 pm

5. Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm
