



**Haldimand County (Elementary) - School Attendance Boundary Review  
Monday, March 18, 2024 - 5:30 pm  
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School:** Angela Hogeveen, Jeanine Silva, Stephanie Robert  
**St. Mary's School:** Danielle Sadonoja, Joana Dixon  
**St. Michael's School (Dunnville):** Melissa Anema, Rob Campbell  
**St. Patrick's School:** Carmeliza Ramsoop, Ian Haynes  
**St. Stephen's School:** Not Available  
**Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School:** Not Applicable

**RESOURCE PERSONNEL:**

**Administration:** Scott Keys, Lorrie Temple, Phil Wilson, Jack Ammendolia, Sara Lees  
**Principals:** Amy Smith, Jeff VanLeuvenhage, Karen Wilkinson, Kerri Lomax, Mary Leonard  
**Recording Secretary:** Katherine Reddicliffe

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**1. Opening Prayer**

Principal Smith opened the meeting with prayer.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

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

**3. Presentation / Discussion**

**3.1 Possible Scenarios**

Mr. Ammendolia reviewed the outcomes of the Committee Survey about the key issues and existing conditions at the various schools in the boundary review.

Mr. Ammendolia provided a review of the existing boundaries and noted that the boundary review is not a long-term solution to rectify issues, but main purpose is to create a boundary for the new elementary school, Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School. Reassuring the committee that none of the considerations are set in stone. He reviewed the following possible boundary options with the Committee:

**Idea for Consideration 1a**

- Focus is solely on creating a boundary for the new elementary school.
- Take St. Patrick's current student enrollment and move them to Pope Francis CEC.
- St. Patrick's would drop to 55% utilization.

**Idea for Consideration 1b**

- Sending approximately 229 current JK-6 students to the new Pope Francis CEC.
- St. Patrick's would drop to 69% utilization.
- This idea builds off 1a, with a little more balanced approach.
- Creates more capacity for future community growth and development.



**Idea for Consideration 1c**

- New Pope Francis CES attendance boundary created.
- Adjusted with St. Stephen's CES boundary to follow York Road (Hwy 9).
- This will send approximately ten students from York and Empire Corners to St. Stephen's.

**Idea for Consideration 2**

- If idea 1a is a strong possibility, this consideration looks at doing a little more focusing outside of Caledonia.
- Keeping future developments in Hagersville in mind and the high utilization at St. Mary's it may be work looking into boundary "tweaks" in the County.
- New Pope Francis CES attendance boundary created.
- Consideration of "tweaks" to other school boundaries.
- Additional boundary change between St. Mary's CES and St. Stephen's to lower St. Mary's utilization.

**Idea for Consideration 3**

- Tries to incorporate a few considerations together with a twist.
- New Pope Francis CES attendance boundary created, and Notre Dame attendance area extended.
- All French Immersion sent to St. Patrick's (single-track learning)
- Therefore, changing the current set up at Notre Dame which offers two separate learning styles.
- This would intern put Pope Francis at a high utilization at opening.

**3.2 Holding Zones**

N/A

**3.3 Out of Boundary Students**

Border Crossing

Upon further review of the data, there were questions/concerns about some of the current stats. Clarification was provided on:

- Some students were denoted as out of boundary (reside in first nation communities). Technically they are all going to the schools that they are supposed to go to.
- A handful of Notre Dame students were considered out of boundary, but after receiving the detailed information the data has been updated.

Border crossing does not impose a significant impact on this review. Specifically, students coming from St. Patrick boundary into Notre Dame are manageable.

If students returned to their home boundary, the impact would be large enough to warrant the movement.

**3.4 Next Steps**

Mr. Ammendolia noted that:

- The Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Gymnasium at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School. The meeting will include the items from March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup> meetings.
- Another quick survey will be conducted about the proposed options.
- If parent's have questions or would like feedback, they can email [haldimandcounty@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:haldimandcounty@bhncdsb.ca)



- Tonight's presentation will be available on the Board's website.

### 3.5 Questions

#### **Questions referencing Consideration 1a.**

Question: When looking at Caledonia maps, do the maps include the new development coming to the area?

Answer: The current maps are correct with the known development sites marked.

Question: Is it possible that the government can/will pull funding for low utilization at schools such as St. Patrick's if drastic adjustments are made.

Answer: The funding from given is allocated per pupil/student. The funds will not be pulled.

#### **Questions referencing Consideration 1c.**

Question: Looking at the intermediate grades 7 and 8, they are not included in it?

Answer: When September 2025 rolls around these students will no longer be part of the elementary system. They will have moved up to the secondary level.

Question: When the new school is built will these intermediate students have the choice of where they want to go?

Answer: The process is that the consultants provide the facts and opinions and then the trustees will make the final decision for their Board. Staff, committee, and the public provide the information to the consultants from their feedback to assist with the whole package of details to be presented. This "choice" is called the "legacy." It is possible to have this in place if there is a reasonable balance in the numbers.

#### **Questions referencing Consideration 2**

Question: The boundary showed on the map, is the new development included?

Answer: Mr. Ammendolia will follow up with his team to verify that it is included.

#### **Questions referencing Consideration 3**

Referring to the consideration of taking the two existing Caledonia schools, the question was posed what if at Notre Dame, the French Immersion program was changed to a single-track FI program. Moving it from two separate programs within one school to just one. This would intern create a high utilization rate at opening at Pope Francis.

Question: If a family has kids in both streams at Notre Dame, would the siblings now attend different schools? Any consideration given if FI program, if people drop off – because they do not want to follow FI – is consideration given to this?

Answer: There would need to be many reviews regarding the program delivery and changes. The committee and public needs to consider – do you want a change in delivery model? Along with, if you had a single-track delivery model are you ok that the location would be "x." Would you be ok with siblings being split up? These is the feedback that needs to come from the committee/public to the consultants so that they are aware of community requirements. Additionally, need to see if it a worthwhile exercise to go down this road to review and modify these.



Comment: Principal Leonard is living the day-to-day operations of having the slip school with both the English curriculum and French Immersion. From her experience she encourages the Board to continue this method instead of creating an entire separate school for French Immersion. With the segregation, often this brings various problems such as elitist thinking. Would like to see the atmosphere remain as is.

Comment: Ms. Hogeveen expressed her concern that a lot of French Immersion students would drop out of the program completely and continue with the English track curriculum if the move occurred.

Question: How are decisions made about the building of split schools? Is it possible that Grand Erie may decide to do a full French Immersion in Caledonia on their half of the building?

Answer: Superintendent Keys provided insight on the design of the building and takes into account the whole space, determining who goes there – is done independently each board will do their own. Often the cost is lower and both boards benefit overall. There are some shared amenities, but the classrooms are unique and distinct.

Regarding Grand Erie, they must review their own enrollment projections and distinguish what is best for them. The Ministry does not like the idea of building new schools strictly for French Immersion. It is encouraged to use existing schools for these types of programs. The Ministry does have the ability to veto these decisions.

Mr. Ammendolia thanked the Committee for their feedback.

**4. Future Meetings**

- Wednesday, April 10, 2024 – 6:30 pm (Gymnasium, Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School)

**5. Adjournment**

- The Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

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**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 – 6:30 pm