



Norfolk County (Elementary) Attendance Boundary Review
Tuesday, November 5, 2024 - 5:30 pm
Microsoft Teams Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Our Lady of Fatima School:	Jennifer Gushue
Sacred Heart School:	Candice Vanhie
St. Bernard of Clairvaux School:	Jeanette (Harris) Duffield, Jillian DePauw
St. Cecilia's School:	Anthony Lasanowski, Martha Santos-Smith
St. Frances Cabrini School:	Jena Wagner, Melissa Damota
St. Joseph's School:	Megan Flexman
St. Michael's School:	Jennifer Carrier

RESOURCE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Administration:	Mike McDonald, Phil Wilson, Lorrie Temple, Jack Ammendolia
Principals / Vice-Principals:	Joe Persia, Jennifer Rudyk, Sue Defreyne, Erin Bedard, Teresa Szalay
Recording Secretary:	Katherine Reddicliffe

REGRETS:

Adam Brutto, David Gervais, Elijah Marshall, Jenn Vanden Hengel, Jill Van De Slyke, John McDermid, Lucas Bertran, Sarah Lees, Tonya Jansen

1. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Wilson 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 Committee Contributions

A fair number of responses were received from the committee survey. The data obtained from the survey highlighted the various accommodations issues experienced at each of the schools.

The following were highlighted as primary concerns:

- Legacy considerations for the current grade 7s and 8s
- Keeping French Immersion (FI) program together from JK-8
- Prioritizing student's mental health and minimizing disruption of students as best as possible
- Resource inequalities (staffing, programs, etc.)
- Concern for traffic and parking
- Considerations for growth

Another survey will be sent out in the future reflecting on the French Immersion delivery model in Norfolk County.

Public Engagement session is current scheduled for January 20, 2025.



3.2 **Committee Meeting #1 Refresher**

Utilization rates for this current school year are extremely high at:

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux School
- St. Frances Cabrini School
- St. Joseph's School

The number of portables currently situated at these sites maybe at maximum according to the County's guidelines.

Furthermore, the utilization rates at the follow schools are low:

- Our Lady of Fatima School
- Sacred Heart School
- St. Michael's School

The main goal will be to try and balance the schools. Using the most recent October numbers, both English track students and French Immersion students were highlighted. The highest number of students are positioned directly around St. Joseph's School.

3.3 **Updated Enrolment Data**

Using the current October numbers, the historical and projected enrolments per school were tabled to show trends for the next decade. Those schools that have high utilization rates today will continue to have high rates in the future. Also, those with low utilization rates now will have low in the future.

Special circumstances:

- St. Cecilia's School who had a significant increase in JK enrolment this year. Will investigate to see what is occurring in the community that impacted this change.
- French Immersion enrolment at St. Josph's to be looked at with a deeper lens.

3.4 **Out of Boundary Students**

Majority of the students are attending their resident school. This was expected prior to investigation. There don't seem to be any concerns revolving around this topic.

3.5 **Areas of Consideration**

Referring to English track students, the current school boundary map was highlighted and then a second map with "Areas for Consideration". Various boundary adjustments were presented as considerations, which include the potential to move some or all the options.

Furthermore, the program relocation of French Immersion was also presented. The options for consideration include:

- Expansion of the FI program to under-enrolled schools (due to the high demand at St. Joseph's).
- Consider splitting the FI program by grade level to the under-enrolled schools.
- Consider relocating the FI program entirely to an under-enrolled school and establishing a single-track FI school.

The committee's preliminary decision is to focus on a boundary adjustment.



3.6

Possible Scenarios

Mr. Ammendolia explained that the ideas for consideration are done by geographic areas. The intent is that the maps are interchangeable. Pieces can be analyzed, and modifications can be made.

Idea for Consideration 1a

- No French Immersion changes
- Areas 5+9 from St. Frances Cabrini sent to Our Lady of Fatima
- Areas 4+6+7 from St. Frances Cabrini sent to Sacred Heart
- Areas 15+24 from St. Bernard of Clairvaux sent to St. Cecilia's
- Areas 21+22+25 from St. Joseph's sent to St. Michael's
- FI remains unchanged.
- Sacred Heart's utilization remains around 50%.
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux's utilization remains high, but has 5 portables on site to accommodate students (and would only need 4)

Idea for Consideration 1b

- No French Immersion changes
- Areas 5+9 from St. Frances Cabrini sent to Our Lady of Fatima
- Area 4 from St. Frances Cabrini and areas 3b+3c from St. Michael's sent to Sacred Heart
- Areas 15+24 from St. Bernard of Clairvaux sent to St. Cecilia's
- Areas 6+7 from St. Frances Cabrini and areas 21+22+25 sent to St. Michael's
- Area 19 from St. Joseph's sent to St. Frances Cabrini
- Areas 17+18 from St. Bernard of Clairvaux sent to St. Joseph's

Idea for Consideration 2a

- This consideration focuses on the French Immersion Program with a split.
- Areas 5+9 from St. Frances Cabrini sent to Our Lady of Fatima
- Areas 4+6+7 from St. Frances Cabrini sent to Sacred Heart
- Area 15 from St. Bernard of Clairvaux and Area 24 from St. Joseph's sent to St. Cecilia's
- Areas 21+22+25 from St. Joseph's sent to St. Michael's
- FI Program Split: 4-8 move from St. Joseph's to Sacred Heart & JK-3 remains at St. Joseph's
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux's utilization remains high, but has 5 portables on site to accommodate students (and would only need 4)
- St. Joseph's - remove JK to 3 part of the FI program and moved it to Sacred Heart.
- The initial survey results favoured keeping the FI program at one central location.
- Further investigation on the thoughts of the committee members and the bus transportation travel time, which can intern increase the enrolment of the FI program.
- This consideration will improve all the school's utilization rates except St. Bernard of Clairvaux School.



Idea for Consideration 2b

- This consideration focuses on the French Immersion Program with a split.
- Areas 4+5+9 from St. Frances Cabrini sent to Our Lady of Fatima.
- Areas 22+24+25 from St. Joseph's sent to St. Cecilia's.
- Areas 11+17+18 from St. Bernard of Clairvaux sent to St. Joseph's.
- FI Program Split: 4-8 moves from St. Joseph's to Sacred Heart & JK-3 moves to St. Michael's.
- St. Michael's utilization increases to 125%.
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux remains above 130% utilization but has 5 portables on site to accommodate students (would only need 3).

Idea for Consideration 2c

- Area 9 from St. Frances Cabrini sent to Our Lady of Fatima
- Areas 4+5 from St. Frances Cabrini sent to Sacred Heart
- Areas 20+21 from St. Joseph's sent to St. Michael's
- Areas 11+17+18 from St. Bernard of Clairvaux sent to St. Joseph's
- St. Cecilia's becomes a ST-FI School
- St. Joseph's and St. Bernard of Clairvaux remain above 130% utilization.
 - St. Joseph's currently has 12 portables on site (would only need 6)
 - St. Bernard of Clairvaux currently has 5 portables on site (would only need 3)

3.7 Key Questions and Future Discussions

Mr. Ammendolia presented questions in the slides that he has asked the committee to ponder upon. These answers are extremely important to discuss in the future and clearly state the impacts that they may have on their communities. Ideas presented today are starting points.

Key Questions and discussion items took place for each of the considerations as follows:

Idea for Consideration 1b

- Area 17 to be investigated by the planning department. As per Principal Defreyne, the bussing transportation needs to be taken to consideration here.

Idea for Consideration 2a

- Anthony Lasanowski brought forth the thought that parents may not want to change schools even if the FI program is not available. They may be inclined to keep the younger children exactly where they are right now. Mr. Ammendolia's response stated that the intention is to look at the FI program on an entire Board level. Recognizing that nothing is ideal. The Board is continuously trying to secure capital for new school builds but has been unsuccessful with the Ministry. Now, the Board must look at all the options to see what can be amended with what is currently available.
- Principal Defreyne expressed the positive changes that these boundaries adjustments could provide to our students. In her statement she expressed that the smaller schools have difficulty getting sports teams started because of the enrolment numbers per division. This may provide opportunities to these students to try branch out and try new programs.



Idea for Consideration 2b

- Mr. Ammendolia will confirm with the Board if there are possibilities of adding additional portables to the site or if the maximum number has been reached.
- Jennifer Carrier provided details regarding the current state of St. Michael's, specifically highlighting the lack of parking. The current parking lot is limited to staff parking and parents/guardians are using the church park lot. If the enrolment is to increase, this should be a major component in the consideration.

Idea for Consideration 2c

- If the consensus is that everything should remain together and go to a single-track French Immersion program at one location, the proposed location would be St. Cecilia's School. Intern the English enrolments would be disbursed to St. Joseph's. An adjustment would need to be made somewhere due to the high utilization.
- Reviews are required in Area 11 and 17, due to the distance in bussing and alternatives.
- Martha Santos-Smith informed the committee that half of the students at St. Cecilia's walk to school or have parents do drop off/pick ups. Currently there is a small group of students receiving bussing.
- Superintendent Temple stated that from a curriculum perspective it would be best to keep the FI program at one central location. Additionally, the bubble surrounding whichever school is hosting this program will always have a higher FI enrolment.
- Mr. Ammendolia stated for all to start thinking of the hard truths or stretch the limits to have a substantial impact.
- Jennifer Carrier expressed the concerns of the lengthy bus trips as student. Potential 55-minute rides due to the road structure in the country. There is an understanding that if a parent is sold on the program, they will make the effort for what they love.
- Jillian DePauw provided insight on the public school system in the area as she is a teacher with the other Board. Currently there is an FI program at Lakewood (near St. Cecilia's). This would pose no English track schools in Port Dover and then the potential of losing the numbers.
- Jena Wagner questioned the survey details and was informed that it will be same survey for both FI and English track. Mr. Ammendolia expressed the need to think of an entire community versus a specific section. Therefore, one survey will be issued for all.

Mr. Ammendolia informed the committee that an interactive map will be created and provided to the members of the committee as an additional resource.

Director McDonald highlighted that we are in the early process of planning and there are many great ideas brought to the table. This conjunction between data and on the ground running truths will help form solid decisions.

3.9 **Next Steps and Questions**

A second committee survey will be conducted in the future. Mr. Ammendolia expressed his interest in providing straight forward questions to gage the committees interest in each scenario. These answers will assist in navigating the direction of this review.

If parent's have questions or would like feedback, they can email norfolkcounty@bhncdsb.ca

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



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board

Minutes

Catholic Education Centre
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Final decisions will be in the hands of the Trustees in the Winter/Spring of 2025.

The futures items to be dealt with at a Board level include:

- School space audits/temporary spaces/transportation
- Staffing requirements/needs
- Transition planning

4. Future Meetings

- Public Meeting – Monday, January 20, 2025 from 6:00-8:00 pm
Location: Gymnasium at Holy Trinity Catholic High School

5. Adjournment

- The Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm
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Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 5:30 pm (Virtual)