



Norfolk County (Elementary) Attendance Boundary Review
Tuesday, February 4, 2025 - 5:30 pm
Microsoft Teams Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Our Lady of Fatima School:	Jennifer Gushue, Tonya Jansen
Sacred Heart School:	Candice Vanhie, Jill Van De Slyke
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:	Elijah Marshall, Megan Flexman
St. Michael's School:	Jenn Vanden Hengel, Jennifer Carrier

RESOURCE PERSONNEL:

Administration:	Mike McDonald, Rajini Nelson, Phil Wilson, Lorrie Temple, Jack Ammendolia, Sara Lees, Adam Brutto
Principals / Vice-Principals:	Bill Acres, Jeff VanLeuvenhage, Joe Persia, David Gervais, Jennifer Rudyk, Luc Bertran, Erin Bedard, Teresa Szalay
Recording Secretary:	Katherine Reddicliffe

REGRETS:

Adam Brutto, Bill Acres, Elijah Marshall, Sara Lees

1. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Temple 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

Several responses were received from the second committee survey. The school affiliations were clearly displayed in the pie graph along with the opinions on which areas should and should not move. Highlights from the options to move include:

- Decrease numbers for St. Bernard and St. Joseph and increase St. Cecilia's and St. Michael's.
- No areas should move, and the French Immersion (FI) program should be moved to create a single-track FI location.
- Moving Areas 5, 9, 11, 15 and 17 doesn't make sense (geographically, from a community stance, etc.)

Additional questions were asked, and they are along with their responses:

Should the FI program remain status quo (JK-8 at St. Joseph's CES)?

- Simcoe is not central to Norfolk County
- St. Michael's would be the optimal location for FI
- Splitting the FI program does not make sense



Are there any unique circumstances surrounding your school and community that you feel Board staff and the consultant team should be aware of?

- Each school has strong community ties, and any change will cause upset and disrupt current students.
- What type of legacy provisions will be built into the proposed ideas?

3.2 **Student Distribution**

Recap provided on the autumn student distribution numbers for English track students.

3.3 **Current Situation**

Tables displaying the historical and projected enrolments/utilizations were shown.

The current situation focuses on St. Joseph's, displaying the high FI attendance and high English single track numbers. The 2024-2025 utilization for FI is at 137%.

3.4 **Committee Concerns & Considerations**

St. Michael's was highlighted as a single-track FI school option in previous meetings. Data collected by the consultants has brought forth the following concerns:

- School has an on the ground (OTG) number of 160. If the FI program moves here the numbers are well over 180.
- School was built in the 60s and the septic system/well water systems cannot support more than the OTG.
- Portables would be subject to this capacity and additional portables would most likely not be granted as is.
- Electrical services would need to be reviewed.

Travel distances of proposed options highlighted. Map, areas and points examined in slide 10 of the presentation. The information provided is on an average and not reflecting every single student.

The FI proposed centres were also looked at with the proposed average distance. With the revisions to the FI program moving forward, the JK and SK students would have a French language experience versus the current curriculum.

3.5 **Coterminous French Immersion Locations**

The committee shared information in the previous meeting regarding the locations of single tracked FI program in the County through other Boards. The slide highlighted these locations for a better visual of the situation to the committee.

3.6 **Areas of Consideration**

Refresher of the existing boundaries under review in the County.

3.7 **Preliminary Ideas for Consideration**

Mr. Ammendolia explained that the ideas for consideration are done based on current/projected numbers, utilization and committee feedback. Pieces can be analyzed, and modifications can be made. These considerations are not set in stone, and we are still at the beginning stages of the process.



Idea for Consideration 1

(formerly 1a in previous presentations)

This idea for consideration has no changes to the French Immersion program.

- 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 remains unchanged
- Sacred Heart's utilization remains around 50%
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux's utilization remains high, but has five portables on site to accommodate students (and would only need 4)

Idea for Consideration 2

(formerly 2a in previous presentations)

This idea for consideration builds on the partial movement of the FI program.

- 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 five portables on site to accommodate students (and would only need 4)

Idea for Consideration 3

(formerly 2c in previous presentations)

This idea for consideration builds off #2 with a full shift of the FI program.

- 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 twelve portables on site (would only need 6)
 - St. Bernard of Clairvaux currently has five portables on site (would only need 3)

3.7 Questions

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 and are considerations, no options at this stage in the process. The implementation of the entire Attendance Boundary Review is expected for September 2026.**

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

- The consultant has considered projections in all Ideas of consideration, but these can alter based on numerous factors. We need to use this data to assist in the future planning. Nothing is 100% guaranteed, but the data is accurate and up to date for what is required.



- Committee members wanted to stress the importance of the various schools that have heavy foot traffic to/from school. Some have very little students being bussed and the proposed changes could really impact the families.
- St. Michael's may be a hot topic at the public meetings, details pertaining to any renovation ideas and current site findings to be available for the public. Community will have several questions regarding this school. The Board will need to reach out to the Ministry to gain a better understanding and obtain guidance on ideas for consideration #3. What thresholds and requirements are necessary if proceeding with this idea.
- Student movement should also take into consideration the diocese the students are in or could be moving to, and the parishes the schools belong to. Board staff to further investigate these items.
- It is understood by all committee members that there will be some sort of student disruption in all ideas for consideration. The goal is to keep in mind the least amount of disruption to go along with the best change for long term planning.

Mr. Ammendolia and Director McDonald highlighted the great dialogue in today's meeting and the points that were brought forth regarding all the communities. We are in the process of narrowing down ideas for consideration to bring forth to the public. This conjunction between data and on the ground running truths will help form solid decisions. More communication and input will be coming through a survey to the committee.

4. Future Meetings

- Public Meeting

A survey will be created by the consultant and sent out to the committee. This will clarify if the committee's intent is to present these three "ideas for consideration" to the public. The poll will provide the clarity.

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.

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

- Ministry guideline clarification on Idea for Consideration #3.
- Further review of schools, dioceses and churches involved in the review.

5. Adjournment

- The Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Next Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 5:30 pm (Virtual)