



**County of Brant (Elementary) Boundary Review**  
**Thursday, November 9, 2023 - 5:30 pm**  
**In Person and Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

<b>Blessed Sacrament School:</b>	Lisa Henrique, Kailey Keresturi, Erin Smith
<b>Holy Family Catholic Elementary School:</b>	Allison Langille, Rachael Morton, Shelley Vlasic
<b>Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School:</b>	Julie Rosbrugh, Jessica Ryan
<b>St. Theresa School:</b>	Alix Consorti, Amanda Sanderson

**RESOURCE PERSONNEL:**

<b>Administration:</b>	Scott Keys, John Della Fortuna, Lorrie Temple, Phil Wilson, Jack Ammendolia, Sara Lees
<b>Principals / Vice-Principals:</b>	Bill Acres, Kerrie Chartrand, Kim Spencer, Mark Finocchio, Rachel DeDominicis
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Katherine Reddicliffe

**1. Land Acknowledgement**

Scott Keys gave thanks and acknowledged the land that we are gathered on today.

**2. Opening Prayer**

Phil Wilson opened the meeting with prayer.

**3. Presentation**

**3.1 Boundary Review Update**

Superintendent Keys recapped the Board's decision to remove specific items for consideration from the Brant Boundary review. Thanks to the overwhelming public feedback, these items included:

- Moving Grades 7 and 8 students to St. John's College in Brantford
- Moving the French Immersion Program to another location
- Moving students to Our Lady of Providence in Brantford

**3.2 Review of Survey Results and Ideas for Consideration**

Mr. Ammendolia presented various graphs/tables/maps providing an in-depth overview of the results from the valuable feedback from the public survey presented to parents/guardians at the four schools. The comparisons between the different options listed in the survey and the results compiled were exactly what the Attendance Boundary Review Committee (ABRC) expected. There were no surprises in the data collected.

Public Survey Feedback

Grades 7-12 schools – parents/guardians main concerns were:

- Student safety
- Bussing times/Transportation
- Exposure to older students
- Loss of mentorship opportunities
- Athletics/extra-curricular activities

French Immersion results are biased depending on the students' enrollment in the program vs. those not enrolled in the program. The survey results were marginal.



Alternative ideas reviewed and the repeated themes of concern reviewed by the Committee.

Based on the feedback provided, Mr. Ammendolia noted that these are the new ideas for consideration:

Option #1

- Extend St. Theresa's catchment into Sacred Heart's
- Feedback asked from the ABRC – N/A

Option #2

- Develop holding zones where significant development (greater than 500 total units) is expected, holding students at schools with existing surplus space.
- Feedback asked from the ABRC – N/A

French Immersion numbers were reviewed, and data showed moving students who reside outside of these schools to Regular-Track schools in their boundary would not have any impact on the enrollment/utilization numbers. This would ultimately not resolve any pressures at the schools being reviewed.

Feedback asked from the ABRC – N/A

### 3.3 **Next Steps**

Mr. Ammendolia notes that:

- Committee members to provide final recommendations for consideration.
- His firm would update some of the boundary maps to show a clearer viewpoint of areas allocated "Holding Zones." Holding Zones to be recalculated to include development areas less than 500.
- Mr. Ammendolia and Superintendent Keys would prepare and present final options to Trustees for their approval.

### 3.4 **Questions**

Out of Boundary

Superintendent Keys informed the committee that Out of Boundary students have not been permitted in recent years due to the increasing enrollment pressures.

Non-Catholic Enrollment

A question was presented regarding options to remove non-Catholics from the schools to help alleviate some of the enrolment pressures. Superintendent Temple advised that this process would be extremely difficult to determine which students to focus on. When parents/guardians are looking to enroll their children, they are looking to participate in all practices and teachings set out. The Board does have a process in place that works exceptionally well regarding non-Catholic enrollment.

Holding Zones

Mr. Ammendolia explained that Holding Zones often work in a two-part process. This works to direct future students to one of the other schools in the area. This is a temporary pressure release. In the years ahead, the Board may need to reevaluate these areas and complete another review. If families currently reside in the areas mapped out as "Holding Zones" they would be considered legacy and remain with their current school.



Future holding zones could be applied to other communities, if required. St. Theresa inquired due to growth predicted in their catchment in the future. Mr. Ammendolia circled back that if a new school is secured and built, this will assist with the overflow and balance.

Transportation has policies in place regarding average bus time and targets to meet. This would be used to provide insight into which schools to direct students to.

#### Portables

Must approach the municipality for approval of additional portables. Portables are a temporary fix the current problem. By adding the space for additional students, this adds pressure to other aspects of the existing schools such as washroom allocations. If there are not enough of these then potential portable washrooms need to be created – this causes construction to occur to provide suitable infrastructure. Takes a minimum of six months to get a portable as they are custom made by order. St. Teresa has received a portable recently.

#### Potential New School

Superintendent Keys explained the process which the BHNCD SB has put forth the submission for a new elementary school to be built. The Ministry has until March 202 to make their final decision as to approve or decline the Boards submission. If approved, the projection date for school opening is September 2027.

#### **5. Future Meetings**

- Meeting to occur virtually through Microsoft Teams in the upcoming weeks.
- Committee of the Whole – December 12, 2023
- Board of Trustees Meeting – December 19, 2023

#### **6. Adjournment**

The Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

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**Next Meeting – TBD**