



# Halton District School Board

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## **REVISIONS NOTED IN RED:**

Report Number: 12011 **REVISED (Jan.27)**

Date: January 18, 2012

## **INFORMATION FOR DECISION**

TO: The Chair and Members of the  
Halton District School Board

FROM: D. Euale, Director of Education

RE: Establishment of School Boundaries – Alton Elementary School

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### Warrant

The Alton Boundary Review was undertaken as a result of the development and construction of the Burlington NE #4 public school.

In the 2009 Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP), the Board identified the opening of a new elementary school in Burlington (ERA #109) for September 2012. The 2010 LTAP identified this new build as a 704 on-the-ground (OTG) pupil place capacity school.

The LTAP provides the opportunity to identify the school boundary study initiatives that are to be undertaken as a result of ongoing capital initiatives, and to address accommodation pressures due to new residential development, changing demographics, and program pressures.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the elementary schools in Burlington as outlined in Scenario 22f and detailed in this report (Report 12011), effective September 2012.*

*Be it resolved that the NE #4 public school, located in ERA #109, provide Junior Kindergarten – Grade 8 English programming in the year 2012-2013.*

*Be it resolved that the NE #4 public school open in September 2012 with the All-Day, Alternate-Day Kindergarten model and that it be scheduled to implement the Full- Day Learning Kindergarten model beginning in September 2014, which will be in alignment with the other elementary schools in north-east Burlington (e.g., J.W. Boich Public School, Alexanders' Public School, Orchard Park Public School, C.R. Beaudoin Public School).*

*Be it resolved that current Grades 5 - 7 students, who reside in the North Headon Forest area of Burlington and attend Charles R. Beaudoin P.S. for French Immersion, be allowed to continue to attend Charles R. Beaudoin P.S. until graduation and that transportation be provided subject to the "French As A Second Language" policy of the Board.*

*Be it resolved that the current Grades 5-7 students, who reside in the North Headon Forest area of Burlington and **would otherwise** continue to attend Charles R. Beaudoin P.S. for French Immersion until graduation, be provided the option of attending their designated home school of Clarksdale P.S. (Grades 1-6) and/or Rolling Meadows P.S. (Grades 7-8) and that transportation be provided subject to the "French As A Second Language" policy of the Board.*

*Be it resolved that the current Grade 7 students, who reside in the Alton area of Burlington and currently attend Rolling Meadows P.S. for French Immersion, remain at this location until graduation, and that transportation be provided subject to the "French As A Second Language" policy of the Board. (Note: Orchard Park P.S. will not be offering Grade 8 French Immersion until September 2013).*

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**Recommendations** (*cont'd*)

***Be it resolved that should sufficient portables be secured and placed at Charles R. Beaudoin Public School, no later than September 4, 2012, the French Immersion boundary for Charles R. Beaudoin Public School will remain as prior to the Alton Elementary boundary review.***

Background

The procedure followed for the boundary review of the ERA # 109 area is as described in the Halton District School Board Administrative Procedure: *School Boundary Reviews* (September 2010). A Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) first met on September 21, 2011 and meetings continued until December 20, 2011.

On October 26, 2011, an Open House/Public Information Meeting was held at Lester B. Pearson High School (*Appendix A*). Invitations were provided for all schools involved to send to their community by backpack flyer, as well as through Synervoice emails. A copy of the news release was also posted on the Board website. The following schools were identified as potentially impacted schools, therefore were included in the boundary review:

- Clarksdale Public School
- Orchard Park Public School
- Rolling Meadows Public School
- Florence Meares Public School, and
- C.H. Norton Public School
- C.R. Beaudoin Public School.

(*Note:* An additional open house/public information meeting was held on November 3, 2011 at the JW Singleton Education Centre for those who were unable to attend the October 26, 2011 date)

More than 150 people attended the October 26, 2011 information meeting and approximately 38 attended the November 3, 2011 meeting. Participants had the opportunity to complete an expression of interest form (*Appendix B*) indicating their desire to participate on the Boundary Review Committee (BRC). This information was provided to the six school councils. Each school council combined this information with knowledge of their community and provided two non-Alton school representatives to serve on the committee. Rolling Meadows was the exception, only submitting one school-based representative. An equal number of Alton parent representatives were also included on the BRC. These individuals were selected to ensure both geographical representation across the Alton area, and also to reflect the various elementary programs offered in schools (e.g., English, French Immersion, Special Education).

The BRC consisted of 22 parents, eight staff and three trustees. The BRC had five meetings in the time period between November 8 to December 13, 2011. Staff worked with the BRC parents to provide them with information on each school affected by the boundary review. Some of the data that was examined by the BRC included:

- enrolment data, on the ground capacity (OTG), % utilization, portable capacity;
- information on elementary school programs, viable programs, transportation costs, walking maps for each school, etc.

The BRC used the criteria (*Appendix C*), as described in the Board's Administrative Procedure: *School Boundary Reviews*. The BRC initially reviewed 21 scenarios, as developed by the Boundary Review Steering Committee. During the course of the following weeks, numerous other scenarios were generated and assessed as per the established criteria.

The BRC used the criteria to reduce the number of viable scenarios. Throughout this process they consulted with their school councils, communities and Board staff to determine which criteria were held in highest regard. The BRC shared this information and used it to arrive at four criteria deemed to be most important in measuring the impact and effectiveness of boundary options/scenarios:

- proximity to schools (walking distances, safe school routes, natural boundaries);
- balance of overall enrolment in each school in the review area to maximize student access to programs, resources, and extra-curriculars;
- Stable, long-term boundaries;
- accommodation of students in permanent school facilities and minimal use of portable classrooms.

They used these top ranked criteria to assess the scenarios and arrive at three that best fit these standards. Three scenarios (22f, 26c and 27) were selected for the public consultation.

Throughout the process, a question and answer area was maintained on the Board's website (*Appendix D*). These questions were generated both from discussion at the BRC meetings, as well as questions raised directly with Board staff (e.g., email, website). All meeting minutes and the various versions of the 38 scenarios developed, were posted on the website.

A public information meeting was held on December 6, 2011 at MM Robinson High School (*Appendix A*). At this meeting, staff and school representatives of the BRC shared information on the process used, the recommended scenarios, their perspectives on the process, and explained the consultation process which included the submission of comments on a feedback form (*Appendix E*). A summary of information collected from the feedback forms is included in *Appendix I*. Approximately 114 forms were received.

Subsequent to the meeting, additional questions and answers were added and posted on the Board's website. The following issues were identified during the consultation process:

- grandparenting and optional attendance availability,
- French Immersion program viability,
- keeping families together as much as possible,
- least disruption to students.

The BRC met following the public information meeting to review the three remaining scenarios in light of the public feedback. Throughout the process, the BRC worked together cohesively to represent the views and perspectives of their communities, and to work toward a recommendation to the BRSC that would best ensure a sustainable, viable community school, offering programs for the students in the community.

Reducing the three scenarios to one recommended scenario was very difficult for the BRC, as no one scenario appeared to meet all of the criteria. As such, the BRC sent forward three scenarios (22f, 26c and 27) to the Boundary Review Steering Committee for consideration, along with commentary with respect to the strengths, weaknesses and important issues related to each of these scenarios.

The Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) carefully studied the BRC recommendations, revisited the process and recommended to the Director that only Scenario 22f and a revised version of Scenario 27 (27c) were the two final choices, as these:

- would best meet the core criteria as established by the BRC;
- would best respond to the consultation feedback; and,
- would ensure sustainable and viable schools in the study area.

Scenario 26c was not submitted to the Director by the BRSC, as the input received suggested the long term good would be served better by scenarios 22f and 27. Specific concerns related to scenario 26c included:

- Orchard Park will have an underutilized FI program (currently 87 students in Grades 1-5 FI);
- costs associated with starting up an additional FI program at Florence Meares;
- requires a number of students/families be impacted;
- keeps only 8 of the 11 programs in study area stable and viable during the long term;
- doesn't provide for a balance of overall enrolment across schools.

One of the concerns raised with respect to a number of the scenarios developed, including the final ones recommended by the BRC and BRSC, was the future potential of NE #4 PS to exceed its total capacity, (OTG + maximum number of portables), despite the current enrolment projections that demonstrate otherwise.

The BRC recognized the enrolment projections of the new school in Alton could potentially be impacted by many factors including an increase or decrease in students registering for French Immersion at Orchard Park Public School, as well as the number of students choosing to attend the new Alton Elementary Catholic School expected to open during the 2012-2013 school year.

## Description of Final Three Scenarios:

**Scenario 22F**

- Burlington NE #4 PS opens as an English track school (JK to grade 8)
- Burlington NE #4 PS catchment area is bounded by 407 ETR to the north, Walker's Line to the west, Dundas Street to the south, Appleby Line to the east.
- The area bounded by Walker's Line to the west, 407 ETR to the north, Appleby Line to the east and Dundas Street to the south will be direct to Orchard Park PS for French Immersion.
- The area bounded by 407 ETR, north of Dundas Street and west of Walker's Line to attend Florence Meares PS for English and Charles R Beaudoin PS French Immersion.
- Clarksdale PS / Rolling Meadows PS French Immersion catchment to be expanded to include the area west of Walker's Line, south of Dundas Street, North of Upper Middle Rd and east of Guelph Line, currently designated Charles R Beaudoin PS.
- Clarksdale PS / Rolling Meadows PS French Immersion catchment to be expanded to include the area east of Walker's Line, south of Upper Middle Rd, north of QEW and west of Appleby Line, currently designated Charles R Beaudoin PS.
- The area east of Appleby Line, south of 407 ETR west of Tremaine Road and north of Dundas Street will be determined at a later date.

**Scenario 26C**

- Burlington NE #4 PS opens as an English track school (JK to grade 8).
- Burlington NE #4 PS catchment area is bounded by 407 ETR to the north, Walker's Line to the west, Dundas Street to the south, Appleby Line to the east.
- Florence Meares PS to become a dual track school, grades 1 - 8 FI added September 2012.
- Florence Meares PS English catchment is bounded by Dundas Street to the north, Walker's Line to the west, Upper Middle Road to the south, Charles R Beaudoin PS English catchment to the east.
- Florence Meares PS French Immersion boundary to include the revised Florence Meares PS catchment (east of Walker's Line) and Alton (east of Walker's Line).
- The area surrounded by 407 ETR, north of Dundas Street and west of Walker's Line to attend Charles R Beaudoin PS for English and French Immersion.
- CH Norton PS English boundary to be expanded, September 2012, to include Florence Meares PS area west of Walker's Line and south of Dundas Street, **grades JK, SK, 1 and new entries to be directed to CH Norton PS**. Additional grades from this area will be added in consecutive years. Students *currently* in Gades 1 to 7 and currently at Florence Meares will be grand-parented to remain at the school until they graduate.
- Clarksdale PS / Rolling Meadows PS French Immersion catchment is to be expanded to include the area west of Walker's Line, south of Dundas Street, north of Upper Middle Rd and east of Guelph Line currently designated to attend Charles R Beaudoin, **starting with grade 1 FI and new entries**. Additional grades from this area will be added in consecutive years. Students *currently* in grades 1-7 residing west of Walker's Line in the current Charles R. Beaudoin PS French Immersion catchment will be grand-parented to remain at the school until they graduate.
- Clarksdale PS / Rolling Meadows PS French Immersion catchment to be expanded to include the area east of Walker's Line, south of Upper Middle Rd, north of QEW and west of Appleby Line, currently designated to attend Charles R Beaudoin.
- The area east of Appleby Line, south of 407 ETR west of Tremaine Road and north of Dundas Street will be determined at a later date.

**Scenario 27**

- Burlington NE #4 PS opens as an English track school (JK to grade 8).
- Burlington NE #4 PS catchment area is bounded by 407 ETR to the north, Walker's Line to the west, Dundas Street to the south, Appleby Line to the east.
- Florence Meares to become a dual track school, Grades 1 - 8 French Immersion added September 2012.

- Florence Meares PS English catchment is bounded by Dundas Street to the north, Walker's Line to the west, Upper Middle Road to the south, Charles R Beaudoin PS English catchment to the east.
- The area surrounded by 407 ETR, north of Dundas and west of Walker's Line added to Florence Meares PS English catchment.
- Florence Meares PS French Immersion boundary to include the revised Florence Meares PS catchment and Alton west of the Sheldon Creek (West Tributary).
- CH Norton PS English boundary is to be expanded, September 2012, to include Florence Meares PS designated area west of Walker's Line and south of Dundas Street, **grades JK, SK, 1 and new entries**. Additional grades from this area will be added in consecutive years. Students *currently* in grades 1 to 7 and currently at Florence Meares will be grand-parented to remain at the school until they graduate.
- Clarksdale/Rolling Meadows PS French Immersion catchment is to be expanded to include the area west of Walker's Line, south of Dundas Street, and east of Guelph Line, **starting with Grade 1 FI and new entries**, currently designated to attend Charles R Beaudoin. Additional grades from this area will be added in consecutive years. Students *currently* in Grades 1-7 residing west of Walker's Line and currently at Charles R. Beaudoin (FI) will be grandparented to remain at the school until they graduate.
- Clarksdale PS / Rolling Meadows PS French Immersion catchment to be expanded to include the area east of Walker's Line, south of Upper Middle Rd, north of QEW and west of Appleby Line, currently designated to attend Charles R Beaudoin.
- The area surrounded by 407 ETR to the north, Sheldon Creek (West Tributary) to the west, Dundas Street to the south and Appleby Line to the east will attend Orchard Park PS for French Immersion.
- The area east of Appleby Line, south of 407 ETR west of Tremaine Road and north of Dundas Street will be determined at a later date.

Description of Revised Version of Scenario 27 (27c):

- Burlington NE #4 PS opens as an English track school (JK to Grade 8).
- Burlington NE #4 PS catchment area is bounded by 407 ETR to the north, Walker's Line to the west, Dundas Street to the south, Appleby Line to the east.
- Florence Meares PS to become a dual track school, Grades 1 - 3 French Immersion added September 2012. One grade to be added in consecutive years.
- Florence Meares PS English catchment is bounded by Dundas Street to the north, Walker's Line to the west, Upper Middle Road to the south, Charles R Beaudoin PS English catchment to the east.
- The area surrounded by 407 ETR, north of Dundas Street and west of Walker's Line is added to the Florence Meares PS English catchment.
- Florence Meares PS French Immersion boundary to include the revised Florence Meares PS catchment and Alton west of the Sheldon Creek (West Tributary).
- CH Norton PS English boundary is to be expanded, September 2012, to include Florence Meares PS designated area west of Walker's Line and south of Dundas Street, **Grades JK, SK, 1 and new entries**. Additional grades from this area will be added in consecutive years. Students *currently* in Grades 1 to 7 and currently at Florence Meares will be grand-parented to remain at the school until they graduate.
- Clarksdale PS / Rolling Meadows PS French Immersion catchment is to be expanded to include the area west of Walker's Line, south of Dundas Street, and east of Guelph Line, **starting with grade 1 -3 French Immersion and new entries**, currently designated to attend Charles R Beaudoin. Additional grades from this area will be added in consecutive years. Students *currently* in Grades 3-7 residing west of Walker's Line and currently at Charles R. Beaudoin PS French Immersion will be grand-parented to remain at the school until they graduate.
- Clarksdale PS / Rolling Meadows PS French Immersion catchment to be expanded to include the area east of Walker's Line, south of Upper Middle Rd, north of QEW and west of Appleby Line, currently designated to attend Charles R Beaudoin.
- The area surrounded by 407 ETR to the north, Sheldon Creek (West tributary) to the west, Dundas Street to the south and Appleby Line to the east will attend Orchard Park PS for French Immersion.
- The area east of Appleby Line, south of 407 ETR west of Tremaine Road and north of Dundas Street will be determined at a later date.

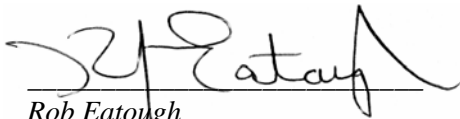
Rationale

Scenario 22f is being recommended since it addresses most of the criteria identified during the boundary review process. As well, the additional recommendations allow some students to continue at their current school until graduation. This mitigates the issues expressed by the community and the Boundary Review Committee.

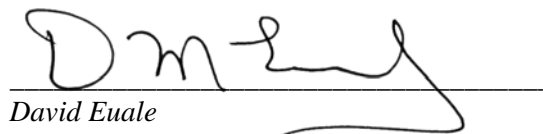
Scenario 22f also:

- was recommended by the Boundary Review Committee and received favourable feedback in the public consultation process;
- ensures sustainable enrolment and viable programs for NE #4 PS, as well as for the other six elementary schools impacted by the opening of NE #4 Public School. (Clarksdale, Rolling Meadows, CH Norton, Orchard Park, Florence Meares, and CR Beaudoin Public Schools).
- reflects limited number of current students/families impacted by boundary changes, especially in consideration of allowing some students within the affected areas to continue at their current schools until graduation;
- stabilizes and increases viability of Orchard Park FI program, while also providing Alton FI students with better proximity to their designated school;
- provides clear designation of schools for current Alton English (NE #4 PS) and FI (Orchard Park) compared to some of the other scenarios proposed;
- provides a balance of overall enrolment across schools in study area;
- keeps 10 of the 11 programs in study area stable and viable over long term; and,
- with the exception of only a couple of small streets, NE #4 PS would primarily be a walk to school.

*Respectfully submitted,*



*Rob Eatough  
Superintendent of Education*



*David Euale  
Director of Education*