

Report Title: 2025 Boundary Reviews
Submitted by: F. Thibeault, General Manager, Planning
C. Ennis, Director of Education
Meeting Date: March 4, 2025

Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Halton District School Board direct staff to initiate and complete a boundary review for SRA 301 Milton West (formerly SRA 104) and SRA 302 Milton East (Formerly ERA 105) to align pathways for Tiger Jeet Singh PS and eliminate the split Grade 8 cohort created by the approval of option 6a on January 7, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Halton District School Board direct staff to initiate and complete a boundary review for ERA 203 South Oak Trails, South Dundas & East Third Line (formerly ERA 114 and 115) and ERA 206 Northwest Oak Trails & Palermo (formerly ERA 114, 115, and 118) to balance enrolments at affected schools within existing and future communities for both the English and French Immersion program

1. Analysis

Planning Services has identified for Trustee consideration and approval the commencement of two (2) School Boundary Reviews that should be undertaken in 2025. They are as follows:

1. Tiger Jeet Singh PS Secondary School Boundary Alignment
2. Northwest Oakville Boundary Review

Tiger Jeet Singh PS Secondary School Boundary Alignment

Following the approval of Board Report 24158 on January 7, 2025, the catchment area for Tiger Jeet Singh Public School (PS) was expanded to increase its overall enrolment, taking Zones 4, 5, and 6 within its immediate neighbourhood that was formerly directed to Anne J. MacArthur PS for the elementary panel, and Elsie MacGill Secondary School (SS) for the Secondary Panel.

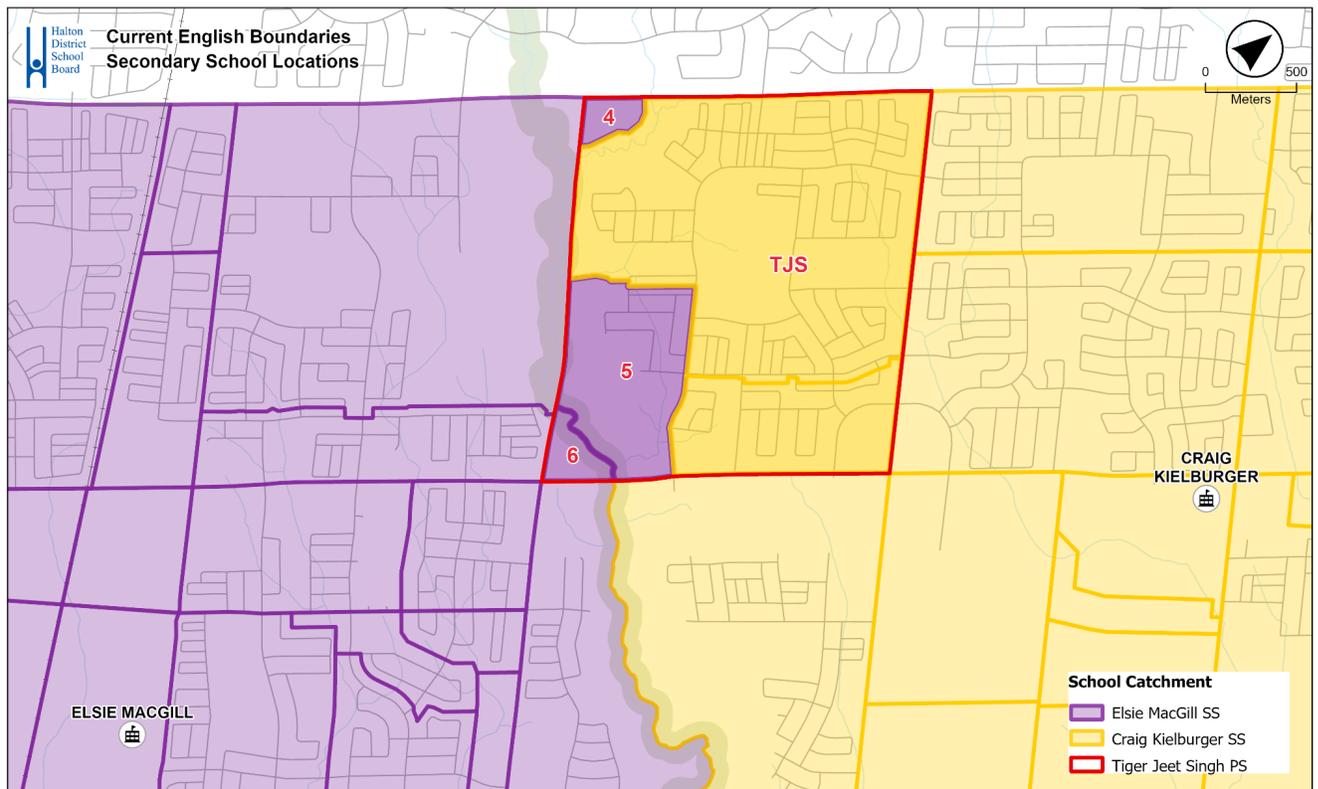
Given that Tiger Jeet Singh PS is directed to Craig Kielberger SS for the secondary panel, the boundary review has resulted in a divided Grade 8 cohort (see Figure 1). This challenge was highlighted in the implementation section of the approved Board Report.

Reviewing the number of Grade 8 students as of the 2024/2025 school year, we observe that approximately 90 Grade 8 English students reside in the historical Tiger Jeet Singh PS catchment (Dark Yellow), and 10 within the newly repatriated zones (Dark Purple).

Given the small cohort, it is recommended that a boundary review be undertaken to adjust the secondary school boundary for future secondary school students in these zones. Albeit the decision will lie with the Boundary Review Steering Committee if the boundary review process is approved, staff anticipate a Pathway B process may be undertaken, and it will be for new students graduating in Grade 8 for the 2025-2026 school year.

The boundary review process is expected to be completed by June 2025. Importantly, it will not affect current high school students or those entering Grade 9 in September 2025, as Grade 8 students impacted by the changes have received legacy exemptions. Consequently, the proposed changes will take effect starting in September 2026.

Figure 1: 2024/2025 Secondary School Boundaries (Study Area)



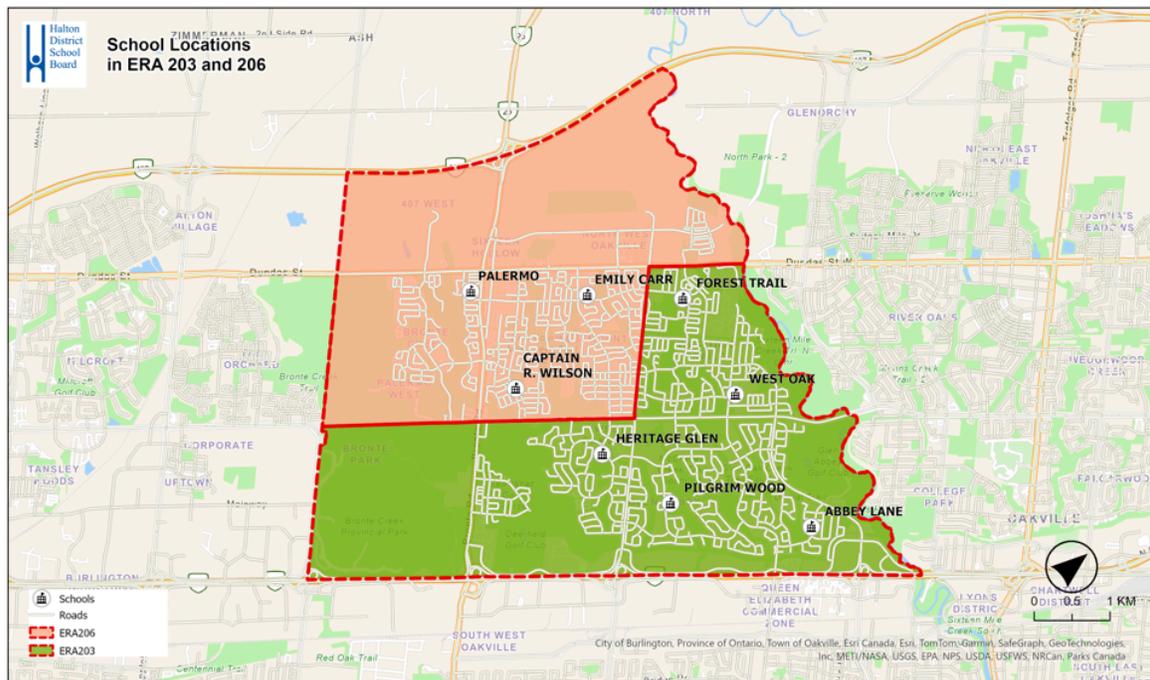
Northwest Oakville Elementary School Boundary Alignment

There is a growing trend of disproportionate enrolment in schools in ERAs 203 and 206 (formerly 114, 115, and 118). Moreover, there is a need to review the need for the future Bronte Green Lands elementary school site. The schools included would be as follows:

- ERA 203: Abbey Lane PS; Forest Trail PS; Heritage Glen PS; Pilgrim Wood PS; West Oak PS
- ERA 206: Captain R. Wilson PS; Emily Carr PS; Palermo PS

As part of the Oakville NE #3 and #5 PS boundary review process, some of these imbalances have been addressed with the additional inclusion of French Immersion in schools south of Dundas, which now gives the opportunity to assess how surplus space south of Dundas, north of the QEW, and east of sixteen mile creek can be rebalanced through a thorough review of French and English programs. This Boundary Review process will also inform the availability of space that may be taken into consideration when assigning locations for special education self-contained classes within Oakville, as determined through a separate process administered by the Special Education Services.

Figure 2: Northwest Oakville Proposed Study Area



The purpose of this review will be to seek a means of reducing surplus space within the study area and reduce pressures at other schools, and determine whether there is a short-term need for the future Bronte Green elementary school site, or whether it can be accommodated within existing pupil places.

The Boundary Review process, if approved, would seek to establish the steering committee as early as Spring/Summer 2025, with an anticipated completion date of Winter 2026. Implementation timelines will need to be assessed once options have been reviewed and developed.

1.1 Governance Alignment

The Board of Trustees is responsible for determining the attendance areas for schools throughout its jurisdiction, and is also responsible for the approval of the commencement of boundary review affecting English and French Immersion catchment areas, in accordance with the Board's School Boundary Review(s) Administrative Procedure ([link](#)).

1.2 Alternatives

There is one alternative which is to keep current, where students from areas 4, 5, and 6 attend Elsie MacGill SS with transportation for the English program and Criag Kielburger for the French Immersion program, while the balance of Tiger Jeet PS students attend Criag Kielburger SS for English and French Immersion program. This option will have the majority of grade 8 attending Craig Kieburger while a select few students will be separated from their peers and transported to Elsie MacGill HS.

The alternative for the Northwest Oakville Boundary Review would be to not undertake a Boundary Review process, and rely on potential redirections to address enrollment pressures, and/or relocation of other non-english/french immersion programs.

2. Background

Based on the 2022 Long Term Accommodation Plan, both boundary reviews were identified as part of future projects to be undertaken, or as a result of reviews undertaken.

The Tiger Jeet Singh PS Secondary School Boundary is a result of the approved South Milton/Milton SE 13 PS Boundary Review, which was identified in the 2022 Long Term Accommodation Plan.

The Northwest Oakville Boundary Review was identified as a long-term (2028+) project to be undertaken, as it is a TBD (event based) review. Given increased pressures in certain schools, as well as the need to address the Bronte Green Lands Elementary School Site review, the boundary review is recommended to proceed now, for potential implementation in 2026+.

3. Financial Impact

Pending the outcome, the financial impact of the boundary review is expected to be minimal, primarily focused on transportation adjustments. Currently, students in Areas 4 and 5 are provided Milton Transit passes to attend Elsie MacGill Secondary School, while Area 6 is within walking distance of the school.

If a realignment directs students to Craig Kielburger Secondary School, only Area 4 would require bussing, which is estimated to involve one morning and evening bus route. Students in Areas 5 and 6 would remain within walking distance of Craig Kielburger Secondary School, further limiting additional transportation costs. Overall, the adjustments would involve minimal financial strain while ensuring efficient access to education.

For the Northwest Oakville Boundary Review process, no immediate financial impacts. Once implemented, the outcome would seek to reduce reliance on transportation and temporary accommodations resulting from accommodation pressures.

4. Multi-Year Strategic Plan Alignment

Priority Alignment: Learning, Engagement and Achievement ▾

Maintaining the mental health of Grade 8 students is vital, particularly during transitions like moving to high school. Keeping students with their established cohort, rather than separating a select few and sending them to another school, fosters a sense of stability and belonging, promoting a positive educational experience.

Given the ongoing pressures and/or accommodation issues at the affected schools, the proposed actions seek to improve the current student experience, and has the aim of balancing out current and projected enrolment in the study area, and provide the most stable boundaries for the longest term possible. This supports learning conditions to elevate student achievement identified in our Multi-Year Plan.

5. Attachment(s): N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick Thibeault

General Manager of Planning

Curtis Ennis

Director of Education