

# Halton District School Board

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**Report Number: 21143**

Date: November 11, 2021

**FOR INFORMATION**

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

**FROM:** Terri Blackwell, Superintendent of Education  
Rob Eatough, Superintendent of Education  
Ian Gaudet, Executive Officer of Facility Services & Planning  
Curtis Ennis, Director of Education

**RE:** **North Oakville Secondary Student Redirection**

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## **Background:**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with information pertaining to the redirection of secondary school students from White Oaks Secondary School to T.A. Blakelock to address ongoing enrolment pressures, and inform Trustees on the considerations taken when developing the plan; timelines for communications; programming options; and implementation.

## **Discussion:**

As a result of ongoing development pressures at White Oaks Secondary School ("White Oaks" hereafter), driven primarily by growth in the North Oakville Secondary Plan area (north of Dundas – [click here](#)), Planning Services are projecting that White Oaks will surpass its maximum portable capacity for the 2022/23 school year.

To address enrolment pressures, senior staff are implementing a temporary student redirection for secondary school students currently and are planned to reside in the North Oakville Secondary Plan area, to Thomas A. Blakelock High School ("T.A. Blakelock" hereafter).

Implementation will be phased over two (2) years, starting in September 2022, and fully implemented by September 2023. The redirection is to remain in place until such a time the new Oakville NE #1 HS opens, and the new school boundaries are implemented as part of a separate school boundary review process.

The plan also includes the implementation of the I-STEM program for September 2023 at T.A. Blakelock. This will serve to establish the program in the Town of Oakville, and serve to improve retention rates and enrolment at T.A. Blakelock moving forward.

The plan has regard to potential facility improvements at T.A. Blakelock to ensure that the redirection would not preclude works at the school from proceeding if undertaken. More information will be provided on proposed facility improvements as part of a January 2022 report to the Board.

Acknowledging that the distance will be greater, staff have also consulted with HSTS to estimate route times to T.A. Blakelock. It has been estimated that the majority of students could expect a run time of approximately 20-30 mins (dependent on student numbers and only looking at current roads and communities). Current transportation times vary between 15-45 minutes to White Oaks, the vast majority being within 0-15 minutes (87%) travel distance.

## **Redirection Plan**

In developing redirection options with senior staff, considerations were given to the following when selecting the preferred plan:

1. Least amount of displacement for existing HDSB students, relying primarily on new growth areas already being directed to holding schools and new students entering the Board;
2. Provide for adequate contingencies to accommodate potential delays to Oakville NE #1 HS;
3. Reduce where possible overlap in transportation, given the reliance on new development areas that have yet to have routes assigned to them;
4. Provides sustainable enrolment for both White Oaks and T.A. Blakelock in the short and long term, avoiding further disruptions where possible.

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The re-direction boundaries are presented as part of Appendix A of this report. The following outlines the actions that will be taken over the two (2) year implementation timeline, as well as business rules on managing the re-direction of students moving forward.

## Actions for September 2022:

1. Students from new development in the English and French Immersion programs are directed to T.A. Blakelock;
2. New students residing in North Oakville attending the CPP are directed to White Oaks;
3. Graduating Grade 8 students in North Oakville (June 2022) from Oodenawi, Dr. David R. Williams, River Oaks, Falgarwood, Munns, Sunningdale, and Palermo will attend White Oaks for English and French Immersion;
4. Direct English and French Immersion students from outside HDSB (HCDSB, other boards, migration) within the River Oaks, Falgarwood and Palermo ENG catchments areas (as per Appendix A) to T.A. Blakelock, with redirection in place until Oakville NE #1 hs opens.

## Actions for September 2023 onward:

1. Students from new development in the English and French Immersion programs are directed to T.A. Blakelock;
2. New students residing in North Oakville attending the CPP are directed to White Oaks
3. Graduating Grade 8 students in North Oakville from Oodenawi and Dr. David R. Williams will attend White Oaks for English and French Immersion;
4. Graduating Grade 8 students in North Oakville from River Oaks, Falgarwood, Munn's, Sunningdale, and Palermo will attend T.A. Blakelock for English and French Immersion; and,
5. Direct English and French Immersion students from outside HDSB (HCDSB, other boards, migration) within the River Oaks, Falgarwood and Palermo ENG catchments areas (as per Appendix A) to T.A. Blakelock, with redirection in place until Oakville NE #1 hs opens. This may be reassessed prior to option sheet submissions in November 2022, to determine whether redirection will continue.

## Business Rules:

1. Grade 9 to 12 students attending White Oaks (as of June 2022) are grandparented;
2. New development students from the Community Pathway Program (CPP) will continue to attend White Oaks;
3. New students in River Oaks, Falgarwood, Munn's, Sunningdale, and Palermo catchment areas (in North Oakville) continue to be directed at T.A. Blakelock;
4. New students in Oodenawi and Dr. David R. Williams catchment areas continue to be directed to White Oaks.
5. English and French Immersion students from the White Oaks catchment area south of Dundas, moving north of Dundas, are not grandfathered. Any change in address may result in a redirect moving forward.

## Enrolment Considerations

Effective 2022/23, White Oaks is projected to surpass its maximum capacity of 2,346 pupil places. Staff have reviewed the option of introducing additional portables on site beyond the existing 24, but have determined that the school's population has already surpassed a sustainable size.

Alternatively, T.A. Blakelock is currently experiencing a decline in enrolment and is significantly underutilized. Other secondary school facilities in the Town of Oakville have already reached their maximum capacity.

With the proposed redirection in place, pressures at White Oaks are reduced to a sustainable level, and T.A. Blakelock's enrolment increases to full capacity by 2025/26, surpassing max portable capacity of six (6) by 2026/27. Prior to reaching max capacity, it is anticipated that the new Oakville NE #1 HS will be ready.

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## **Status Quo Projections**

OPTION	OTG	PORT.	TOTAL CAP	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
White Oaks Secondary School	1,842	24	2,346	2,273	2,386	2,434	2,533	2,607	2,612
			Utilization %	123%	130%	132%	138%	142%	142%
T. A. Blakelock High School	1,326	6*	1,452	991	989	996	978	956	969
			Utilization %	75%	75%	75%	74%	72%	73%

## **Re-direction Projections**

OPTION	OTG	PORT.	TOTAL CAP	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
White Oaks Secondary School	1,842	24	2,346	2,273	2,315	2,281	2,278	2,216	2,158
			Utilization %	123%	126%	124%	124%	120%	117%
T. A. Blakelock High School	1,326	6*	1,452	991	1,059	1,148	1,233	1,348	1,423
			Utilization %	75%	80%	87%	93%	102%	107%

(\*Note that a total of twelve (12) can be accommodated on-site, but a buffer of six (6) portables has been added as flex space to accommodate potential facility improvements internal to the facility)

## **Programming Considerations**

The I-STEM (Innovation, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program was first established at Aldershot High School in September 2019, drawing considerable interest from all parts of Halton and outside our Board. The program is now into its third year at Aldershot, and has been successful in increasing utilization to a more sustainable level. Given its success and high demand, a second location is being established in the North at Elsie MacGill to better serve the Town of Milton and Town of Halton Hills, starting with Grade 9 as of September 2022.

For these reasons, an I-STEM program is also being contemplated at T.A. Blakelock to increase enrolment while meeting demands to better serve the Town of Oakville community looking for the I-STEM experience closer to home.

Senior staff are implementing the I-STEM program at T.A. Blakelock starting with Grade 9 as of September 2023, allowing for a full year to implement the program, as was done at Aldershot HS and Elsie MacGill. Senior staff will review staffing implications in concert with T.A. Blakelock's administration. Notice will be given in accordance with the communication plan presented herein.

## **Alternative Options Reviewed**

As discussed earlier, staff explored the addition of six (6) more portables at the North campus at White Oaks, to total 30 portables on site. Given the ultimate enrolment, it was deemed that the size would be too large to operate sustainably.

Staff also explored redirecting graduating students from Dr. David R. Williams and Oodenawi to T.A. Blakelock, and allowing graduating Grade 8 students from River Oaks, Falgarwood, and Munns to continue at White Oaks. To avoid further disruption to Dr. David T. Williams and Oodenawi, communities that were expected to go to White Oaks for a number of years, the preferred option was selected, which is composed primarily of new residents.

## **Financial Considerations**

Transportation costs should be relatively net neutral, given that the area is already transported to White Oaks. There may be duplication of transportation in some areas, therefore budgeting for

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additional buses may be required.

## **Implementation Timelines & Communications Plan**

Boundaries are to be implemented over two (2) years. Redirects of new students as per the 2022-2023 school year actions to be implemented immediately after the Board is presented with information to accommodate the Option Sheets submission timelines.

The I-STEM program will commence in September 2023. The application process for grade 9 entry in the program will be shared in Fall 2022.

The communication plan to announce the redirection will be undertaken as follows:

1. Oakville trustees and the school administrators at elementary and secondary schools impacted are to be notified;
2. A letter will be shared with developers in the affected areas so they can advise their prospective home buyers;
3. Find My School T.A. Blakelock on the HDSB website be revised to incorporate the redirection of residential properties to the schools mentioned in this report;
4. School Transportation to provide information and bussing plans for the families being redirected upon registration;
5. Human Resources to adjust the staffing for the schools impacted in these recommendations as needed;

## **Conclusion**

The redirection of students from the North Oakville Secondary Plan area to T.A. Blakelock will serve to attenuate enrolment pressures at White Oaks, while increasing utilization at T.A. Blakelock to allow for the implementation of the ISTEM program. This redirection will remain in place until such a time the new Oakville NE #1 HS opens.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Terri Blackwell,  
Superintendent of Education*

*Rob Eatough,  
Superintendent of Education*

*Ian Gaudet,  
Executive Officer of Facility Services & Planning*

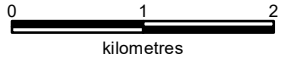
*Curtis Ennis,  
Director of Education*

# Option 3

## APPENDIX A

### North Oakville Elementary School with SS Redirection

English Program JK-8



The street network was provided by the Regional Municipality of Halton and the Region assumes no responsibility or liability for its use or accuracy.

It is the intention of the HDSB to provide up-to-date and accurate information, and reasonable efforts have been made by the HDSB to verify the information, however a degree of error or change is inherent. This information is distributed "as is" without warranty.

HDSB assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information. If you require additional information please contact the Planning Department at 905-335-3663.

Boundaries are subject to change.

