

Halton District School Board

Report Number: 19006

Date: January 3, 2019

FOR DECISION

TO: The Chair and Members of the Halton District School Board
FROM: T. Blackwell, Superintendent of Education
S. Miller, Director of Education
RE: **Redirection of Elementary Students in North Burlington**

At the September 19, 2018 Board meeting the Board of Trustees approved the following recommendation:

“Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board direct staff to undertake an elementary school boundary review for the Evergreen community north of Dundas St., and new developments located on Thomas Alton Blvd and Valera Road with an expected completion date of no later than February 2019.”

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the elementary school boundaries for the “To Be Determined” Evergreen Community area bounded by Dundas to the south, Tremaine to the east, Hwy #407 to the north, and Appleby Line to the west; whereby, effective immediately, elementary students are directed, to attend John William Boich Public School for Kindergarten to Grade 8 for English and French Immersion programming.

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the elementary school boundaries for the new “Alton Developments” located at 4853 Thomas Alton Blvd and 4880 Valera Road whereby, effective immediately, elementary students are directed, to attend Orchard Park Public School for Kindergarten to Grade 8 for English and French Immersion programming.

Background:

This North Burlington Boundary review is divided into two geographic areas:

- The area bordering Appleby Line, Dundas Street, Tremaine Road and 407 ETR that includes the Tremaine Dundas Secondary Plan approximately 67 hectares of developable land (adopted by the City of Burlington September 24, 2018). In 2011, the Alton Village PS (NE Burlington #4 Elementary School) Boundary Review resulted in the creation of a "To Be Determined" Area for this locale.
- Two site plan applications located west of Appleby Line at 4853 Thomas Alton Blvd and 4880 Valera Road. Alton Village Public School and Orchard Park Public School are currently the designated schools for K-Grade 8 English program and Grade 2-8 French Immersion program respectively.

Halton District School Board

Located within the "To Be Determined" area is the Evergreen Community. A subdivision plan of 907 units was circulated to the HDSB Planning Department in 2016. As identified in the 2017-2018 Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP), consideration should be given to establishing school catchments for this area as development approvals move forward. It was recommended that students from the "To Be Determined Area" be redirected to schools in ERA 108 (i.e., Alexander's, John W. Boich, Orchard Park). It should be noted that the Evergreen Community is directed to M.M. Robinson HS for English and French Immersion secondary programming, as determined in the Burlington Secondary Schools Program and Accommodation Review (2017).

Alton Village Public School is experiencing accommodation pressures. As highlighted in the 2017-2018 LTAP, Alton Village Public School is projected to remain over-utilized. Under the current boundaries and programming, Alton Village Public School is at 127% On The Ground (OTG) capacity. The enrolment is projected to fluctuate over the next few years and to stabilize by 2026 near 122% of OTG capacity. The shortage of available pupil places is projected to remain over 200 spaces for the next seven years. As of September 2018, there are 11 portables on site. Any additional portables placed on site will require site plan approval from the City of Burlington.

As per the HDSB Boundary Review Administrative Procedure, Board staff concluded it prudent to redirect areas currently being developed for residential purposes within the Alton Village Public School catchment area (i.e., Alton Developments at Thomas Alton Blvd. and Valera Road), as well as designate an elementary school for the "To Be Determined Area".

Discussion:

A Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) was established to lead the school boundary review process. This committee consists of Family of Schools Superintendents (Terri Blackwell and Cristina Salmini), General Manager of Planning (Domenico Renzella), Senior Planner (Michelle D'Aguiar), Planning Assistant (Colin Westerhof) and Trustees for the affected areas (Amy Collard and Andréa Grebenc).

The BRSC reviewed school enrolments, school capacities and school programs identified in the 2017-2018 LTAP. The committee's focus was to identify elementary schools within Burlington ERA 107 and/or ERA 108 that would allow neighbourhood cohorts to remain together in their secondary school while redirecting students from Alton Village Public School to reduce accommodation pressures. Based on the review of the LTAP, schools identified in the Boundary Review included ERA 107 (i.e., Charles R. Beaudoin, Florence Meares), ERA 108 (i.e., Alexander's, John W. Boich, Orchard Park), and ERA 109 (i.e., Alton Village).

Transportation eligibility was also discussed, and it was confirmed by Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) that elementary students in the Evergreen Community and new Alton Village developments would be eligible for transportation to John W. Boich P.S. and Orchard Park P.S. respectively. These distances align with the HDSB Transportation Policy (more than 1.6 km) with further provisions in recognition of the hazards of Dundas Street.

The BRSC determined a Boundary Review Committee was not required, given there are no current students or families residing in the new growth areas that would be impacted. As per the HDSB Boundary Review Administrative Procedure, Consultation Process

Halton District School Board

Pathway #2 was used to inform the public for the rationale previously mentioned (i.e., the area is unoccupied). As a result, the intention of the BRSC was to inform the community of the recommended option(s).

In terms of informing the community, the BRSC informed the school councils in Burlington ERA 107, 109 and 109. Information was also provided via the Board website under [North Burlington Elementary Boundary Review](#) including [North Burlington Boundary Review Update \(November, 2018\)](#), a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section and an email address was provided (i.e., plan@hdsb.ca) to ask questions and receive responses throughout the process. At the time of this report, no questions have been received.

A variety of options (refer to [Appendices](#)) were generated and examined in November 2018. The process included orientation to review the role of the BRSC and present options for further examination by the committee.

The BRSC prioritized and established decision making criteria, analyze proposed options and further explored data (e.g., transportation, physical space, enrolment), and address questions (e.g., access Board staff as required).

The prioritized criteria includes (but is not limited to):

- A balance of overall enrolment in each school in the review area to maximize student access to programs, resources, and extra-curricular opportunities,
- Viable numbers in a dual track school to support both English and French programs,
- Proximity to schools (walking distances, safe school routes, natural boundaries),
- Stable, long-term boundaries,
- Fiscal responsibility, and
- Keeping cohorts together.

Each option was examined, with respect to strengths and areas of concern, as per the criteria established by the BRSC.

Through the consensus building process, options #2, #3 and #5 were dismissed based on the prioritized criteria.

Options #1 and #4 were further reviewed by the BRSC in respect to the previously identified criteria.

Option #1

Alton Developments: Students attending K - Grade 8 in English program or Grade 2 - 8 French Immersion program will be redirected to Orchard Park Public School.

To Be Determined Area: Students attending K - Grade 8 in English program or Grade 2 - 8 French Immersion program will attend John William Boich Public School.

Option #1: Alton Developments	English Program	French Immersion Program
Orchard Park Public School	Kindergarten-Grade 8	Grades 2-8
Option #1: To Be Determined	English Program	French Immersion Program
John W. Boich Public School	Kindergarten-Grade 8	Grades 2-8

Halton District School Board

Implications for Option #1:

- No change to the boundary or projections for Alexander's PS, Charles R Beaudoin PS, and Florence Meares PS.
- John William Boich PS: Boundary is to be expanded to include areas north of Dundas St.
- Orchard Park PS: English boundary to expand include the Alton development. Enrolments to the English program are expected to increase with the addition of new development, no change to FI enrolments. Projections indicate OTG is expected to remain above 90% capacity but not exceed OTG capacity.

While option #1 met some of the criteria, areas of concern included:

- This option will create a split grade 8 cohort with the English Class at John William Boich PS. Students north of Dundas Street to be directed to M.M. Robinson for English and FI students south of Dundas Street to be directed to Dr. Frank J. Hayden HS for English and M.M. Robinson for FI.
- One to three portables may be required past 2022.

Option #4

Alton Developments: Students attending K - Grade 8 in English program or Grade 2 - 8 French Immersion program will be redirected to Orchard Park Public School.

To Be Determined Area: Students attending K - Grade 8 in English program or Grade 2 - 8 French Immersion program will attend Charles R. Beaudoin Public School.

Option #4: Alton Developments	English Program	French Immersion Program
Orchard Park Public School	Kindergarten-Grade 8	Grades 2-8
Option #4: To Be Determined	English Program	French Immersion Program
Charles R. Beaudoin Public School	Kindergarten-Grade 8	Grades 2-8

Implications for Option #4:

- No change to the boundary or projections for Alexander's PS, John William Boich PS, and Florence Meares PS.
- Charles R Beaudoin PS: Boundary is to be expanded to include the "To Be Determined" area for English and FI programs. Projections indicate enrolments will remain above 90% but not exceed OTG capacity.
- Orchard Park PS: English boundary expanded to include the Alton development. Enrolments to the English program are expected to increase with the addition of new development, no change to FI enrolments. Projections indicate OTG is expected to remain above 90% capacity but not exceed OTG capacity.

While Option #4 met some of the criteria, areas of concern included:

- This option will create a split grade 8 cohort with the English program at Charles R. Beaudoin PS. Students north of Dundas Street to be directed to M.M. Robinson for English and FI students south of Dundas Street to be directed to Dr. Frank J. Hayden HS for English.
- Site limitations at Charles R. Beaudoin PS, should portables be required past 2028.

Halton District School Board

- In 2011, the Alton Village PS (NE Burlington #4 Elementary School) Boundary Review, the Halton District School Board committed to Florence Meares PS community west of Appleby Line, should room become available at Charles R. Beaudoin PS that area will be redirected back to Charles R. Beaudoin PS for FI. Since this action was not the prerogative of this boundary review, this area could not be included in the boundary review. The BRSC committee thought that prior to moving students into Charles R. Beaudoin PS, the Halton District school board should investigate this commitment.

Conclusion:

The BRSC carefully studied the options and recommended Option #1 to the Director as the option that best meets the criteria identified by the committee and in alignment with criteria used in Boundary Review processes within HDSB.

This option allows the anticipated students generated from the Alton Developments and to attend the same schools, regardless of their program (i.e., English or French Immersion), provide balanced enrolment in the area, maintains stable and long-term boundaries, minimizes the number of transitions for students and keeps cohorts and families together. This rationale also supports the recommendation with the addition that there is minimal transportation requirements for the "To Be Determined" Area in the Evergreen development.

We believe having all students from these areas within the same school(s) will further support an ongoing sense of community within the subdivisions. This boundary redirection will be effective for September 1, 2019.

Board staff will continue to monitor enrolment projections and accommodation pressures in North Burlington elementary schools through the annual review of the Long Term Accommodation Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

*Terri Blackwell
Superintendent of Education*

*S. Miller
Director of Education*