

# Halton District School Board

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Report Number: 17022

Date: February 8, 2017

**FOR DECISION**

TO: The Chair and Members of the Halton District School Board  
FROM: J. Newton, Superintendent of Education  
Stuart Miller, Director of Education  
RE: **Establishment of School Boundaries – Martin Street Public School**

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## **Warrant**

The following motion was unanimously approved by the Board on November 2, 2016:

*Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board direct the Director to undertake a school boundary review for the new Martin Street PS, with an expected completion date of no later than February 2017.*

The Martin Street Public School boundary review was undertaken as a result of the rebuild construction of Martin Street Public School. The LTAP identified this rebuild as a 753 on-the-ground (OTG) pupil place capacity school. The LTAP provides the opportunity to identify the school boundary study processes 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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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

*Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the elementary schools in Milton as outlined in Scenario 12b and detailed in Report 17022, effective September 2017.*

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## **Background**

The procedure for the boundary review of the Martin Street Public School area was implemented as per the Halton District School Board Administrative Procedure: [School Boundary Reviews \(2016\)](#)

A Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) was established to lead the school boundary review process. The committee consisted of Milton Family of Schools Superintendent (Jacqueline Newton), Superintendent of Education and Co-Chair (Gord Truffen), General Manager of Planning (Domenico Renzella), Senior Planner (Laureen Choi), Planning Assistant (Mitchell Gundy), the Trustees for the affected areas (Donna Danielli and Kim Graves), and a Trustee from outside the affected areas and Co-Chair (Jeanne Gray, Halton Hills). The Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) initially met on November 24, 2016 and continued with meetings until January 24, 2017. A timeline of the process for the Martin Street Public School Boundary Review is outlined in [Martin Street Boundary Review Timeline](#).

A message was sent to each elementary school principal in Milton to invite the School Council Chairs or designates plus an additional school parent/guardian member to be a part of the Boundary Review Committee (BRC). The two representatives from each of the potentially impacted schools were encouraged to attend the Boundary Review Committee meetings.

# Halton District School Board

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These schools included Anne J. MacArthur PS, Brookville PS, Bruce Trail PS, Chris Hadfield PS, E. W. Foster PS, Escarpment View PS, Hawthorne Village PS, J. M. Denyes PS, Martin Street PS, Robert Baldwin PS, Sam Sherratt PS and W.I. Dick PS.

The BRC meetings were held in the library at Milton District High School. The BRC meetings had parent representatives from each of the potentially impacted schools in Milton. These meetings were also open to the public to attend as observers only.

The BRC had five meetings in the time period between November 24, 2016 and January 24, 2017. Board staff from the Planning Department, Superintendents, and Trustees worked with the BRC parent representatives 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.
- A ten year enrolment projection for each scenario proposed, including Grade by Grade breakdown by program.

Subsequent to every meeting, the presentation slides, minutes and scenarios continued to be posted on the Board's website [Milton Street Public School Boundary Review](#). The following evaluation criteria were identified during the information process:

- English and French Immersion program viability
- Keeping families together as much as possible
- Multiple student moves for families
- Least disruptive to students
- Transportation factors including school bussing and parking lot traffic in each school community

The BRC used the criteria as described in the HDSB Administrative Procedure: [School Boundary Reviews \(2016\)](#). The BRC initially reviewed six (6) 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. A total of seventeen (17) scenarios were considered by the BRC. The pros and cons of each scenario was documented to encourage dialogue as noted in this link [Impact Study](#).

The BRC used the criteria to reduce the number of viable scenarios. Throughout this process BRC school representative members consulted with their School Councils, school communities, school administrators, and Board staff to determine which criteria were held in highest regard. The BRC shared this information and utilized this data to determine the criteria that were deemed to be the most important in measuring the impact and effectiveness of boundary 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 co-curriculars*
- *Stable, long-term boundaries*

The BRC used the criteria to assess the scenarios and decided upon the four (4) that best met these standards. The four scenarios (7, 7a, 12b, 12c – see also *Appendix 1*) were selected for the public information and feedback as outlined in [Four Scenarios for Public Information Feedback](#).

# Halton District School Board

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Throughout the process, a “Question and Answer” icon was maintained on the Board website [Frequently asked Q & A](#). These questions were generated both from discussion at the BRC meetings as well as questions that were raised by the public directly with Board staff including emails and the website. All minutes from each meeting and the various versions of the scenarios developed were posted on the website within 48 hours after the BRC meeting on the website tab -- [Martin Street PS Boundary Review](#). A banner was also posted on the front fencing of each of the 12 elementary schools stating “This school is under a Boundary Review. Refer to website for details [www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca)”

On Tuesday, January 17, 2017, a Public Information Meeting was held at Craig Kielburger Secondary School. Invitations were provided for all families in Milton elementary schools and sent through Synrevoice emails. A copy of the [News Release: Public Information Invitation](#) was also posted on the Board website and advertised in the local newspaper, *The Milton Reporter*. The HDSB twitter feed also posted the invitation for all Milton residents. Approximately 100 people attended the January 17, 2017 Public Information Meeting. The audience also included the steering committee, several Milton administrators including the principal and head secretary from Martin Street Public School, two Town of Milton Councillors, and Director Stuart Miller. The slide deck was also posted on the Board’s website.

At this meeting, Board staff and school representatives of the BRC shared information on the process, the recommended scenarios, their perspectives on the process, and explained the feedback process. The public was asked to provide their insights on a feedback form in paper copy and/or directly on a link provided on the Board’s website. In addition, school communities were asked to complete a feedback form collaboratively. All feedback was to be submitted by January 23, 2017 [Public Information Feedback Form](#). We received 132 responses to share with the Boundary Review Committee [Summary of Individual Responses](#) and [Summary of Collective Responses](#).

Throughout the process, the BRC worked together to represent the views and perspectives of their school communities and to work towards recommendations to the BRSC that would best ensure a sustainable, viable community school offering programs for the students within each community.

The BRC had their final meeting on January 24, 2017 at Milton District High School. The focus for this evening was to analyze the data from the Public Information Feedback responses regarding the four scenarios proposed and to recommend a scenario for the Board Report. From the Public Information Feedback responses, an additional scenario was suggested and consequently, Scenario 14 was developed. The impact of [Scenario 14](#) was shared with the Boundary Review Committee and members decided that this scenario did not improve English program viability.

Further discussion ensued regarding the neighbourhood of the James Snow Parkway and Cedar Hedge Road ‘triangle’. Currently, the students in this triangle are bussed to Sam Sherratt Public School for English programming and E.W. Foster Public School (Gr. 1-5) and W.I. Dick Public School (Gr. 6 - 8) for French Immersion programming. While members would have preferred that this neighbourhood attend Bruce Trail Public School due to proximity, this school is over capacity with 12 portables on site and 1092 students as of October 31, 2016 and increasing to 1126 students for the 2017-2018 school year.

# Halton District School Board

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Moreover, a majority of this community would in fact be eligible for transportation to Bruce Trail Public School. Therefore, the BRC recommended bussing this neighbourhood to Martin Street Public School.

Another focus of the discussion was on reducing the enrolment pressures at the larger schools in Milton and in particular Escarpment View Public School, Anne J. MacArthur Public School, Tiger Jeet Singh Public School, Boyne Public School, and PL Robertson Public School. It is hopeful that the upcoming Boundary Review study for the new Milton #10 school to open in September, 2018 may address some of the accommodation pressures in these schools.

To this end, the Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) carefully studied the BRC recommendations, revisited the process and recommended to the Director that Scenario 12b met the criteria with optimal balance and viability for all the affected schools in the study. The BRSC felt that this scenario was one that would:

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

## **Scenario 12b – Rationale for Recommendation**

Scenario 12b is being recommended for the following reasons:

- addresses most of the criteria identified during the boundary review process;
- one of the four scenarios identified by the BRC and the preferred option of the BRSC;
- provides a balance of overall enrolment across schools in study area;
- attempts to keep cohorts together;
- provides room for growth at all affected schools; and
- addresses the warrant and recommendation in the Board motion.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jacqueline Newton  
Superintendent of Education - Milton Family of Schools*

*Stuart Miller  
Director of Education*

# Halton District School Board

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## Appendix 1

### Final Four Scenarios (7, 7a, 12b, 12c)

#### **Scenario 7**

- Martin Street PS opens in Sept 2017 with JK- Grade 7 English, Grade 2- Grade 7 French Immersion
- Martin Street PS adds Grade 8 English and French Immersion in Sept 2018
- Martin Street PS English and French Immersion eastern boundary is Ontario Street
- Escarpment View Grade 1 English directed to Martin Street PS
- Escarpment View Grade 2 French Immersion directed to Martin Street PS instead of Anne J MacArthur PS Grade 2)
- J.M. Denyes Grade 5 English enter Grade 6 into W.I. Dick Public School instead of Sam Sherratt Grade 6

#### **Impact of Scenario 7**

- Martin Street PS English and French Immersion enrolments increases
- Anne J. MacArthur PS French Immersion enrolment decreases
- Sam Sherratt PS enrolment decreases
- W.I. Dick Public School French Immersion enrolment decreases
- W.I. Dick Public School English enrolment increases
- Brookville students wanting French Immersion directed to Martin Street PS

#### **Scenario 7a**

- Martin Street PS opens in Sept 2017 with JK- Grade 6 English, Grade 2- Grade 6 French Immersion
- Martin Street PS adds Grade 7 English and French Immersion in Sept 2018
- Martin Street PS adds Grade 8 English and French Immersion in Sept 2019
- remaining points from scenario 7 same for scenario 7a

#### **Impact of Scenario 7a**

- Martin Street PS English and French Immersion enrolments increases
- Anne J. MacArthur PS French Immersion enrolment decreases
- Sam Sherratt PS enrolment decreases
- WI Dick Public School French Immersion enrolment decreases
- WI Dick Public School English enrolment increases
- Brookville students wanting French Immersion directed to Martin Street PS

#### **Scenario 12b**

- Martin Street PS opens in Sept 2017 with JK- Grade 6 English, Grade 2- Grade 6 French Immersion
- Martin Street PS adds Grade 7 English and French Immersion in Sept 2018
- Martin Street PS adds Grade 8 English and French Immersion in Sept 2019
- Milton Heights new residential development directed to Robert Baldwin PS for JK- Grade 5
- Milton Heights new residential development directed W.I. Dick Public School for Grade 6- Grade 8
- Martin Street PS English and French Immersion eastern boundary is Ontario Street
- Grade 2 to Grade 6 Students (As of September 2017) in French Immersion residing in the Brookville PS catchment area directed to Martin Street PS

# Halton District School Board

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- Grade 2 to Grade 6 Students (As of September 2017) in French Immersion residing in the Escarpment View PS catchment area directed to Martin Street PS
- J.M. Denyes Grade 5 English enter Grade 6 into W.I. Dick Public School
- Sam Sherratt PS, E.W. Foster PS and W.I. Dick Public School 'triangle' (James Snow Parkway & Cedar Hedge Road) directed to Martin Street PS

## **Impact of Scenario 12b**

- Martin Street PS English and French Immersion enrolment increases
- Anne J. MacArthur PS French Immersion enrolment decreases
- Robert Baldwin PS enrolment increases
- Sam Sherratt PS enrolment decreases
- W.I. Dick Public School English enrolment increases and French Immersion enrolment decreases

## **Scenario 12c**

- Martin Street PS opens in Sept 2017 with JK-Grade 7 English, Grade 2-Grade 7 French Immersion
- Martin Street PS adds Grade 8 English and French Immersion in Sept 2018
- Milton Heights new residential development directed to Robert Baldwin PS for JK-Grade 5
- Milton Heights new residential development directed W.I. Dick Public School for Grade 6-Grade 8
- Martin Street PS English and French Immersion eastern boundary is Ontario Street
- Escarpment View Grade 1 English directed to Martin Street PS for FI
- Escarpment View Grade 2 French Immersion directed to Martin Street PS instead of Anne J MacArthur PS Grade 2-6
- J.M. Denyes Grade 5 English enter Grade 6 into W.I. Dick Public School instead of Sam Sherratt Grade 6
- Sam Sherratt PS, EW Foster PS and WI Dick Public School 'triangle' (James Snow Parkway & Cedar Hedge Road) directed to Martin Street PS

## **Impact of Scenario 12c**

- Martin Street PS English and French Immersion enrolment increases
- Anne J. MacArthur PS French Immersion enrolment decreases
- Robert Baldwin PS enrolment increases
- Sam Sherratt PS enrolment decreases
- W.I. Dick Public School English enrolment increases and French Immersion enrolment decreases
- W.I. Dick Public School English enrolment increases
- Brookville students wanting French Immersion directed to Martin Street PS
- some students will have moved 4 times during their elementary school years due to previous boundary reviews and program decisions