

ERA 103 – Pineland PS, Frontenac PS, Mohawk Gardens PS

Boundary Review Questions and Answers

NEW! This section includes questions arising subsequent to the completion of the Boundary Review

What is the process that the HDSB uses to conduct boundary reviews?

HDSB utilizes its Administrative Procedure entitled: School Boundary Reviews. Please see link below.

<http://www.hdsb.ca/Policy/Boundary%20Reviews-Schools.pdf>

Why did the HDSB initiate a boundary review for this area (ERA 103)?

The programming challenges at Pineland are long standing ones. Finding ways to ensure that both the English and French Immersion streams are able to co-exist and provide quality programming has been the primary goal throughout the study of this situation over the past 6 years. The public has been actively involved in problem-solving with the school board. Historically, there has been a high uptake of SK students going into grade 1 French Immersion at Pineland. With small numbers of students selecting the English stream, coupled with accommodation pressures at Pineland, the Board initiated a boundary review for the area last spring.

What boundary motion did the HDSB approve on October 1st, 2014?

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the elementary schools in ERA 103 as outlined in Scenario 3a and detailed in Report 14099, effective September 2015.

Where can I find out more information about the boundary review process and scenarios considered?

The review was initiated in February 2014. The affected school communities were notified of the process and all information related to the boundary review was posted on the Board's website.

<http://www.hdsb.ca/aboutus/Planning/Reviews/Pages/ERA103BoundaryReview2014.aspx>

How many students are currently in the English and FDK programs at Pineland?

At the present time, there are a total of 87 English students (Kindergarten-Grade 8) coming from the Pineland catchment. Of these, 42 are FDK students and most (given the current FI uptake rates) will enter FI in grade 1.



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When was the issue of low enrolment in the Pineland English track identified?

In 2009, the Long Term Accommodation Plan for the HDSB identified English enrolment concerns at Pineland. At the time, preliminary enrolments indicated that there were no English students registered for Grade 1 at the school. In January 2010, the Board initiated an “English Program Review” for Pineland due to low enrolment in the English stream. The staff recommendation was to phase out the English program. Final decisions from staff, based on community input, were shared in February 2010. These included the ongoing monitoring of English enrolments at Pineland. Furthermore, the Board allowed for optional attendance for Grades 1–6 English programs as per Board policy beginning September 2010. If optional attendance did not generate sufficient English program enrolment, students choosing English would be directed to Mohawk Gardens for their English program

What is the current French Immersion uptake from of SK to Grade 1 for Pineland students?

The French Immersion uptake from SK to Grade 1 at Pineland has increased over time. In 2011-12, 67% of SK students went into FI in grade 1. In 2012-13, the uptake increased to 82% and in 2013-14 it increased to 89%.

What was the timeline related to this boundary review process?

Feb. 19, 2014 Board Meeting - At the meeting a report was presented outlining the current English enrolments and the 2014-15 projections for Pineland, Mohawk Gardens and Frontenac. The recommendation stated:

“As a triple grade configuration has been possible (due to 23 or fewer students enrolled in three consecutive grades for two consecutive years at Pineland) the School Superintendent will consider and may recommend for Board approval a boundary review.”

Mar. 19, 2014 Board Meeting - The Southeast Burlington ERA 103 Boundary Review was initiated based on the approved board motion (report number 14043) which stated the following:

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board approve a Boundary Review for ERA 103 which will address English Programming pressures at Pineland Public School effective 2015 - 2016 school year; and that recommendations be presented to the Board no later than June 2014.

May 5, 2014 Public Consultation meeting was held where 3 scenarios being considered by the Boundary Review Committee were shared

June 4, 2014 Board Meeting – shared ERA 103 Boundary Review Report and Recommendations

June 18, 2014 Board Meeting – Board to make decision on ERA 103 Boundary Report Recommendations. Instead the Board passed the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Director reconstitute the Boundary Review Committee, including

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representatives from Student Services, and Burlington trustees, to conduct a Boundary Review for the areas including ERA 101, 102 and 103 Burlington, with the recommendations presented to the Board no later than March 2015.

July 2, 2014 Board Meeting - At the meeting, the Board approved the following recommendation to replace the June 18th Board motion:

Be it resolved that the Director reconstitute the Pineland Boundary Review Steering Committee, including representatives from Student Services, and with the trustees for ERA 102 and ERA 111 to review the scenarios developed, with the recommendations presented to the Board no later than October 2014.

Sept.17, 2014 Board Meeting – At the meeting, the Board was presented with the report responding to the July 2nd motion to reconstitute the Pineland Boundary Review Steering Committee.

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the elementary schools in ERA 103 as outlined in Scenario 3a and detailed in Report 14099, effective September 2015.

Oct.1, 2014 Board Meeting – The Board approved boundary changes for Southeast Burlington as a result of the ERA 103 Boundary Review (2014). The approved boundary changes (Scenario 3a) also included plans for the phasing out of the English and Kindergarten programs at Pineland Public School beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. The Board of Trustees also approved a motion to direct the Director of Education to prepare a report outlining other possible scenarios for phasing out Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) at Pineland Public School.

Why is the HDSB not offering Kindergarten at Pineland?

During the Boundary Review process, a committee of parents from all 3 schools involved (including Pineland) and staff considered many different school configurations and boundaries for the schools in this area of SE Burlington. Some of the scenarios included the offering of kindergarten at Pineland. This and all other information related to this study was shared throughout the process, which included a public consultation process in early May 2014. Rather than implementing the new boundaries effective September 2015, a generous grandparenting plan was included to ensure minimum impact on current Pineland, Mohawk Gardens and Frontenac families.

Kindergarten was introduced at Pineland in 2003 when the school became dual track, offering both English and FI programming. Now that the school is transitioning back to a single-track FI school, kindergarten programming is being redirected to Mohawk Gardens which is located 573 metres from Pineland.

There were 3 key reasons why the boundary review committee and ultimately the Board of Trustees supported the recommendation to transition Pineland into a Grade 1-8 single-track FI school and not include FDK:

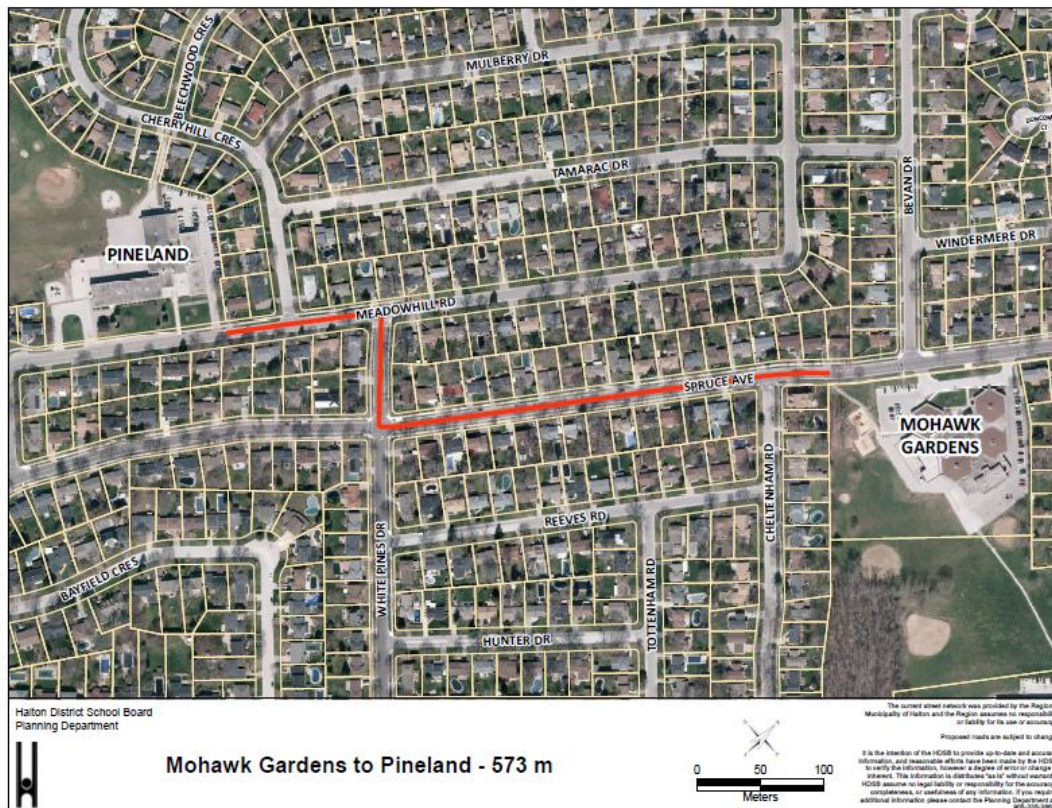
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- HDSB model for FI centres does not include kindergarten, as FDK programming is offered in English (not French). Furthermore, students wishing to access English track programming in grade 1 would have to transfer out of their school to access it. This would be the case if kindergarten continued to be offered at Pineland
- Accommodation pressures at Pineland and availability of space at nearby schools to accommodate the Pineland English and Kindergarten students. Mohawk Gardens is a short distance from Pineland, has space and offers an established and exemplary full-day kindergarten program. Based on the current projections, Pineland has no available space to accommodate a new group of kindergarten students (e.g., JK's) for the 2015-16 school year.
- The small number of kindergarten students from Pineland catchment does not warrant the program

Why is the HDSB forcing Pineland students out to other “neighbourhoods”?

Mohawk Gardens PS is 573 metres away from Pineland PS. Students from the former Pineland English catchment will now be attending Mohawk Gardens PS (Kindergarten-Grade 6). This school is located in the same area bounded by New Street to the north, Burloak to the east, Appleby Line to the west and Lakeshore Road to the south.



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Why did the board invest in FDK renovations at Pineland if they were not needed?

The initial boundary review report was shared with the Board of Trustees on June 4, 2014, well before any work was conducted at the school. However, after hearing delegations from the public, the Board of Trustees agreed to delay the boundary decision until the Fall in order to allow for further study. In the absence of a decision, the boundaries for Pineland remained unchanged and continued to include FDK and English programming. Board staff could not presume the outcome of the boundary review decision. As such, staff moved forward with the renovation, using dedicated one-time funding from the Ministry. The learning spaces created are designed to complement the education of our grades 1-3 students. The present FDK students have benefited from the renovations, as will future grades 1-3 students using these learning spaces. In short, at the time of the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten no decision had been made on the future of Pineland and therefore board staff were obligated to prepare appropriate rooms for the program.

If Pineland PS is overcrowded, why not add an addition to the school?

Funding for new schools or school additions comes from the provincial Ministry of Education. It is unlikely that the Ministry would provide funding when there are ample pupil places available in nearby schools. Mohawk Gardens PS has a utilization rate of approximately 71% and Frontenac PS is at 50% utilization. As a result, there are hundreds of pupil spaces available in the area, between these two schools. Furthermore, Pineland has a limited power supply which limits the amount of space that can be serviced. At the present time, the maximum number of portables that can be placed on the school site is 6. There are presently 6 portables on site.

Pineland PS is currently projected to have 34 classes for September 2015. The school has 28 dedicated classrooms and 6 portables at the present time. Therefore, all classrooms will be utilized this September with no room for additional classes or growth. The growth of an additional class would require further problem solving such as accommodating classes in a non-classroom areas (e.g., library, gymnasium) or reducing the need for an extra class by increasing the number of students in grades 4–8 classes. The Board may also choose to review the grandparenting of current Pineland English and Kindergarten students.

By not offering FDK at Pineland, is the HDSB in contravention of the Ed Act 224/10?

Ontario Regulation 224/10 of the Education Act indicates the following:

[2.1 \(1\)](#) Every board shall, in every elementary school of the board in which instruction is given in grade 1, operate a full day junior kindergarten and kindergarten in accordance with paragraph 6.2 of subsection 170 (1) of the Act. O. Reg. 137/14, s. 2.

[\(2\)](#) Despite subsection (1), a board is not required to operate full day junior kindergarten or full day kindergarten in the following circumstances:

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1. A board is not required to operate full day junior kindergarten in a school if, pursuant to a policy of the board approved on or before June 26, 2014, the school offers only French immersion, starting in kindergarten or later.

2. A board is not required to operate full day junior kindergarten or full day kindergarten in a school if, pursuant to a policy of the board approved on or before June 26, 2014, the school offers only French immersion, starting in grade 1 or later.

The HDSB is in full compliance with Regulation 224/10 *Full Day Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten* and specifically section 2.1(2)3.

Pursuant to Regulation 224/10 the Board has the right to operate single-track French Immersion schools without full day kindergarten. Our *French as a Second Language Policy (6000-06)*, previously approved by the Board (1992), permits and guides our practice of not including kindergarten in single-track FI schools. The Board has the discretion to offer kindergarten in single-track French Immersion schools, however, this has not been our practice. At the present time, the HDSB has 5 single-track FI schools (Grades 1-8). None have kindergarten included as part of their grade configuration.

Note: Prior to the closing of W. E. Breckon PS at the end of June 2003, Pineland offered Grades 1 to 8 FI and Grades 6 to 8 English up to and including June 2003. Pineland did not offer JK/SK at that time. JK/SK was only included when it became a dual-track school (JK-8 English, 1-8 FI).

Why did the HDSB not consider a 1 year extension to the phase-out of FDK at Pineland?

On October 1st, HDSB Trustees approved new school boundaries for Pineland which establishes it as a single-track French Immersion school. The approved boundary changes also include plans for the phasing out of the English and Kindergarten programs at Pineland Public School beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. These plans direct new kindergarten registrants from this area to Mohawk Gardens PS effective September 2015.

At the December 17th meeting of the HDSB, Trustees approved an additional motion which provided for the provision of a one year extension to the phase out of the kindergarten program at Pineland PS. This motion provided for the delay of the phase out of the Kindergarten program by one year if 15 students or more registered for Junior Kindergarten by the February 15th deadline. If a minimum of 15 students did not register by this date, the original kindergarten phase-out plan would come into effect beginning in September 2015. As of February 15th, 12 students registered. As a result, the requirement set out within the board motion was not met and affected families were notified that there would not be an extension to the phase-out of the FDK program at Pineland.

Why was February 15th selected as the deadline for Pineland parents to register for JK for the 2015/16 school year?

The HDSB registration period for FDK extends from January to the end of the first week in February. This date has been selected in order to ensure that schools (and the Board) have actual enrolments to compare with projected enrolments for the upcoming school year (e.g., 2015-16). It is also part of the

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overall Critical Path for Elementary Staffing and in alignment with our obligations to the various Collective Agreements of the affected employee groups (e.g., ETFO). School enrolments are finalized in mid-February. School organizations and staffing allocations are then released to schools/Principals based upon this enrolment information. Pineland kindergarten parents were given an additional week to register, which was the maximum length that an extension could be made in order to align with elementary staffing timelines. Link to Kindergarten registration advertisement below:

<http://www.hdsb.ca/Programs/KindergartenProgram/Documents/Final%20HDSB%20kindergarten%20ad%202015.pdf>

How was the information related to the December 17th motion communicated?

Communities across Halton are aware that traditionally January is the time when schools advertise and accept kindergarten registrations for the following school year. As such, an advertisement was placed in all the local Halton papers, a news release was also issued to the media and posted on the Board website. Pineland parents were given a one week extension by Board motion (deadline February 15th).

Above and beyond our regular communication processes, we communicated the December 17th Board motion in the following ways:

- Created and posted a banner at the front of the school to advertise to the broader community regarding the deadline extension
- Home Notification was sent home in early January to all Pineland families
- Information Flyer was created and distributed to families who inquired about kindergarten at Pineland
- Information about the Pineland JK deadline was posted on the Board website (<http://www.hdsb.ca/aboutus/Planning/Reviews/Pages/ERA103BoundaryReview2014.aspx>)
- Information about the Pineland JK deadline was posted on Pineland PS website home page, as well as on the front doors of the school.
- An additional 'last call' advertisement was included in the local papers as a reminder of the impending Pineland JK registration deadline

Above and beyond the communications initiated by the Board, there were numerous other communications in the public realm that were generated by third party sources (e.g., local newspaper).

Can the French Immersion program be capped at Pineland?

The HDSB French Second Language Programs – Strategic Directions Study was completed and passed October 31, 2013. More information is available by visiting <http://www.hdsb.ca/Programs/Pages/FrenchLanguageStudy.aspx>

Capping French Immersion was not a recommendation. The challenges of capping were outlined on page 6 of the report. The majority of SK parents at Pineland PS and Mohawk Gardens PS continue to enroll their children in the French Immersion Program and the HDSB has been accommodating their choice.

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What is Grandparenting?

Grandparenting is a decision to allow existing students of a specific grade(s) in a neighbourhood(s) or geographic area(s) to remain at their current school until they complete a particular grade at that school (e.g., grade 8). This usually occurs in situations where changes to school boundaries have taken place. When not grandparented, change in boundaries would normally require affected students to change schools. Students being grandparented are provided transportation subject to the HDSB transportation policies. Siblings of students that have been grandparented will be directed (unless otherwise stated) to the designated school as per the new approved school boundary. Students preferring not to be grandparented may apply for Optional Attendance as per the Board's Administrative Procedure. Historically, the Halton District School Board has made an effort to grandparent students in their graduating year.