

Halton District School Board

Report Number: 18020

Date: January 29, 2018

FOR DECISION

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

FROM: J. Newton, Superintendent of Education
S. Miller, Director of Education

RE: **Establishment of School Boundaries – Milton #10 Public School**

Background:

The following motion was unanimously approved by the Board on September 20, 2017:

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board direct the Director to undertake a school boundary review for the new Milton #10 Public School, with an expected completion date of no later than February 2018.

In September 2017, the Board approved a recommendation ([Report 17099](#)) to proceed with a boundary review for Milton #10 Public School. The Milton #10 Public School boundary review was undertaken as a result of the Board's Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) which identified a need for a new elementary school to meet the growing enrolment pressures in south west Milton. 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the elementary schools in Milton as outlined in Scenario 10c and detailed in Report 18020, effective September 2018.

Boundary Review

The procedure for the boundary review of the Milton #10 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. This 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 (Michelle D'Aguiar, Planning Assistant (Mitchell Gundy), the Trustee for the affected areas (Kim Graves) and a Trustee from outside the affected areas and Co-Chair (Donna Danielli). The Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) initially met on October 16, 2017 and continued with meetings until January 16, 2018. A timeline of the process for the Milton #10 Public School Boundary Review is outlined in Appendix 1: [Milton #10 Boundary Review](#)

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. These schools included Anne J. MacArthur Public School, Boyne Public School, PL Robertson Public School and Tiger Jeet Singh Public School.

The BRC meetings were held in the library at Boyne Public 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.

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The BRC had five meetings in the time period between October 24, 2017 and January 16, 2018. 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 distances for each school, etc.; and
- 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
- Proximity to schools with opportunities for walk-to schools being maximized, school routes safe, and natural boundaries incorporated into the proposed options

The BRC used the criteria as described in the HDSB Administrative Procedure: *School Boundary Reviews (refer to Appendices)*. The BRC initially reviewed five (5) scenarios, as developed by the Boundary Review Steering Committee. Over the course of the following weeks, numerous other scenarios were generated and assessed as per the established criteria. A total of twenty two (22) scenarios were considered by the BRC. The pros and cons of each scenario was documented to encourage dialogue as noted in the minutes of each meeting and posted on the Board's website within 48 hours following each meeting.

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 (1e, 8c, 10a and 10c) were selected for the public information and feedback as outlined in Appendix 2: [Four Scenarios for Public Information Feedback](#).

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. The 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 -- [Milton #10 Public School Boundary Review](#). A banner was also posted near the front entrance of each of the four elementary schools stating that "This school is under a Boundary Review. Refer to website for details www.hdsb.ca"

On Tuesday, January 9, 2018, a Public Information Meeting was held at Boyne Public School. Invitations were provided for all families in the affected Milton elementary schools and sent through

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Synvoice emails. A copy of the [News Release: Public Information Invitation](#) was also posted on the Board website. The HDSB twitter feed also posted the invitation for all Milton residents.

Approximately 40 people attended the January 9, 2018 Public Information Meeting. The audience also included the steering committee, several Milton administrators including the principal of Milton #10 Public School, two Town of Milton Councillors and Director Stuart Miller. The slide deck was also posted on the Board's website [Public Information Evening Slide Presentation](#).

At this meeting, Board staff and school representatives of the BRC shared information on the process, the recommended scenarios, responded to questions regarding 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 15, 2018 using the [Public Information Feedback Form](#). The BRC received 42 responses to share with the Boundary Review Committee [Milton Boundary Review Feedback January 16, 2018](#).

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 16, 2018 at Boyne Public 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 two scenarios for the Board Report -- Scenario 10a and Scenario 10c.

In the Board's previous boundary review for Martin Street Public School in 2016-2017, a robust discussion focused 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. The Martin Street Public School Boundary Review Committee hoped that the upcoming Boundary Review study for the new Milton #10 school to open in September, 2018 would address some of the accommodation pressures in these schools. The current Milton #10 Boundary Review Committee did address this focus within the recommended scenarios.

To this end, the Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) carefully studied the BRC recommendations, revisited the process and recommended to the Director that Scenario 10a and Scenario 10c met the criteria with optimal balance and viability for all the affected schools in the study. The BRSC felt that these scenarios 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.

Subsequently, the Director and Administrative Council reviewed the recommendations from the Boundary Review Steering Committee. The rationale for Scenario 10c is as follows:

- addresses most of the criteria identified during the boundary review process;
- one of the four scenarios identified by the BRC and one of the two preferred options of the BRSC (10a and 10c)
- provides a balance of overall enrolment across schools in study area;
- attempts to keep families together regardless of program;
- provides room for growth at all affected schools; and
- addresses the warrant and recommendation in the Board motion.

Ultimately, the Director recommended the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the elementary schools in Milton as outlined in **Scenario 10c** effective September 2018. While Milton #10 Public School is projected to open at 90% of OTG capacity and total capacity is projected to be exceeded by 2020 with either scenario 10a or 10c, the natural boundaries in 10c are more palatable for walk to school potential.

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Furthermore, with the Ministry's announcement on January 19, 2018 to fund the building of Milton #11 Public School for September 2019, the enrollment pressures at Milton #10 Public School will be addressed in this future boundary review study.

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*

Appendix 1: [Milton #10 Boundary Review](#)

Appendix 2: [Final Four Scenarios](#) (1e, 8c, 10a, 10c)

[Scenario 1e](#)

- Milton #10 Public School opens K to grade 7 with the English program in September 2018 with grade 8 in September 2019.
- Martin #10 Public School will have the FI program phased in starting with grade 2 in September 2018. One grade will be added per subsequent year.
- Current FI students will remain at Anne J. MacArthur Public School and PL Robertson Public School.

Impact of Scenario 1e

- Anne J. MacArthur Public School enrolments decrease.
- No significant relief in enrollment pressures at Boyne Public School, PL Robertson Public School or Tiger Jeet Public School.

[Scenario 8c](#)

- Milton #10 Public School opens K to grade 7 with the English program in September 2018 with grade 8 in September 2019.
- Martin #10 Public School will have the FI program phased in starting with grade 2 in September 2018. One grade will be added per subsequent year.
- Current FI students will remain at Anne J. MacArthur Public School and PL Robertson Public School.

Impact of Scenario 8c

- Anne J. MacArthur Public School enrolments decrease.
- No significant relief in enrollment pressures at Boyne Public School, PL Robertson Public School or Tiger Jeet Public School.

[Scenario 10a](#)

- Milton #10 Public School opens K to grade 7 with the English program in September 2018 with grade 8 in September 2019.
- Martin #10 Public School will have the FI program phased in starting with grade 2 in September 2018. One grade will be added per subsequent year.
- Boyne Public School and Anne J. MacArthur Public School decrease in enrollments.
- Milton #10 Public School is projected to open at 90% of OTG capacity and total capacity is projected to be exceeded by 2020.

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Impact of Scenario 10a

- Milton #10 Public School is projected to open at 90% of OTG capacity and total capacity is projected to be exceeded by 2020.
- Tiger Jeet Singh Public School and PL Robertson Public School continue to have enrollment pressures.

Scenario 10c

- Milton #10 Public School opens K to grade 7 with the English program in September 2018 with grade 8 in September 2019.
- Martin #10 Public School will have the FI program phased in starting with grade 2 in September 2018. One grade will be added per subsequent year.
- Boyne Public School and Anne J. MacArthur Public School decrease in enrollments.

Impact of Scenario 10c

- Milton #10 Public School is projected to open at 90% of OTG capacity and total capacity is projected to be exceeded by 2020.
- Tiger Jeet Singh Public school and PL Robertson Public School continue to have enrollment pressures.
- Milton #10 Public School is projected to open at 90% of OTG capacity and total capacity is projected to be exceeded by 2020.
- There appears to be more natural walking boundaries with this scenario compared to scenario 10a.