

Halton District School Board

Report Number: 19134

Date: November 20, 2019

FOR DECISION

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

FROM: Stuart Miller, Director of Education
Rob Eatough, Superintendent of Education

RE: **Samuel Curtis Estates Boundary Review**

Background:

The following motion M19-0137 ([from Report 19109](#)) was approved by the Board of Trustees on October 2, 2019.

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board direct staff to recommence an elementary and secondary school boundary review for the Samuel Curtis Estates subdivision (ERA 111), which will include schools in ERA 103 (Frontenac PS, Mohawk Gardens PS, and Pineland PS) and SRA 100 (Nelson HS and Robert Bateman HS), as well as schools in ERA 112 (Eastview PS, Gladys Speers PS, Pine Grove PS) and SRA 102 (T.A. Blakelock HS); with an expected completion date of no later than February 2020.

The school boundary review was undertaken as a result of the Board's Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP), which identified that in ERA 111, there is an area that currently attends schools in Burlington (ERA 103 - Frontenac PS, Mohawk Gardens PS and Pineland PS; SRA 100 - Nelson HS and Robert Bateman HS). This area is commonly known as "Samuel Curtis Estates" and is located at the SE corner of Burloak Drive and Lakeshore Road. Historically, this area has been directed to Burlington schools because of proximity to existing Burlington schools and relative isolation from the existing residential in ERA 112. With the development of the Petro Canada lands (ERA 111) (now known as the "Lakeshore Woods" community), there has been interest in redirecting public school students from Burlington to Oakville schools in ERA 112.

Recommendations:

- ***Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the elementary schools in ERA 103 and 111 as outlined in Option 2 and detailed in Report 19134, effective September 2020.***
- ***Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the secondary schools in SRA 100 and 102 as outlined in Option 2a and detailed in Report 19134, effective September 2020.***

Boundary Review

The procedure for the boundary review of Samuel Curtis Estates 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 Oakville Superintendent Julie Hunt Gibbons and Burlington Superintendent Rob Eatough, Superintendent of Education and Boundary Review Committee (BRC) Co-Chair Scott Podrebarac, General Manager of Planning (Domenico Renzella), Senior Analyst - Planning (Laureen Choi), Analyst- Planning (Mitchell Gundy), the Trustees for the affected areas (Trustee Collard and Trustee Ehl Harrison) and a Trustee from outside the affected areas, BRC Co-Chair Trustee Rocha.

The Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) initially met on September 25, 2019. At this meeting the BRSC determined that Pathway 2 (Informing the Community) was the appropriate decision-making model to adopt given the unique circumstances, limited number of impacted students, as well as the fact that there were only a few possible options to review and consider. While Pathway 2 does not require community consultation, the BRSC felt it was important to engage with the community through two local Super Council Meetings and a Public Consultation Meeting. A timeline of the process for the ERA 102 Boundary Review is outlined in [Appendix 1](#).

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A message was sent to each elementary and secondary school principal of the affected schools in ERA 103 & 111 and SRA 100 & 102, as well as the School Council Chairs to inform them of the boundary review. These schools included Frontenac PS, Mohawk Gardens PS, Pineland PS, Eastview PS, Gladys Speers PS, Pine Grove PS, Nelson HS, T.A. Blakelock HS and Robert Bateman HS. The residents of the Samuel Curtis Estates community were sent a letter indicating a boundary review would be commencing. Similarly, current students residing in the Samuel Curtis Estates community and currently attending schools in the Halton District School Board received an email through our SchoolMessenger system on [October 11, 2019](#). There is a total 46 Halton District School Board students in the study area and 14 families that have more than one student in the public school system.

The BRSC met on three occasions in the time period September 25, 2019 and November 6, 2019. Board staff from the Planning Department, Superintendents and Trustees reviewed pertinent information to 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 option proposed, including grade by grade breakdown by program.

The following evaluation criteria from the Halton District School Board's Boundary Review administrative procedure were referenced throughout the process:

- **Viability of Program** – How many students are required to offer and maintain programs in an educationally sound and fiscally responsible way?
- **Proximity to Schools** -- Are opportunities for walk-to schools being maximized, school routes safe, and natural boundaries incorporated into the proposed options?
- **Portables and Portapaks** -- Are students being accommodated in permanent facilities and is the use of portable classrooms minimized in the proposed options?
- **Balance of Overall Enrolment** -- Is student access to programs, resources and extracurricular opportunities being maximized? Is over and underutilization of buildings avoided to the extent possible?
- **Stable, Long-Term Boundaries** -- Do the projections show long term stability and result in avoiding the need for additional boundary changes in the short term?
- **Transportation** -- Does the option demonstrate cost effective transportation?
- **Fiscally Responsible** -- Does the option strive to reduce unnecessary costs?
- **Student Experience** -- Does the option demonstrate an effort to reduce the number of school moves students have experienced? Are cohorts kept together?

The BRSC initially reviewed two (2) options, as developed by Board staff. During the course of the following weeks, a few minor variations to these options were generated by the BRSC and assessed as per the established criteria indicated above. A total of 4 options were considered by the BRSC. The pros and cons of each option were discussed. [Options 1, 1a, 2 and 2a](#) were selected for the public information and feedback evening.

Throughout the process the public were encouraged to share concerns and questions with Board staff and through the email created for this boundary review (samuelcurtisreview@hdsb.ca). The Public Information Meeting presentation, options and related information were posted on the website: [Samuel Curtis Estates Boundary Review](#). For ease of access, a website banner was posted on the Board's home page of the website.

On Monday, October 28, 2019, a Public Information Meeting was held at Q.E. Park Community Centre. An invitation was shared to all families in the affected area as part of the initial boundary review communication on [October 11, 2019](#). An [invitation](#) to provide input online using the Information Feedback Form, available on the HDSB website, was sent to families of current students residing in the Samuel Curtis Estates community and currently attending schools in the Halton District School Board October 29, 2019 through SchoolMessenger.

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Approximately 20 people attended the October 28, 2019 Public Information Meeting. The audience also included members of the steering committee. The [Public Information Evening Slide Presentation](#) was posted on the Board's website. At this meeting, Board staff shared information on the process, the recommended options, responded to questions regarding the process and explained the feedback process. The public was asked to provide their insights directly through a link provided to the community via email and on the Board's website. Laptops were also available at the Public Information Meeting for attendees to give feedback. All feedback was to be submitted by Monday, November 4, 2019 using the [Boundary Review Public Information Feedback Form](#). The BRC received 13 responses to share with the Boundary Review Committee.

The following themes were identified from the feedback process:

- provide opportunity for students currently attending Burlington schools to remain
- support for Options 2 (elementary) and 2a (secondary)
- support for limiting number of school transitions
- support for keeping grade cohorts together when transitioning to high school
- concerns expressed in longer distances to Oakville schools
- impact on access to Before and After School Care programs

The BRSC held their final meeting on November 6, 2019. The focus of the meeting was to analyze the data from the Public Information Feedback responses regarding the four options proposed: 1, 1a, 2, and 2a. The outcome of the discussion was that the BRSC recommended to the Director of Education that Options 2 (elementary) and 2a (secondary) best met the criteria and that these options would:

- best meet the core criteria as established by the BRSC; and
- would ensure sustainable and viable school boundaries for those living in the Samuel Curtis Estates community.

Subsequently, the Director and Administrative Council reviewed the recommendations from the Boundary Review Steering Committee: Options 2 and 2a and confirmed that these options:

- provide for stable, long term boundaries within Oakville schools that have the ability to accommodate additional students,
- address the concern of current Grade 8 ENG and FI students by allowing them to transition to Nelson HS for September 2020,
- addresses the concern of current Nelson/Bateman ENG and FI students by allowing them to remain at Nelson HS until the earliest date of either graduation or June 30, 2024 with transportation,
- create a unified elementary English cohort -- all K-Grade 8 students will attend Eastview PS,
- address most of the criteria identified as important during the boundary review process,
- are the preferred options of the BRSC,
- address the warrant and recommendation in the Board motion.

As a result, the Director recommends the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the affected elementary schools in ERA 103 & 111 and SRA 100 & 102 as outlined in Options 2 and 2a, effective September 2020.

Option 2 (elementary)/Option 2a (secondary)

- Starting in September 2020, elementary students in Samuel Curtis Estates directed to Eastview PS (JK-8 ENG) and Pine Grove PS (2-8 FI)
- Grade 8 ENG students remain at Frontenac PS and grade 8 FI students remain at Pineland PS to graduate at their existing schools
- Grade 8 ENG and FI graduates from this area directed to Nelson HS for September 2020 only
- Current Nelson HS /Robert Bateman HS ENG and FI students remain at Nelson HS until the earlier date of either graduation or June 30, 2024 with transportation

In order to provide flexibility to the relatively small number of students impacted by this boundary review, staff support the approval of optional attendance where necessary. Upon request, existing elementary students residing in the Samuel Curtis Estates subdivision and currently attending schools in ERA 103, will

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be granted optional attendance to continue to attend their current elementary school until completion of program at that site. Students will then be required to transition to the appropriate schools according to the revised school boundaries. For instance, a student currently in grade 3 at Mohawk Gardens PS would have their optional attendance request approved to continue to attend the school until the end of grade 6. The student would then transition to Eastview PS for grades 7 and 8. **Note: Transportation will not be provided.**

Board staff will continue to monitor enrolment projections in these review areas through the annual review of the Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP).

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Eatough, Superintendent of Education

Stuart Miller, Director of Education

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Appendix 1: Samuel Curtis Estates Boundary Review Timeline

BRSC Meetings:

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Ehl Harrison Super Council Meeting (Oakville)
Collard Super Council Meeting (Burlington)

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Thursday, October 24, 2019

Public Consultation

Monday, October 28, 2019

Admin Council Meeting

Monday, November 11, 2019

Board of Trustees Meeting for information

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Board of Trustees Meeting for decision

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Appendix 2: Final 4 Options

Option 1 (elementary)/Option 1 (secondary)

- Starting in September 2020, elementary students in Samuel Curtis Estates are directed to Gladys Speers PS (JK-6 ENG), Eastview PS (7-8 ENG) and Pine Grove PS (2-8 FI)
- Grade 8 ENG students remain at Frontenac PS and grade 8 FI students remain at Pineland PS to graduate at their existing schools
- Starting in September 2020, grade 8 ENG and FI graduates in Samuel Curtis Estates are directed to T.A. Blakelock HS
- Current Nelson HS /Robert Bateman HS ENG and FI students remain at Nelson HS

Impact

In comparing school utilizations between projections under current boundaries and proposed boundary changes under Option 1 (elementary)/Option 1 (secondary):

- Eastview PS utilization increases from 82% to 83% by 2024
- Gladys Speers PS utilization increases from 79% to 82% by 2024
- Pine Grove PS utilization increases from 72% to 73% by 2024
- Frontenac PS experiences no change to its utilization
- Mohawk Gardens PS utilization decreases from 78% to 75% by 2024
- Pineland PS utilization decreases from 63% to 62% by 2024
- T.A. Blakelock HS utilization increases from 82% to 83% by 2024
- Nelson HS utilization decrease from 92% to 91% by 2024
- Robert Bateman HS closes at the end of the 2019/2020 school year

Option 1a (elementary)/Option 1a (secondary)

- Starting in September 2020, elementary students in Samuel Curtis Estates are directed to Gladys Speers PS (JK-6 ENG), Eastview PS (7-8 ENG) and Pine Grove PS (2-8 FI)
- Grade 5 students currently at Mohawk Gardens PS stay at Mohawk Gardens PS for grade 6 in September 2020 and then attend Eastview PS for grade 7 in September 2021 (to avoid the transition of Sept 2019 grade 5 Mohawk Gardens PS → Sept 2020 grade 6 Gladys Speers PS → Sept 2021 grade 7 Eastview PS)
- Grade 8 ENG students remain at Frontenac PS and grade 8 FI students remain at Pineland PS to graduate at their existing schools
- Grade 8 ENG and FI graduates from this area are directed to Nelson HS for September 2020 only
- Current Nelson HS /Robert Bateman HS ENG and FI students remain at Nelson HS

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Impact

In comparing school utilizations between projections under current boundaries and proposed boundary changes under Option 1a (elementary)/Option 1a (secondary):

- Eastview PS utilization increases from 82% to 83% by 2024
- Gladys Speers PS utilization increases from 79% to 82% by 2024
- Pine Grove PS utilization increases from 72% to 73% by 2024
- Frontenac PS experiences no change to its utilization
- Mohawk Gardens PS utilization decreases from 78% to 75% by 2024
 - Avoids additional transition of current grade 5 students in Samuel Curtis Estates at Mohawk Gardens PS to grade 6 at Gladys Speers PS; this option allows them to stay at Mohawk Gardens PS (a JK-6 ENG school) until grade 6 and then move to Eastview PS for grade 7 in September 2021
- Pineland PS utilization decreases from 63% to 62% by 2024
- T.A.Blakelock HS utilization increases from 82% to 83% by 2024
- Nelson HS utilization decrease from 92% to 91% by 2024
- Robert Bateman HS closes at the end of the 2019/2020 school year

Option 2 (elementary)/Option 2 (secondary)

- Starting in September 2020, elementary students in Samuel Curtis Estates are directed to Eastview PS (JK-8 ENG) and Pine Grove PS (2-8 FI)
- Grade 8 ENG students remain at Frontenac PS and grade 8 FI students remain at Pineland PS to graduate at their existing schools
- Starting in September 2020, grade 8 ENG and FI graduates in Samuel Curtis Estates are directed to T.A. Blakelock HS
- Current Nelson HS /Robert Bateman HS ENG and FI students remain at Nelson HS

Impact

In comparing school utilizations between projections under current boundaries and proposed boundary changes under Option 2 (elementary)/Option 2 (secondary):

- Eastview PS utilization increases from 82% to 85% by 2024
- Gladys Speers PS experiences no change to its utilization
- Pine Grove PS utilization increases from 72% to 73% by 2024
- Frontenac PS experiences no change to its utilization
- Mohawk Gardens PS utilization decreases from 78% to 75% by 2024
- Pineland PS utilization decreases from 63% to 62% by 2024
- T.A.Blakelock HS utilization increases from 82% to 83% by 2024
- Nelson HS utilization decrease from 92% to 91% by 2024
- Robert Bateman HS closes at the end of the 2019/2020 school year

Option 2 (elementary)/Option 2a (secondary)

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- Grade 8 ENG students remain at Frontenac PS and grade 8 FI students remain at Pineland PS to graduate at their existing schools
- Grade 8 ENG and FI graduates from this area directed to Nelson HS for September 2020 only
- Current Nelson HS /Robert Bateman HS ENG and FI students remain at Nelson HS until the earlier date of either graduation or June 30, 2024 with transportation

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- Frontenac PS experiences no change to its utilization
- Mohawk Gardens PS utilization decreases from 78% to 75% by 2024
- Pineland PS utilization decreases from 63% to 62% by 2024
- T.A.Blakelock HS utilization increases from 82% to 83% by 2024
- Nelson HS utilization decrease from 92% to 91% by 2024
- Robert Bateman HS closes at the end of the 2019/2020 school year