

Halton District School Board

Report Number: 20123
Date: November 12, 2020

FOR INFORMATION

TO: The Chair and Members of the Halton District School Board
FROM: Jacqueline Newton, Superintendent of Education
Stuart Miller, Director of Education
RE: Implications of Milton SW #1 High School Boundary Review

Background:

This report is to inform the Board of the updated implementation plan for the Milton SW #1 HS Boundary Region resulting from a delayed opening of the new facility from September 2021 to a mid-year opening for February 2022. This report also serves to present the alternative accommodation plan staff is considering to temporarily accommodate students.

On November 4, 2020, the Board approved the Milton SW #1 HS Boundary Review Committee's recommendation (resolution M20-0159), to implement the preferred option 9b to be implemented for September 2021.

As construction continues at the new Milton SW #1 HS, staff are anticipating that the school facility will not be ready to fully open as of September 2021. Consequently, an interim accommodation plan that spans between September 2021 to September 2022 will be implemented.

1. The original approval to proceed to tender for this project was received in April 2018, however funding issues and revised design submissions required by the Ministry of Education resulted in delays, with the final approval to proceed to tender being received in July 2019.
2. Obtaining municipal approvals were slowed during the transition to remote working and the temporary shutdown.
3. Labour issues before, during and after the first phase of COVID have slowed progress due to more stringent health and safety protocols for the construction industry in Ontario. This has impacted schedules and overlapping of work. There was also a higher propensity of absenteeism or work refusals for fear of contracting the virus.
4. COVID caused significant supply chain issues in obtaining raw construction materials. Many manufacturing facilities were closed which lead to materials not being produced in a timely fashion. Delivery of items deemed essential were further delayed and were exacerbated by delays caused by the Canada-American border restrictions. Examples include but are not limited to Structural steel, Mechanical HVAC units, pressure treated wood, windows, door frames, etc.
5. These delays have contributed to certain areas of the building not being sealed for the winter season as intended for the original opening date of September 2021. Additional delays have compounded a timely schedule for finishing trades to complete their work. As a result, the finishing schedule has been pushed into later months and ultimately, a later anticipated date when the Board can take possession of the facility.

Consequently, there are components of the recommended implementation strategy that cannot be implemented for September 2021 and will need to be deferred either by mid-semester or the following year. Moreover, an alternative accommodation plan will be required to temporarily house the Milton SW #1 HS Grade 9 students.

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Updated Milton SW #1 HS Boundary Review Implementation Plan:

Milton SW#1 HS will open with Grade 9 only in September 2021. While the school will introduce a subsequent grade each year, staff may explore the possibility of adding both grades 10 and 11 in September 2022 if there is a critical mass of students that would voluntarily opt for a transfer to the new facility.

A summary of the changes made to the implementation plan for Option 9b of the Milton SW #1 HS Boundary Review transition plan is described below:

1. September 2021: All Grade 8 English Program Students that were to be directed to Milton SW #1 HS will be accommodated temporarily using one of the two interim accommodation plans discussed below
2. September 2021: I-STEM start delayed by one (1) year for grade 9 entry into the program
3. September 2021: Community Pathways Program placements delayed by one (1) year
4. February 2022: Milton SW #1 HS students holding in interim accommodations are transferred to the anticipated completed school.
5. September 2022: Grade 10 added to Milton SW #1 HS September 2022: I-STEM launches at Milton SW #1 HS for Grade 9
6. September 2022: Community Pathway Program placements available at Milton SW #1 HS
7. September 2022: Assess the critical mass of students interested in attending Grade 11 at Milton SW #1 HS for the 2022/2023 school year.

Appendix A provides a summary of the original implementation timelines compared to the updated implementation timelines as a result of the delays discussed throughout the report as well as a rationale as to why the changes were made.

Interim Accommodation Options

Staff have identified two (2) interim accommodation options that could accommodate the 260-300 Milton SW #1 HS Grade 9 students for September 2021.

Both interim accommodation options will be assessed by senior staff for their feasibility while ensuring the final option is safe for students; is fiscally sustainable; and ensures that we continue to provide a high-quality education. The options are as follows:

Option A: Milton SW #1 HS Partial Occupancy and Portable Classrooms

While the entire construction for Milton SW #1 HS will not be completed by September 2021, a portion of the school could be opened to accommodate the Grade 9 cohort of students in combination with the use of portables onsite.

The accommodation plan would entail the installation of twelve (12) portables on site and the identification of an area within the school that is suitable for student accommodation, staff and students washroom facilities and administrative space among other elements.

As construction progresses through the late Spring construction season, senior staff will be better suited to determine which area of the facility can accommodate the above option.

Option B: Milton District HS Holding - Establish a 'School within a School Model'

The second interim accommodation option would be to hold Milton SW #1 HS students temporarily at Milton District HS incorporating a 'school within a school' model.

A total of 1,428 projected students are anticipated at Milton District HS and a total of 260-300 students in holding for September 2021. This will require a total of 71 classrooms on site, requiring 21 portables onsite, of which there are presently 5 portables.

The accommodation plan would therefore require the installation of 16 portables on site and associated site improvements.

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In summary, both Option A and Option B are feasible Interim Accommodation Plans to temporarily accommodate students until such a time the construction of Milton SW #1 HS is completed and can accommodate its students for February 2022. As the year and construction progresses, senior staff will select the most viable option to implement in time for the 2021-2022 school year.

Conclusion:

As construction continues at the new Milton SW #1 HS, staff are anticipating that construction will not be fully completed for September 2021 as originally planned due to unforeseen delays and complications. The new occupation date is postponed to the start of the second semester, February 2022.

Given the above, staff have updated the implementation plan and developed interim accommodation options to temporarily house students that reside within the new Milton SW #1 HS school boundary and is extending the full implementation of programs in Milton to September 2022.

By the Spring of 2021, senior staff will select the most feasible interim accommodation plan for the start of the school 2021-2022 year and finalize the implementation plan accordingly. Staff will advise the trustees, students and the community once the ultimate action plan is finalized.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

Program	Location	Original Implementation	Updated Implementation	Rationale
English Program: Grade 9 students (2021-2022)	Milton SW #1 HS	September 2021	September 2021 or February 2022 pending selected interim accommodation plan	Students will be a member of the Milton SW #1 HS Interim Accommodation options include a partial occupancy at Milton SW #1 HS with temporary accommodations or holding at Milton District HS using a 'school within a school' model. Anticipated Grade 9 enrolment between 260-300 pending retention.
I-STEM Program: Grade 9 entry	Milton SW #1 HS	September 2021	September 2022	As the facility is not ready to accommodate the program and the I-STEM program runs the full year rather than one (1) semester, the program launch is delayed by one year.
Community Pathways Program (CPP)	Milton SW #1 HS	September 2021	September 2022	Students will remain at Craig Kielburger SS for the 2021-2022 school year. CPP area will be completed for the 2022-2023 school year where students can be placed as determined by Student Services to Milton SW #1 HS
English Program: Grade 10 students (2021-2022)	Craig Kielburger SS & Milton District HS	September 2021	N/A	Students in Grade 10 effective for the 2021-2022 school year will remain at their current school to graduate and not attend the Milton SW #1 HS. Given the total number of Grade 10 students to be redirected and the limited interim accommodation options, it would be better to remain at their present location. Craig Kielburger SS = 190 students Milton District HS = 122 students
New English Program Family of Schools	Craig Kielburger SS Milton District HS Dr. Frank J. Hayden SS	September 2021	September 2021	Implemented as per Boundary Review
New French Immersion Program Family of Schools	Craig Kielburger SS Milton District HS	September 2021	September 2021	Implemented as per Boundary Review