

Halton District School Board

Report Number: 20103

Date: October 14, 2020

FOR DECISION

TO: The Chair and Members of the Halton District School Board
FROM: Jacqueline Newton, Superintendent of Education
Stuart Miller, Director of Education
RE: Establishment of School Boundaries - Milton SW #1 high school

Background:

The following motion was unanimously approved by the Board on September 18, 2019:

*Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board direct staff to undertake a school boundary review for the new Milton SW #1 high school, which will include schools in SRA 101, SRA 104, and SRA 105; with an expected completion date of no later than June 2020.**

On September 12, 2019, the Board approved a recommendation ([Report 19109](#)) to proceed with a boundary review for Milton SW #1 high school. The Milton SW #1 high school boundary review was undertaken as a result of the Board's Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) which identified a need for a new secondary school to meet the growing enrolment pressures in south west Milton. The LTAP provides the opportunity to identify the school boundary studies 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.

A Boundary Review Committee was established on January 30, 2020 and met several times over the course of last year. Unfortunately, the work of this committee was paused on March 13, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result, the BRC was unable to complete this work in the spring 2020 as originally planned. Consequently, an amended completion date of October 31, 2020 was set as outlined in Board Report 20064 at the June 17, 2020 Board Meeting.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the secondary schools in Milton as outlined in Scenario 9b effective September 2021.

Regional Secondary Programs:

Prior to the commencement of the boundary review process, information was shared at the Board Meeting on January 22, 2020 in [Regional Programming at Milton SW #1 High School Board Report 20011](#). The following regional programs will be implemented at the new Milton SW #1 high school:

- Community Pathways Program (CPP)
- I-STEM with a grade 9 only start date

Other regional programs such as Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSMs) and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs (OYAP) are determined based on student and staff interest and facility specifications in consultation with the Secondary School Programs Department. These regional programs have limited impact on school enrolments and do not involve the boundary review process. However, recommendations about French Immersion will be determined through the Boundary Review process.

Boundary Review

The procedure for the boundary review of the Milton SW #1 high school area was implemented as per the Halton District School Board Administrative Procedure: [School Boundary Reviews \(2016\)](#)

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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), Associate Director of Education and Co-Chair (David Boag), Superintendent of Education and Co-Chair (Gord Truffen), General Manager of Planning (Domenico Renzella and subsequently, Fred Thibeault), Senior Planner (Michelle D'Aguiar), Planning Assistant (Mitchell Gundy), the Trustees for the affected areas (Donna Danielli, Heather Gerrits and Andrea Grebenc) and a Trustee from outside the affected areas and Co-Chair (Joanna Oliver). The Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) initially met on November 6, 2019 and continued with meetings until October 8, 2020. A timeline of the process for the Milton SW #1 high school Boundary Review is outlined in Appendix 1: [Milton SW #1 hs Boundary Review](#)

A message was sent to each secondary 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, Bruce Trail Public School, Boyne Public School, Brookville Public School, Chris Hadfield Public School, Craig Kielburger Secondary School, Dr. Frank J. Hayden Secondary School, Escarpment View Public School, Hawthorne Village Public School, Irma Coulson Public School, Kilbride Public School, Martin Street Public School, Milton District High School, P.L. Robertson Public School, Sam Sherratt Public School, Tiger Jeet Singh Public School, Viola Desmond Public School and W.I. Dick Public School.

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

The BRC had five meetings in the time period between January 30, 2020 and October 8, 2020. 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 secondary school programs, viable programs, transportation costs, walking distances for each school, 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 SW #1 High School Boundary Review](#). The following evaluation criteria were identified during the information process:

- English and French Immersion program viability
- Keeping Grade 8 cohorts together
- Student experience
- Balance of overall enrollment
- 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 were 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 eight (8) 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 eighteen (18) scenarios were considered by the BRC. The pros and cons of each scenario was documented to

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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)*
- *Viability of Program (student enrolment to sustain program in an educationally sound and fiscally responsible way)*
- *Balance of overall enrolment in each secondary 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 three (3) that best met these standards. The three scenarios (5b, 6b, and 9b) were selected for the public information and feedback as outlined in Appendix 2: [Three Scenarios for Public Information Feedback](#).

Throughout the process, the public was encouraged to send their inquiries about the new Milton high school boundary review through email miltonsw1review@hdsb.ca. Board staff made themselves available to respond in a timely manner and with a customer service focus. 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 SW #1 high school Boundary Review](#).

As a result of the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic and adherence to the Halton Region of Public Health protocols for public gatherings, the originally scheduled Public Information Meeting for March 26, 2020 was cancelled. A [notice](#) was sent to impacted school communities with an intent to reschedule the Public Information Meeting.

On September 29, 2020, the virtual Public Information Meeting was live streamed. The invitation was sent to all impacted school communities including instructions on how to access the livestream and participate by posting questions and comments on the live Google Form during the virtual meeting. This unprecedented forum provided the opportunity for public input on the preferred options. The [slide deck](#) and a recording of the [livestream](#) is posted on the Board's website.

Approximately 45 people attended the September 29, 2020 Public Information Meeting. The audience also included the steering committee, several Milton administrators including the principal of Milton SW #1 high school, a Town of Milton Councillor and Director Stuart Miller.

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 directly on a link provided on the Board's website. All feedback was to be submitted by October 5, 2020 using the [Public Information Feedback Form](#). In total, the BRC received twelve (12) responses to share with the Boundary Review Committee.

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 October 8, 2020 virtually through Google Meet. The focus for this evening was to analyze the data from the Public Information Feedback responses regarding the three scenarios proposed and to recommend three scenarios for the Board Report -- Scenario 5b, Scenario 6b and Scenario 9b. The [slidedeck](#) is posted on the Board's website.

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To this end, the Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) carefully studied the BRC recommendations, revisited the process and recommended to the Director that Scenario 5b, Scenario 6b and Scenario 9b 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 response to the consultation feedback; and
- 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 9b is as follows:

- addresses most of the criteria identified during the boundary review process;
- one of the three scenarios identified by the BRC;
- provides a balance of overall enrolment across schools in study area;
- attempts to keep grade 8 cohorts together;
- clear identifiable boundaries with major streets;
- keeps neighbourhood communities together;
- provides room for balanced growth at all three secondary 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 secondary schools in Milton as outlined in **Scenario 9b** effective September 2021. The secondary programming at each of the three secondary schools provides a balanced approach for enrolment including the much needed regional Community Pathways Program in both the east at Craig Kielburger Secondary School and the west at Milton SW #1 high school. French Immersion will thrive in Milton District High School and Craig Kielburger Secondary School with healthy enrollment and staff complement. Students' interests and learning choice will be augmented through three distinct foci and optional program choices -- International Baccalaureate at Craig Kielburger Secondary School; Advanced Placement at Milton District High School; and I-STEM at the new Milton SW #1 high school. Residents in Kilbride will be together as students are now directed to Dr. Frank J. Hayden Secondary School.

Furthermore, the Ministry's funding support for these schools addresses the accommodation pressures Milton has been experiencing in this dynamic and growing community. While Sam Sherratt PS and W.I. Dick PS rural areas will remain with their cohorts, it is recommended that these schools be included in Milton #11 Public School or Milton #12 Public School boundary reviews. Board staff will continue to monitor enrolment projections and accommodation pressures in Milton particularly with the anticipated elementary school builds of Milton #1 Public School and Milton #12 Public School 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

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Appendix 1: [Milton SW #1 hs Boundary Review](#)

Appendix 2: [Final Three Scenarios \(5b, 6b, 9b\)](#)

[Scenario 5b](#)

Option 5b

Craig Kielburger SS	Milton District HS	Milton SW #1 SS
Bruce Trail PS	Chris Hadfield PS	Anne J. MacArthur PS
Hawthorne Village PS	Escarpment View PS	Boyne PS
Irma Coulson PS	Martin St PS	P.L. Robertson PS
Tiger Jeet Singh PS	Sam Sherratt PS	Viola Desmond PS
Anne J. MacArthur PS (FI)	W. I. Dick PS	
P.L. Robertson PS (FI)	Brookville PS (split cohort with Acton DHS)	
Viola Desmond PS (FI)		
Dr. Frank J. Hayden SS - Kilbride PS		

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- Milton SW #1 hs opens with ENG (gr 9 & 10), I-STEM (gr 9), and Community Pathways Program (CPP) (gr 9 & 10) programming. One grade to be added in subsequent years.
- Sam Sherratt PS, Martin Street PS and W.I. Dick PS will have unified grade 8 cohorts regardless of Gifted, French Immersion or English programming and directed to Milton District High School.
- French Immersion grade 8 cohorts in Anne J. MacArthur PS, P.L. Robertson PS and Viola Desmond PS will attend Craig Keilburger SS while the English programming grade 8 cohort will attend Milton SW #1 hs.
- Brookville will continue to have a split cohort between Milton District HS and Acton HS.
- Kilbride PS grade 8 cohort is unified and directed to Dr. Frank J. Hayden SS for Grade 9.

Impact of Scenario 5b

- A temporary split cohort will occur in the holding schools for students south of Louis St. Laurent until Milton #11 and Milton #12 boundary reviews and builds come to fruition (Sam Sherratt PS, Chris Hadfield PS and Viola Desmond PS).

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Scenario 6b

Option 6b

Craig Kielburger SS

Bruce Trail PS
Hawthorne Village PS
Irma Coulson PS
Tiger Jeet Singh PS
Viola Desmond PS (FI)

Milton District HS

Chris Hadfield PS
Escarpment View PS
Martin St PS
Sam Sherratt PS
W. I. Dick PS
Brookville PS (split cohort with Acton DHS)
Anne J. MacArthur PS (FI)
P.L. Robertson PS (FI)

Milton SW #1 SS

Anne J. MacArthur PS
Boyne PS
P.L. Robertson PS
Viola Desmond PS

Dr. Frank J. Hayden SS - Kilbride PS

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- Milton SW #1 hs opens with ENG (gr 9 & 10), I-STEM (gr 9), and Community Pathways Program (CPP) (gr 9 & 10) programming. One grade to be added in subsequent years.
- Sam Sherratt PS, Martin Street PS and W.I. Dick PS will have unified grade 8 cohorts regardless of Gifted, French Immersion or English programming and directed to Milton District High School.
- Brookville will continue to have a split cohort between Milton District HS and Acton HS.
- Kilbride PS grade 8 cohort is unified and directed to Dr. Frank J. Hayden SS for Grade 9.

Impact of Scenario 6b

- A temporary split cohort will occur in the holding schools for students south of Louis St. Laurent until Milton #11 and Milton #12 boundary reviews and builds come to fruition (Sam Sherratt PS, Chris Hadfield PS and Viola Desmond PS).

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Scenario 9b

Option 9b

Craig Kielburger SS

Hawthorne Village PS
Irma Coulson PS
Tiger Jeet Singh PS
Anne J. MacArthur PS (FI)
P.L. Robertson PS (FI)
Viola Desmond PS (FI)

Milton District HS

Bruce Trail PS
Chris Hadfield PS
Escarpment View PS
Martin St PS
Sam Sherratt PS
W. I. Dick PS
Brookville PS (split cohort with Acton DHS)

Milton SW #1 SS

Anne J. MacArthur PS
Boyne PS
P.L. Robertson PS
Viola Desmond PS

Dr. Frank J. Hayden SS - Kilbride PS

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- Milton SW #1 hs opens with ENG (gr 9 & 10), I-STEM (gr 9), and Community Pathways Program (CPP) (gr 9 & 10) programming. One grade to be added in subsequent years.
- Sam Sherratt PS, Martin Street PS and W.I. Dick PS will have unified grade 8 cohorts regardless of Gifted, French Immersion or English programming and directed to Milton District High School.
- Brookville will continue to have a split cohort between Milton District HS and Acton HS.
- Kilbride PS grade 8 cohort is unified and directed to Dr. Frank J. Hayden SS for Grade 9.

Impact of Scenario 9b

- A temporary split cohort will occur in the holding schools for students south of Louis St. Laurent until Milton #11 and Milton #12 boundary reviews and builds come to fruition (Sam Sherratt PS, Chris Hadfield PS and Viola Desmond PS).