

Halton District School Board

Report Number: 21079

Date: May 25, 2021

FOR DECISION

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

FROM: Fred Thibeault, General Manager of Planning
Jacqueline Newton, Superintendent of Education
Stuart Miller, Director of Education

RE: **Establishment of School Boundaries: Milton SW #11 ps and Milton SW #12 ps**

Background:

The following motion was unanimously approved by the Board on October 21, 2020:

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board direct staff to recommence a school boundary review for the new Milton #11 Public School and Milton #12 Public School, which will include schools south of Derry Road in ERA 120 and ERA 121, and the whole of ERA 127 and rural areas south of Britannia; with an expected completion date of no later than June 2021.

On October 21, 2020, the Board approved a recommendation (Report 20104) to proceed with a boundary review for Milton SW #11 Public School and Milton #12 SW #12 Public School together. Given that both Milton SW #11 ps and Milton SW #12 ps have received Ministry capital funding approvals, and that both facilities are anticipated to open in September 2022, it was recommended that one boundary review be undertaken to define the ultimate boundaries for both schools concurrently. This would avoid having to implement two separate processes that address the same accommodation issues and avoid the risk of multiple moves in consecutive years within communities.

Schools south of Derry Rd are at capacity. In March 2020, given capacity constraints witnessed at Viola Desmond Public School, the school was closed to new families moving into the catchment, requiring new registrants to be redirected to five (5) schools located north of Louis St. Laurent Avenue, namely: Anne J. MacArthur Public School, Boyne Public School, Chris Hadfield Public School, Irma Coulson Public School, and Sam Sherratt Public School.

Consequently, the purpose of this review was to establish new boundaries for both Milton #11 ps and Milton #12 ps, and to develop boundaries that ensure students attend schools within their respective neighborhoods, where possible, and to address ongoing enrolment and accommodation pressures generated by new residential development, changing demographics, and program pressures.

It was recommended this review include the following schools:

- ERA 119 -- E.W. Foster Public School (rural areas), Sam Sherratt Public School (south of Derry Road and rural areas), W.I. Dick Middle School (rural areas)
- ERA 120 -- Chris Hadfield Public School (south of Derry Road), Hawthorne Village Public School, Irma Coulson Public School
- ERA 121 -- Anne J. MacArthur Public School, P.L. Robertson Public School
- ERA 127 -- Boyne Public School, Viola Desmond Public School

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board establish the boundaries for Milton SW #11 Public School and Milton SW #12 Public School as outlined in Option 4 (Report 21079), effective for the 2022/23 school year.

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Boundary Review

The procedure for the boundary review of the Milton SW #11 ps and Milton SW #12 ps area was implemented as per the Halton District School Board Administrative Procedure: [School Boundary Reviews](#), Pathway 1.

A Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) was established to lead the school boundary review process. This committee consisted of Milton Family of Schools Superintendents (Jacqueline Newton and Mark Zonneveld), Superintendent of Education and Co-Chair (Gord Truffen), General Manager of Planning (Fred Thibeault), Senior Analyst (Michelle D'Aguiar), Analyst (Mitchell Gundy), the Trustees for the affected areas (Donna Danielli and Heather Gerrits) and a Trustee from outside the affected areas and Co-Chair (Jeanne Gray). The BRSC initially met on January 20, 2021, and continued with meetings until May 18, 2021. A timeline of the process for the Milton SW #11 ps and Milton SW #12 ps Boundary Review is outlined in Appendix 1: [Milton SW #11 ps and Milton SW #12 ps Boundary Review](#).

A message was sent to each aforementioned elementary school principals 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 (2) 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, Chris Hadfield Public School, E.W. Foster Public School, Hawthorne Village Public School, Irma Coulson Public School, P.L. Robertson Public School, Sam Sherratt Public School, Viola Desmond Public School, and W.I. Dick Middle School.

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 BRC meetings were held virtually through Google Meets. The BRC meetings had parent/guardian representatives from each of the potentially impacted schools in Milton.

Throughout the process, the public was encouraged to send their inquiries about the boundary review through email milton11_12review@hdsb.ca. Board staff made themselves available to respond promptly and with a customer service focus. The notes 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 #11 ps and Milton SW #12 ps Boundary Review](#).

Subsequent to every meeting, the presentation slides, minutes, and scenarios were posted on the Board's website [Milton SW #11 ps and Milton SW #12 ps Boundary Review](#), and shared with the Boundary Review Committee. 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
- Stable, long-term boundaries

The BRC had five (5) meetings in the time period between March 11, 2021, and May 18, 2021. Board staff from the Planning Department, Superintendents, and Trustees worked with the BRC parent/guardian 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, school capacity including building on the ground (OTG) and maximum capacity (with portables), building utilization, and estimated number of portables required in the next ten years
- Information on school programs, viable programs, transportation costs, walking distances

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- Viability of program (student enrolment to sustain programs in an educationally sound and fiscally responsible way)
- A ten-year enrolment projection for each scenario proposed including proposed transitions by year and discussion points
- Program boundary maps (English and French Immersion programs) of the current scenario, as well of each option that was developed as part of the process
- A [zone map](#) was provided for ease of reference for the BRC and BRSC

The BRC initially reviewed four (4) options as developed by the Boundary Review Steering Committee. During the course of the process, numerous other scenarios were generated and assessed as per the established criteria. A total of ten (10) options were considered by the BRC. The notes 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 the 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:

At the BRC Meeting #4 meeting held on April 29, 2021, the BRC used the criteria to evaluate each scenario under consideration, and decided upon the three (3) shortlisted options that best met these standards to present at the scheduled Public Information Meeting, as outlined in Appendix 2: [Three Scenarios for Public Information Feedback](#). The three (3) scenarios included Scenario 2 ([link](#)), Scenario 4 ([link](#)), and Scenario 7c ([link](#)).

On May 18, 2021, the virtual Public Information Meeting was live-streamed. The invitation was sent to all impacted school communities including instructions on how to access the live-stream and participate by posting questions and comments on the live Google Form during the virtual meeting. This forum provided the opportunity for public input on the preferred options. The [slide deck](#) and a recording of the [live-stream](#) is posted on the Board's website.

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 May 14, 2021, using the [Public Information Feedback Form](#).

The BRC had their final meeting on May 18, 2021, 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 2, Scenario 4, and Scenario 7c. In total, the BRC received five (5) responses, two (2) of which were focused on this boundary review. Both reiterated the need to build new schools imminently to address the accommodated pressures and growth in Milton. Families want to attend their neighbourhood schools rather than be bussed or be redirected to a school outside of their neighbourhood. The low responses may have been a result of the lack of residential dwellings in these school boundaries at the time of this report.

To this end, the Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) carefully studied the BRC recommendations, revisited the process, and recommended to the Director that [Scenario 2](#), [Scenario 4](#), and [Scenario 7c](#) 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 criteria as established by the BRC;
- best respond to the consultation feedback; and
- ensure sustainable and viable schools in the study area.

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Subsequently, the Director and Administrative Council reviewed the recommendations from the Boundary Review Steering Committee. The rationale for [Scenario 4](#) is as follows:

- best addresses the criteria identified during the boundary review process;
- one (1) of the three (3) scenarios identified by the BRC;
- provides a balance of overall enrolment across schools in the study areas;
- vast majority of elementary school boundaries align with secondary family of schools, save for one (1) zone, having a split Grade 8 to Grade 9 cohort;
- clear identifiable boundaries that represent a neighbourhood scale, bound by major streets, and avoid dividing residential neighbourhoods;
- keep neighbourhood communities together;
- maximizes opportunities to walk and roll to school, using active modes of transportation, and reduces the reliance on transportation services;
- where transportation is required, distances are minimized to the best extent possible both in the urban and rural areas;
- avoids the potential for redirecting students in anticipation of future schools (similarly to Viola Desmond PS), where future boundary reviews will be triggered by a new school opening;
- provides room for balanced growth at neighbouring elementary schools, and has consideration for future school openings and how they may impact the proposed boundaries in Scenario 4; and
- addresses the warrant and recommendation in the Board motion.

Ultimately, the Director recommended the Halton District School Board embrace the boundaries as outlined in [Scenario 4](#) effective the 2022/2021 school year, whereby students will be redirected to the two (2) new schools following their opening in accordance with a transition plan outlined in Appendix 3.

The following implications have been identified for each school:

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Milton #11 ps



Milton #11 ps will include students located in the Boyne area west of the CNR tracks, and south rural Milton areas ([Zone B and Zone J](#))

- Single track (English) elementary school with French Immersion (FI) directed to Viola Desmond Public School
- It is projected that it will remain above OTG capacity but not reach maximum capacity.
- Rural students will be directed to closer schools, reducing transportation distances. These students currently attend Sam Sherratt Public School, E.W. Foster Public School and W.I. Dick Middle School
- Students located within Zone B, bound by Tremaine Rd, Britannia Rd, CNR tracks, and Louis St Laurent Blvd will be able to walk to the school

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Milton #12 ps

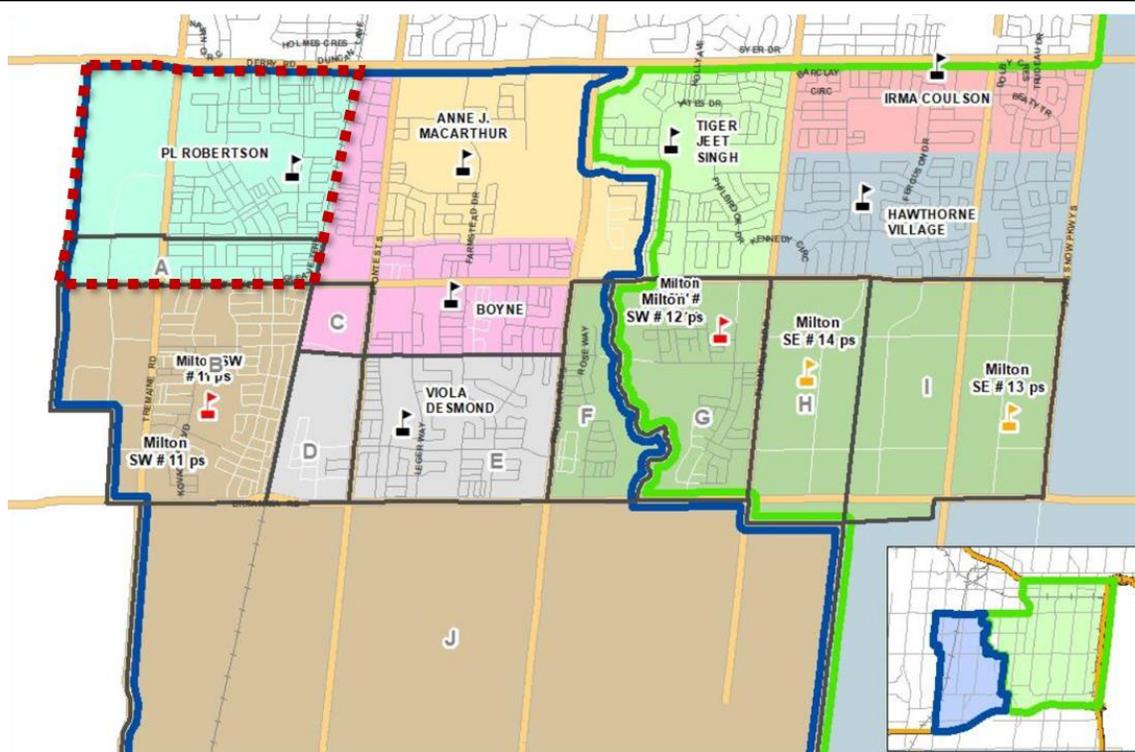


Milton SW #12 ps will include students located in Boyne and reside east of Regional Road 25. ([Zones F, G, H, I](#))

- To be a dual-track (English and FI school), with FI will be phased in starting with grade 2 students in 2022.
- Enrolment to surpass the maximum capacity by 2024, but will be relieved by Milton SW #13 ps, projected to open September 2024 (located in Zone I)
- In directing Zone F and G to Milton #12 ps, the area located between the area of Highway 25 and Thompson, the number of students able to walk and roll to school is maximized comparatively to any other school.
- Milton SW #12 ps will have a split Grade 8 cohort between Elsie MacGill SS and Creig Keilburger SS. This has been discussed within the BRC and BRSC, and it was concluded that the benefits of maintaining a neighbourhood scale boundary outweighed the disadvantage of the split elementary to secondary alignment (more discussed later in the report)
- FI students (3-7) holding at Anne J MacArthur Public School (Zone F), will be directed to Viola Desmond PS until graduation.
- FI students (3-7) holding at Irma Coulson Public School (Zone G), will remain at Irma Coulson Public School until graduation.

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PL Robertson PS

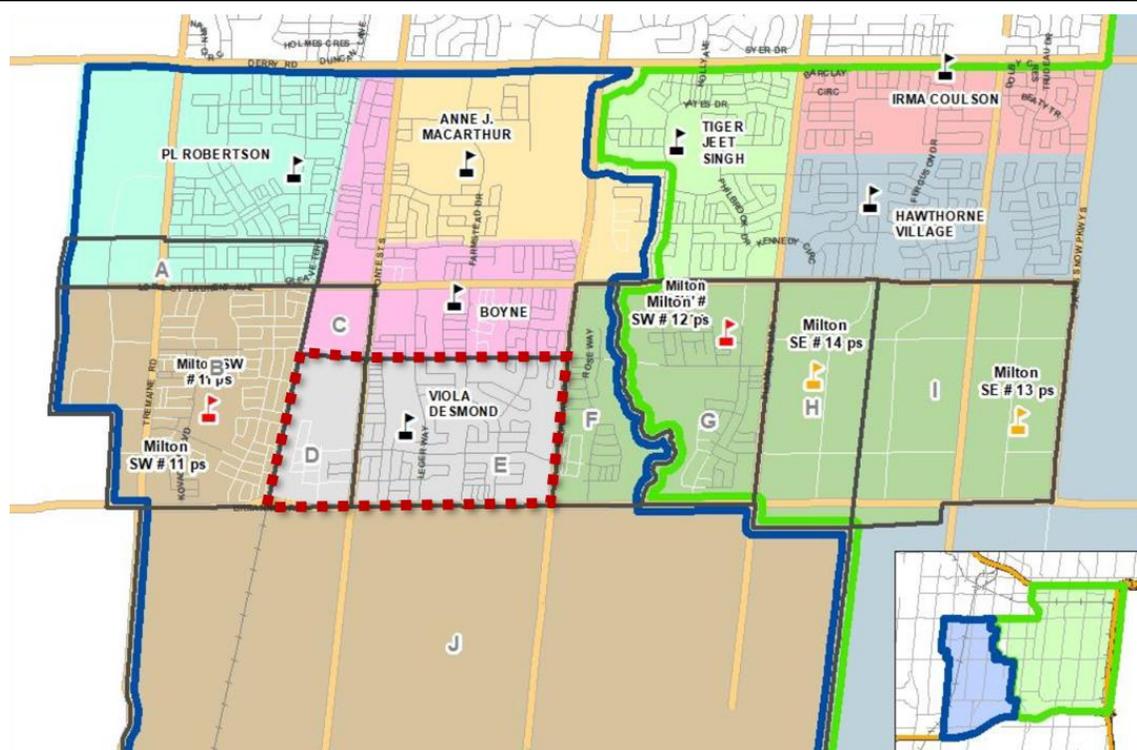


P.L. Robertson Public School's boundary will receive Zone A, effectively expanding the boundary to Louis St. Laurent Blvd to the south.

- It has been recognized by the Board that these students have historically experienced repeated moves, therefore the transition plan seeks to phase in the transition to P.L. Robertson starting with grades K- 2, adding a grade each year.
 - This avoids additional impacts to students that already moved multiple times.
 - There is a potential that families may be required to attend different schools in initial years.
 - Phasing in the transition is required to avoid P.L. Robertson Public School surpassing its maximum capacity.
- The proposed Boundary has the majority of students now within walking distance to their community school.
- Students holding at Anne J. MacArthur Public School (Zone A) will transition to either P.L. Robertson Public School (K-2) or to Viola Desmond Public School (3-7) until graduation.

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Viola Desmond PS



Viola Desmond Public School will include students located within Zone D and E, specifically the area bounded by CNR tracks, Whitlock Ave, Regional Road 25, and Britannia Rd. Viola Desmond PS will also received FI students coming from the Milton SW # 11 ps boundary.

- It will remain as a dual-track school (English and FI programming)
- Enrolments are projected to remain or at maximum capacity over the long term in initial years, eventually stabilizing over OTG capacity.
- Zone E students can walk to their community school.
- Students currently holding at Boyne Public School and Anne J. MacArthur Public School will transition to Viola Desmond Public School for K-7. (Zones D, Zone E)

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As a final note, all students currently attending a holding school will be redirected to their community school according to the transitions as outlined in Appendix 3. (Anne J. MacArthur Public School, Boyne Public School, Chris Hadfield Public School, Irma Coulson Public School, Sam Sherratt Public School).

Specifically for the proposed Milton #12 ps boundary. As stated above, while the Grade 8 cohort in ZONE F is misaligned with the English program secondary family of schools (portion of Milton #12 ps boundary - Zone F - which is directed to Craig Kielburger SS falls within Elsie MacGill SS), the benefits of keeping Zone F with the Milton #12 ps boundary include:

- Milton students have a wide offering of program choices between the three (3) secondary schools in the Town of Milton. That said, as students enter high school, students' often follow interests and learning choices as opposed to boundary alignments to pursue distinct optional program choices, namely International Baccalaureate at Craig Kielburger Secondary School; Advanced Placement at Milton District High School; and I-STEM at Elsie MacGill Secondary School.
- If Zone F were to be directed to any other school, they would require transportation, as there would be no options for active modes of transportation.
- If Zone F were to remain in the Elsie MacGill SS family of school, a portion of students in the area would need to be directed north of Louis St. Laurent Boulevard, as Milton #11 ps and Viola Desmond PS would not have adequate capacity. This would run counter to the goal of creating neighbourhood sized boundaries.
- The current and future population of Zone F is very large, meaning that although they are not aligned with their Grade 8 cohorts, the population is large enough where a large grouping of students would still be going to the same school.

For the reasons stated above, the BRC, BRSC, and Director of Education, maintain that there are benefits of directing Zone F to Milton #12 ps.

Board staff will continue to monitor enrolment projections and accommodation pressures in Milton particularly with the anticipated elementary school builds of Milton SW #13 ps and Milton SW #14 ps through the annual review of the Long Term Accommodation Plan, and will inform the Board of future boundary reviews once warranted.

Conclusion:

Consultation that took place as part of the Milton #11 ps and Milton #12 ps Boundary Review has resulted in the Director of Education recommending Scenario 4 to the Board of Trustees for consideration and approval on June 16, 2021. Once the Board has made their final decision on the final option, staff will report back to the community of the boundary review results and Board decision.

Respectfully submitted,

*Fred Thibeault
General Manager of Planning*

*Jacqueline Newton
Superintendent of Education - Milton Family of Schools*

*Stuart Miller
Director of Education*

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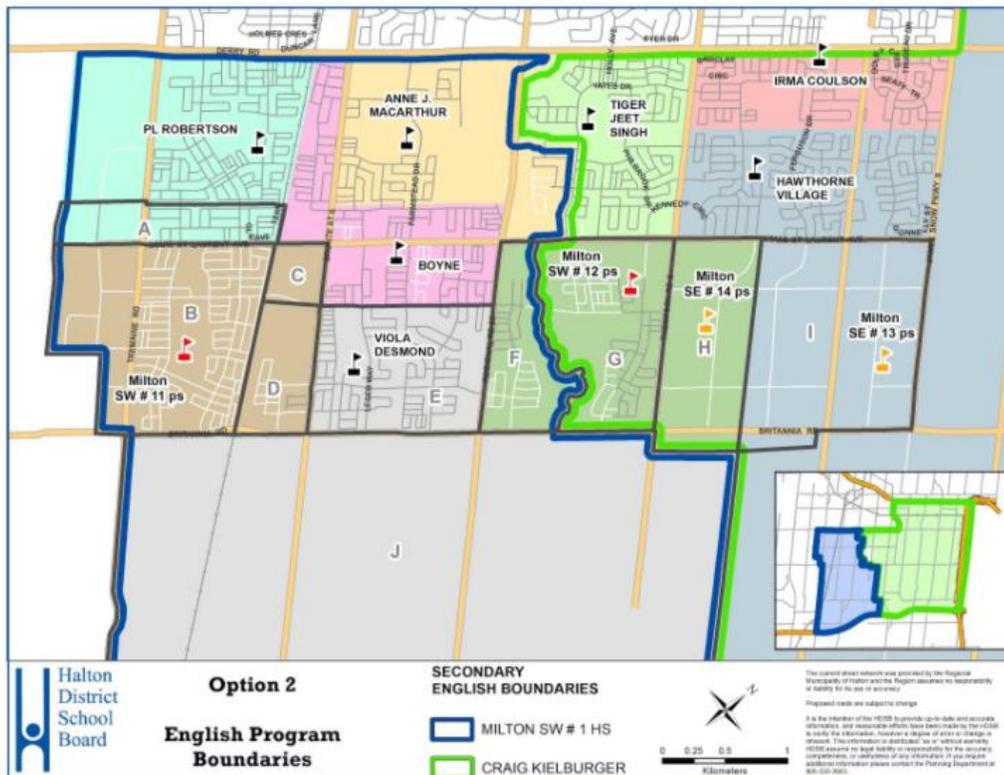
Appendix 1: Milton SW #11 Public School and Milton SW #12 Public School Boundary Review Timelines

Timelines:

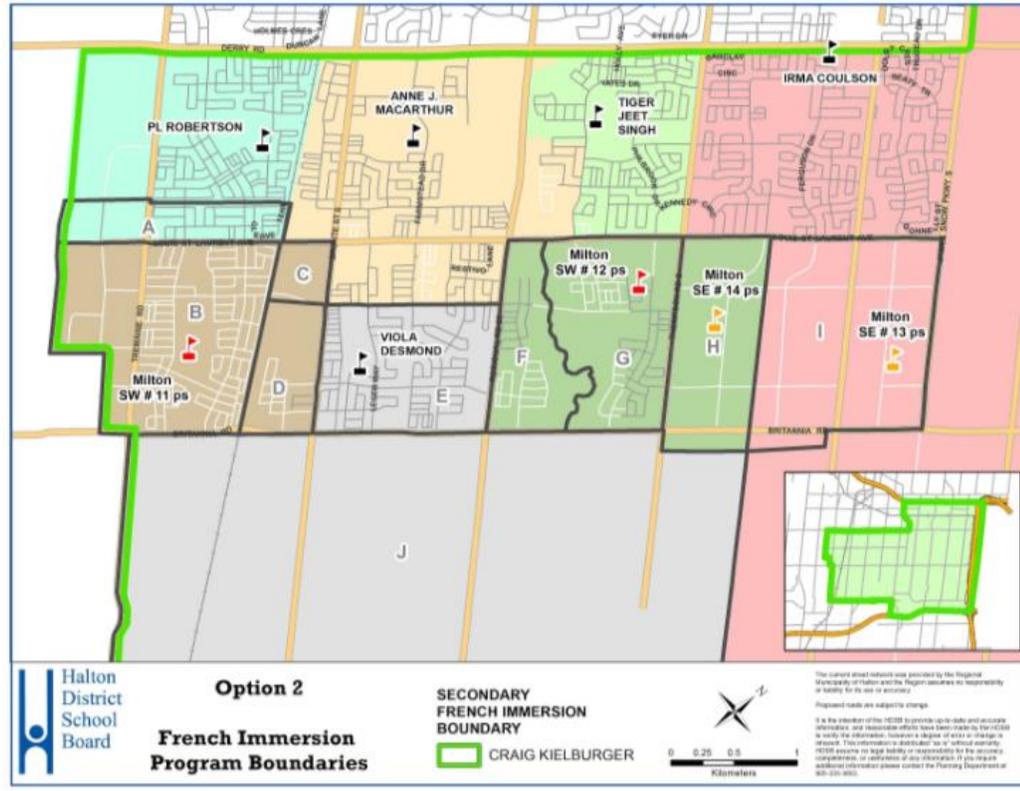
Upcoming Milestones	Date
Boundary Review Committee Meeting #1 - <i>postponed</i>	February 16, 2021
Boundary Review Committee Meeting #1	March 11, 2021
Boundary Review Committee Meeting #2	April 8, 2021
Boundary Review Committee Meeting #3	April 22, 2021
Boundary Review Committee Meeting #4	April 29, 2021
Public Consultation Meeting	May 11, 2021
Boundary Review Committee Meeting #5	May 18, 2021
Notification of Proposed option to affected community	After May 18, 2021
Board Meeting: Milton SW #11 ps & Milton SW #12 ps (Information)	June 2, 2021
Board Meeting: Milton SW #11 ps & Milton SW #12 ps (Action)	June 16, 2021
Notification of Decision to affected communities	After Board Approval

Appendix 2: Final Three Options (2, 4, 7c)

Option 2



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Option 2

Pros:

- The option with 3 dual-track schools (Milton SW #11 ps, Milton SW #12 ps, and Viola Desmond Public School)
 - Families will remain together and can elect either the English and FI program.
 - Should a student demit from the FI program, they can remain at their school.
 - Minimizes transportation.
 - Rural community attends one school
- It is projected Milton SW #12 ps reaches maximum capacity by 2028.
 - If there is a delay in Milton SE #13 ps, there is room to accommodate extra students
- Students within walking distance to P.L. Robertson Public School will be able to attend this schools, starting with grades JK-2.

Cons:

- It is projected Milton SW #11 ps reaches maximum capacity by 2026 and Viola Desmond PS will decline to under OTG capacity by 2028. This may precipitate action to alleviate excess enrolments at Milton SW #11 ps.
- FI programs start with grade 2 and one grade to be added in consecutive years.
- Small FI programs at Viola Desmond PS and Milton SW#11 ps
- Milton SW#12 ps will have a split grade 8 cohort to Elsie MacGill SS and Craig Kielburger SS.

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Option 4

Pros:

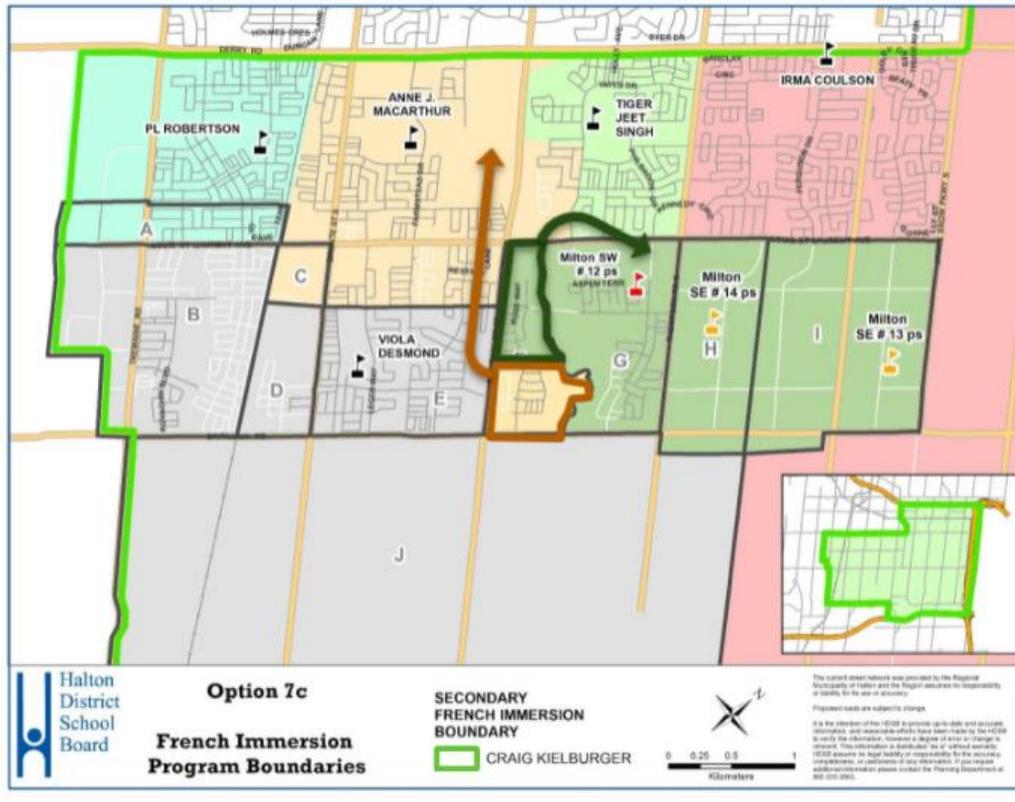
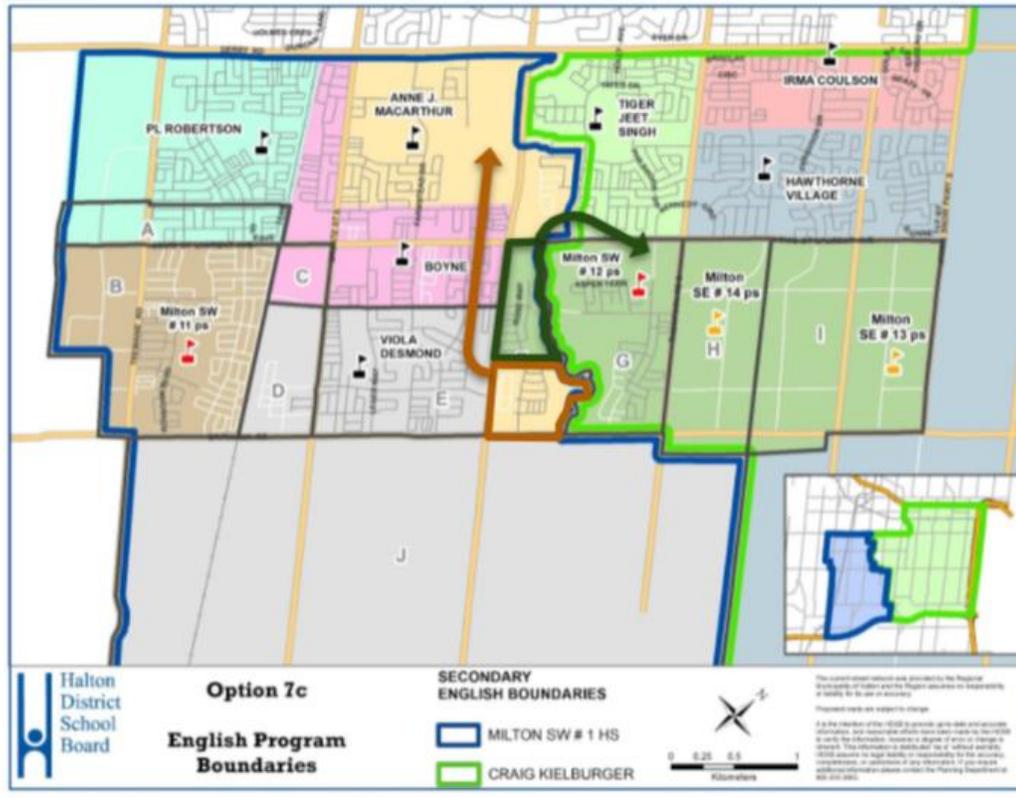
- The option has two dual-tracks schools (Milton SW #12 ps and Viola Desmond Public School) creating two viable FI programs.
- Milton SW #11 ps is projected to remain above OTG capacity but not reach maximum capacity.
- Milton SW #12 ps will increase in enrolment to surpass the maximum capacity by 2025. Milton SW #13 ps is projected to open September 2024
- Viola Desmond Public School's enrolments are projected to decline to under maximum capacity but remain over OTG capacity.
- Students within walking distance to P.L. Robertson Public School will be able to attend this schools, starting with grades JK-2.
- Milton SW #12 ps is the only school where a portion of students in Zone F can walk to school.

Cons

- Viola Desmond PS will be slightly over maximum capacity in 2024 then begin to decline in enrolments. (A shortage of one classroom).
- FI program at Milton SW #12 ps will start with grade 2 and one grade to be added in consecutive years.
- Milton SW#12 ps will have a split grade 8 cohort to Elsie MacGill SS and Craig Kielburger SS.

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Option 7c



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Option 7c

Pros:

- The option has two dual-tracks schools (Milton SW #12ps and Viola Desmond Public School) creating two viable FI programs.
- Milton SW #11 ps is projected to remain above OTG capacity but not reach maximum capacity.
- Milton SW #12 ps will increase in enrolment to surpass the maximum capacity by 2027. Milton SW #13 ps is projected to open September 2024
- Viola Desmond Public School's enrolments are projected to decline to under maximum capacity but remain over OTG capacity.
- Students within walking distance to P.L. Robertson Public School will be able to attend this schools, starting with grades JK-2.

Cons:

- Viola Desmond Public School will be slightly over maximum capacity in 2024 then begin to decline in enrolments. (A shortage of one classroom).
- FI program at Milton SW #12 ps will start with grade 2 and one grade to be added in consecutive years.
- Zone F will be split between two schools, thus dividing a community. Students will be transported to schools outside of Boyne. (Anne J. MacArthur Public School)
- Milton SW#12 ps will have a split grade 8 cohort to Elsie MacGill SS and Craig Kielburger SS. A small grade 8 cohort will be directed to Elsie MacGill SS.

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Appendix 3: Option 4 Transition

Option 3 Transitions		Jan 28, 2021								
Status Quo - Zone C										
Zone Home School										
Schools phasing out of a zone										
Zone	Schools	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
A - English Students	Viola Desmond PS	JK-8	JK-8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New - Milton #11 ps	-	-	JK-7	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8
A - FI Students	Anne J MacArthur PS (redirected students)	JK-8	JK-8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Viola Desmond PS**	2-4	2-5	2-6	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8
B - English Students	Anne J MacArthur PS (redirected students)	2-8	2-8	7-8	8	-	-	-	-	-
	New - Milton #11 ps	-	-	JK-7	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8
B - FI Students	Anne J MacArthur PS (redirected students)	2-8	2-8	3-8	4-8	5-8	6-8	7-8	8	-
	Viola Desmond PS**	-	-	2-6	2-7	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8
D - English Students	New - Milton #11 ps	-	-	JK-7	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8
	Anne J MacArthur PS (redirected students)	JK-8	JK-8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
D - FI Students	Viola Desmond PS	JK-8	JK-8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Viola Desmond PS**	-	-	2-6	2-7	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8
E - English Students	Anne J MacArthur PS (redirected students)	2-8	2-8	7-8	8	-	-	-	-	-
	Viola Desmond PS	-	-	JK-8						
E - FI Students	Boyne PS (redirected students)	JK-8	JK-8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Viola Desmond PS	-	-	2-6	2-7	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8
F - English Students	Anne J MacArthur PS (redirected students)	2-8	2-8	7-8	8	-	-	-	-	-
	New - Milton #12 ps	-	-	JK-7	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8
F - FI Students	Sam Sherratt PS (redirected students)	JK-8	JK-8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New - Milton #12 ps	-	-	2	2-3	2-4	2-5	2-6	2-7	2-8
G - English Students	Anne J MacArthur PS (redirected students)	2-8	2-8	7-8	8	-	-	-	-	-
	Viola Desmond PS	2-4	2-5	3-6	4-7	5-8	6-8	7-8	8	-
G - FI Students	New - Milton #12 ps	-	-	2	2-3	2-4	2-5	2-6	2-7	2-8
	Ima Coulson PS (redirected students)	2-8	2-8	3-8	4-8	5-8	6-8	7-8	8	-
H, I - English Students	Hawthorne Village PS	JK-8	JK-8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New - Milton #12 ps	-	-	JK-7	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8
H, I - FI Students	Ima Coulson PS	2-8	2-8	3-8	4-8	5-8	6-8	7-8	8	-
	New - Milton #12 ps	-	-	2	2-3	2-4	2-5	2-6	2-7	2-8
J - English Students	Sam Sherratt PS	JK-8	JK-8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New - Milton SW #11 ps	-	-	JK-7	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8	JK-8
J - FI Students	E-W Foster	2-5	2-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	New - Viola Desmond PS	6-8	6-8	7-8	8	-	-	-	-	-
				2-6	2-7	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8	2-8

** Viola Desmond PS currently offers grade 2-4 FI (2020/2021) instead of 8 attend Viola Desmond PS