

**Report to Committee of the Whole
March 23, 2015**



**Waterloo Region
District School Board**

Inspired Learners – Tomorrow's Leaders

SUBJECT: Amendment to Approved West Galt Pupil Accommodation Review Motion

ORIGINATOR: This report was prepared by Marilyn Allen, Executive Superintendent of Business and Financial Services, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Lauren Agar, Senior Planner, and Nick Landry, Business Services Manager, in consultation with Executive Committee.

PURPOSE/STRATEGIC PLAN:

To amend the motions regarding transportation of grandfathered students approved as part of the West Galt Pupil Accommodation Review in 2013. This amendment will correct a small oversight that will affect students beginning in September 2015. This correction relates to the Waterloo Region District School Board's (Board's) strategic direction of promoting forward-thinking.

BACKGROUND:

A report titled "Re-examination of the West Galt Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review Recommendations" was presented to Committee of the Whole on January 14, 2013. As a result of the recommendations outlined in this report, the following motion was approved by Board on January 28, 2013:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the grandfathering options as set out in the text and on Appendix II and III of this report titled "Re-examination of the West Galt Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review Administrative Recommendations," dated January 14, 2013, subject to eligibility determined by the student's school and address on June 27, 2013; and

That transportation be extended to those affected grandfathered students (regular track and Partial French Immersion) for a maximum of two years, ending July 1, 2015, subject to eligibility under Board Policy 4009 – Student Transportation and determined by the student's address on June 27, 2013.

STATUS:

The intention of the grandfathering provisions as recommended and approved was to minimize disruption to students and families as a result of the changes occurring in the West Galt community of the Board. When the grandfathering provisions were proposed, some students were inadvertently excluded from the motion. This was a small oversight that has been brought to the attention of staff as the first group of students will be affected in the 2015/16 school year.

The West Galt Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review resulted in boundary changes between Blair Road, Highland and Tait Street and St. Andrew's Public Schools and the addition of Grade 6 to Highland Public School in September 2013. In the 2015/16 school year, Highland Public School will be the only school in West Galt to offer Grades 4 and 5 Partial French Immersion and St. Andrew's Public School will be the only school offering Grade 6 Partial French Immersion. This means that students who had registered in the Partial French Immersion program at Highland Public School prior to the boundary changes that started in September 2013, have no other options for where they may enroll in Partial French Immersion.

The grandfathering options as set out on Appendix III of the report titled "Re-examination of the West Galt Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review Administrative Recommendations," dated January 14, 2013 indicate that these Partial French Immersion students would be given the option to remain at Highland Public School until they complete Grade 5 and the option to attend St. Andrew's Public School for Grades 6. The oversight was in how the students who live beyond the Board's walking distance would be able to continue to access the Partial French Immersion program beyond July 1, 2015. While it is not within Board policy to provide transportation for out-of-boundary French Immersion students, staff recognize that in this particular

case the students and their families entered the program in Grade 1 with the understanding that they were able to complete their French Immersion studies at their home school. In essence, the approved boundary changes forced them into the present situation, where they cannot complete their French Immersion program at their home school because the Board does not offer it

It is recommended that the end date for the transportation grandfathering provisions be changed to July 1, 2018 to allow these students the opportunity to remain in the Partial French Immersion program. Table 1 outlines the number of students who will be affected and would qualify for transportation based on *Board Policy 4009 – Student Transportation*.

Table 1: Highland Public School Partial French Immersion Students Affected by West Galt Review Grandfathering

School Year	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total to Highland P.S.	Total to St. Andrew's P.S.
2015/16	3	3	7	6	7
2016/17		3	3	3	3
2017/18			6	0	6

Since the grandfathering options approved as part of the West Galt Accommodation Review were not extended to unregistered siblings, this transportation extension would only be offered to students who were registered in the Partial French Immersion program prior to the 2013/14 school year; therefore does not apply to siblings of grandfathered students, regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in Partial French Immersion at Highland Public School. These families registered their students in Partial French Immersion with the knowledge that they would be responsible for their own transportation to Highland Public School. Appendix A attached to this report provides more details about which Partial French Immersion students are grandfathered (this is an updated version of Appendix III from the January 14, 2013 report).

COMMUNICATIONS:

Upon approval, those students who are affected will receive a notification letter advising of their transportation eligibility.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

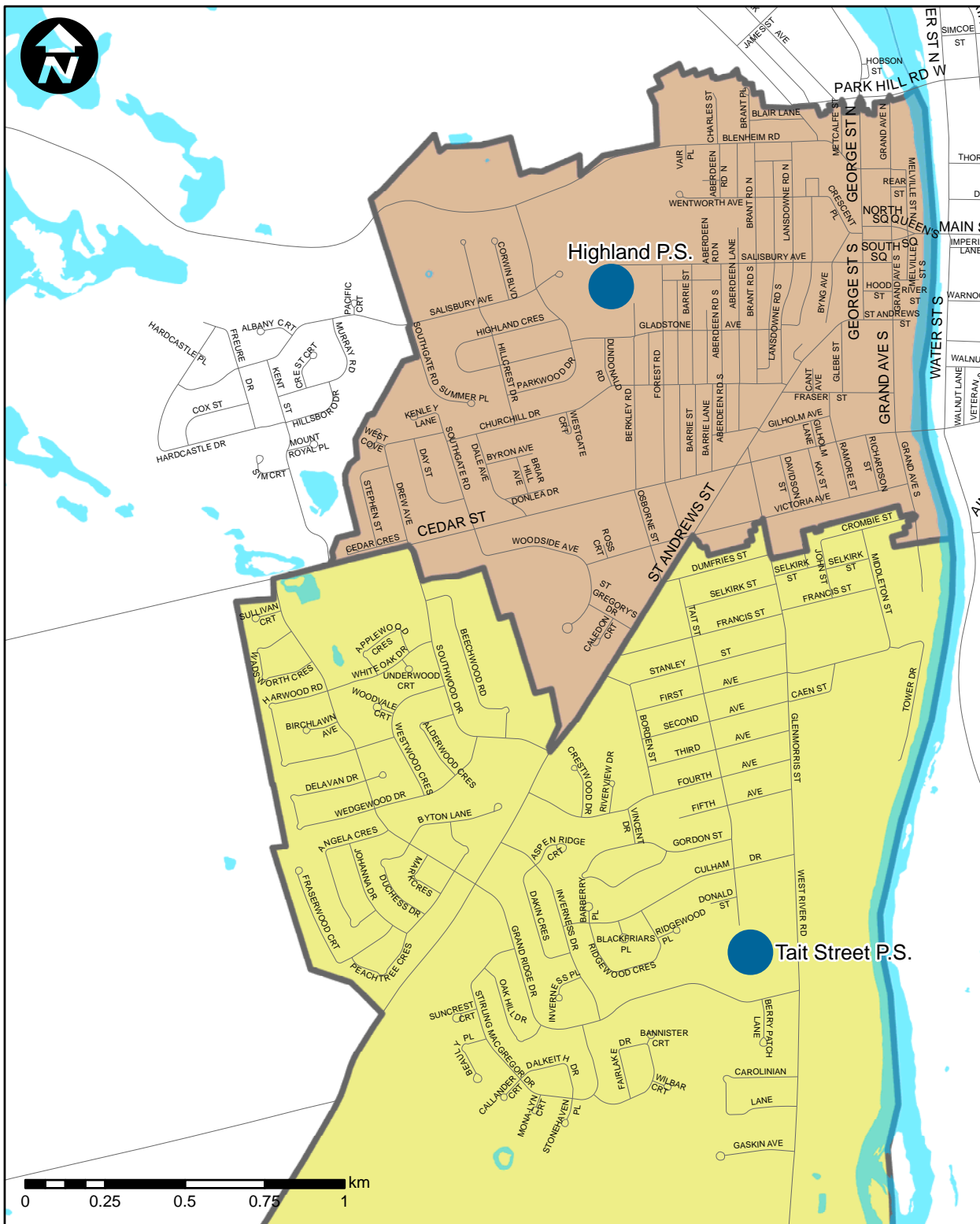
As a result of the current bell times at Highland and St. Andrew's Public Schools, it should be possible to incorporate these students into a second or third run for a bus, resulting in minimal to no additional cost.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend transportation to grandfathered Partial French Immersion students, as set out in the text and on Appendix III of the report titled "Re-examination of the West Galt Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review Administrative Recommendations," dated January 14, 2013, for a maximum of three years, ending July 1, 2018, subject to eligibility under Board Policy 4009 – Student Transportation and determined by the student's home address on June 27, 2013.

 Director of Education



Year	PFI students (Area 1)	PFI Students (Area 2)	PFI Students (Area 3)
2015/16	Gr. 1-3 students attend Tait Street P.S.	Gr. 1-5 students attend Highland P.S.	
	Gr. 4-5 students attend Highland P.S.		Gr. 4-5 students attend Highland P.S.
	Gr. 6-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.	Gr. 6-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.	Gr. 6-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.
2016/17	Gr. 1-4 students attend Tait Street P.S.	Gr. 1-5 students attend Highland P.S.	
	Gr. 5 students attend Highland P.S.		Gr. 5 students attend Highland P.S.
	Gr. 6-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.	Gr. 6-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.	Gr. 6-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.
2017/18	Gr. 1-5 students attend Tait Street P.S.	Gr. 1-5 students attend Highland P.S.	
	Gr. 6-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.	Gr. 6-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.	Gr. 6-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.
2018/19	Gr. 1-6 students attend Tait Street P.S.	Gr. 1-6 students attend Highland P.S.	
	Gr. 7-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.	Gr. 7-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.	Gr. 7-8 students attend St. Andrew's P.S.

Transportation extension provided based on Board Policy 4009 - Student Transportation up to July 1, 2018. Refer to Administrative Procedure 1000 - Partial French Immersion for siblings.