

## Report to Committee of the Whole September 22, 2014



**Waterloo Region  
District School Board**

*Inspired Learners – Tomorrow's Leaders*

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**SUBJECT:** Recommendations Resulting from the Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study

**ORIGINATOR:** This report was prepared by Marilyn Allen, Executive Superintendent of Business and Financial Services and Treasurer, Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning, Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, in consultation with Executive Committee.

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**PURPOSE/STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The purpose of this report is to request approval for proposed attendance boundary and grade structure changes for Sir Adam Beck and Baden Public Schools resulting from the Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study.

This report relates to two of the Waterloo Region District School Board's (Board's) strategic directions; engaging students, families, staff and communities; and promoting forward-thinking. A boundary study is a public process that ensures a decision by the Board has the involvement of an informed local community. The recommendations resulting from this study recognize current and future accommodation issues in the Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study Area.

**BACKGROUND:**

On January 20, 2014 a boundary study was approved for elementary schools, in the Baden area of Wilmot Township. The study area consisted of the catchment areas of Baden, Sir Adam Beck and New Dundee Public Schools. The study was initiated to address continued enrolment pressure being experienced at Baden Public School.

A working group made up of parent representatives from each of the schools, as well as the school principals, the principal of Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School (WODSS), the area Superintendent of Education, and Board and Municipal Planning staff, was established to discuss issues and develop the objectives and accommodation options for students in the study area. The first meeting of the working group was held on March 3, 2014 and the group met a total of six times throughout the study. Feedback from the broader public was solicited at two public meetings held on May 14, 2014 and June 14, 2014.

**STATUS:**

Current Situation

Despite the consolidation and replacement of older undersized facilities, and the opening of Sir Adam Beck Public School, enrolment within the study area has continued to exceed built capacity (See Table 1). While projections indicate that overall study area enrolment is expected to continue to increase slightly before stabilizing at or near the total capacity, growth is not distributed equally amongst all schools in the study area.

**TABLE 1: Baden Boundary study current and projected enrolment.**

School	School Organization	Capacity	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Baden P.S.	JK-8	605	713	780	810	830	825	780
New Dundee P.S.	JK-6	236	205	185	160	145	130	120
Sir Adam Beck P.S.	JK-6	510	418	455	470	445	420	400
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>1351</b>	<b>1336</b>	<b>1420</b>	<b>1440</b>	<b>1420</b>	<b>1375</b>	<b>1300</b>

Baden and Sir Adam Beck Public Schools, with recent residential development and a younger demographic, are expected to grow over the projection time horizon with Baden Public School seeing the majority of the growth. It is anticipated that Baden Public School could require up to 10 portables to accommodate its projected enrolment, putting further pressure on the site. Conversely, New Dundee Public School with an

aging demographic and no anticipated new residential development, is expected to continue to decline below its built capacity.

The primary purpose of the Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study was to develop a solution to reduce the enrolment pressure on the Baden Public School site and facility. During the Boundary Study process, the Working Group developed and evaluated a total of five (5) scenarios that examined various boundary, grade and program organizations for the study area schools.

Based on the Study Goals and Objectives established for the study (See Appendix A) the Baden Boundary Study Working Group recommends that the Waterloo Region District School Board adopt Scenario 3 as the boundary solution for the Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study. Currently Baden Public School provides grades 7 and 8 for the entire study area. Both Sir Adam Beck and New Dundee Public Schools graduating grade 6's attend Baden Public School for the intermediate program.

#### Proposed Solution

Scenario 3 would see the addition of grades 7 and 8 to Sir Adam Beck Public School making it a JK-8 facility. Sir Adam Beck Public School would keep its own grade 6's as well as take in the graduating grade 6's from New Dundee Public School. Baden Public School would remain a JK-8 school, continuing to offer the intermediate program, but for only its own JK-6 catchment. This scenario would reduce the enrolment pressure (and portable needs) at Baden Public School, and increase the enrolment at Sir Adam Beck Public School (See Table 2). Sir Adam Beck P.S. (currently at capacity) would require a four classroom addition consisting primarily of the program and infrastructure required to provide the intermediate program.

**TABLE 2: Baden Boundary study Scenario 3 projected enrolment.**

School	School Organization	Capacity	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Baden P.S.	JK-8	605	715	705	660	665	660	630
New Dundee P.S.	JK-6	236	205	185	160	145	130	120
Sir Adam Beck P.S.	JK-8	602*	420	530	620	605	580	550
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>1443</b>	<b>1335</b>	<b>1420</b>	<b>1440</b>	<b>1415</b>	<b>1375</b>	<b>1300</b>

\* Represents capacity of Sir Adam Beck Public School after the completion of a 4 classroom addition.

#### Implementation and Timing

Scenario 3 proposes that grades 7 and 8 be phased in at Sir Adam Beck Public School over 2 years. In September 2015, Sir Adam Beck Public School would be a JK-7 school, and the following year a JK-8 school. By phasing in the intermediate program in this manner student transitions are reduced as those students who began the intermediate division at Baden Public School will be allowed to finish there prior to graduating to secondary school.

The four classroom addition proposed for Sir Adam Beck Public School is currently unfunded. Upon approval of the recommendations attached to this report, the Sir Adam Beck Public School addition will be prioritized amongst the Board's other Capital Priorities to be submitted to the Ministry of Education through the annual Capital Priorities request. The Ministry of Education is expected to solicit Boards for capital projects to be completed for the 2017/2018 school year. Therefore, should the Board receive approval for the project, interim accommodation measures would be required to implement the addition of grades 7 and 8 at Sir Adam Beck Public School prior to September 2017 or until funding is available. It is proposed that interim accommodation at Sir Adam Beck Public School will consist of portable classroom units.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Public meetings were held on May 14, 2014, and June 14, 2014 to inform the broader community about the study, and to present accommodation options. Notices for the public meetings were sent home to each of the students' families in the study area and published in local newspapers, on the Board's main website, the schools' websites, and on community message boards. A link was created on the Board's and schools' websites to provide access to all relevant materials to the boundary study. Further, anyone who sent in a message to the Board's [boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca](mailto:boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca) address was added to a distribution list, allowing staff to provide boundary study updates via email to those on the list.

In addition to working group and public meetings, staff received comments and suggestions via electronic correspondence (the Board's [boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca](mailto:boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca) address) and telephone conversations.

Following decisions on the boundaries, a letter with that information, including a map, will be prepared for distribution to the affected students as well as posted on the Board's website.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The implementation of Scenario 3 will reduce the total portable classroom needs for the schools in the study area. The approximate cost to remove a portable from a site is \$10,000; however these portables will be freed up to use elsewhere in the system (possibly at Sir Adam Beck Public School)

According to the Ministry of Education's Capital construction funding benchmarks, the proposed 4 classroom addition at Sir Adam Beck is projected to cost \$1.72M. If approved, this addition could be completely funded by the Ministry of Education.

To facilitate the accommodation of intermediate students in advance of the proposed addition, additional resources and infrastructure (e.g., library books, computers) will be required at Sir Adam Beck Public School for September 2015. These resources will be allocated through existing budgets as necessary.

As well, additional portables will be required at Sir Adam Beck Public School to accommodate students prior to the completion of the addition. The cost of installing a portable is approximately \$25,000 which is addressed through the Temporary Accommodation budget. It is estimated that an additional 1 to 4 portables may be required at Sir Adam Beck Public School in the 2015/16, and 2016/2017 academic years respectively (cost of approximately \$85,000 each should the Board need to purchase new units).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Scenario 3 as outlined in Appendix A of this report titled "Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study – Final Report", dated September 22, 2014, to be implemented for the 2015/16 academic year.**

 **Director of Education**



**Waterloo Region  
District School Board**

# **Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study**

Final Report

Prepared by:  
**The Waterloo Region District School Board Planning Department**

*September 22, 2014*

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## Executive Summary

This report is intended to advise and inform the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Board of Trustees of the information gathered and consultation conducted by the Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study Working Group in order to develop the final recommendations provided in this report.

The Working Group agreed on Scenario 3 as the recommended strategy for pupil accommodation in the Baden Elementary Schools study area. The final decision on the outcome of the boundary study is to be made by the elected Board of Trustees.

The following is a brief outline of the recommendations provided in this report.

Implement **Boundary Scenario 3** consisting of the following recommendations:

1. That the Grade 7, 8 boundary between Sir Adam Beck Public School and Baden Public School be modified to reflect Sir Adam Beck P.S becoming JK-7 for September 2015, and JK-8 September 2016.
2. Board direct staff to develop a business case for a 4 classroom addition at Sir Adam Beck Public School and prioritize it through the Capital Planning process.
3. Board direct staff to establish a transition committee to develop interim measures of accommodating Gr. 7/8 at Sir Adam Beck Public School prior to the completion of an addition.
4. Board direct staff to monitor enrolment at New Dundee Public School and report back as appropriate.

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide to the Waterloo Region District School Board's (WRDSB) Board of Trustees the information and rationale for the recommendations resulting from the Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study in Wilmot Township.

## **Background**

A boundary study ensures that where a decision is taken by a school board regarding the realignment of school attendance boundaries it has the full involvement of an informed local community and it is based on a broad range of criteria.

On January 20, 2014, a boundary study for the Baden area of Wilmot Township was initiated. The purpose of this study was to develop accommodation solutions to address the enrolment pressure on Baden Public School's facility and site. Previous to this Planning staff met with the individual school councils in the fall of 2013 to discuss the possibility of an upcoming boundary study aimed at addressing the enrolment issue at Baden Public School.

This area has been the subject of a previous accommodation review and boundary study which led to the consolidation of three elementary schools into the current Baden Public School and the construction of Sir Adam Beck Public School respectively.

## **Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study Area**

The Baden Elementary Schools study area is made up of 3 schools (see Figure 1), that serve the elementary student population of eastern Wilmot Township.

Overall, the study area is primarily rural, containing two settlement areas with more dense residential development; the Town of Baden and the Town of New Dundee. The Town of Baden is the larger of the two and is home to Sir Adam Beck Public School and Baden Public School. New Dundee is a much smaller settlement area and is home to New Dundee Public School.

## **Baden Elementary Schools Study Area Schools**

The schools in the study area include:

1. Baden Public School (JK-8)
2. Sir Adam Beck Public school (JK-6)
3. New Dundee Public School (JK-6)





- Review and supply background information
- Confirm the issues to be addressed by the boundary study
- Develop goals and objectives
- Develop and review scenarios
- Review public feedback
- Confirm recommendations

The Working Group was composed of both community members and Board staff.

Parents: A. Collins



**Sir Adam Beck Public School**

Principal: Roger Boettcher

Parents: J. Scozzafava, M. Walsh-Hahn

**New Dundee Public School**

Principal: Andrea Michelutti

Parents: A. Hallman, B. Renaud

**Municipal Representative**

H. O’Kafka – Director of Development Services, Township of Wilmot

**Area Superintendent**

Superintendent of Education: Laura Hodgins

**Facilities Staff (Planning)**

Manager of Planning: Dennis Cuomo

Senior Planner: Nathan Hercanuck

Senior Planner: Lauren Manske

Recording Secretary: Andrea Kean

## Timelines and Activities

Throughout the study, a total of two public meetings were held to provide opportunity for a wide range of school and community groups to participate in the consultation. Notices for the public meetings were sent home to each of the student’s families in the study area, published in local newspapers, on the Board’s main website, the schools’ websites, and on community message boards.

The following is a summary of the activities of the Working Group prior to submission of this report.

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Board approval to commence study	January 20, 2014	Education Centre
WG Meeting #1	March 3, 2014	Baden P.S.
WG Meeting #2	March 20, 2014	Sir Adam Beck P.S.
WG Meeting #3	April 3, 2014	New Dundee P.S.
WG Meeting #4	April 23, 2014	Baden P.S.
<b>Public Meeting #1</b>	<b>May 14, 2014</b>	<b>Waterloo-Oxford District S.S.</b>
WG Meeting #5	May 27, 2013	Waterloo-Oxford District S.S.
<b>Public Meeting #2</b>	<b>June 18, 2014</b>	<b>Waterloo-Oxford District S.S.</b>
WG Meeting #6	June 18, 2014	Waterloo-Oxford District S.S.

## Rationale for a Boundary Study

The primary reason the Board initiated a boundary study for the Baden area was the enrolment pressure being experienced at Baden Public School. This enrolment pressure has necessitated the use of multiple portable classroom units on site consuming valuable outdoor space on a relatively compact site. It was felt that redistribution of enrolment amongst the facilities accomplished through the boundary study process could provide a solution.

**Table 1: Baden Boundary Study School Enrolment and Capacity as of October 31, 2013**

School	On-the Ground Capacity (2013/14)	On-the Ground Capacity (2014/15)*	2013/14 Enrolment (Total)	JK-6	7-8	# portables on site	Site Size (ac)
Baden P.S.	581	605	719		●	8	5.37
New Dundee P.S.	224	236	210	●		0	4.51
Sir Adam Beck P.S.	474	510	410	●		0	8.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>1279</b>	<b>1351</b>	<b>1339</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18.44</b>

\* updated to reflect changes to the room types/usages in the Ministry of Education School Facilities Inventory System (SFIS)

## Background

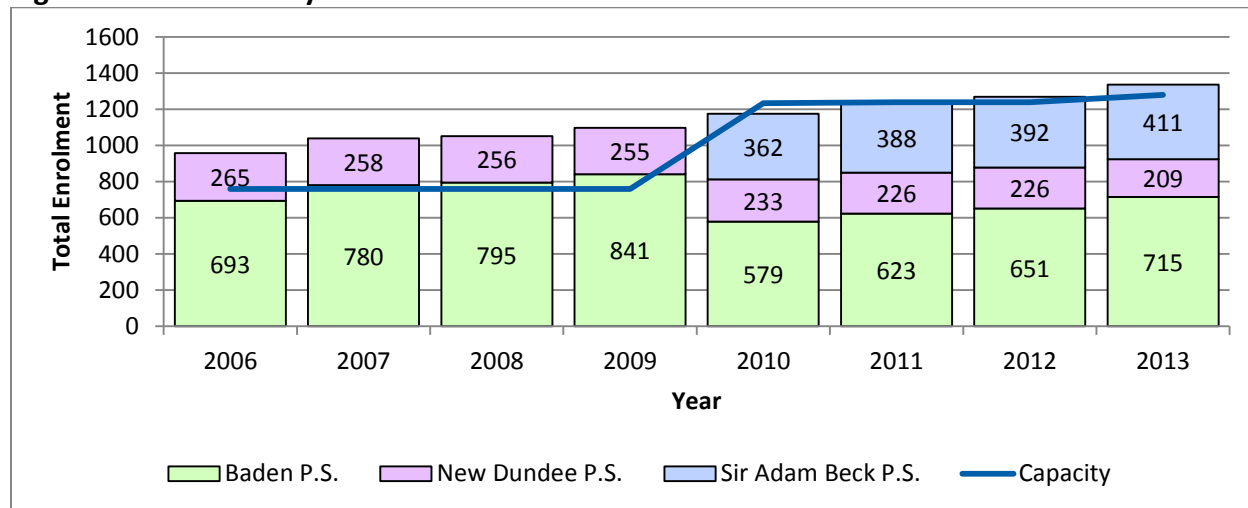
The Baden Elementary School Boundary Study area has been the location of previous boundary studies and accommodation reviews. On February 9, 2004 the Board approved the closure of the original Baden Public School, as well as North Wilmot and Wilmot Senior Public Schools, consolidating them within the current Baden Public School; acknowledging the age and small size of the facilities and in response to newly approved residential development within the Town.

This new area of residential development within the Town of Baden proceeded more quickly and yielded more students than originally anticipated leading to overcrowding at the new Baden Public School. In response the Board initiated a boundary study to address this situation. The outcome of this study was the construction of Sir Adam Beck Public School to relieve the enrolment pressure.

In 2010, the Ministry of Education announced the planned implementation of the Full-Day Kindergarten program. While Sir Adam Beck Public School was constructed with the addition of this program in mind, Baden Public School required an addition to accommodate the increase in enrolment expected from this initiative.

Since the construction of Sir Adam Beck Public School the residential development around Baden Public School has continued to yield an unprecedented number of students per housing unit, continuing to place enrolment pressure on the facility.

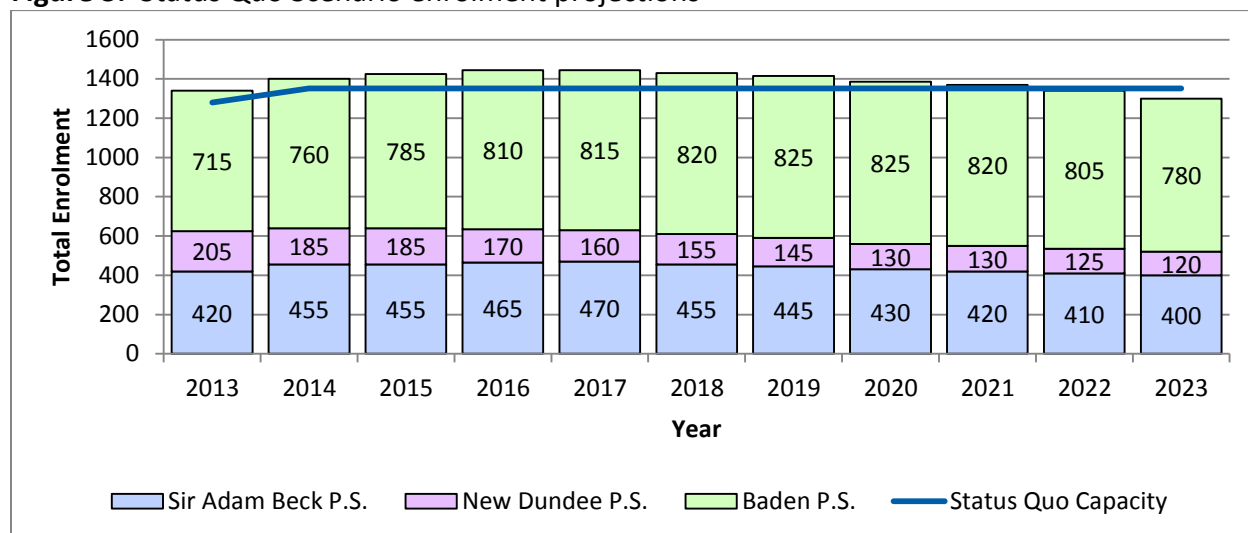
**Figure 2: Historic Study Area Enrolment 2006-2013**



As shown in **Figure 2**, enrolment in the study area has increased 28% since 2006 however not all areas of the Study area are in a growth situation. While enrolment at both Baden and Sir Adam Beck Public Schools has increased since 2006, enrolment at New Dundee Public School has seen a steady decline.

Enrolment projections suggest that the overall enrolment in the study area will continue to increase (peaking perhaps about 2016) putting further pressure on Baden Public School and to a lesser degree Sir Adam Beck Public School (**See Figure 3**). After 2016 enrolment is expected to modestly decline in the study area as a whole. New Dundee Public School with no recent or further planned residential development within the Town is expected to see further declines.

**Figure 3: Status Quo Scenario enrolment projections**



It should be noted that these projections take into account only approved residential plans of subdivision (for the most part around Baden Public School). The Township of Wilmot is currently completing a Master Servicing Plan that would seek to lay out plans for further future residential development between the Towns of Baden and New Hamburg. However at this time the scale, timing, and location of the development is unclear and not contemplated with these enrolment projections. It should be noted however that the total amount of contemplated residential development is significant and could potentially require multiple new school facilities in the greater New Hamburg/Baden area to accommodate students once fully developed.

# **Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study Working Group Goals and Objectives**

## **Goals**

The goals established by the Working Group explain what the Working Group intends to achieve through the boundary study process. The five goals are:

- To address the capacity issues at the study area schools
- To develop a strategy that is long-term (approximately 10 years), taking into consideration current and future population density and demographics.
- To minimize transitions for students where changes are proposed through grandfathering/phasing.
- To strengthen the Board's business case for additional capacity funding for current students and as residential development plans progress in the Township of Wilmot.
- To provide equitable learning opportunities for students and staff by moving towards the following criteria (from Board Policy 3002 – Elementary School Size and Configuration).
  - JK-6 facilities between 350 and 400 students (approx. 2 classes per grade).
  - JK-8 facilities between 500 and 650 students (approx. 2 classes per grade).
  - Minimizing the potential for schools with enrolments over 650 students.

## **Objectives**

Prior to developing accommodation options (scenarios), the Working Group set the following study objectives which aim to address the issues identified by the Board, the Working Group, and members of the public. These objectives are more specific and measurable statements than the goals. They also provide the criteria to evaluate the accommodation options.

- To reduce enrolment at Baden Public School beginning in the 2015/16 school year.
- To increase the number of students housed in permanent capacity within the study area in a cost-effective way, recognizing that there can be no additional capacity built prior to the 2017/18 school year.

## Boundary Scenarios

The main purpose of this boundary study was to reduce enrolment pressure at Baden Public School. Throughout the study, a total of five (5) boundary scenarios were considered. The Working Group considered school boundaries, but also the configuration of the study area schools (e.g., converting a school from a JK-6 to a JK-8 organization), and program changes (i.e. relocation of the French Immersion program). Table 2 summarizes the different configurations evaluated in the boundary scenarios.

**Table 2: Summary of Baden Elementary Schools Configurations Considered by Scenario**

School Configuration	Scenario					
	Status Quo	1	2	3	4	5
Baden PS JK-8	X		X	X	X	X
Baden PS JK-6		X				
Sir Adam Beck PS JK-6	X				X	
Sir Adam Beck PS JK-8		X	X	X		X
Sir Adam Beck PS feeds Baden PS for Gr. 7-8	X				X	
New Dundee PS JK-6	X	X	X	X	X	X
New Dundee PS feeds Baden PS for Gr. 7-8	X		X		X	
New Dundee PS feeds Sir Adam Beck PS for Gr. 7-8		X		X		X
JK-6 FI program relocated to Sir Adam Beck PS from Baden PS					X	
7-8 FI program relocated to Sir Adam Beck PS from Baden PS		X				

Ultimately the Working Group settled on Scenario 3 as providing the best solution to the accommodation needs within the study area. Scenario 3 would see:

- Sir Adam Beck Public school transition to a JK-8 facility, requiring a 4 classroom addition.
- New Dundee Public School (JK-6) would feed Sir Adam Beck Public School for grades 7-8.
- Baden Public school would remain a JK-8 facility, providing gr 7-8 for just its own JK-6 catchment. Baden Public School would also remain the home for the area French Immersion program for grades 1-8.

In order to achieve the overall goals and objectives established for the Baden Area Elementary Schools Boundary Study, it is recommended that the Waterloo Region District School Board

## Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study Final Report

adopt Scenario 3 as the preferred boundary solution for Baden Area Elementary Schools Boundary Study.

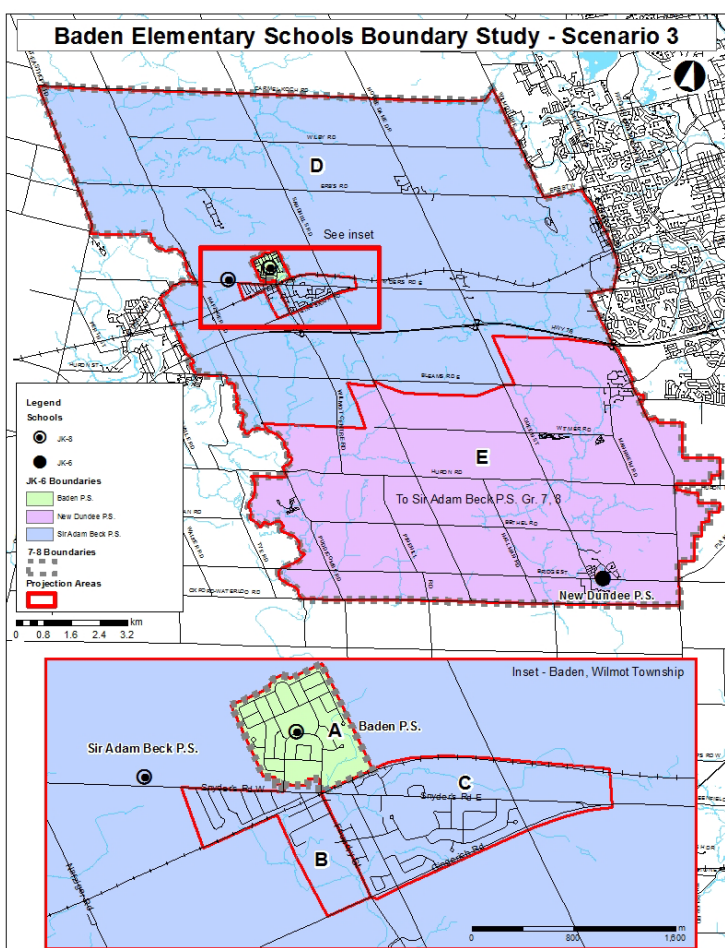
The recommendations that coincide with Scenario 3 are:

**Recommendation #1:** *That the Grade 7, 8 boundary between Sir Adam Beck Public School and Baden Public School be modified to reflect Sir Adam Beck Public School becoming JK-7 for September 2015, and JK-8 September 2016.*

The primary objective of the boundary study is to reduce enrolment pressure being experienced at Baden Public School. Currently Baden Public School provides the grade 7 and 8 program for the entire study area. Both New Dundee and Sir Adam Beck Public Schools (JK-6) feed Baden Public School for the grade 7 and 8 program.

Scenario 3 would see Sir Adam Beck Public School transition to a JK-8 facility. Sir Adam Beck Public School would keep its own graduating grade 6's, as well as receive those graduating from New Dundee Public School. Baden Public School would remain a JK-8 facility for its own JK-6 catchment as well as the home for the grades 1-8 French Immersion program for the area. Figure 4 illustrates the new boundaries for the Study Area schools.

**Figure 4: Scenario 3 proposed boundaries**



Baden Public school enrolment reduction by way of 'de-congregating' the area grade 7 and 8 program at the facility was felt to be the least disruptive method by the boundary study Working Group. It provides stability with respect to existing grade organizations and programs offered at the three schools, as well as providing a JK-8 facility for the Sir Adam Beck Public School community.

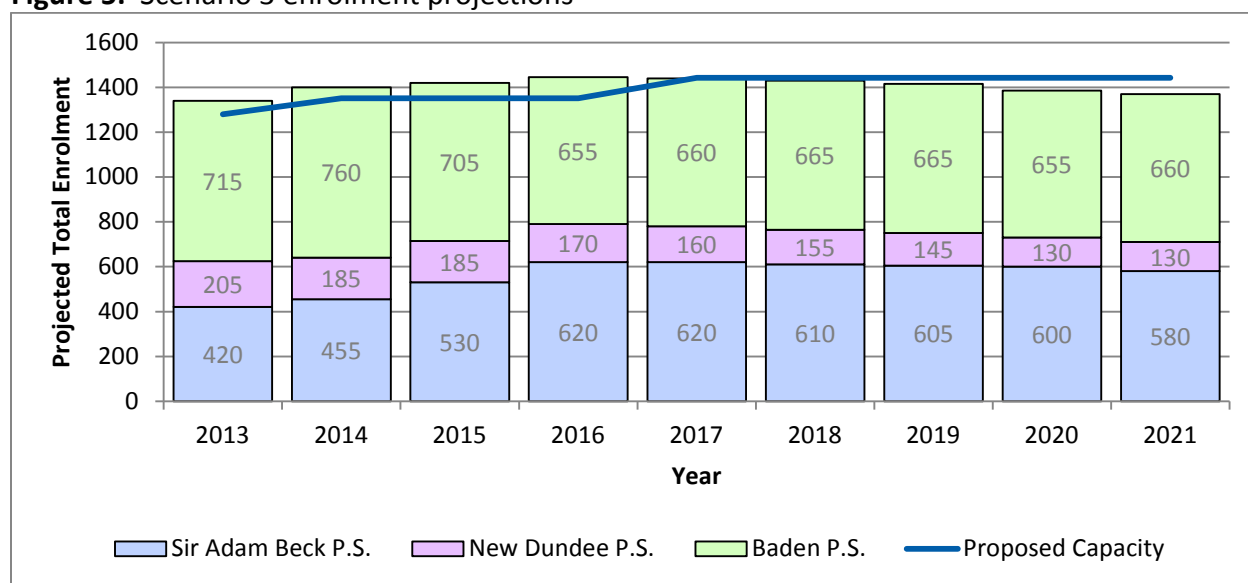
While this proposed 'de-congregation' of grade 7-8 at Baden Public School would reduce the overall enrolment in the intermediate division at the school Scenario 3 still maintains the 2.5 classes per grade in the intermediate division recommended in *Board Policy 3002 –Elementary School Size and*

*Configuration* at each of Baden and Sir Adam Beck Public Schools.

Further ‘de-congregation’ through the addition of grades 7 and 8 at New Dundee Public School was discussed with the boundary study working group, however the change was not considered feasible. The recommended 2.5 classes/grade intermediate division organization would not be achievable for either Sir Adam Beck or New Dundee Public Schools in such a situation

Enrolment projections for Scenario 3 demonstrate a reduction of approximately 160 students at Baden Public School from the Status Quo Scenario once the change is fully implemented in September 2017 (See **Figure 5**). It is anticipated this will reduce the need for portable classroom units at Baden Public School from 10 to 4, reclaiming valuable outdoor space.

**Figure 5:** Scenario 3 enrolment projections



The boundary change recommendation also contains elements designed to implement the change in a manner sensitive to student transitions. It is proposed that Sir Adam Beck Public School changes grade organization from JK-6 to JK-8 in a staged manner over the course of two years. In September 2015 it is proposed that Sir Adam Beck Public School would be a JK-7 facility, and in September 2016 a JK-8 facility. By staging the implementation in this manner it allows students whom began the intermediate program at Baden Public School in September 2014 the opportunity to graduate from the school in June 2016 without having to transition to Sir Adam Beck Public School, the year prior to attending secondary school. Student transitions are minimized.

**Recommendation #2:** Board direct staff to develop a business case for a 4 classroom addition at Sir Adam Beck Public School and prioritize it through the Capital Planning process.

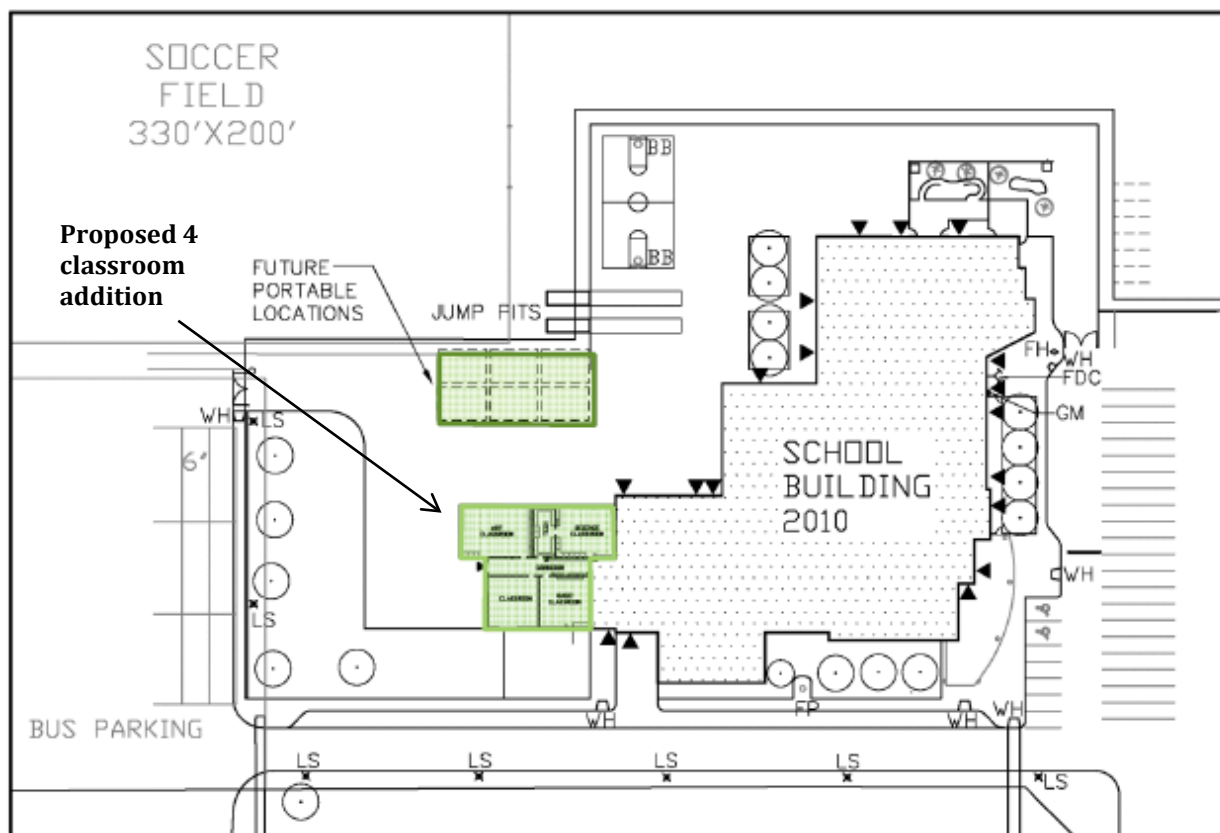
To accommodate grades 7 and 8 at Sir Adam Beck Public School, and the expected enrolment increase, a four classroom addition to the facility would be required. Sir Adam Beck Public



School is currently a JK-6 facility lacking the specialized infrastructure required to provide the intermediate program such as Music, Art, and Science and Tech. classrooms, as well as lockers. It is proposed that the addition consist of these elements.

Sir Adam Beck Public School was designed with such an addition in mind. Space for such an addition was incorporated into the original design for the building. The addition would be constructed on the west side of the building closest to Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School (WODSS) with which Sir Adam Beck Public School shares a campus (See **Figure 6**).

**Figure 6:** Depiction of location of proposed Sir Adam Beck Public School 4 classroom addition



Using Ministry of Education benchmark construction costs it is estimated that the Sir Adam Beck Public School addition would cost approximately \$1.72 M. A business case for this project would be developed by the Boards Capital Plan Advisory Committee and be prioritized amongst the Boards other capital priorities, to be submitted to the Ministry of Education via their annual Capital Priorities request to Boards. Because the project is subject to both the Boards own priority evaluation and that of the Ministry of Education a specific date for obtaining the funds and hence a firm completion date for the addition cannot be guaranteed.

**Recommendation #3:** Board direct staff to establish transition committee to develop interim measures of accommodating Gr. 7/8 at Sir Adam Beck Public School prior to the completion of an addition.

Because no firm completion date for the addition can be provided at this time due to the uncertainty of the timing of Ministry of Education capital funding, interim measures of accommodating the intermediate program at Sir Adam Beck Public School need to be contemplated. It is proposed initially that the enrolment increase as well as intermediate program needs be accommodated through the addition of portable classroom units at the school. However the Working Group also discussed other options such as leveraging the facility's close proximity to WODSS. Depending on scheduling and timetabling there may be opportunities for Sir Adam Beck Public School intermediate students to utilize specialized infrastructure such as Music, Science and Tech. facilities at the secondary school to assist in delivery of the curriculum. However this would need to be evaluated on a yearly basis, based on class scheduling and timetabling at WODSS.

The Working Group recommends to the Board that it establish a transition committee comprised of parent representatives and appropriate Board staff to evaluate interim accommodation options at Sir Adam Beck Public School.

***Recommendation #4:*** Board direct staff to monitor enrolment at New Dundee Public School and report back as appropriate.

As previously mentioned, and illustrated in Figure 3, New Dundee Public School has experienced a steady enrolment decline since 2006, and is expected to continue to do so under both the Status Quo and Scenario 3 options. The catchment for New Dundee Public school is primarily rural and the Town itself contains no new planned residential development. Existing housing stock within the Town is not expected to significantly 'turnover' to new young families with elementary aged children given the competition from smaller more affordable 'starter' homes in nearby south west Kitchener and Baden/New Hamburg. The school has seen lower and lower incoming JK enrolment over the years leading to the expectation of a longer term enrolment decline.

Because school consolidation options are outside the scope of a boundary study (they can only be considered under an Accommodation Review), the Working Group recommends to Trustees that Board staff continue to monitor the enrolment situation at the school and report back as appropriate.

## Conclusion

After consultation and careful deliberation, the Baden Elementary Schools Boundary Study Working Group has developed recommendations that meet the majority of the study goals objectives. The changes proposed will reduce the enrolment pressure on Baden Public School's facility and site, provide a JK-8 facility for the Sir Adam Public School community, and minimize student transitions in the implementation.

However Board staff will need to continue to monitor the enrolment/accommodation situation in the Township of Wilmot as future development plans become clearer and more defined, and existing demographic challenges persist.