

Report to Committee of the Whole

February 14, 2011



**Waterloo Region
District School Board**

A handwritten signature of the Director of Education.

Director of Education

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON ELEMENTARY BOUNDARY STUDIES AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEWS
2010-2011**

ORIGINATOR: This report was prepared by Marilyn Marklevitz, Executive Superintendent of Business and Financial Services and Treasurer, Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, Ian Gaudet, Controller of Facility Services, Nick Landry, Enrolment Manager, Lauren Manske, Senior Planner and Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, in consultation with Executive Committee.

PURPOSE:

To establish the boundary studies and/or accommodation reviews to be undertaken in the 2010-2011 school year.

BACKGROUND:

Each year Planning staff, in consultation with the Elementary Accommodation Committee (EAC) and Accommodation Steering Committee (ASC), review the accommodation situation and September start-up enrolment to determine if there are areas of the board where enrolment pressure or decline warrants further investigation. If an assessment indicates that actions already being implemented, (such as the approval and construction of a new school, or a new pocket of development within a declining school's boundary, that will improve the situation) short-term measures should be sufficient to address any concerns. In other situations, the conclusion may be that if no action is taken with respect to the current facilities, boundaries and grade organizations, the result will be longer-term accommodation and program challenges. In those cases, undertaking a boundary study or an accommodation review to determine immediate and/or longer-term solutions may be appropriate.

A boundary study is led by Planning staff and involves a group of related schools and may result in changes to boundaries and/or program, as well as school construction and renovations.

An accommodation review is a more formal process led by an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) that, similar to a boundary study, may result in boundary and/or program changes, as well as school construction and renovations; however, in an accommodation review, there is also the possibility of school closure(s) and/or consolidation.

Boundary studies and accommodation reviews are both public processes which could lead to recommendations affecting school communities; therefore, Board approval is sought before proceeding.

Attached to this report is a table summarizing past boundary studies and accommodation reviews, and outcomes, ongoing and proposed reviews as well as areas that may be a need to reviewed in the future (see Appendix A).

STATUS:

In consultation with the EAC and ASC, the Director of Education is recommending two accommodation reviews and one boundary study this school year to address elementary enrolment and accommodation issues in the West Galt (Cambridge), Woolwich and Wellesley Townships, and Forest Hill/Trillium areas of the Board's jurisdiction.

West Galt (Cambridge)

The area of West Galt is made up of primarily older (30 plus years) single family dwellings. This area has largely reached its limit for development, but a few small pockets remain. As in many older, established neighbourhoods in the Region, enrolment has declined or is in decline from historical peaks. Total enrolment combined at all schools in the area has seen a 16 percent decline since 2000; whereas elementary enrolment for the entire board saw a 1.5 percent increase over the same period.

The West Galt community is made up of two Junior Kindergarten (JK) to grade 6 schools, two JK to grade 5 schools, and one grade 6 to 8 school. One of the main concerns for this area is related to declining enrolment and small

organizations which result in combined grades while at the same time Highland and St. Andrews schools are over capacity. As well as a small organization, Dickson P.S. is a facility situated on less than an acre of land, does not have a gymnasium and the types of ancillary spaces that exist and are the Board's minimum standards at all other elementary schools. St. Andrews Public School has a split in students arriving from its feeder schools, some students come at the end of grade 5, others after grade 6.

Table 1 shows the current situation for the schools in West Galt.

Table 1: West Galt Schools, 2010/2011

School	Enrolment (FTE)	Capacity (OTG)	Capacity (with Porta-pack)	Site Size (acres)	Year Built	# Portables	Grades	Special Programs
Blair Road P.S.	208	282	N/A	5.90	1963	0	JK-5	
Dickson P.S.	85	161	N/A	0.96	1877	0	JK-5	FDK
Highland P.S.	444.5	348	486	6.83	1950	1	JK-6	FI
St. Andrew's P.S.	432	424	N/A	4.03	1913	2	6-8	FI
Tait Street P.S.	281.5	348	N/A	4.66	1958	0	JK-6	

An accommodation review is the most logical way to address the long-term program and accommodation needs of the West Galt community. The issues to be examined in this area include:

- Small school organizations (Blair Road P.S., Dickson P.S., and Tait Street P.S.)
- Facility issues (Dickson P.S. site and ancillary spaces, Highland P.S. porta-pack)
- Grade configurations (JK-5 and 6-8)
- New development (pockets in the Highland P.S. and Blair Road P.S. boundaries)
- Accommodation of Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK)

The proposed Review Area is shown on Appendix B and long-term enrolment projections for the area can be found on Appendix C.

Woolwich and Wellesley Townships

The Townships of Woolwich and Wellesley consist of a mix between urban and rural areas, serving diverse communities that range from Old Order Mennonite to urban residents. Many of the schools in the Townships (Floradale P.S., Linwood P.S., St. Jacobs P.S., and Three Bridges P.S.) have experienced consistent decline in student population over the last 10 years, while others (Breslau P.S., Conestogo P.S., John Mahood P.S., Park Manor P.S. and Wellesley P.S.), located in the urban areas targeted for growth in the Region's Official Plan, have grown. The combined enrolment of Floradale P.S., Linwood P.S., St. Jacobs P.S., and Three Bridges P.S. has seen a 13 percent decline since 2000, contrary to the overall increase board-wide noted above as a 1.5 percent increase over the same period.

Of the four schools of focus for this review, there are three with JK-8 organizations (Floradale P.S., Linwood P.S., and St. Jacobs P.S.) and one offering grades 1-8 (Three Bridges P.S.). All four schools have small organizations (fewer students than the board's ideal size for a JK-8 facility), resulting in many combined grade classes and limited program opportunities for students – particularly at Three Bridges P.S.

This year, Three Bridges P.S. is operating with four bi-grade classes and a total enrolment of 84 students. Its original building was constructed in 1872 and has had 2 subsequent additions in 1953 and 1981. The school has no defined boundary as it serves a unique population consisting of five conservative Mennonite communities. Over the years, this community's concerns and reactions to facility and site improvements has resulted in minimal modernization to the school. Currently the facility does not meet the minimum board and curriculum standards; for example, ancillary spaces (administrative area, storage, staff preparation area and washrooms) are undersized, and there is no purpose-built science and technology room. The two-storey original structure is inaccessible and as a result, an additional portable was placed on an already tight site so that the library could be relocated to the main floor. Also because of its limited space, Three Bridges P.S. cannot offer a kindergarten program; therefore, students are directed to other schools in the area for JK and SK (namely St. Jacobs P.S.).

In the spring of 2010, students at Floradale P.S. moved into a brand new building on its existing site. It is currently the only Township school in the Region to offer Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) because these classroom spaces were accounted for in the new building. There is some surplus capacity at this facility and the school's total enrolment this year is 239. A portion of the students at this school are from out of district and attend Floradale P.S. because of a historic agreement between the Waterloo Region DSB and Upper Grand DSB.

Linwood P.S. has also recently undergone renovations to the office/administrative area and staff room. It is the largest school organization with a total enrolment of 467 students this year. The school currently has two portables and is located on a large site of 11.18 acres. Approximately 80 percent of the school's population is bussed.

St. Jacobs P.S. sits on a fairly tight site for a JK-8 school. Its enrolment is 284 students this year, and has a 2-storey inaccessible section which houses the computer lab, art room and a resource/withdrawal room. The gymnasium does not meet the board's minimum standards for a JK-8 facility as it is only a single, instead of a double gymnasium.

Table 2 shows the current situation for the schools of focus in Woolwich and Wellesley Townships.

Table 2: Woolwich and Wellesley Townships, 2010/2011

School	Enrolment (FTE)	Capacity (OTG)	Capacity (with PPK)	Site Size (acres)	Year Built	# Portables	Grades	Special Programs
Floradale P.S.	239	322		9.83	2010	0	JK-8	FDK
Linwood P.S.	434	510		11.18	1966	2	JK-8	SALEP
St. Jacobs P.S.	284	348		4.65	1929	0	JK-8	
Three Bridges P.S.	83	92		2.85	1872	3	1-8	SALEP

An accommodation review is the most logical way to address the long-term program and accommodation needs of Woolwich and Wellesley Townships.

The issues to be examined in this area include:

- Small school organizations
- Facility issues
- Grade configurations (JK-8 and 1-8)
- Accommodation of FDK

The proposed Study Area is shown on Appendix D and long-term enrolment projections for the area can be found on Appendix C.

Forest Hill/Trillium

Enrolment at both Trillium P.S. and Forest Hill P.S. has been declining over the past 10 years. Trillium P.S. has experienced a 33 percent decline since 2000 and Forest Hill P.S. has declined by 6 percent over the same period. In June 2010, the board approved an 8 classroom addition on Forest Hill P.S. to eliminate the school's temporary structure (porta-pack) and to address the needs of the school for FDK since it is a year 2 FDK site. This addition, however, has not addressed concerns about the ancillary spaces (office, gymnasium, library, etc.) within the school that would usually accompany a school with enrolment over 500 students. Therefore, staff are recommending a boundary change between these two schools with the objective of adding students to Trillium P.S. while maintaining a viable organization size within the renovated Forest Hill P.S. facility.

Table 3 shows the current situation at Forest Hill and Trillium Public Schools.

Table 3: Forest Hill and Trillium Public Schools, 2010/2011

School	Enrolment (FTE)	Capacity (OTG)	Capacity (with PPK)	Site Size (acres)	Year Built	# Portables	Grades	Special Programs
Forest Hill P.S.	442	406	544	7.25	1957	1	JK-6	ABLE
Trillium P.S.	167	236	N/A	8.00	1972	1	JK-6	

The proposed Review Area is shown on Appendix E and long-term enrolment projections for the area can be found on Appendix C.

Other Areas of Interest

Other elementary situations reviewed by the accommodation committees are:

- Elmira elementary schools – review school organizations (JK-6, JK-5, 6-8, etc.) and the location of a Riverside P.S. rebuild as well as any boundary adjustments which may be suitable to match enrolment and accommodation needs.

- Senior elementary schools in the Kitchener/Waterloo core – resulting from East KW Accommodation Review recommendations
- Central Waterloo/Lakeshore – small school organizations at Winston Churchill, Cedarbrae and N.A. MacEachern Public Schools
- Huron Village – boundary for new school to alleviate pressure at Alpine P.S., Country Hills P.S. and Laurentian P.S.

Staff will continue to monitor these situations, but is suggesting not initiating further boundary studies or accommodation reviews this year as there are currently two accommodation review processes underway for the Grand River South/Sunnyside and Breslau/Stanley Park areas.

The work schedule outlined in this report would only commence once these current accommodation reviews are substantially completed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Upon the approval of the areas to undergo an accommodation review, the Board will appoint Accommodation Review Committees in accordance with the Board's revised Pupil Accommodation Review Policy (Board Policy 4000).

A webpage will be set up for each accommodation review and boundary study as a link from the Board's website.

A notice of intent to conduct an accommodation review, once approved, will be published in the local newspapers and on the Board's website.

Formal notices and flyers will be circulated to the communities for public meeting notification.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

No financial implications at this time. Costs for flyers, notices, etc., have been included in the Planning budget.

SYSTEM SUCCESS PLAN:

This report relates to the day-to-day operations and facilities planning of the Board, which provide the foundation for the System Success Plan's areas of learning, caring, and connecting with students, staff and the community at large. It also relates to the area of Caring contained within the Board's Strategic Plan, which encompasses the belief that the community supports safe and secure learning environments.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board commence a Pupil Accommodation Review, by directing the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee and appointing membership as outlined in Board Policy 4000 and Administrative Procedure 4860, of Blair Road, Dickson, Highland, St. Andrews and Tait Street Public Schools, to be called the West Galt Accommodation Review;

And that the Waterloo Region District School Board commence a Pupil Accommodation Review, by directing the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee and appointing membership as outlined in Board Policy 4000 and Administrative Procedure 4860, of Floradale, Linwood, St. Jacobs and Three Bridges Public Schools, to be called the Woolwich and Wellesley Townships Accommodation Review;

And that the Waterloo Region District School Board commence a Boundary Study of Forest Hill and Trillium Public Schools, to be called the Forest Hill/Trillium Boundary Study.

Elementary Accommodation Reviews

Area of Interest	Description	Initiated	Completed	Result
Southeast Galt	Alison Park P.S. damaged beyond repair by fire in May 2008. Board authorized Accommodation Review of the elementary schools in the area to address the enrolment and accommodation issues and opportunities	June 2008	October 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal closure of Alison Park P.S. and Lincoln Avenue P.S. • Construction of new JK-8 facility on Myers Rd., Cambridge • Construction of 200 pupil place addition at Avenue Road P.S. to accommodate a senior (7-8) elementary program • Boundary changes to balance enrolment at facilities
East Kitchener-Waterloo	Determining the need to keep Lexington P.S. that was opened as a temporary facility as well as assessing the program delivery in the area	June 2009	June 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 classroom addition at Lexington P.S. • Construction (in principle) of a new school on 410 Falconridge Drive, Kitchener • Boundary changes for Bridgeport, Lexington, Margaret Avenue and MacGregor Public Schools • Recommendation to commence an accommodation review of senior elementary schools in central Kitchener-Waterloo

Elementary Accommodation Reviews

Area of Interest	Description	Initiated	Completed	Result
Grand River South/Sunnyside	Increasing residential development placing enrolment pressure on Lackner Woods P.S. Low and/or declining enrolment at other schools in the area.	November 2009	Ongoing	TBD
Breslau/Stanley Park	Increasing residential development enrolment pressure on Breslau P.S. Low and/or declining enrolment at other schools in the area.	November 2009	Ongoing	TBD
West Galt	Small school organizations and challenging sites. Concentrated areas of new development. Need to balance enrolment and align program.	Currently before the Board for consideration	TBD	TBD
Woolwich and Wellesley Townships	Small school organizations and facility issues.	Currently before the Board for consideration	TBD	TBD
Central Kitchener/Waterloo Senior Schools	Review senior elementary facilities to address declining enrolment, program delivery, inconsistent senior elementary school feeds and the possibility of JK-8 facilities	Tentative 2011-2012	TBD	TBD
Central Waterloo	N.A. MacEachern, Cedarbrae and Winston Churchill P.S. are all small school organizations; whereas Northlake Woods P.S. is large	Tentative 2012-2013	TBD	TBD

Elementary Boundary Studies

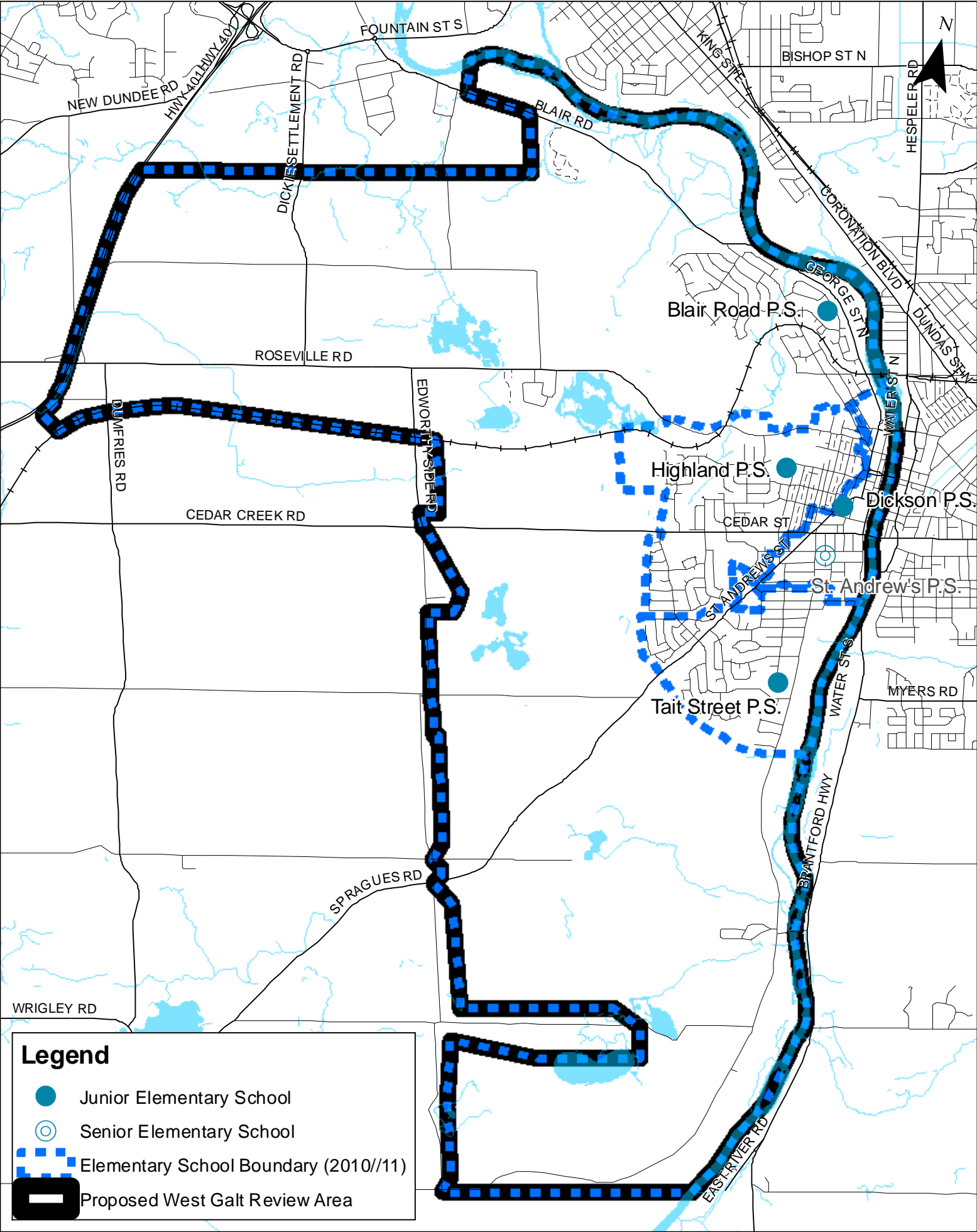
Area of Interest	Description	Initiated	Completed	Result
Northeast Waterloo (II)	Investigate boundary and facility changes that might balance enrolment and opportunities between Bridgeport, Elizabeth Ziegler, Lexington, Margaret Avenue, Sandowne, Winston Churchill and Lincoln Heights Public Schools	June 2008	June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of 200 pupil place addition at Sandowne P.S. • Minor boundary changes for Lincoln Heights, Sandowne, Lexington, Margaret Avenue, and Elizabeth Ziegler Public Schools • Recommendation to commence an accommodation review for the East Kitchener-Waterloo area
Central Preston	Residential development in the Pioneer Tower area of Kitchener placing pressure on Preston P.S.	November 2008	June 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition at Grand View P.S. (now total rebuilt) • Boundary changes between Preston P.S. and Grand View P.S. to balance enrolment
South West Kitchener	Rapid and dense residential development placing enrolment pressures on Williamsburg P.S. and W.T. Townshend P.S. Program inconsistency in at Driftwood Park P.S., John Darling P.S. and Westheights P.S.	November 2008	November 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of 7-8 program from W.T. Townshend P.S. to accommodate JK-6 population • Boundary change between W.T. Townshend P.S., Queensmount P.S. and Westheights P.S. • Addition of Gr. 6 to John Darling P.S. and Driftwood Park P.S. and elimination of Gr. 6 at Westheights P.S.

Elementary Boundary Studies

Area of Interest	Description	Initiated	Completed	Result
Trillium/Forest Hill	Need to reconfigure boundaries to balance enrolment between large (Forest Hill P.S.) and small (Trillium P.S.) school organization for program and facility reasons.	Currently before the Board for consideration	TBD	TBD
Elmira	Large residential development located in town of Elmira has the potential to overwhelm the existing elementary facilities	Tentative 2011-2012	TBD	TBD
Huron Woods (Kitchener)	Need to establish a boundary for a new school on Woodbine Avenue. This area is currently assigned to Country Hills P.S. and Alpine P.S.	Tentative 2011-2012	TBD	TBD
Doon South (Stauffer Woods)	Need to establish a boundary for a new school within the new Stauffer Woods subdivision. This area is currently assigned to Brigadoon P.S. and Doon P.S.	Tentative 2012-2013	TBD	TBD
North West Waterloo	Need to establish a boundary for a new North West Waterloo elementary school within the new Vista Hills subdivision. This area is currently assigned to Edna Staebler P.S.	Tentative 2012-2013	TBD	TBD

Elementary Boundary Studies

Area of Interest	Description	Initiated	Completed	Result
North Hespeler	Large residential development for the current Arriscraft lands proposed in area currently assigned to Silverheights P.S.	Tentative – TBD	TBD	TBD



West Galt Status Quo Draft Enrolment Projection

School	OTG Capacity	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Blair Road P.S.	282	239	241	241	256	264	275	279	276	284	284	283
Dickson P.S.	161	101	106	96	106	99	947	94	96	93	92	91
Highland P.S.	348	507	516	536	561	597	616	609	591	569	547	544
St. Andrew's P.S.	424	432	403	389	395	371	366	366	387	414	412	419
Tait Street P.S.	348	319	305	305	302	310	299	314	310	311	310	302
Total	1563	1598	1571	1567	1620	1641	1650	1662	1660	1671	1645	1639




Woolwich and Wellesley Townships Status Quo Draft Enrolment Projection

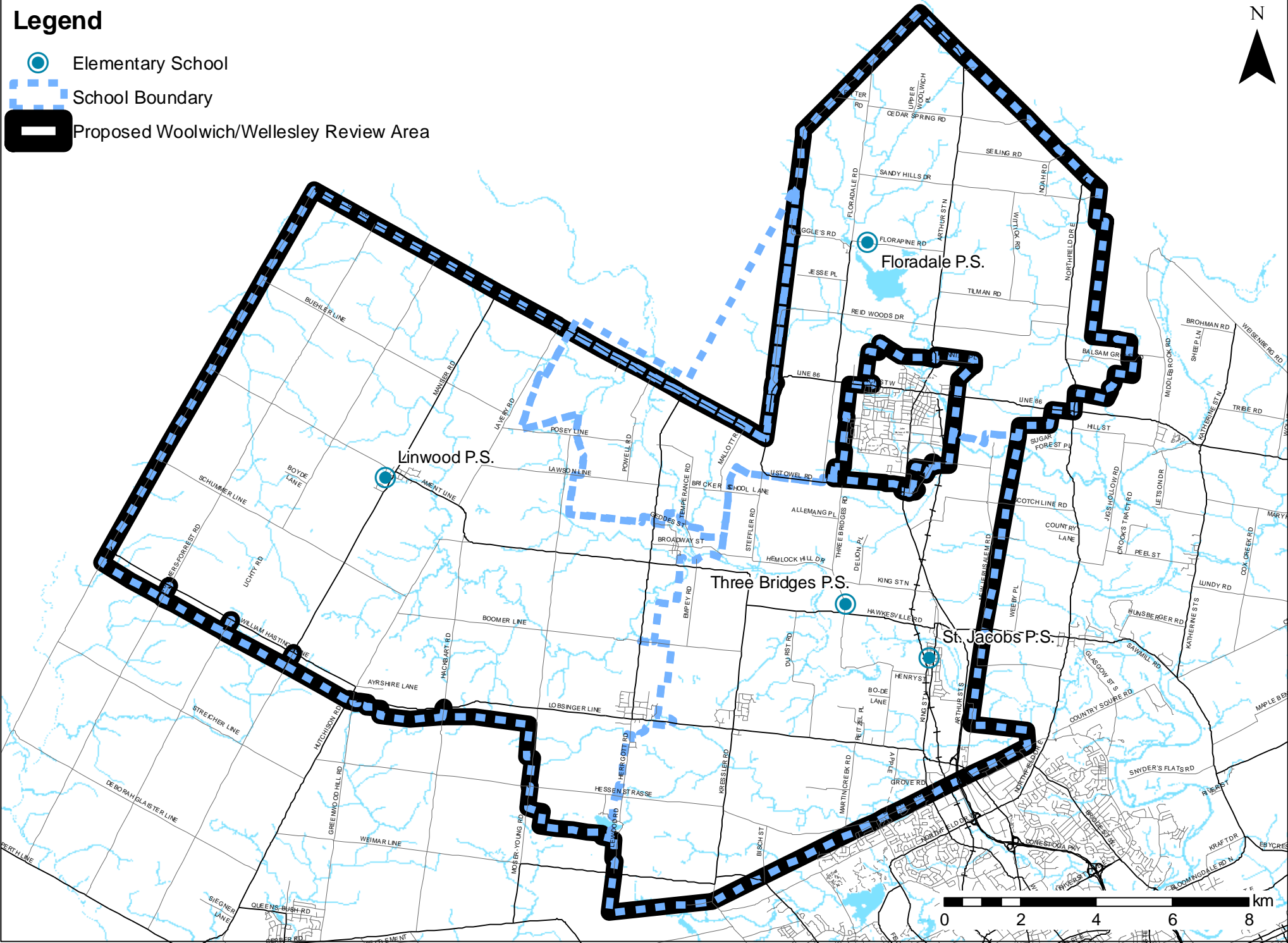
School	OTG Capacity	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Floradale P.S.	322	249	246	245	246	240	235	242	241	242	253	264
Linwood P.S.	510	465	460	455	451	456	463	472	479	485	498	501
St. Jacobs P.S.	348	319	307	313	318	314	306	305	301	308	312	312
Three Bridges P.S.	92	83	80	87	84	86	90	91	89	93	94	90
Total	1272	1116	1093	1100	1099	1096	1094	1110	1110	1128	1157	1167

Trillium/Forest Hill Status Quo Draft Enrolment Projection

School	OTG Capacity	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest Hill P.S.	544	512	421	538	548	561	568	566	570	581	584	587
Trillium P.S.	236	182	182	175	177	186	184	186	201	207	211	214
Total	780	694	714	713	725	747	752	752	771	788	795	801

Legend

-  Elementary School
-  School Boundary
-  Proposed Woolwich/Wellesley Review Area



Proposed Trillium/Forest Hill Study Area

