

DOON SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY STUDY WORKING GROUP

Mission

The purpose of the Working Group is to conduct a boundary study of the Doon South Study Area elementary schools to develop and confirm the recommendations that will be presented to the Board of Trustees who will make the final decision about the future of student accommodation in the Doon South community of Kitchener

Vision

To strengthen the quality of learning experience for students

Goals

- To establish grade configurations that provide the best learning opportunities for students and staff while giving consideration to:
 - *existing facilities, community connections and distance;*
 - *student learning opportunities;*
 - *community growth patterns; and*
 - *funding, including partnership opportunities.*
- To consider facilities and infrastructure (including sites, offices, gyms, specialized classrooms, etc.) necessary to deliver curriculum and support student achievement where changes are proposed
- To establish boundaries that are mid-term (5+ years), and consider:
 - *efficiency of transportation (walking distances);*
 - *permanent capacity of schools and/or future construction requirements (e.g., site, program spaces, safety);*
 - *current and future population density and demographics;*
 - *impact on feeder and surrounding schools (i.e., consistent boundaries for Gr. 6 students moving to Gr. 7, and Gr. 8 students moving to secondary school); and*
 - *the distribution and accessibility of Special Education and French Immersion programs.*
- To minimize the impact on students and families where changes are proposed by giving consideration for:
 - *grandfathering;*
 - *phasing;*
 - *access to child care; and*
 - *transportation provisions.*
- To strengthen the Board's business case for additional capacity funding as residential development plans progress in South Kitchener

Objectives

- To establish a boundary for the new South Kitchener Groh Drive elementary school
- To increase the number of students housed in permanent accommodation in a cost-effective way
- To provide equitable learning opportunities for students and staff by moving towards the following criteria (*from Board Policy 3002*):
 - *JK-6 facilities between 350 and 400 students (approx. 2 classes/grade)*
 - *JK-8 facilities between 500 and 650 students (approx. 2 classes/grade JK-6, 2+ classes/grade 7-8)*
 - *Minimizing the potential for schools with enrolments over 650 students*
- To increase the number of students within walking distance to their assigned school (<1.6 km)
- To establish boundaries around "Development Areas" where proposed plans of subdivision are temporarily assigned to holding schools until a permanent accommodation solution can be determined
- To develop an interim (temporary) accommodation strategy, beginning in September 2014, to assist schools with increasing enrolment until such time as the new South Kitchener Groh Drive school is open