



**Waterloo Region  
District School Board**

## **BADEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY STUDY**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: When can I expect to see changes?**

It is anticipated that a report and recommendations resulting from the Baden Boundary Study will be presented to the Board of Trustees in early fall 2014 (either Sept. or Nov.). The Board of Trustees makes the final decision regarding boundary changes. Should the Board approve changes, implementation of those changes would begin in September 2015. The earliest possible date an addition could be in operation (if it is recommended and approved) is September 2017.

**Q: Why does the Board use portable classrooms instead of expanding schools (additions) when enrolment exceeds the current school size?**

It is rare for a school within the first 10 to 15 years of its operation to be without portables. When building schools, the Board has to consider the size of school that will be required for the long-term (25+ years). As neighbourhoods mature, student populations tend to level out or decline. If a school is built for its peak enrolment that means that a school may have empty classrooms for the majority of its lifespan. Legislative changes dictated by the Ministry of Education may also impact the utilization of a school. Recently, the reduction in class sizes and introduction of Full-Day Kindergarten has resulted in better use of schools in declining areas and the introduction of portables or additions at schools in newer areas.

**Q: How are new schools or additions funded, where do my tax dollars go?**

Prior to 1998, school boards received some provincial capital grants, but they also raised taxes for operating and capital purposes. In 1998, the Province introduced an allocation-based funding model, which means the Province sets the tax rates and school board funding is provincially determined. Boards have limited ability to raise funds for locally determined needs. In 2009-10, the Ministry of Education (Ministry) reviewed the funding approach to existing capital programs and the effectiveness of the former New Pupil Places (NPP) funding model in light of declining enrolment. As a result, a number of changes were introduced in 2010-11. The current Capital Priorities Grant (CPG) program used to fund major capital construction projects is a debt support grant that does not fluctuate with enrolment. This funding is allocated on an annual basis for two to three year capital needs. Boards are required to submit business cases for each project request, and project requests must align with Ministry priorities.

**Q: If Grades 7 and 8 are introduced at Sir Adam Beck Public School, will the program be the same as at Baden Public School, what about resources (e.g., library books and music instruments)?**

There are some specialized spaces (classrooms) that are in a school with Grades 7 and 8 that are not typically in a JK-6 school (e.g., Science and Technology). Ideally an addition containing these specialized rooms would be completed prior to starting a Gr. 7-8 program at a JK-6 school, but since that is unlikely in this case, these classes may be accommodated through internal classroom retrofits, special portables and/or utilizing existing facilities at Waterloo-Oxford DSS. All the resources needed to deliver the Gr. 7-8 curriculum would be provided. Instrumental music programs require specialized instruction; therefore would be dependent on the teacher responsible for music instruction and the availability of instruments.

**Q: If my child has to change schools, will the same extra-curricular activities be available to them?**

The number and nature of clubs and extra-curricular activities is determined by the interests and participation of staff in the current year at each school.

**Q: If Grades 7 and 8 are introduced at Sir Adam Beck Public School, does that mean the school will get a Vice Principal?**

Vice Principals are allocated to schools based on a number of factors, including enrolment and socio-demographics; therefore, there is no guarantee that Sir Adam Beck PS would qualify for a Vice Principal position.

**Q: There was just a boundary study done in 2008 in this area, why is the Board reviewing the area again?**

The boundary study completed in June 2008 recommended the construction of Sir Adam Beck Public School. Since then, the neighbourhood around Baden Public School has continued to yield high enrolments and the Province introduced Full Day Kindergarten, doubling the number of kindergarten students at the Board's facilities on a daily basis. This boundary study provides the opportunity to create a better balance of enrolment at the Baden area schools.

**Q: If boundaries change, what happens to the teachers, do they move with the students?**

There is a procedure and formula applied to staffing when major boundary changes occur. The number of positions at the receiving school held for teachers at the school losing the students follows the formula set out in the procedure. All qualified teachers who are interested in changing schools may identify themselves to the receiving Principal (voluntary transfer). If the number of teachers who declare an interest is greater than the formula amount, the Principal will select the teachers based on individual conferences (interviews).

**Q: Sir Adam Beck Public School is very close to Waterloo-Oxford DSS (WODSS), what does the school do to ensure the safety of elementary students and address the behaviours of high school students?**

Programs like the "Beck Buddies" (a high school leadership program) has allowed WODSS students to engage with Sir Adam Beck students including running activities at a Winter Carnival and offering help with classes such as gym. Solutions to problems identified in the past have been implemented and seem to be working as there are currently no issues. Staff are unaware of any complaints regarding the current sharing of sidewalks or busses with the high school students.

**Q: What are the bell times at the schools?**

The following bell times have been confirmed for September 2014:

School	AM Bell	PM Bell
Baden Public School	8:20 AM	2:40 PM
New Dundee Public School	9:20 AM	3:40 PM
Sir Adam Beck Public School	8:20 AM	2:40 PM

**Q: The Township of Wilmot is projecting a population growth of approximately 8000 people by 2029, how will this impact enrolment at schools and has this been taken into account in this study?**

There are a few steps that need to be completed before the Township will see a significant amount of new growth. The School Board and Township will work together to ensure that student accommodation is accounted for in any new plans of development. Depending on location and timing of development, this may mean new schools and/or additions to existing schools (both elementary and secondary). Enrolment projections for the Baden boundary study only take into account plans of subdivision that are currently approved or are in circulation. To ensure future plans proposed do not overwhelm Baden and Sir Adam Beck Public Schools, these areas may be removed from those boundaries and the school where these future students would be accommodated would be determined at a later date. The Board may also request that the Township implement phasing of subdivisions over a period of years so that there is sufficient student accommodation available in the area to support the enrolment changes.