

MINUTES - MEETING #1

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

17 JUNE 2024 / 4:30 PM / VIRTUAL

ATTENDEES: Amos Werner, Beverlie Stewart, Bill Lemon, Carrie Hamilton, Darcelle Valade, Daren James, Emily Bumbaco, Heather FitzGerald, Jennifer Leslie, Lauren Agar, Navanita Prasad, Nick Landry, Oliver Wandelt, Ron DeBoer, Sarah West, Scott Miller, Sharlene Erasmus, Taryn Dowling, Trish MacFarlane

REGRETS: Debby Gravenor, Heather Hughes, Jay Fedosoff, Karly Baker, Keith Prudham, Kirstan Howells, Ross Howey, Tim Pugh, Tracy Tait

Slidedeck [BRC Meeting # 1 – South Kitchener Elementary](#)

MEETING NOTES

1. **Review of Agenda**
2. **Introductions**
3. **Boundary Review Process**
 - a. What is a Boundary Review?
 - b. Boundary Review Committee (BRC)
 - c. BRC Roles and Responsibilities
 - d. Process and Timeline
4. **New South Kitchener Elementary School Background**
 - a. Construction to begin in July on the new 591 pupil place elementary school and childcare centre at 670 Thomas Slee Drive
 - b. Estimated opening date September 2025

- c. Objective: Set a boundary for the new school and relieve enrolment pressure at Groh PS; goal to have a boundary by the end of the year to line up with JK registration and staffing process; It will be necessary to scope this review in order to meet the tighter deadlines; may need to return to this area in the future once development has progressed along Dundee Rd

5. Current Situation / Status Quo Projections

6. Scenario Evaluation Criteria

- a. Walking guidelines: 800 meters for JK/SK and 1.6 km for grades 1–8
- b. The walkability of this neighbourhood may prove a challenge because there are many situations when students can walk to more than one school; Groh and the new school are 2 kilometres apart
- c. Maximize the number of students accommodated in permanent capacity
 - i. Portables provide a flexible option for increased enrolment
 - ii. Schools are built for long term enrolment, and it is common for schools to be over capacity when built

7. Scenario #1 ([Interactive map](#))

- a. Reassigns part of the Brigadoon PS east boundary area and some of Groh PS's boundary to the new school; area north of Homer Watson PS remains at Brigadoon PS
- b. Brigadoon PS has sustainable enrolment in this scenario
 - i. The Dundee Secondary Plan (460 hectares of land to be developed) falls within this boundary and will result in another boundary review and new schools being built in the western portion of Brigadoon PS's boundary
- c. The new school appears low, however, in the past new WRDSB schools have had an attraction factor. If the same happens here, it may elevate the projected numbers by 20–30%
- d. The school boundaries are balanced geographically

- e. There would be 1 bus run at the new school; could eliminate up to 4 bus runs from Brigadoon PS and Pioneer Park PS
- f. Groh PS is still overpopulated; the Doon South II Development Area is reassigned to Groh PS in this scenario due to proximity, which adds more students to the school.
- g. French immersion – Most feedback and questions received so far are related to FI:
 - i. Groh PS, Brigadoon PS, and JW Gerth have French immersion
 - ii. The new school will not have French immersion for the first 5 years ([Administrative Procedure 1000 – French Immersion Elementary](#), section 7.3)
 - iii. FI students will not be required to move schools. This will be part of the implementation plan
- h. The Committee would like to examine the impact of adding the entire Brigadoon East boundary to the new school.
- i. The Committee would also like to look at reassigning the Study Area that includes Elmbank Trail at the north end of Groh’s boundary to another school. It is within walking distance to both Brigadoon PS and J.W. Gerth PS

8. Future Meeting Schedule

- a. The poll conducted resulted in 10 votes for a 4:30 pm start time and one for a 5:30 pm start time
- b. Carrie Hamilton from Planning to send out a doodle poll and set the dates for the meetings in the Fall.
- c. Public Meeting #2 to be late October or November

9. Communication and Feedback:

- a. [Boundary Review webpage](#)
- b. Dedicated Feedback [Form](#)

10. Round Table

- a. No further questions or comments.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:48 pm.