

DRAFT FINAL REPORT

# NEW SOUTH KITCHENER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARY REVIEW

NOVEMBER 18, 2024



## Executive Summary

This report summarizes the activity of the New South Kitchener Elementary School Boundary Review Committee and the process of identifying recommended boundary changes for the elementary schools in the review area.

Those schools are:

- Brigadoon Public School (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6)
- Doon Public School (Grade 7 to Grade 8)
- Groh Public School (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8)
- J.W. Gerth Public School (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6)
- Pioneer Park Public School (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6)

Over seven months, including four Boundary Review Committee (BRC) meetings and two public information sessions, the BRC has identified a preferred scenario and associated recommendations to be implemented in September 2025. The final decision on these recommendations will be made by the Board of Trustees. The preferred scenario recommends implementing the following phased boundary changes in September 2025:

- Assign Areas A and B to the New South Kitchener Elementary School from Brigadoon, Doon, and Groh Public Schools.
- Assign Area C to Brigadoon Public School and Doon Public School from Groh Public School.
- Dissolve the Doon South II, III, V and VII Development Areas for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8.

Phased implementation would mean the new school would open with Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7 in its first year (2025-2026) and add Grade 8 in its second year of operation (2026-2027).

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## Background

### Boundary Review Process

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) boundary review process is guided by [Administrative Procedure 4991 - Boundary Reviews](#). Boundary Reviews are conducted through a committee known as the Boundary Review Committee (BRC), which invites family/caregiver representation from each affected school. A Staff Steering Committee oversees the BRC, and it is up to the Board of Trustees to approve (or amend) the recommendations.

South Kitchener is an area of significant ongoing and future residential development within the Region of Waterloo. Many of the WRDSB's newest and proposed future schools are in this area.

The schools proposed for this boundary review are part of Review Area E08 - Kitchener Southwest (Doon-Pioneer Park) of the [WRDSB Long-Term Accommodation Plan 2020-2030](#) (the LTAP). The [Education Development Charges \(EDC\) Background Study \(2021\)](#) indicates that the WRDSB will need to add approximately 1400 pupil places (schools/ additions) to accommodate growth in this area over the 15-year EDC planning horizon.

One of the short-term recommendations of the LTAP is to conduct a boundary review for the New South Kitchener elementary school.

At the April 15, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting, Trustees approved initiating a Boundary Review to establish a boundary for the new elementary school currently under construction at 670 Thomas Slee Drive in South Kitchener. The review includes Brigadoon Public School, Doon Public School, Groh Public School, J.W. Gerth Public School, and Pioneer Park Public School.

## Review Area Schools

The boundary review includes all schools within LTAP Review Area E08 - Kitchener Southwest (Doon-Pioneer Park).

- Brigadoon Public School (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6)
- Doon Public School (Grade 7 to Grade 8)
- Groh Public School (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8)
- J.W. Gerth Public School (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6)
- Pioneer Park Public School (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6)

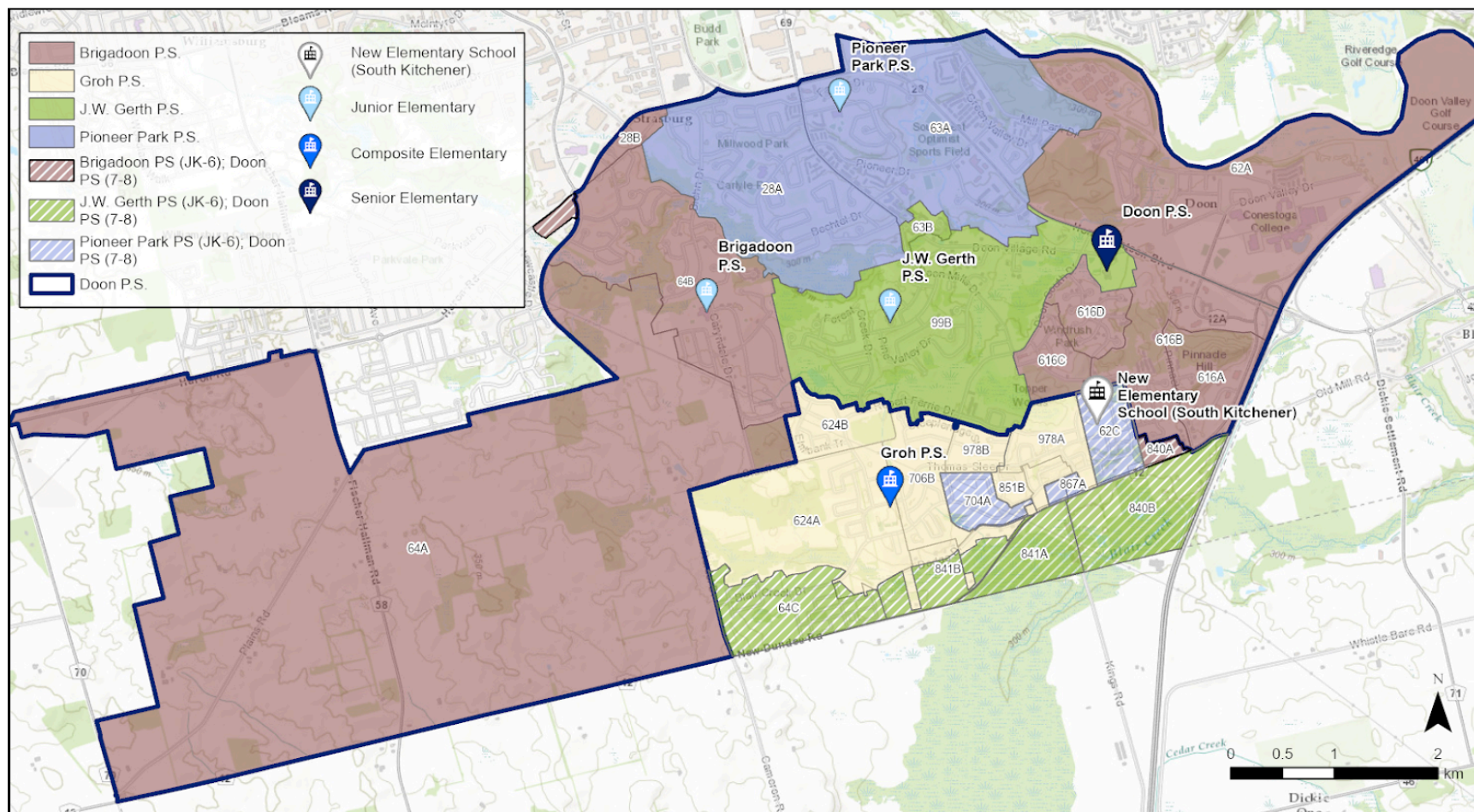
Groh Public School, located at 225 Thomas Slee Drive, Kitchener, opened in 2017 and is the newest school in the review area. Groh Public School exceeded its on-the-ground capacity in the second year it was open, increasing rapidly to the point it now has 16 portables on site. The new school is also located on Thomas Slee Drive (at Ian Ormston Drive), and there is an opportunity to assign a portion of Groh Public School's boundary to the new school to help relieve some pressure while maintaining walkability for students at both schools.

The new school at 670 Thomas Slee Drive is within the Doon South V Development Area (highlighted in Figure 1). This area has been developed, and homes are occupied. The Doon South V Development Area (DA) has been assigned to Pioneer Park Public School and Doon Public School since 2014.

Several proposed developments are in the south end of the review area. These are all designated DAs assigned to holding schools (J.W. Gerth Public School or Brigadoon Public School).

Figure 1 illustrates the existing review area school attendance and DA boundaries. The DAs are hatched and coloured based on their existing holding school assignment.

**Figure 1: Review Area Schools and Existing School Attendance Boundaries (Status Quo)**



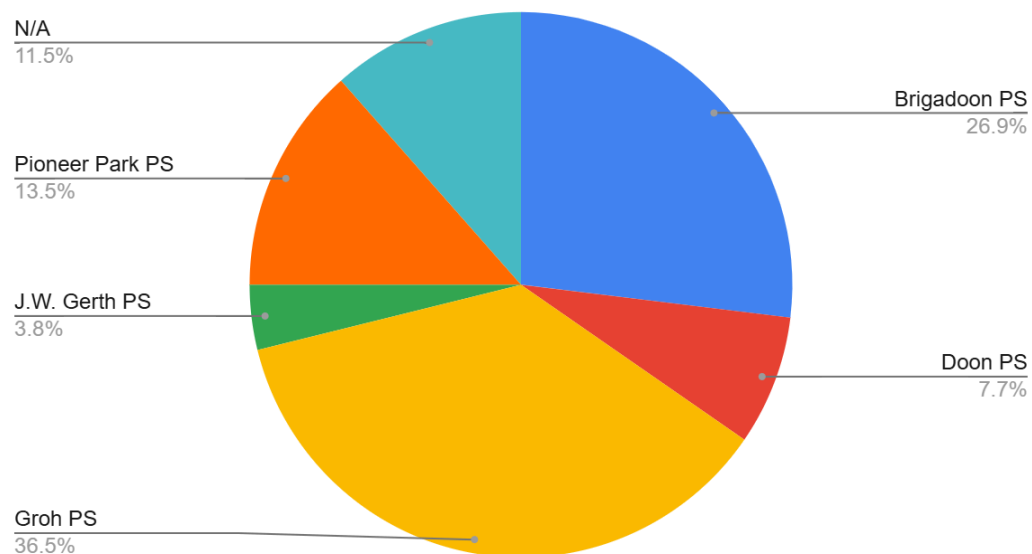
## Engagement

### Public Information Sessions

Two public information sessions were held throughout the boundary review process. The first meeting was held at Huron Heights Secondary School on May 1, 2024. This session introduced the process, provided information on the current situation, and gathered initial input. The second meeting was held on October 24, 2024, at J.W Gerth Public School. This session presented the two preferred scenario options and gathered input on the scenarios.

Before both public information sessions, a presentation was pre-recorded and posted to the [boundary review webpage](#). A link to the presentation was also provided in the School-Day notice sent out to families. The first YouTube presentation was viewed 625 times, and the second over 280 times.

The second public information session was attended by 26 families (approximately 40 people). The school representation in the review area was evenly distributed, with families attending from each impacted school. Figure 2 shows the breakdown of attendance by school community. Grade-level representation was also well-balanced.

**Figure 2: Public Information Session #2 Attendance Breakdown by School Community****Public Information Session #2 Attendance****Feedback**

An online feedback form was created at the beginning of the boundary review process to collect input from the broader school communities. Feedback received before November 15, 2024, has been considered in preparing the draft report.

The form received 35 responses from April 16, 2024, to November 15, 2024. A copy of the public feedback is included in Appendix B.

Three themes came up consistently in the feedback that was received through the online form, as well as through conversations at the public information sessions. These included:

- French immersion program offering
- Minimizing impact on students by allowing them to stay at current schools
- Supporting boundaries that encourage active school travel.

### **Communication**

The Communications Department developed a communications plan that guided the boundary review. It included a [boundary review webpage](#), a schedule of school communication and social media notices, and the promotion of public information sessions.

The boundary review webpage was updated throughout the process with relevant information, including meeting dates, agendas, presentation slides, maps, and scenario enrolment information.

Notification for each public information session was provided via School-Day message and was posted on the review area schools' web pages.

Notification of the Draft Final Report was sent via School-Day message on November 18-19, 2024. These notices were tailored to each review area school, highlighting the specific impacts for each school, including specific street names.

### **Boundary Review Committee**

A Boundary Review Committee (BRC), which invited family/caregiver representation from each school, was convened after the first public information session. The BRC included 1-2 representatives from each review area school. Two

representatives had to leave the committee halfway through the process. Efforts to secure replacement members were not successful.

The BRC also included planning staff, principals from each review area school, the Superintendents of Student Achievement and Well-Being from each review area school, the Superintendent of Business Services, and the Associate Director.

The BRC met a total of four times between June and November 2024. Below is a summary of the meeting dates and the purpose of each meeting (Table 1).

***Table 1: Boundary Review Committee Meeting Schedule***

Date	Meeting	Purpose
June 17, 2024	BRC Meeting #1	Introductions and Review of Scenario 1
September 18, 2024	BRC Meeting #2	Review of Scenarios 2-4
October 7, 2024	BRC Meeting #3	Review of Scenario 5 and analysis of all options
November 14, 2024	BRC Meeting #4	Confirmation of final recommendation

## Existing Conditions (Status Quo)

### Status Quo Implications

Table 2 provides status quo (no change) enrolment projections for the review area schools. This illustrates the current situation without a new school. Enrolment pressure is forecasted at each school in the area.

**Table 2: Status Quo Enrolment Projections for Review Area Schools**

STATUS QUO				Projected					Utilization		
School	Grades	Capacity	Portables	2025*	2026	2027	2030	2035	2025	2030	2035
Brigadoon PS	JK-6	495	5	585	590	600	640	635	118%	129%	128%
Doon PS	Gr. 7-8	331	5	420	445	460	490	465	127%	148%	140%
Groh PS	JK-8	597	16	940	955	960	945	945	157%	158%	158%
J.W. Gerth PS	JK-6	582	0	515	570	630	705	705	88%	121%	121%
Pioneer Park PS	JK-6	294	6	420	430	440	405	400	143%	138%	136%
TOTAL		2299	32	2880	2990	3090	3185	3150	125%	139%	137%
Pupil Place Shortfall				(581)	(691)	(791)	(886)	(851)			
*New School Opens											

The calculated pupil place shortfall demonstrates sufficient enrolment to fill a new school.

The schools in this review area are all in close proximity to each other. Groh Public School is on the same road as the new school, approximately 2 kilometres away. Several students are within walking distance of multiple schools within the

review area. While this provided opportunities for this area, it also presented challenges in establishing boundary lines while at the same time addressing enrolment imbalances.

## Scenarios

Boundary scenarios were developed and reviewed by the Bound Review Committee to find a solution that best addresses the objectives of the boundary review. These scenarios are options that differ from the Status Quo.

A total of five scenarios were developed throughout the review process. The Boundary Review Committee (BRC) reviewed and analyzed all five scenarios and brought two options to the public information session for input from the broader community. The BRC recognizes and appreciates that no scenario will be a perfect solution for all and that the impacts of these changes can present challenges for some families; minimizing these challenges has been a key discussion point throughout the review process.

The scenarios were evaluated based on the following criteria:

### Enrolment Balance

Is enrolment reasonably balanced between the review area schools?

### Geographic Barriers

Does the scenario create geographically contiguous boundaries? (i.e. do we avoid hopscotch boundaries where some families pass by a nearby school to get to their home school)

### Temporary Accommodation (Portables)

Is the use of portable classrooms minimized?

### Walkability

Is walkability and active transportation maximized?

**Transitions**

Does the scenario minimize the number of student moves?

**Transportation**

Is this an efficient use of bus transportation?

**Preferred Scenario**

Scenario 3 was developed and presented to the BRC at the September 18, 2024 BRC #2 meeting. After carefully considering the scenario impacts and seeking public input, the BRC has identified scenario 3 as the preferred scenario (shown visually in Figure 3 or interactively in an [online map](#)).

Scenario 3 improves walkability around Groh Public School and the new school, creating the potential to eliminate one bus run; however, additional buses may be required for Brigadoon and Doon Public Schools. Scenario 3 creates a more geographically contiguous boundary for Brigadoon Public School, eliminating the “hopscotch” split boundary. Brigadoon Public School, Groh Public School, and the new school are well-utilized facilities in this scenario (see Table 3).

Based on the feedback received through the online feedback form posted on the boundary review webpage and input received at the second public information session, staff are recommending that scenario 3 be implemented.

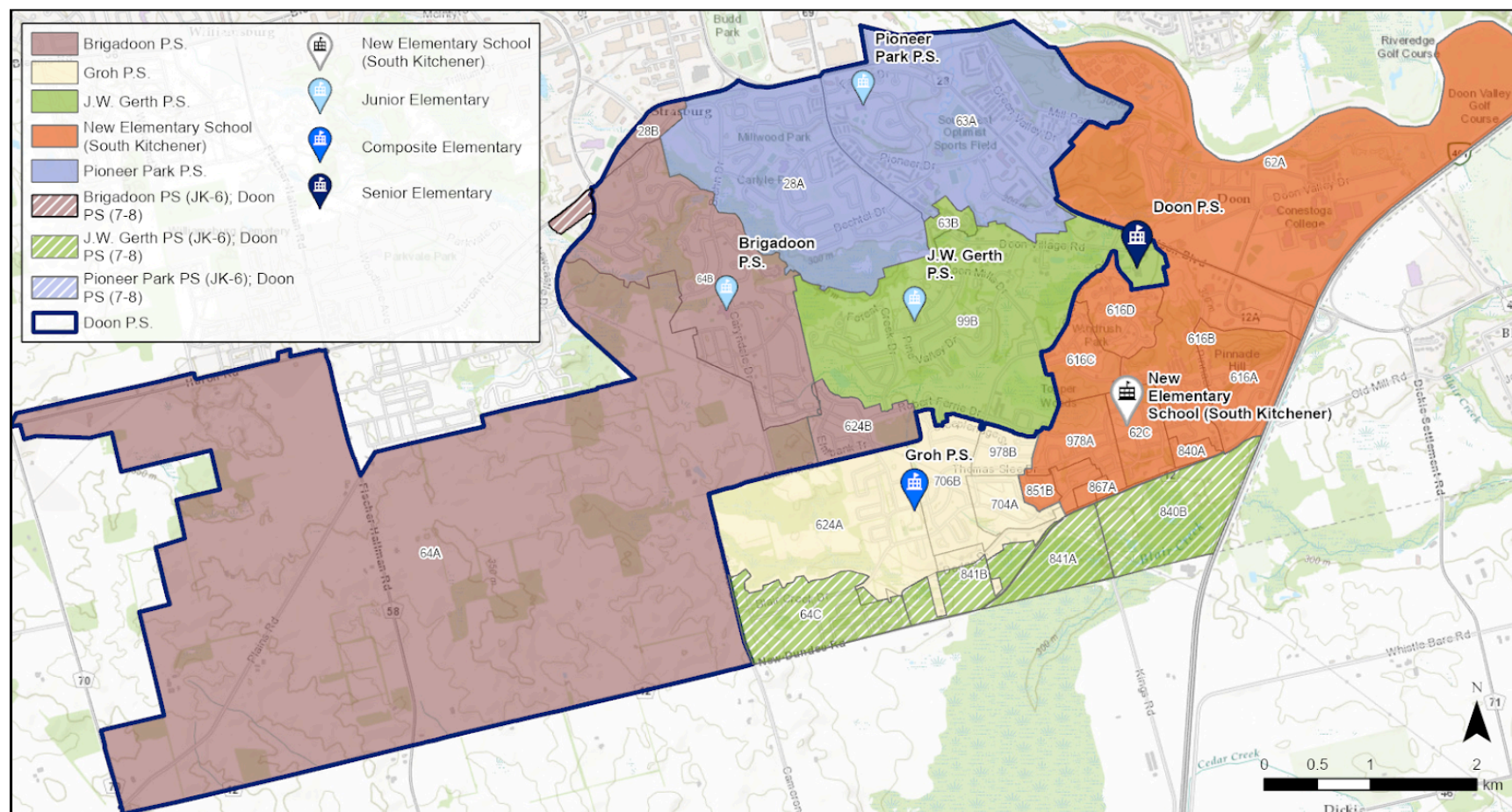
Scenario 3 impacts existing students from Pioneer Park Public School, Groh Public School and Brigadoon Public School. J.W. Gerth Public School is not impacted by boundary changes in scenario 3. Existing students at Doon Public School will remain at Doon Public School for Grade 8; therefore, no existing students at Doon Public School will be impacted.

**Table 3: Scenario 3 Enrolment Projections**

SCENARIO 3			Projected					Utilization		
School	Grades	Capacity	2025*	2026	2027	2030	2035	2025	2030	2035
Brigadoon PS	JK-6	495	475	455	445	445	440	96%	90%	89%
Doon PS	Gr. 7-8	331	380	400	410	415	385	115%	125%	116%
Groh PS	JK-8	597	735	745	750	700	695	123%	117%	116%
J.W. Gerth PS	JK-6	582	520	570	630	705	705	89%	121%	121%
Pioneer Park PS	JK-6	294	325	315	315	275	270	111%	94%	92%
<b>New School</b>	<b>JK-8</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>109%</b>	<b>117%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2299</b>	<b>2865</b>	<b>2965</b>	<b>3070</b>	<b>3185</b>	<b>3185</b>	<b>125%</b>	<b>139%</b>	<b>139%</b>

\*New School Opens

Figure 3: Scenario 3

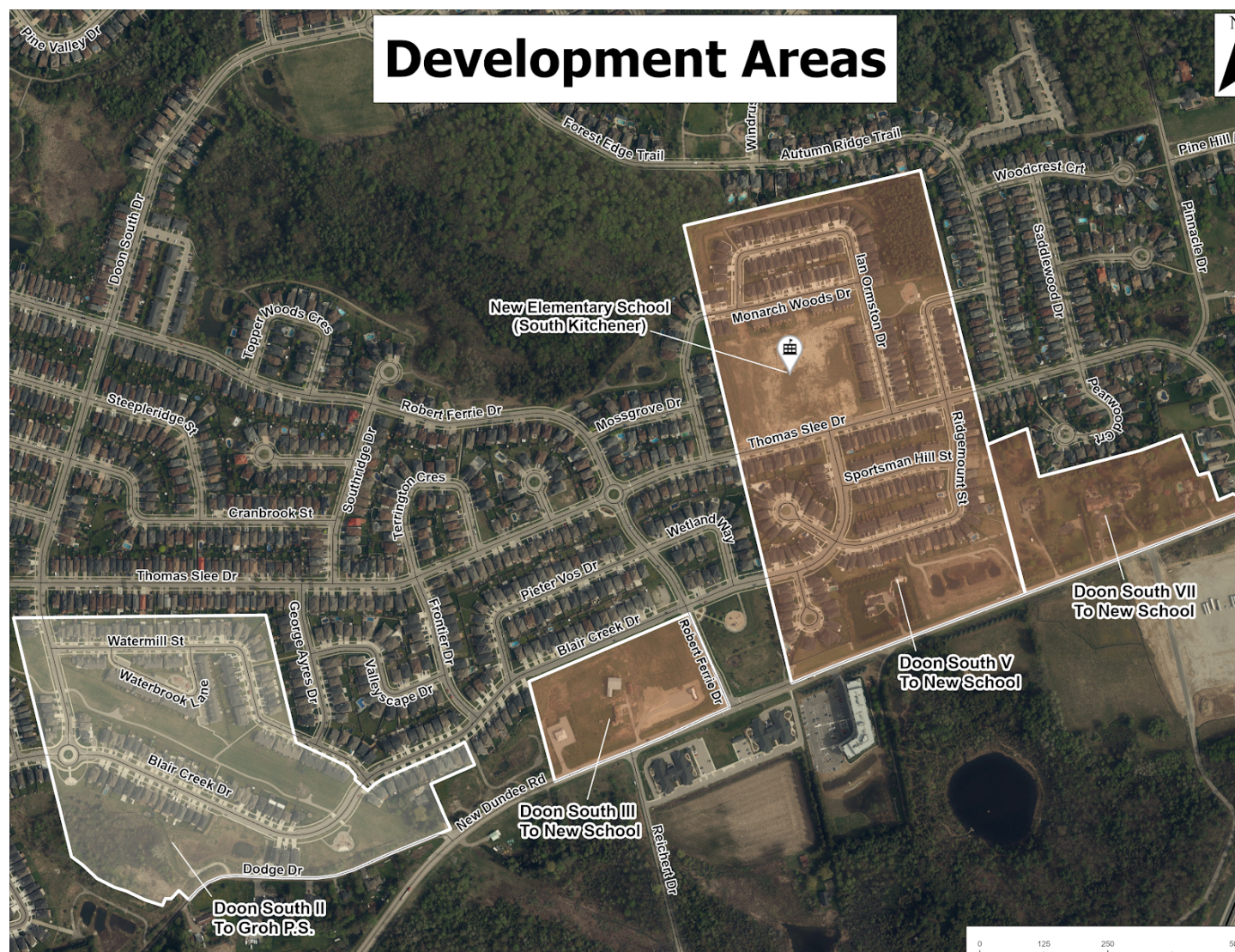


**Description of boundary changes**

## Pioneer Park Public School

The Doon South II and Doon South V Development Areas (Figure 4) will be eliminated, and the areas will be reassigned to Groh Public School (Doon South II) and the new elementary school (Doon South V). Existing and incoming JK-6 students from these areas will attend Groh Public School (Doon South II) and the new elementary school (Doon South IV) for JK-7 in September 2025 and JK-8 in September 2026.

Figure 4: Doon South Development Area Boundaries



#### Groh Public School

Students who live east of Southridge Drive and George Ayres Drive ("Area B" in Figure 5) will be reassigned to the new elementary school for JK-8.

Existing and incoming JK-6 students will attend the new elementary school for JK-7 in September 2025. Existing and incoming Grade 7 students will remain at Groh Public School for Grade 8 in the 2025/26 school year.

Students who live north of the Stauffer Drive trail ("Area C" in Figure 6) will be reassigned to Brigadoon Public School for JK-6 and Doon Public School for Grades 7-8.

Figure 5: Affected Area B

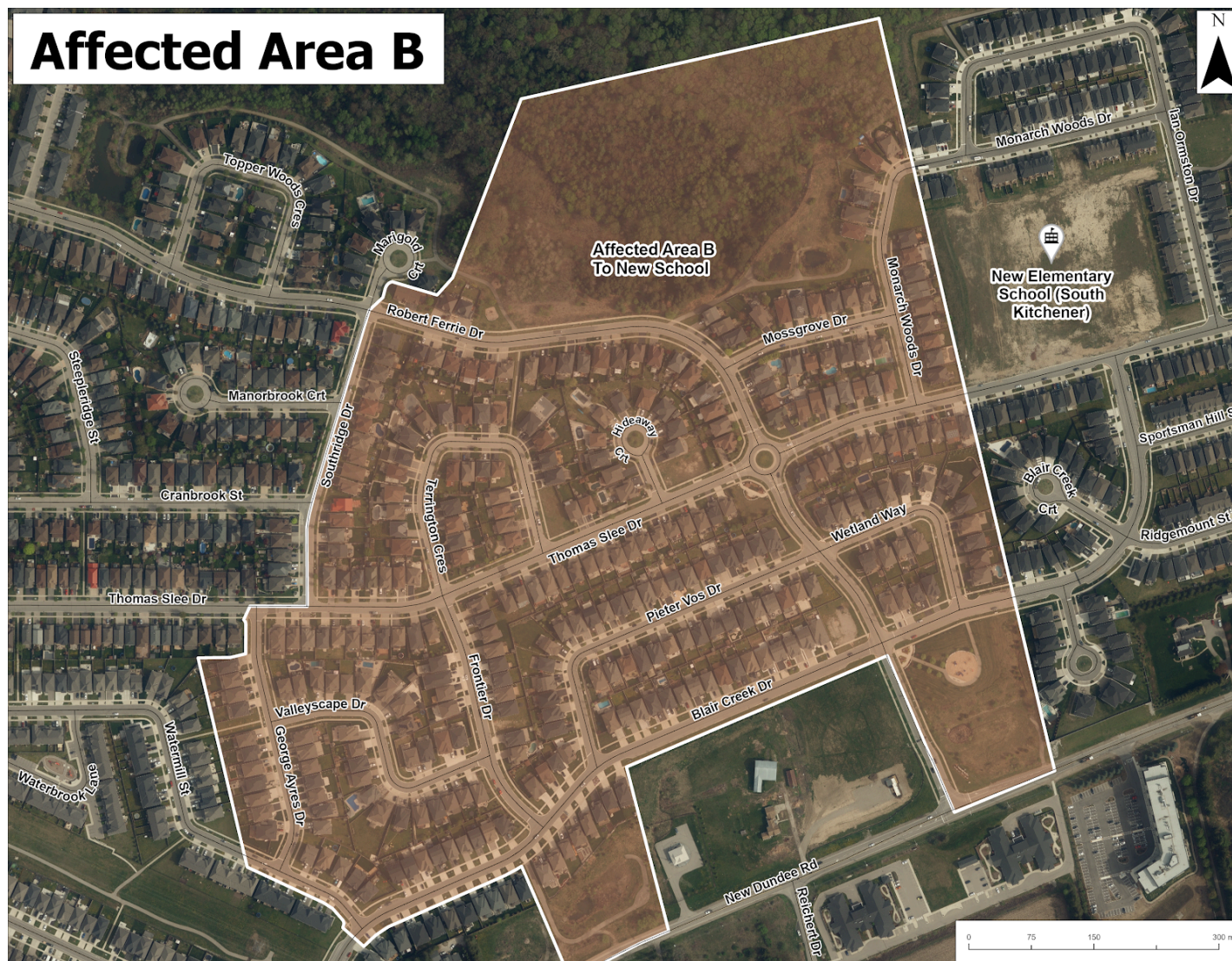
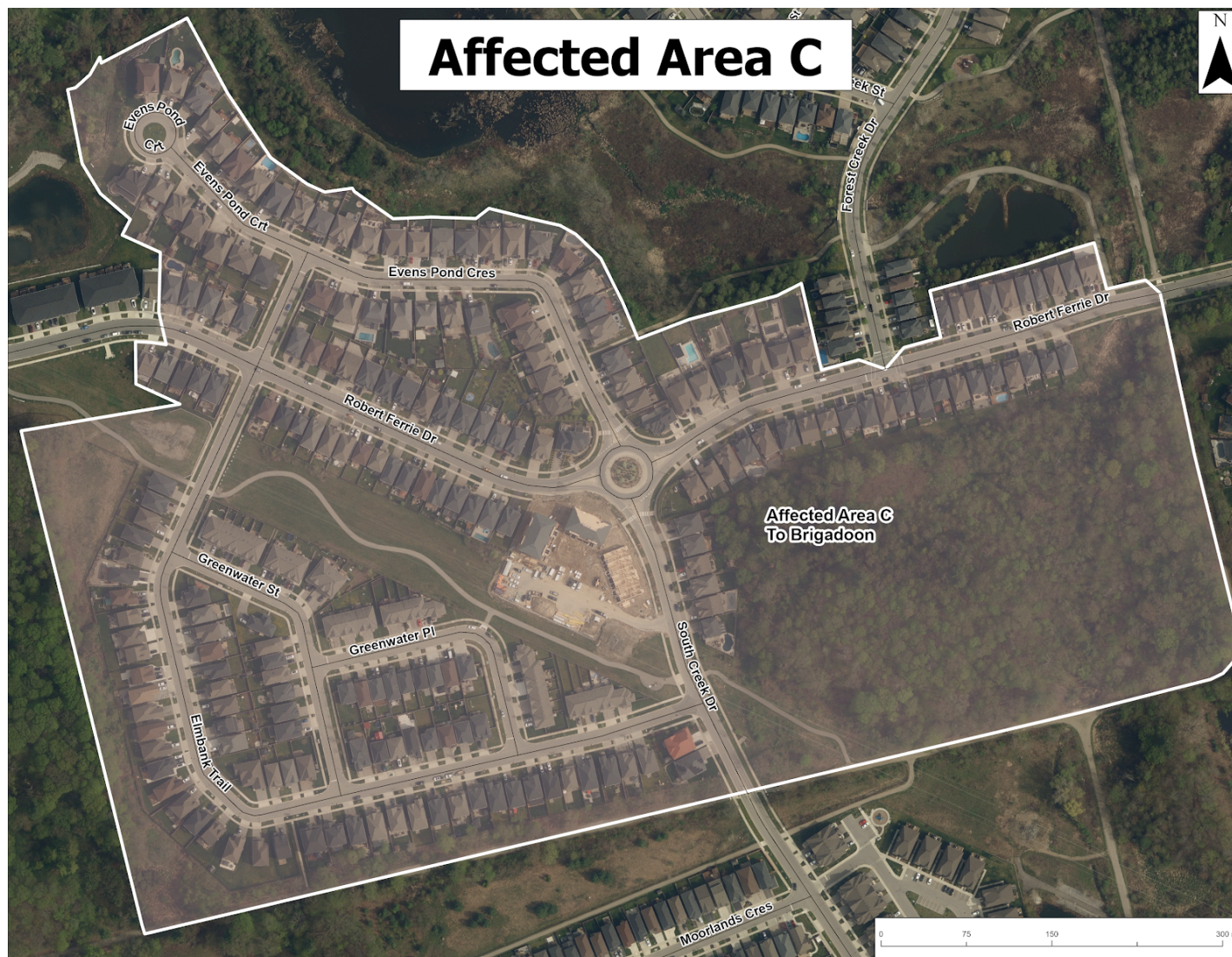


Figure 6: Affected Area C



Existing and incoming JK-4 students from Area C (Figure 6) will attend Brigadoon Public School for JK-5 in September 2025. Existing Grade 5 to Grade 7 from Area C (Figure 6) students may remain at Groh Public School until they finish Grade 8. Table 4 summarizes the phased in implementation of this boundary change.

**Table 4: Phased in Boundary Change for Area C (Groh PS to Brigadoon PS/Doon PS)**

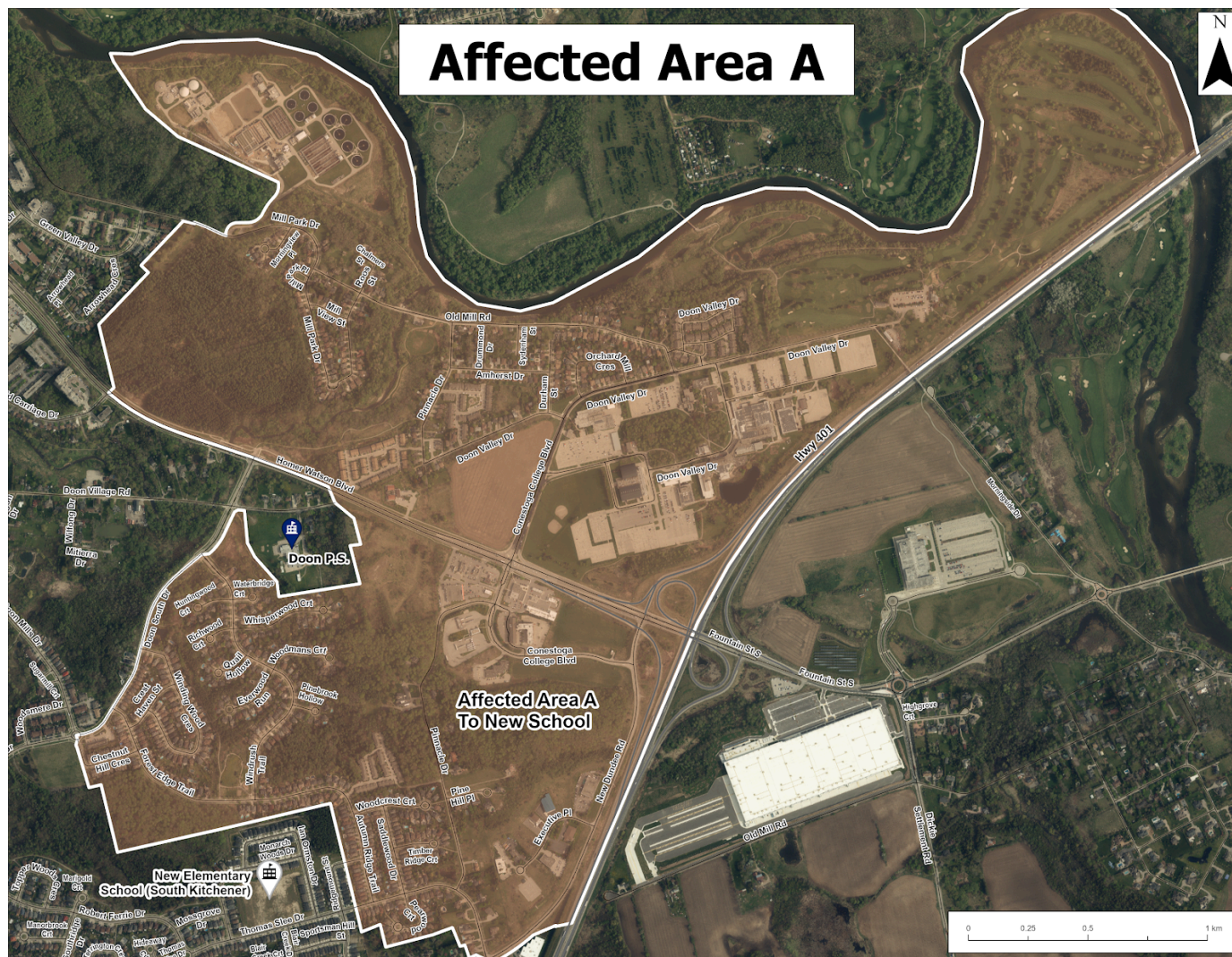
Year	Grade									
2024-2025	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2025-2026	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2027-2027	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2027-2028	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2028-2029	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Legend	Current Boundary	New Boundary	Exception through legacy provision
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#### Brigadoon Public School

Students in the Brigadoon East area ("Area A" in Figure 7) will be reassigned to the new elementary school for JK-8. Existing and incoming JK-6 students will attend the new elementary school for JK-7 in September 2025. The new school will be JK-8 as of September 2026.

Figure 7: Affected Area A



### French Immersion Implications

In accordance with [Administrative Procedure 1000 - French Immersion - Elementary](#), the new school will not open with a French immersion program. A French immersion program may be considered once a school has operated for over five years and other relevant criteria outlined in the procedure are met. French immersion students in the affected areas will be permitted to remain at Brigadoon Public School. However, these students will no longer receive transportation to Brigadoon Public School to attend French immersion as the WRDSB only provides transportation within a home school boundary (see [Administrative Procedure 4260 - Student Transportation](#)). This will impact approximately 43 existing Grade 2-6 French Immersion students (summarized in Table 5).

**Table 5: Impacted Brigadoon French Immersion Students**

Grade (2024/25)	Number of French Immersion Students
Grade 2	7
Grade 3	8
Grade 4	7
Grade 5	14
Grade 6	7

### Doon Public School

Existing students at Doon Public School will not be impacted by the proposed boundary changes. Existing and incoming Grade 7 students will continue at Doon Public School for Grade 8 in the 2025/26 school year.

Area C on Figure 6 will now become part of the Doon Public School Grade 7-8 boundary; however, existing Grade 5-7 students will be permitted to remain at Groh Public School to finish Grade 8. The last Grade 8 students from this area will finish Grade 8 at Groh Public School in the 2027-2028 school year.

## Recommendations

The preferred scenario (scenario 3) proposes implementing the following boundaries (shown visually in Figure 3 of this report or interactively in an [online map](#)) starting in September 2025.

1. **Establish the attendance area boundary for the new South Kitchener elementary school** (670 Thomas Slee Drive, Kitchener), as shown in Figure 3, which includes the following:
  - a. Affected Area A (Figure 7) Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7 from Brigadoon Public School and Doon Public School, effective September 2025
  - b. Affected Area A (Figure 7) Grade 8 from Doon Public School, effective September 2026
  - c. Affected Area B (Figure 5) Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7 from Groh Public School, effective September 2025
  - d. Affected Area B (Figure 5) Grade 8 from Groh Public School, effective September 2026.
  - e. Doon South III, V and VII Development Areas (Figure 4) Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7, effective September 2025.
  - f. Doon South III, V and VII Development Areas (Figure 4) Grade 8, effective September 2026. Grade 8 students (i.e., born in 2012) will remain at their respective holding schools for the 2025-2026 school year.

2. Establish a **revised attendance area boundary for Brigadoon Public School**, as shown in Figure 2, which includes the following:
  - a. Affected Area C (Figure 6) Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 from Groh Public School to Brigadoon Public School, effective September 2025.
  - b. Allowing an exception for students in Affected Area C (Figure 6) registered at Groh Public School in Grade 5 for the 2024-2025 school year (i.e., born in 2014), whose address as of the date June 2025, falls within Affected Area C, to stay at Groh Public School until Grade 8. This exception does not apply to students whose addresses change after June 2025.
3. Establish a **revised attendance area boundary for Doon Public School**, as shown in Figure 2, which includes the following:
  - a. Affected Area C (Figure 6) Grade 7 from Groh Public School to Doon Public School, effective September 2025.
  - b. Assign Affected Area C (Figure 6) Grade 8 from Groh Public School to Doon Public School, effective September 2026.
  - c. Allowing an exception for students in Affected Area C (Figure 6) registered at Groh Public School in Grades 5, 6 and 7 for the 2024-2025 school year (i.e., born in 2012 to 2014), whose address as of the date June 2025, falls within Affected Area C, to stay at Groh Public School until Grade 8. This exception does not apply to students whose addresses change after June 2025.
4. Establish a **revised attendance area boundary for Groh Public School**, as shown in Figure 3, which includes the following:

- a. Doon South II Development Area (Figure 4) Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7, effective September 2025.
- b. Doon South II Development Area (Figure 4) Grade 8, effective September 2026.

**5. Dissolve the following Development Area boundaries** for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8:

- a. Doon South II, III, V and VII Development Areas (Figure 4) for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 in September 2025.
- b. Allowing an exception for students in the Doon South II, III, V and VII Development Areas (Figure 4) in Grade 8 students in the 2025-2026 school year (i.e. born in 2012) to remain at their 2024-2025 school.

*Note for clarity on implementation: Students eligible for the exception listed under 2. b. and 3. c. may be allowed to attend the same school as their younger sibling(s). The Transition Committee (described below) will consider this to avoid the need for out-of-boundary requests. All others will be required to attend based on the new boundaries. For example, a student in Affected Area C entering Grade 6 in September 2025 has a sibling entering Grade 3 at Brigadoon Public School. The family wants to keep the siblings together. Therefore, the Grade 6 sibling may attend Brigadoon Public School instead of remaining at Groh Public School. The Grade 3 student will not have the option to attend Groh Public School.*

### **Eliminated Scenarios**

All five scenario options can be reviewed in the [comprehensive online scenario options map](#) and [boundary scenario slider map](#). Table 6 describes the primary reasons each scenario was eliminated from consideration.

**Table 6: Eliminated Scenarios**

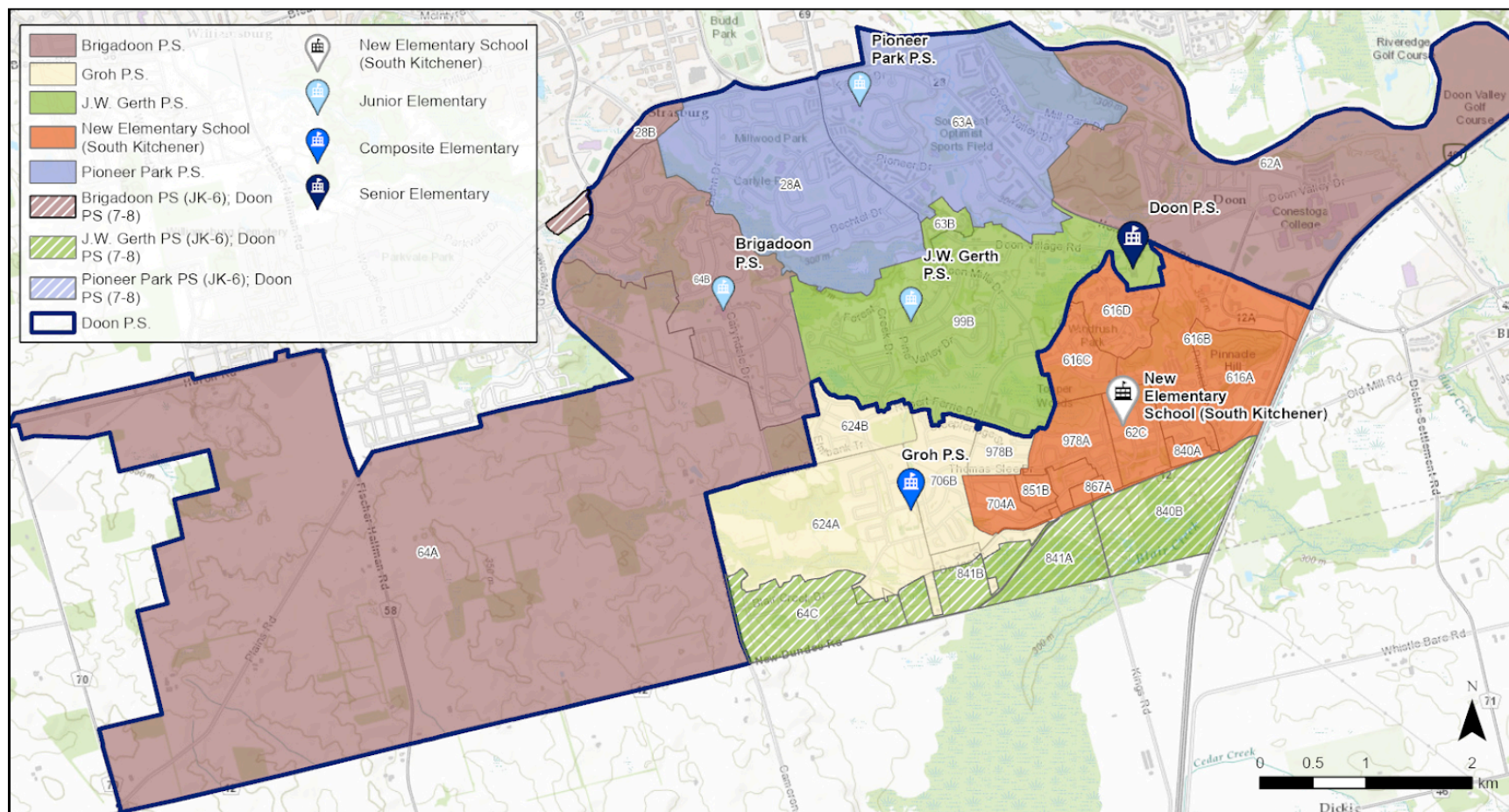
Scenario Option	Reason for Elimination
Scenario 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not provide enough enrolment at the new school</li> <li>• Did not relieve enough pressure at Groh PS</li> </ul>
Scenario 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not relieve enough pressure at Groh PS</li> <li>• Removed too much enrolment from Brigadoon PS</li> </ul>
Scenario 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed too much enrolment from Brigadoon PS</li> </ul>

**Scenario 5**

Scenario 5 (Figure 8) was developed and presented to the BRC at the October 7, 2024 BRC #3 meeting. Scenario 5, like scenario 3, met most of the review objectives; therefore, it was presented as an option for consideration at the second public information session.

Scenario 5 improves walkability around Groh Public School and the new school, potentially eliminating 3 bus runs. Scenario 5 does not eliminate the Brigadoon Public School “hopscotch” split boundary. Groh Public School remains over-utilized under this scenario (Table 7), contrary to one of the core objectives of the review.

Figure 8: Scenario 5



**Table 7: Scenario 5 Enrolment Projections**

SCENARIO 5			Projected					Utilization		
School	Grades	Capacity	2025*	2026	2027	2030	2035	2025	2030	2035
Brigadoon PS	JK-6	495	485	470	460	475	470	98%	96%	95%
Doon PS	Gr. 7-8	331	370	395	415	420	395	112%	127%	119%
Groh PS	JK-8	597	815	825	825	780	775	137%	131%	130%
J.W. Gerth PS	JK-6	582	520	570	630	705	705	89%	121%	121%
Pioneer Park PS	JK-6	294	325	315	315	275	270	111%	94%	92%
<b>New School</b>	<b>JK-8</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2299</b>	<b>2870</b>	<b>2980</b>	<b>3085</b>	<b>3195</b>	<b>3185</b>	<b>125%</b>	<b>139%</b>	<b>139%</b>
<i>*New School Opens</i>										

## Next Steps

### Notification of a Final Decision

If the recommendations are approved, staff will target their communications to the affected families by mailing letters home. Furthermore, a School-Day notification and school webpage post will advise of the final decision. The broader public will be aware of the final outcome through posts on the boundary review webpage and board webpage. The

Communications team will be consulted to identify any additional opportunities to communicate the review's conclusion as required.

### **Transition Committee**

If the recommendations are approved, a Transition Committee, composed of the administrators and superintendents of the affected schools will collaborate to identify opportunities to ensure a smooth transition for all affected students and families.

The Transition Committee may consult with staff, students, parents and caregivers as needed. Updates will be shared with the community as appropriate.

### **Conclusion**

After broad public engagement and careful deliberation, final recommendations were developed that met most of the review objectives. While the recommended scenario (Scenario 3) is likely to be viable for the next several years, it is acknowledged that portable classrooms will continue to be a part of our accommodation solutions in the Doon South area over the next 15 years. Given the age and demographics of the community, staff recognize that additional boundary adjustments may be necessary in the coming years. The newest Development Area boundaries have remained unchanged, and holding school assignments will be adjusted as the forecasted enrolment materializes through further housing development.

## Appendix B

# ONLINE FEEDBACK

### Feedback April 2024 - September 6, 2024

“Kindly assess the temporary development zone encompassing the vicinity of my residence at [REDACTED] Blair Creek Drive, with the aim of facilitating enrollment for my children in the forthcoming educational institution.”

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“For children currently enrolled in French immersion, but who will be in the new boundary for the new school that won’t have French immersion, allowing them to stay enrolled in the current French immersion program with transportation is preferred. There are also security concerns with the current schools where the general public are coming onto the property during school hours taking pictures of young children. Lockable gates are strongly recommended in the new school design to keep the children safe from unwanted visitors during school hours.”

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“We reside at [REDACTED] Autumn Ridge trail. I attended the meeting last night and staff indicated that the new boundary would take into account walkability and very likely extend to include our home. As Groh is the school requiring more of the relief the boundary will likely incorporate a significant portion of Groh students. Will there be an effort to extend the boundary sufficiently to the right of the new school to include more brigadoon students and account for friendships and thus mental health of the students being moved. Having to change schools is a challenge, having to change schools and having only 10 percent of the new school be people you know is extremely stressful. For example : My son would be entering grade [REDACTED], a critical transition and one he will need peer support with. The boundary change would mean zero friends would be making the move with him as many of his closest friends reside near brigadoon or on the other side of Homer Watson and will be bused to Doon. If the boundary is extended to include up forest edge trail and winding wood crescent he would have a chance of transitioning with at least one friend.”

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"I think there should be a grandfather system. For students grades 4 and higher they can remain (if they want) at their current school unless their new boundary school goes to 8th grade"

"I am concerned my children will be made to go to a new school. They have had many changes over past few years and my family has a long history at brigadoon , I think there should be a grandfather type option"

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"I propose that those living in Doon south within walking distance from Groh and the new school get put into those schools rather than taking the bus to Pioneer Park Public School."

### **Feedback September 17, 2024 - October 21, 2024**

"Would like to know if the boundary for Groh changes"

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"1 - CHOICE FOR OLDER STUDENTS. Please consider the older students when permitting any boundary exceptions. The grades 6/7/8's were already affected by covid during their primary years and now they will be moving to a new school away from long-term friendships, sense of stability and community. It would be a wonderful opportunity, and great display of KINDNESS and EQUITY to allow the students/parents of 6/7/8s to have the CHOICE of moving to the new school, or remaining at their current school for their elementary education. I understand this may be harder for the initial planning stages, but will alleviate MUCH stress and anxiety in the beginning stages of the school opening. The new school is a long-term solution. Let's please not forget the immediate impact for many students.

2 - LACK OF PREP GOING INTO HIGHSCHOOL. The Doon experience to transition into high school is key and has been a great opportunity for so many children in the community. Students that are late juniors/seniors will not have this opportunity in a new school as it will not be able to support the significant transition. The older students will be at a disadvantage through the initial loss of friendships and stability, ... then will miss out on a critical transition period before high school. More established K-8 schools can provide this, however the new school will not be able to provide the same experience ... clubs, sport teams, lockers, transitions through classes/homerooms will not be available.

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Please take the time to think about this group of kids who have different needs than new kindies, and primary students. The younger students can grow within the new school community. The older students will be shuffled throughout and lost in the mix - we know this happens even though teachers and admins try their best. We can already see the affect of covid on this generation, please consider allowing us to make the best choice for our children.

I understand there are many comments and suggestions. I will be at the meeting on the 24th and hope to discuss this opportunity that the school board can provide to parents/students.”

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“CHOICE FOR OLDER STUDENTS. Please consider the older students when permitting any boundary exceptions. The grade 6s have seen significant impact from COVID as they were in SK when they first experienced learning disruption. Their primary years were marked by disruption and now moving them at a key inflection point (grade 6) and disrupting long-term friendships and community seems unfair. Particularly for students from Brigadoon who will see their community split in half. The new school is a long-term solution that will have major immediate impacts on a group of students who will not reap the long-term benefit. Allowing parents the choice for these students to be grandfathered into their existing boundary schools would be one way to alleviate the burden for this cohort of students.

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“Moving students schools is very emotionally hard on them, especially when they have been at the same school since kindergarten. They take pride in where they go and have made so many close friends. Students who are at the school now, especially in the older grades should be grand fathered in and allowed to stay at their current school. This also disrupts parents schedules as my oldest could possibly go to Doon and my youngest to Brigadoon which is much further walking distance and I wouldn't want her walking alone. We don't have family close by to help out and we're both working parents.”

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“My children are in Grade 4 and 6 and have been at Groh PS since kindergarten. They have made many friends there over the years. We live on Elmbank trail which is 700m away from Groh. Please do not change the boundary to have them moved away from their friends. Brigadoon PS 1.7km from our house which my grade 4 would have to go to. Doon PS is 3km away which my grade 6 would have to go to. If the boundary change goes through with Elmbank trail getting taken away from Groh it would result in both of my kids getting moved away from each other and their friends to schools much further away. Please do not let this happen.

Thank you”

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**Feedback October 21, 2024 - October 29, 2024**

"My question involves the capacity of all schools. Seeing that scenario 3 and 5 are what is being focused on. How is a school called "well utilized" if it is still over capacity? Both scenarios put other schools over capacity. Would it not make more sense to increase the capacity of the new school in order to add additional spaces for students to lower the number of schools over capacity, and the amount that they are over capacity?"

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"Scenario #3 would be best for the school and unifying the BGD area"

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"I want scenario 3 as it is walkable from evens pond. I consider those families far away beyond our direct community as those that should be relocated and moved to the new school. In the past those locations cause our streets, that are walkable, relocate. My children's friends in our home area attend brigadoon as we are in the middle of two communities that go to brigadoon"

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"I want schedule 3"

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"Would like my family to stay at Brigadoon and come to doon. We live on evens pond and it would be easy for my brother and sister to walk to bgd"

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"Scenario 3"

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"Voting for scenario 3"

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“My grandkids would like to walk to brigadoon PS. They live on evens pond and it would make the stress of taking a bus disappear as they would be able to walk.”

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“Informative and helpful. Everyone was approachable and knowledgeable. Thank you.”

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“Has an analysis been performed of the number of students in the FI programs that will fall within the new school boundary to determine the impact of the influx of parents driving their kids to their existing schools? Active transportation is important, but the anticipated influx of parents all driving their FI kids to school is possible to increase the carbon footprint and create safety issues around drop off and pick up. A bus may still make sense.”

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“I believe scenario 3 provides the best balance for all the schools involved for long term sustainability. I think providing Pioneer Park with 840B, 841A, 841B, and/or 64 C for overflow would be best for that school community long term.”

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“Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. While I appreciate that neither scenario is perfect and there are impacts to many families in either scenario, I think that scenario 5 minimizes the number of transitions for students and I hope that the wellbeing of students will be prioritized over fixing the hopscotch boundaries.

If scenario 3 is deemed the better solution, I hope there will be consideration for buses for the 624B area to Brigadoon. The walk is pretty substantial for little ones and not quite as straightforward of a path.

I’m not sure if other scenarios that weren’t shared explored this, but I wonder if 624B can be reassigned to Gerth (a bit closer and more direct walk) and some of the other end of the Gerth boundary reassigned to the new school.”

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“I do not want to have my child having to switch schools, Option 5 has the least number of transitions. Leave the Brigadoon boundaries alone.”

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"We have 2 children (grade 6 & grade 4). We moved to this area for the reputation of Brigadoon and closeness to Doon. We live on Windrush Trail. Doon is certainly a much closer distance to walk and not understanding why students that are bused to Doon would take precedence over those students that can walk. I would like to request that perhaps the boundary excludes Old Wyldwoods (which I believe encompasses Windrush and the courts that are off of Windrush). All of their friends will be remaining at Brigadoon and on path to attending Doon. If students that are currently being bused to Doon would be bused to the new school (since they are being bused regardless of location of school) that could potentially allow my children to then attend Doon. In addition to this, we believe that attending a middle school offers a unique experience for our children, which was another factor for moving where we have. Thank you for your consideration in having our children attend Doon (and potentially adjusting the boundary), which is what we had always assumed and planned for."

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"Love option 3 for our family"

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### **Feedback October 30, 2024 - November 15, 2024**

"How will this effect students who are not enrolled in French immersion yet but plan to be? Will they be asked to switch to their new home school then back for the French immersion program once they're in grade 2?"

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"I would like to express my support for Scenario 5 which would allow the kids on our street (Evens Pond Cres) to continue attending and WALKING TO Groh Public School. It does not seem logical to switch this street to Brigadoon which would mean a bus, when we are an 8 minute walk to Groh PS."

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"We strongly do not want to change schools in September. Our Mill Park subdivision has a small group of children, all of whom want to stay at Brigadoon. I've spoken with many parents at the bus stop, and none of us wish to make the move. It's especially disappointing for the kids, who are finally starting to feel comfortable and familiar with the school, staff, and teachers."

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