

FINAL REPORT - DRAFT

NEW SOUTHEAST CAMBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARY REVIEW

November 17, 2025



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Background	5
Boundary Review Goal and Scope	7
Review Area Schools	7
Community Engagement	10
Existing Conditions (Status Quo)	14
Scenarios	15
Recommendations	20
Next Steps	27
Glossary of Terms	28
Frequently Asked Questions	31

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the work completed by the Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) and presents its final recommendations for trustee consideration regarding the new Southeast Cambridge Elementary School. The boundary review was initiated to establish a sustainable long-term attendance boundary for the new elementary school, balance enrolment across existing schools, and reduce reliance on temporary accommodation.

Key Drivers

- The opening of a joint-use school in September 2026, providing 519 WRDSB pupil places and 88 child care spaces.
- Existing enrolment pressures at Chalmers Street Public School and Moffat Creek Public School.
- A need to reassign or dissolve existing Development Areas.
- Rapid and ongoing residential growth in Southeast Cambridge.

Scope of Review

- Involves Chalmers Street PS (JK–6), Moffat Creek PS (JK–8), and multiple Development Areas.
- Excludes consideration of French immersion programs at this time, as well as any changes to the grade structure or school closures.

Scenario 2 (Recommendation)

- Redirects part of Chalmers Street PS's boundary (northeast of Dundas St S) and several Development Areas to

the new school.

- Redirects part of Chalmers Street PS's boundary (Champlain Road, Azores Crescent, Fatima Crescent) to Moffat Creek PS.
- Reduces enrolment pressures and enhances walkability at existing schools, and creates a compact, long-term boundary for the new school.

Eliminated Scenario 1 (From Initial Report)

- Redirects part of Chalmers Street PS's boundary (northeast of Dundas St S) and several Development Areas to the new school.
- Reduces enrolment pressure, enhances walkability, and creates a compact, long-term boundary.

Community Engagement

- A multi-phase engagement process ran from September to December 2025.
- This process included two public information sessions, information sharing, feedback collection and scenario refinement.
- Ensured diverse and inclusive participation, with emphasis on accessibility and transparency.

Timeline Highlights

- **September 2025:** Initial report and community engagement.
- **December 2025:** Final recommendation presented to the Board.
- **September 2026:** New school opens and boundary changes take effect.

Background

Boundary Review Process

The **Boundary Review Steering Committee** (BRSC), following the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) [Administrative Procedure 4991 - Boundary Reviews](#), led this process on behalf of the WRDSB. The BRSC developed options, engaged the community, and now submits its recommendations for trustee approval.

Southeast Cambridge is an area of significant residential development within the Region of Waterloo. Several Development Areas have been designated to manage ongoing growth, with students currently assigned to **Chalmers Street Public School** and **Moffat Creek Public School** on an interim basis.

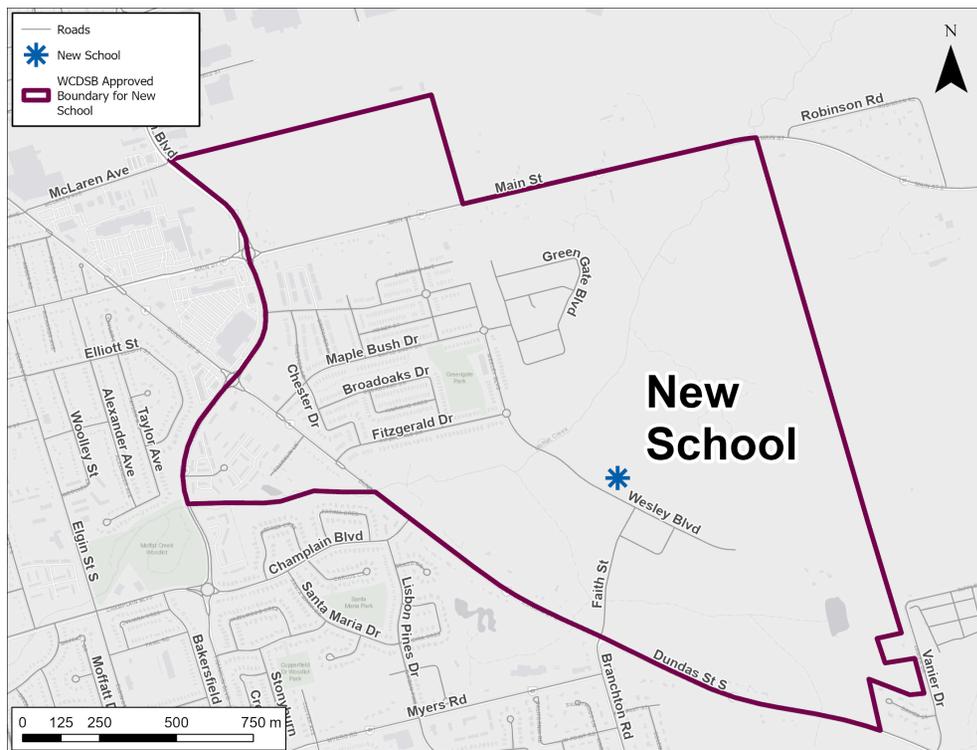
The schools proposed for this boundary review are part of **Review Area E06 - Cambridge Southeast (Southeast Galt)** of the [WRDSB Long-Term Accommodation Plan 2020-2030](#) (the LTAP). The [Education Development Charges \(EDC\) Background Study \(2021\)](#) indicates a net pupil place deficit resulting from new growth in the Review 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 Southeast Cambridge elementary school.

The new school is a joint venture between the WRDSB and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB). This is the first such undertaking for the WRDSB, presenting a unique opportunity to collaborate with our coterminous partners. The WCDSB completed its boundary review and approved the attendance boundary for its school on May 26, 2025 (Figure 1).

At the September 15, 2025, Business Services Standing Committee meeting, Trustees approved initiating a Boundary Review to establish a boundary for the new elementary school currently under construction at **605 Wesley Boulevard, Cambridge.**

Figure 1: WCDSB Approved Boundary for their new Southeast Galt Elementary School



Boundary Review Goal and Scope

The primary goal of the boundary review is to **establish a sustainable long-term boundary for the new school**, while balancing enrolment at the two existing schools. This balancing would provide an opportunity to right-size Chalmers Street Public School by considering the removal of its aging portapak structure (temporary accommodation).

Significant residential growth is expected in the review area, particularly in planned developments where construction has not yet begun. Future growth potential from new housing introduces some uncertainty to the projection models compared to existing community forecasts, which are based on actual student enrolments.

An **attendance area must be finalized before the school opens**, ideally ahead of staffing processes in early 2026, to provide families with sufficient notice.

If necessary, this community may be subject to future reviews and/or consideration for Development Area holding school reassignments.

It is worth noting that school closures or grade-level reconfigurations are not within the scope of this boundary review.

The new school will not open with a French immersion (FI) program; however, an FI program may be considered once a school has been in operation for more than five years in accordance with [Administrative Procedure 1000 - French Immersion - Elementary](#).

Review Area Schools

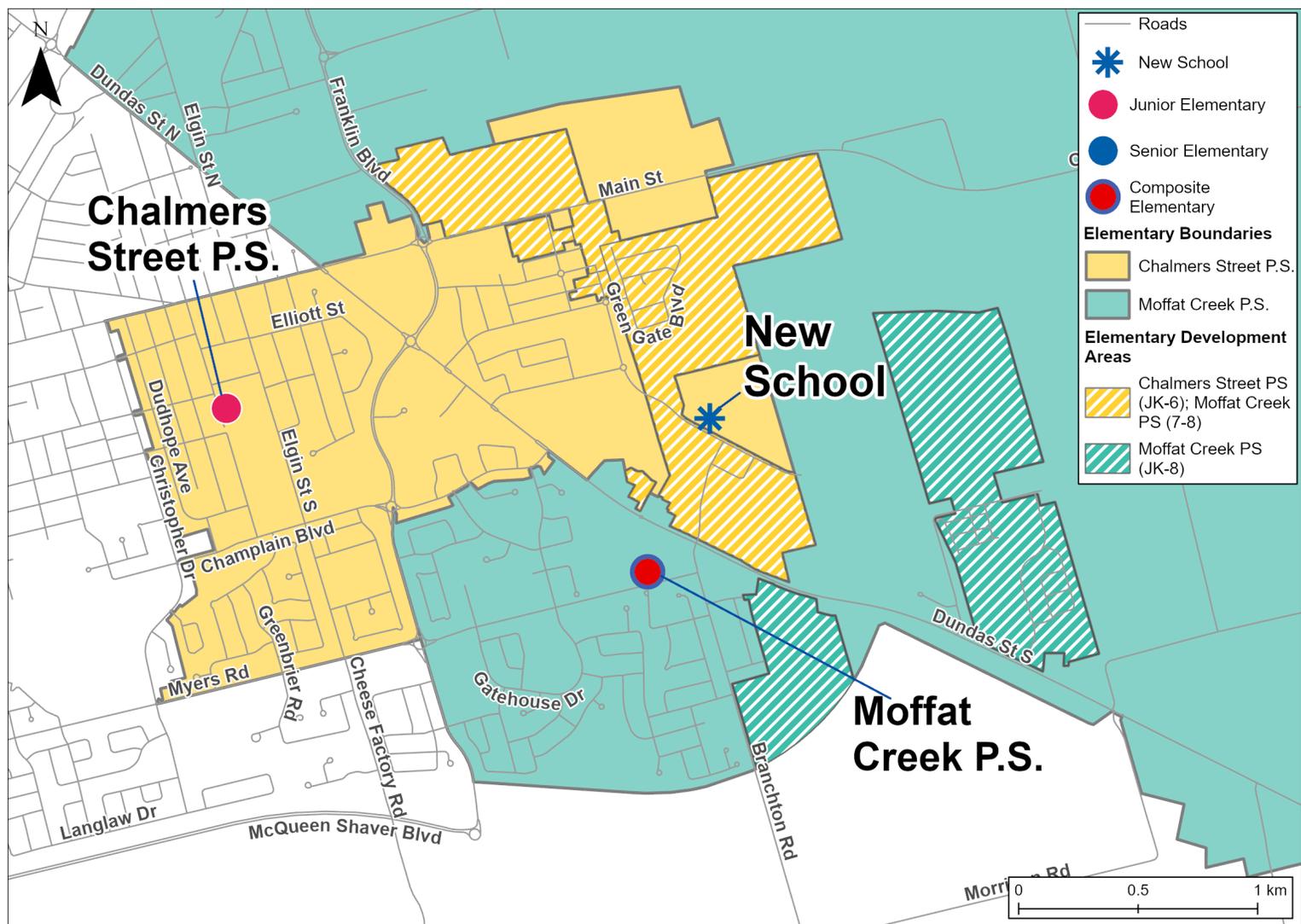
The boundary review includes both schools within LTAP Review Area E06 - Cambridge Southeast (Southeast Galt).

- Chalmers Street Public School (JK-6)
- Moffat Creek Public School (JK-8)
- Southeast Cambridge Development Areas;
 - Southeast Cambridge I, II, III, IV and V
 - Southeast Cambridge (Upper Greengate Village)
 - Southeast Cambridge (Main and Franklin)

Figure 2 illustrates the existing review area, school attendance, and Development Area (DA) boundaries. The DAs are hatched and coloured based on their existing holding school assignment.

The schools in this review area are well distributed across the communities they serve. While Moffat Creek Public School and the proposed new school are within walking distance of each other (<1 km), they are separated by Dundas Street South (Highway 8), which serves as a natural boundary. Some students are within walking distance of two WRDSB schools.

Figure 2: Review Area Schools and Development Areas (Current Boundaries)



(For complete boundary context and to see Moffat Creek's rural boundary, [visit the online map](#))

Community Engagement

The BRSC conducted a multi-phase engagement process to inform its recommendations. Community input was integral in shaping the final recommendations.

Engagement Objectives

- Provide clear and timely information about the process, goals, and timelines.
- Offer accessible opportunities for input from a diverse cross-section of the community.
- Ensure feedback informs the development and refinement of boundary scenarios.
- Report back on what was heard and how it influenced recommendations.

Engagement Methods

To ensure broad and inclusive participation, the following engagement methods were used:

- **Online feedback forms** for all families and community members.
- In-person **public information sessions**.
- **Interactive mapping** tools to visualize the proposed changes.
- School-based communication (website, SchoolDay).
- **Translatable** materials in key community languages.
- **Accessibility supports** for in-person events, including pre-recorded video presentations.

Public Information Sessions

Two sessions were held:

- **October 8, 2025 – Chalmers Public School:** Introduced the process, shared the current context, and gathered input on Scenario 1. Attendance: ~20 participants.
- **November 12, 2025 – Chalmers Street Public School:** Presented the preferred scenario (Scenario 2) and collected final input. Attendance: 3 participants.

YWCA Cambridge representatives attended both sessions to address any child care questions. Pre-recorded presentations were posted online before each session and viewed 107 times (first session) and 59 times (second session).

Lower attendance at the second session may reflect:

- Similarity between Scenario 1 and Scenario 2.
- Perception that input had already been considered.
- Preference for online engagement (59 video views).
- Scheduling conflicts and minimal perceived impact on affected areas.

Online Feedback

Two online feedback forms were used:

- Initial form at the start of the process (10 responses).
- Second form before the November session for scenario-specific input (4 responses).

Feedback received up to and including **November 27, 2025**, will be considered in the final report.

Key Feedback Themes

Several themes consistently emerged in the feedback received through the online form and in conversations at the public information sessions. These included:

1. Safety and Walkability

- Concern about **busy roads and roundabouts** (e.g., Franklin Blvd/Dundas St S) affecting children's ability to walk to school safely.
- A preference for boundaries that allow children to **avoid crossing major intersections**.
- Emphasis on **walkable access** to the new Southeast Cambridge school.

2. Support for Scenario 1 and Scenario 2

- Multiple families express **support for Scenario 1**, citing alignment with their preferences.
- Others **strongly favour Scenario 2**, noting it better reflects their desired outcome.
- Some feedback suggests **that Scenario 1 does not adequately reduce Moffat Creek PS's boundary** (enrolment reduction is not significant enough).

3. Boundary Suggestions and Adjustments

- Requests to **include specific areas** (e.g., Fitzgerald Drive, Branchton, Azores Crescent, Fatima Crescent) in the new school boundary.
- Suggestions to **extend boundaries north or northwest** (e.g., toward Elgin St N or south of the rail line).
- Concerns about **inefficient boundaries**, such as children being bused past closer schools from areas like Branchton.

4. Child Care Access

- Desire for **clear communication** about the opening of child care facilities.
- Challenges with **child care availability**, especially when children are not within the new school's boundary.
- Families currently using **child care centers far from home** due to availability constraints.

5. Community Cohesion

- Preference for children to attend school with **neighbourhood peers**.
- Desire for **school boundaries to reflect actual residential patterns** and community clusters.

In response, Scenario 2 was developed to eliminate the Franklin Blvd/Champlain Blvd roundabout crossing by adjusting Affected Area B.

Additional Considerations

Residents of **Brancton** (a settlement area in the Township of North Dumfries) expressed concern about exclusion from this review. The Brancton community currently attends Central Public School (JK-6) and Stewart Avenue Public School (7-8). Due to timing constraints, the BRSC opted to address this request through a separate **Abridged Boundary Review**, with engagement planned for December 2025/January 2026, and potential implementation in September 2026.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document was created and posted online (Schedule 2).

Existing Conditions (Status Quo)

Status Quo Implications

Table 1 provides status quo (no change) enrolment projections for the review area schools. This illustrates the current situation without a new school (Note: enrolment projections have been updated and now use 2025 enrolment as the base).

Table 1: Status Quo Enrolment Projections for Review Area Schools

					Historic			Projected		
School	Grades	Capacity	Portapak	Portables	2023	2024	2025	2026	2031	2036
Chalmers Street	JK-6	257	6	3	403	389	380	230	245	315
Moffat Creek	JK-8	642		4	688	702	715	760	1000	1040
TOTAL		899	6	7	1091	1091	1095	1205	1720	1850
<i>Pupil Place Shortfall</i>					<i>(192)</i>	<i>(192)</i>	<i>(196)</i>	<i>(306)</i>	<i>(821)</i>	<i>(951)</i>

The projected pupil place deficit confirms that there is sufficient enrolment to support the opening of a new school.

Scenarios

The BRSC developed and evaluated boundary scenarios against established criteria. Based on analysis and community feedback, the **BRSC recommends Scenario 2 for trustee approval.**

In general, boundary scenarios are developed with the following evaluation criteria in mind;

- Reduces the need for temporary accommodation in the review area (including portables and portapaks)
- Reduces bus runs, enhances walkability
- Minimizes transitions for students
- Reduces or eliminates “hopscotch” boundaries
- Establishes a long-term boundary for the new school

Scenario 1 (Eliminated)

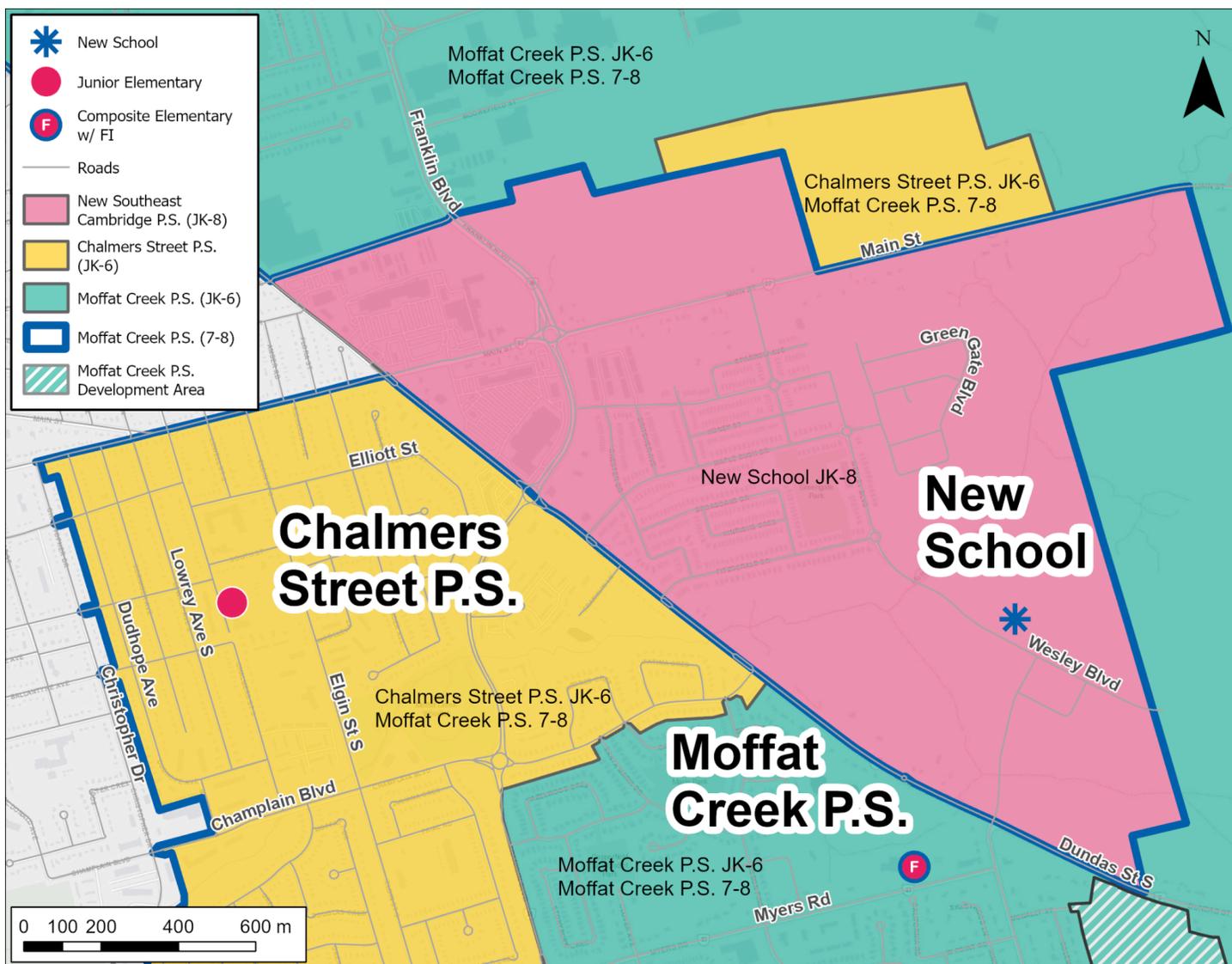
Scenario 1 was presented in the initial report and at the first public information session. In light of the anticipated intensive use of the site, the initial scenario contemplates a compact boundary (Figure 3) which would see the portion of Chalmers Street Public School’s boundary that is northeast of Dundas Street South redirected to the new school, as well as the DAs currently holding at Chalmers Street Public School for JK-6 (SE Cambridge I, IV, Upper Greengate Village and Main and Franklin).

This initial concept aims to minimize disruption and establish a stable, long-term attendance boundary for the new school. It provides the school with the opportunity to grow as the surrounding area develops (Table 2). The new facility offers many nearby families the opportunity to attend a school within walking distance of their homes.

Table 2: Scenario 1 Projection

					Historic			Projected		
School	Grades	Capacity	Portapak	Portables	2023	2024	2025	2026*	2031	2036
Chalmers Street	JK-6	257	6	3	403	389	380	230	245	315
Moffat Creek	JK-8	642		4	688	702	715	700	880	880
New School	JK-8	519						290	610	655
TOTAL		1418	6	7	1091	1091	1095	1220	1735	1850
<i>Pupil Place Shortfall</i>								198	(317)	(432)
<i>*New School Opens</i>										

Figure 3: Scenario 1 Map (Eliminated)



Scenario 2 (Preferred)

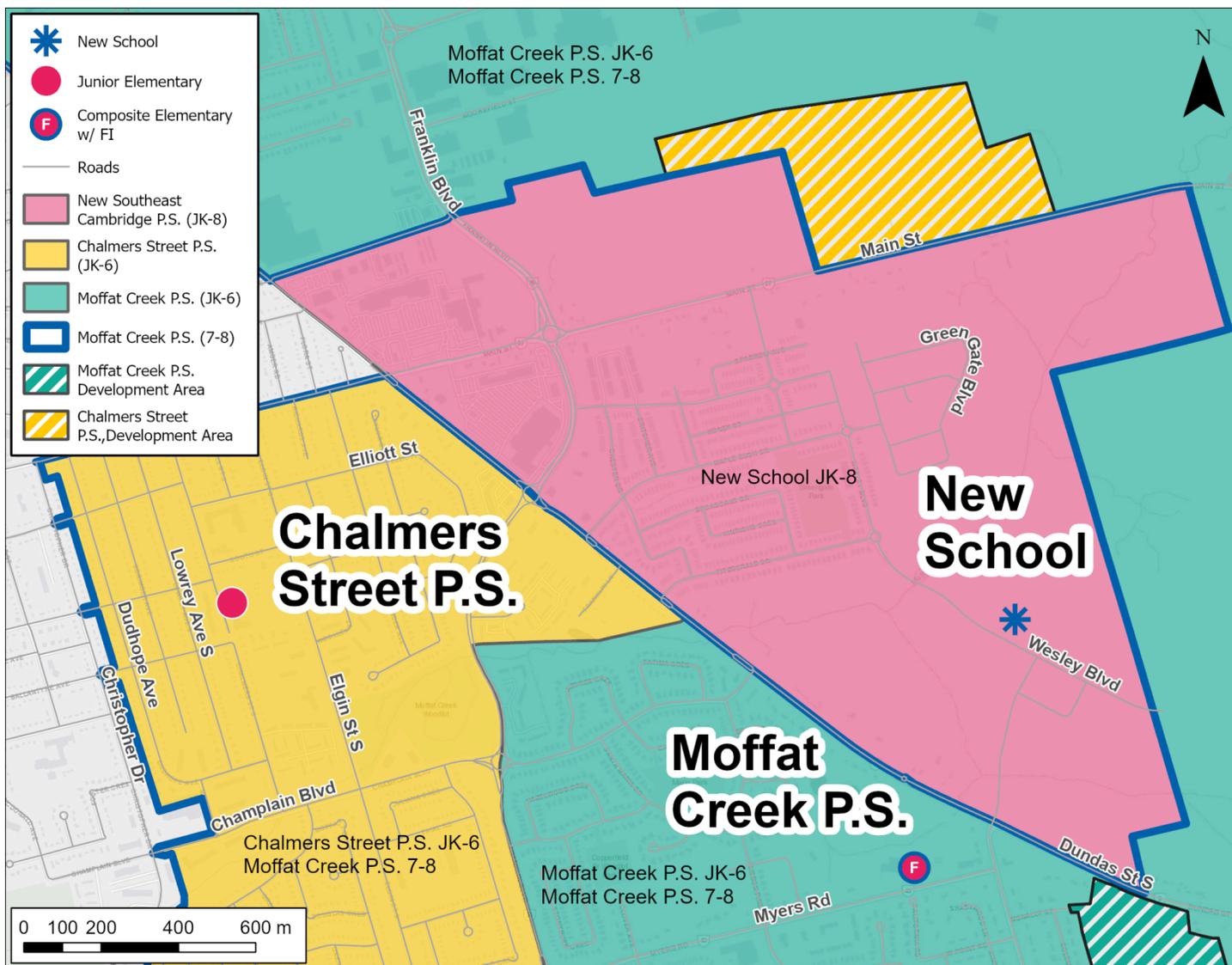
After reviewing feedback and discussing what we heard through public engagement, the BRSC developed Scenario 2. This option is the same as Scenario 1, except that it assigns a small portion of the Chalmers Street PS boundary to Moffat Creek PS. See Affected Area B. This scenario was developed in response to community feedback.

In this scenario, the development north of Main Street becomes a designated Development Area assigned to Chalmers Street PS. Staff will continue to monitor this development as it progresses and reassign it through the Development Area process as defined in [Administrative Procedure 4992 - Temporary Student Accommodation for Development Areas](#), as required. Enrolment projections are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Scenario 2 Projection

					Historic			Projected		
School	Grades	Capacity	Portapak	Portables	2023	2024	2025	2026*	2031	2036
Chalmers Street	JK-6	257	6	3	403	389	380	215	230	300
Moffat Creek	JK-8	642		4	688	702	715	715	895	895
New School	JK-8	519						290	610	655
TOTAL		1418	6	7	1091	1091	1095	1220	1735	1850
<i>Pupil Place Shortfall</i>								198	(317)	(432)
<i>*New School Opens</i>										

Figure 4: Scenario 2 Map (Preferred)



Recommendations

The BRSC recommends implementing Scenario 2, which includes the following boundaries (shown visually in Figure 4 of this report or interactively in an [online map](#)), effective September 2026.

1. **Establish the attendance area boundary for the new Southeast Cambridge elementary school** (605 Wesley Boulevard, Cambridge), as shown in Figure 4, which includes the following:
 - a. Affected Area A (Figure 5), Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 from Chalmers Public School, effective September 2026.
 - b. Affected Area D (Figure 6), Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 from Moffat Creek Public School, effective September 2026.
 - c. Affected Areas A and D (Figure 5 and Figure 6), Grade 7 from Moffat Creek Public School, effective September 2026.
 - d. Affected Areas A and D (Figure 5 and Figure 6), Grade 8 from Moffat Creek Public School, effective September 2027.
2. Establish a **revised attendance area boundary for Moffat Creek Public School**, as shown in Figure 4, which includes the following:
 - a. Affected Area B (Figure 6), Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 from Chalmers Public School, effective September 2026.

3. Establish a **new Development Area (Southeast Cambridge - Main Street)**, as shown in Figure 4, which includes the following:
 - a. Affected Area C (Figure 7), Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6, assigned to Chalmers Public School, effective September 2026
 - b. Affected Area C (Figure 7), Grade 7 to Grade 8, assigned to Moffat Creek Public School, effective September 2026.

4. **Dissolve the following Development Area boundaries** for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8:
 - a. Southeast Cambridge I, Southeast Cambridge IV, Southeast Cambridge (Main and Franklin), Southeast Cambridge (Upper Greengate Village) Development Areas (Figure 8) for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 in September 2026.
 - b. Allowing an exception for students in the Southeast Cambridge I, Southeast Cambridge IV, Southeast Cambridge (Main and Franklin), Southeast Cambridge (Upper Greengate Village) Development Areas (Figure 8) in Grade 8 in the 2026-2027 school year (i.e., born in 2013) to remain at Moffat Creek Public School.

Figure 5: Affected Area A

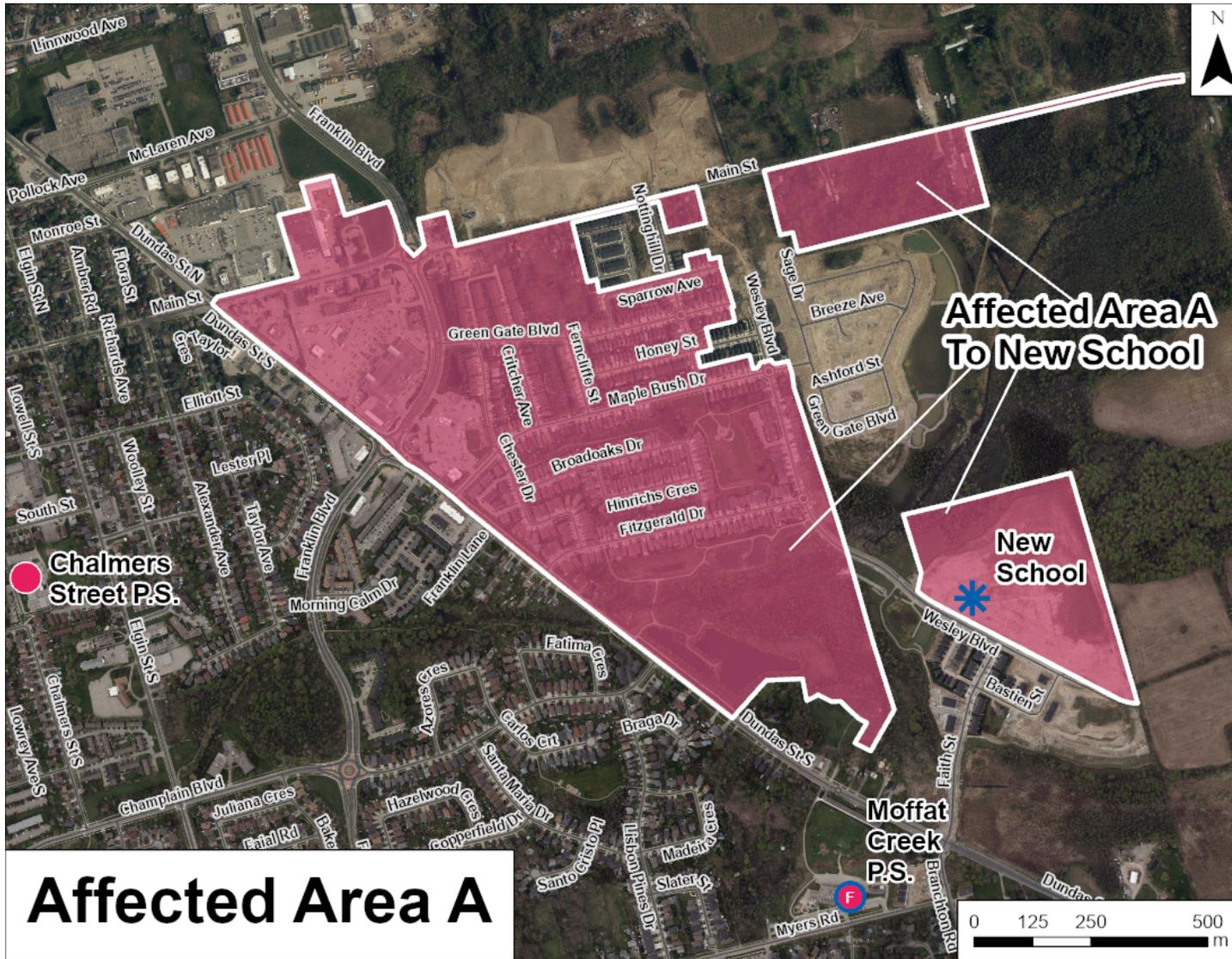


Figure 5: Affected Area D

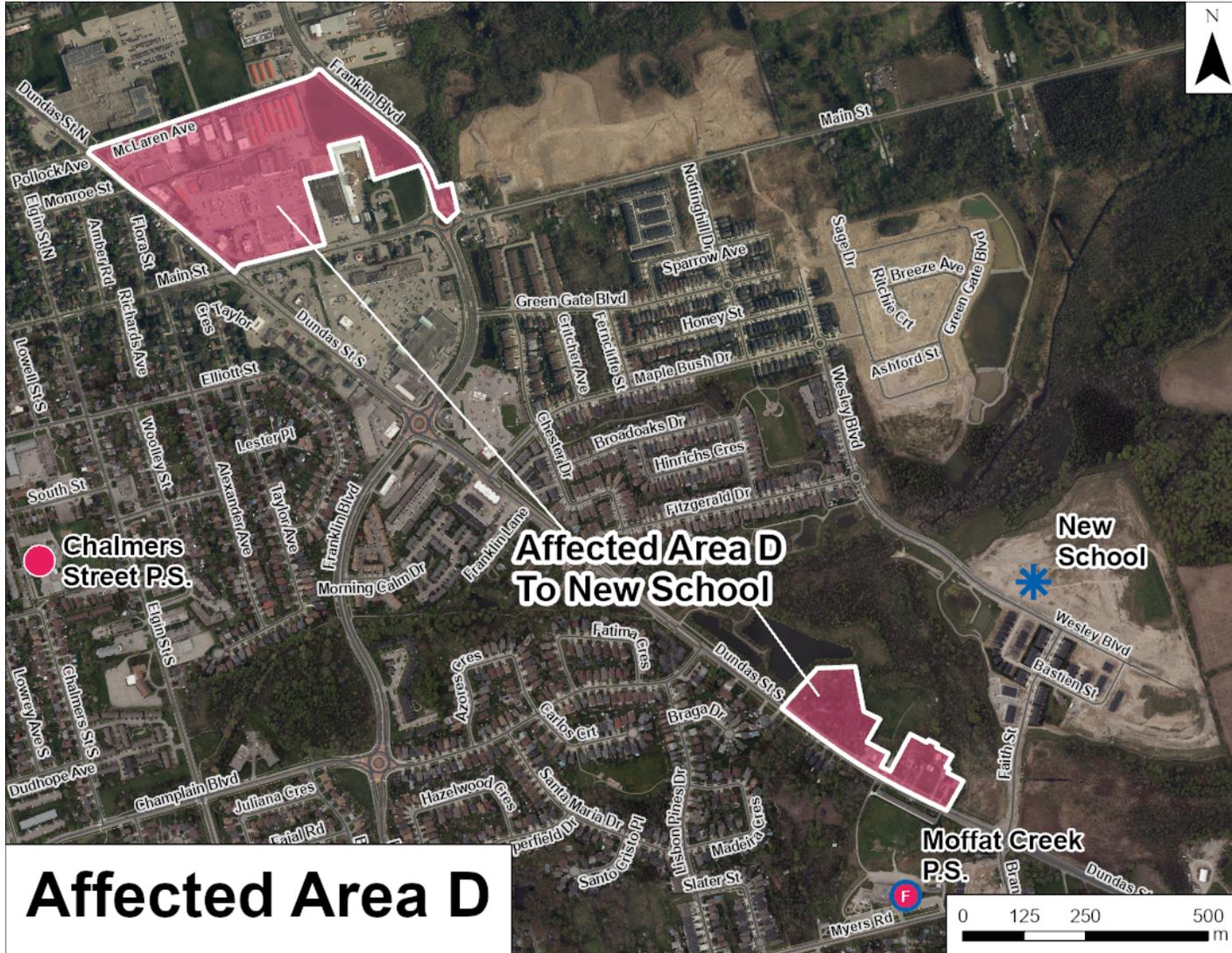


Figure 6: Affected Area B

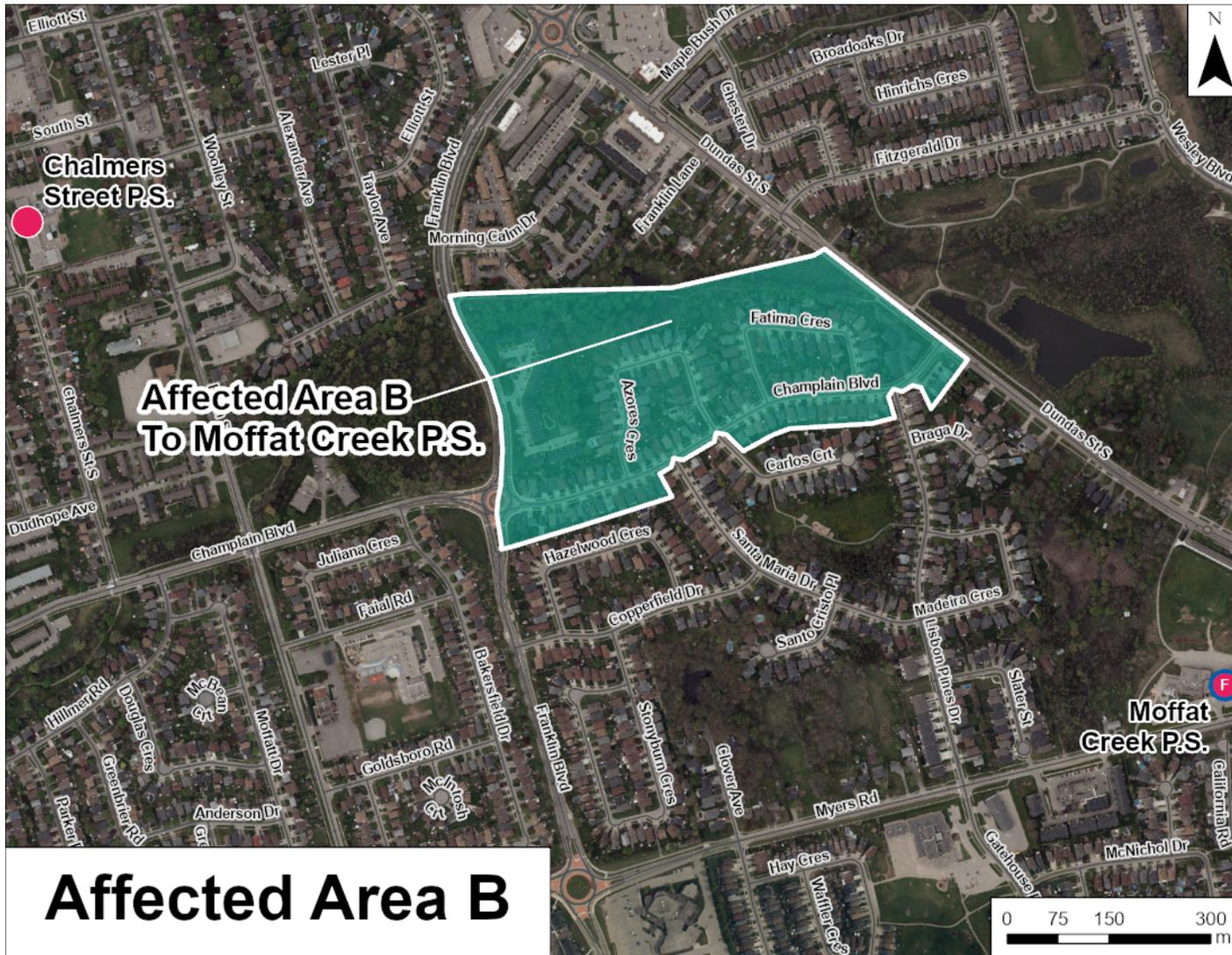


Figure 7: Affected Area C

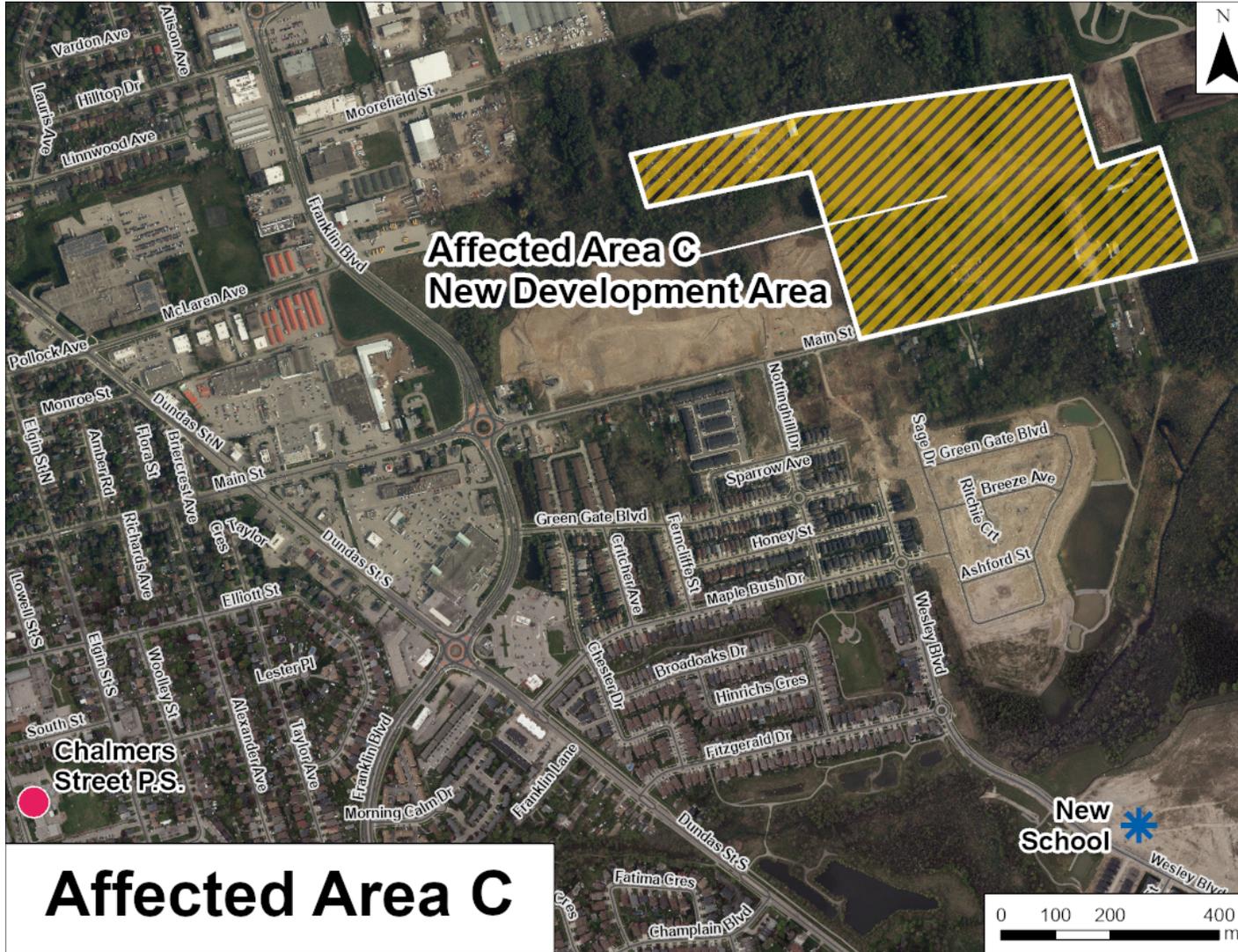
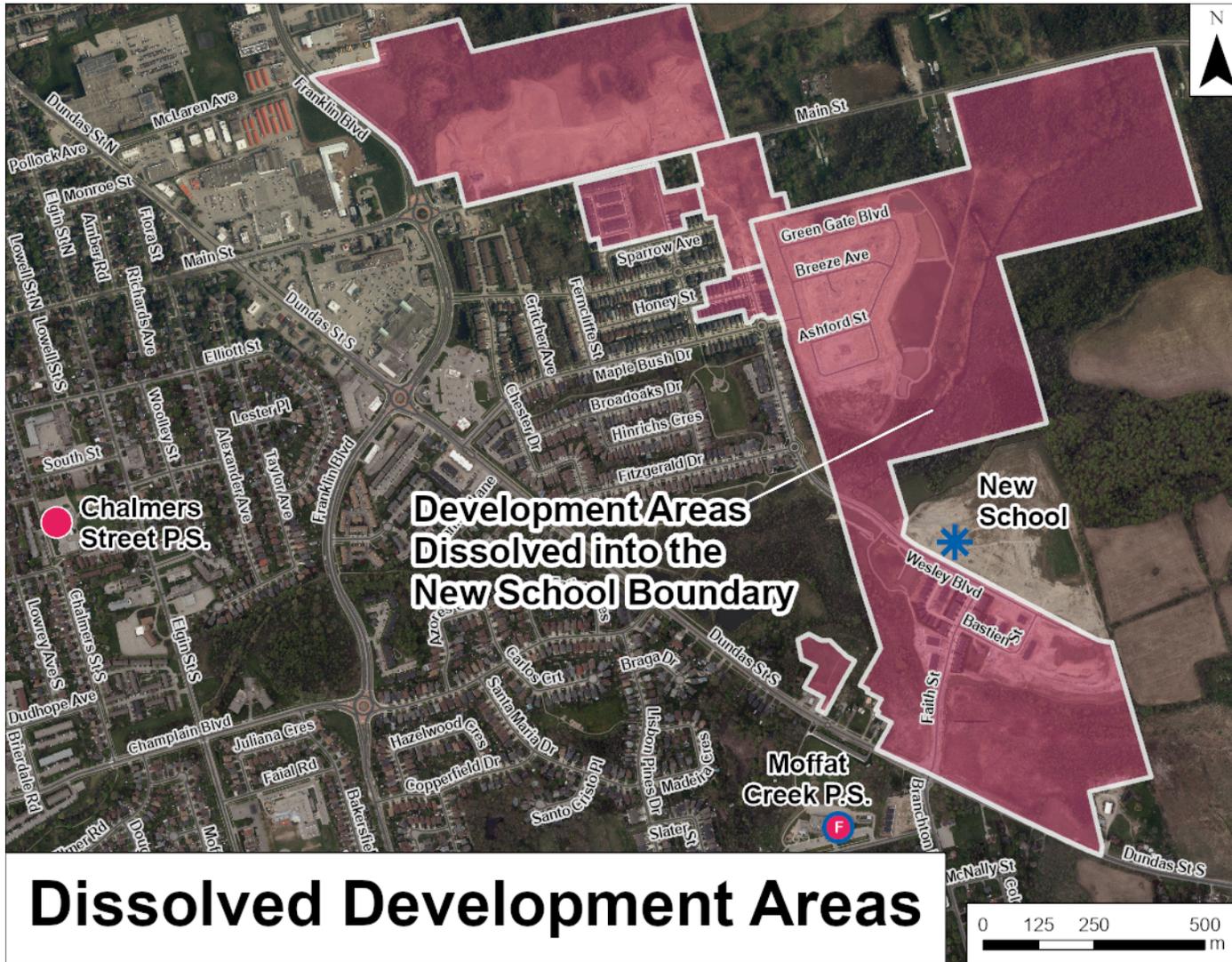


Figure 8: Dissolved Development Areas



Next Steps

Notification of Final Decision

If trustees approve the BRSC's recommendations, staff will implement the changes and communicate with affected families via email. Those without an email address will receive a letter by mail. 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.

Glossary of Terms

Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC)

A committee composed of school board staff which oversees the boundary review process and develops recommendations for the Board of Trustees.

Development Area (DA)

A temporary attendance assignment is used for new residential developments when a local school cannot yet accommodate students. Students in a DA attend a "holding school" until a long-term solution (e.g., new school or boundary change) is implemented.

Education Development Charges (EDC)

Fees collected from new residential and non-residential development to help pay for school infrastructure needed due to population growth.

French Immersion (FI)

An optional program in which students learn in French for a significant portion of the school day. Not offered at the new school at opening, but may be considered in future.

Holding School

A school where students are temporarily assigned while they wait for a new school to open or for a permanent boundary to be established.

Joint Use School

A shared school facility used by two or more school boards. In this case, the new Southeast Cambridge school will be used by both the WRDSB and the WCDSB.

On-the-Ground Capacity (OTG)

The Ministry-approved number of students a school building is designed to accommodate in permanent classrooms (excluding portables or temporary structures).

Portapak

A set of connected portable classrooms with shared utilities, often used to temporarily increase school capacity.

Portables

Standalone, relocatable classroom buildings are used to temporarily increase a school's capacity when enrolment exceeds available space.

Scenario

A proposed option or model for new school boundaries developed as part of the boundary review process.

Student Yield Rate

The estimated number of students generated from a new housing development, based on housing type and local trends.

Utilization Rate

The percentage of a school's permanent capacity that is being used. A rate over 100% indicates that the school is over capacity.

Walk Zone / Walking Distance

The area around a school where students are considered close enough to walk, as defined by school board policy and assessed by Student Transportation Services.

WRDSB / WCDSB

- WRDSB: Waterloo Region District School Board (public, non-secular)
- WCDSB: Waterloo Catholic District School Board (public, Catholic)

Frequently Asked Questions

Scenario Modeling and Assumptions

How do you create boundary scenarios?

We use enrolment projection software to help plan school boundaries. This software looks at:

- Past enrolment trends
- Expected population growth from new housing
- How students typically move through the grades
- Existing school programs

The school boundaries are divided into smaller areas called Study Areas (SAs). Different boundary options or “scenarios” are created by moving these smaller study areas from one school to another. This helps to see how different options might affect school enrolment and balance.

Do the scenarios consider French immersion programs?

No. When we create boundary scenarios, we do not move students in French immersion (FI). The plan assumes students will stay in the FI school they currently attend.

Will current Grade 7 students be required to change schools for Grade 8?

No. The new school will open for Junior Kindergarten (JK) to Grade 7 in September 2026. Students going into Grade 8 that year will stay at their current school for the 2026-2027 school year. The new school will offer JK to Grade 8 starting in September 2027.

French Immersion

Will the new school offer French immersion?

Not at first. The new school will not open with a French Immersion (FI) program. After the school has been operating for at least five years, the WRDSB may consider adding FI if it meets the required criteria (as outlined in Administrative Procedure 1000 – French Immersion – Elementary).

Can French Immersion students stay at their current school if their area is reassigned?

Yes. Students already in French immersion can continue at their current school, even if their home boundary changes.

Siblings:

Students who have a sibling in French immersion at an assigned school may also attend that same school. There are some exceptions for schools where students move to another site for Grades 7 and 8. In those cases, families may need to submit an Out-of-Boundary request for the sibling.

Will transportation be provided to the French Immersion school if our boundary changes?

No. The WRDSB provides transportation only within the students' home school boundary.

Students who choose to stay at their current French immersion school after a boundary change can do so, but they will not be eligible for transportation.

Providing Input

How can I share my feedback on the proposed changes?

We encourage you to share your input in several ways:

- **Online Feedback Form**

Available until **November 27, 2025**. All input will be included in the final report to the Board of Trustees.

- **Email Trustees**

You can email your feedback directly to the Board's elected trustees.

- **Delegate at a Board Meeting**

Members of the public can present (called "delegating") at the **Business Services Standing Committee Meeting**.

- Meeting Date: **December 8, 2025**
- Deadline to apply to speak: **noon on December 3, 2025**.
- Learn more about how to delegate on the WRDSB website.

School Information

Bell Times

The start and end times for the new school have not yet been decided. Bell times will be confirmed no later than February 15, 2026.

School	Morning Bell	Afternoon Bell
Chalmers Street PS	9:20 AM	3:40 PM
Moffat Creek PS	8:30 AM	2:50 PM
New School	TBD	TBD

New School Name

The new school has not been named yet.

A **naming committee** will be formed to recommend a name, following *Board Policy 4020* and *Administrative Procedure 4865 – Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities*.

Child Care and Extended Day Programs

The new school will feature a **5-room child care centre**, with **88 licensed child care spaces** for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

The child care will be operated by YWCA Cambridge.

Families can register for child care starting **March 2026** through OneList Waterloo Region.

The YWCA Cambridge will also provide the Extended Day and Youth Development (Before & After School) Programs for the new school.

Families can register for Before and After school programs starting in **June 2026**.