Report to Board

September 28, 2026

Subject: West Waterloo Elementary Schools Boundary Review – Initial Report

Recommendation

This report is provided for information.

Status

This covering report presents the West Waterloo Elementary Schools Boundary Review Initial Report, attached as Appendix A. Its receipt formally notifies the Board that staff have initiated the standard boundary review process in accordance with Administrative Procedure 4991 – Boundary Reviews (AP 4991). No decision or voting action is requested at this stage.

Appendix A defines the review area, identifies the schools included in the review, explains the reasons for the review, summarizes current and projected enrolment and facility utilization, and introduces an initial boundary scenario for community input. A summary of community input received to date is provided in Appendix B. The scenario is a starting point for engagement and may be refined or replaced in response to analysis and feedback.

Anticipated Milestones

- September 2026: Establish the Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC), present the Initial Report, launch the review webpage and begin information sharing.
- October to November 2026: Conduct public and school-community engagement through feedback tools, open house(s) and school-based consultation.
- November 2026: Review input and refine the initial scenario or develop additional scenarios, as required.
- November 16, 2026: Publish the draft preferred scenario and rationale for a final public input period of at least 21 days.
- December 14, 2026: Present the Final Report and BRSC recommendations to the Board of Trustees for decision.
- January to June 2027: Complete transition planning, subject to Board approval.

- September 2027: Implement any approved boundary changes and begin annual enrolment and utilization monitoring.

Background

This review responds to accommodation and planning conditions identified in Appendix A, including enrolment imbalance across the review area, enrolment pressure and capacity constraints at Vista Hills Public School, continued residential growth, and the use of temporary Development Area holding school assignments. The review is intended to establish sustainable long-term attendance boundaries, improve the balance of enrolment and available space, and dissolve Development Area assignments where a permanent solution can be established.

Review Scope

The schools included in the review are:

- Abraham Erb Public School
- Edna Staebler Public School
- Laurelwood Public School
- Vista Hills Public School

French immersion program delivery, grade configuration and school closures are outside the scope of this review. Detailed boundary maps, facility information, enrolment projections and the initial scenario are provided in Appendix A.

AP 4991 Process and Community Engagement

AP 4991 applies to boundary reviews where no school closure or consolidation is proposed. Under the standard process, the BRSC prepares an Initial Report and presents it to the Board for information. Appendix A fulfills this initiation milestone by defining the review area and included schools, providing the rationale and supporting enrolment and utilization information, and setting out the proposed engagement plan and initial scenario.

The BRSC will meet regularly throughout the review to assess information, consider school and neighbourhood factors, guide scenario development and support community engagement. Families, parents, caregivers, students, staff, school councils and community members will be invited to participate through public information meetings, online feedback opportunities, interactive mapping and school-based communication. Engagement results will be summarized publicly and will inform the draft and final recommendations.

Any change to an established school attendance boundary requires Board approval. Consistent with AP 4991, a decision that may affect existing students should not be made after February 28th for implementation the following school year.

Financial implications

Expenditures associated with the boundary review process, including communications and community engagement activities, are accounted for within existing budgets. Any material financial implications associated with a recommended boundary change will be identified in the Final Report, as applicable.

Communications

A communications plan has been developed. It includes a dedicated boundary review webpage, a schedule of school communications and social media notices, and public engagement opportunities. The BRSC will meet regularly to guide the process and facilitate engagement. Reports, maps, engagement opportunities, feedback summaries, and process updates will be posted publicly throughout the review. Communications will identify how to request accessibility and translation supports.

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Appendix A

INITIAL REPORT

WEST WATERLOO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY REVIEW

September 28, 2026



Appendix A

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Executive Summary

The Boundary Review Steering Committee prepared this report in accordance with Administrative Procedure 4991 - Boundary Reviews. This report initiates a boundary review for elementary schools in West Waterloo. The boundary review includes Abraham Erb Public School (JK-6), Edna Staebler Public School (JK-8), Laurelwood Public School (JK-8), and Vista Hills Public School (JK-8), as well as the following Development Areas (DAs):

- North Waterloo DA (holding at Edna Staebler Public School)
- North Waterloo II DA (holding at Edna Staebler Public School)

This Initial Report is being presented for information. No boundary decision or approval of attendance boundary changes is requested at this stage. Any change to an established attendance boundary requires a future decision by the Board of Trustees following community engagement and presentation of a Final Report.

The boundary review aims to:

- Set sustainable long-term boundaries in West Waterloo
- Relieve enrolment pressure at Vista Hills Public School
- Replace temporary Development Area Holding School assignments with sustainable long-term attendance boundaries

Key Drivers

- Current and projected enrolment pressure at Vista Hills Public School.
- Uneven distribution of enrolment and available permanent school capacity across the review area.
- Continued residential development in West Waterloo.
- The need to review the North Waterloo and North Waterloo II Development Area holding assignments and determine whether the lands can be incorporated into long-term attendance boundaries.
- The objective is to create sustainable, contiguous, and, where possible, more walkable neighbourhood school boundaries.

Scenario 1 for Community Input

A preliminary scenario, Scenario 1, provides a starting point for community engagement. It does not represent a staff recommendation and may be revised or replaced following community input, further analysis, and review by the Boundary Review Steering Committee.

Community Engagement

- A multi-phase engagement process will occur from September to December 2026.
- Includes information sharing, feedback collection, scenario refinement, and final recommendation development.
- Ensures diverse, inclusive participation, with an emphasis on accessibility and transparency.

Timeline Highlights

- **September 2026**: Initial report and community engagement begins.
- **December 2026:** Present final recommendations to the Board.
- **September 2027:** Implement any Board-approved boundary changes.

Background

Boundary Review Process

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) conducts boundary reviews in accordance with Administrative Procedure 4991 - Boundary Reviews (AP 4991). AP 4991 applies when changes to school attendance boundaries are being considered, and no school closure or consolidation is proposed.

A **Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC)** was established in September 2026. Its membership includes staff representatives from area schools and various internal board departments, consistent with the terms of reference in Schedule B of AP 4991. Input from families, students, staff, school councils and community members will inform the BRSC's analysis and the development of recommendations. The Board of Trustees is responsible for approving any change to an established attendance boundary.

The schools in this review are within the WRDSB Long-Term Accommodation Plan 2020-2030 (the **LTAP**) Review Area E22 Waterloo West (Clair Hills-Columbia Forest)**.** West Waterloo has had significant residential development over the last ten years. A boundary review is required to establish sustainable boundaries for the area and replace the temporary Holding School assignments for the North Waterloo and North Waterloo II **Development Areas (DAs)** with long-term attendance boundaries.

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Development Areas

A Development Area (DA) is a geographically defined area in which students are assigned to a Holding School as a temporary accommodation measure. DAs are commonly established in growing communities where the local school lacks sufficient capacity or where a long-term attendance boundary has not yet been established. Refer to Administrative Procedure 4992—Temporary Student Accommodation for Development Areas.

The current North Waterloo and North Waterloo II Development Areas (see Figure 1) are temporarily assigned to Edna Staebler Public School.

Through this boundary review, the WRDSB is considering whether to incorporate these lands into long-term attendance boundaries. Until the Board of Trustees approves and implements any boundary changes, the existing Holding School assignments remain in effect.

West Waterloo Background

Vista Hills Public School opened in September 2016. A boundary review in 2015 set the new school's attendance area. This included changes to the Edna Staebler Public School, Abraham Erb Public School and Laurelwood Public School boundaries. The Columbia Forest and Clair Hills neighbourhoods were reassigned from Edna Staebler Public School to the new Vista Hills Public School. The Grade 7 and 8 feed from Abraham Erb Public School was reassigned from Laurelwood Public School to the new Vista Hills Public School. This process included a recommendation to conduct a Phase 2 review to reconsider the Grade 7-8 feed from Abraham Erb Public School.

The WRDSB conducted Phase 2 of the review in 2018. Abraham Erb Public School students were redirected from Vista Hills Public School to Laurelwood Public School. In response to significant overcrowding at Vista Hills Public School, two Development Areas (DAs) were established where no students yet existed. The DAs were established as a temporary

accommodation measure in response to enrolment pressure at Vista Hills Public School. The assignments were intended to be reconsidered once residential development and enrolment patterns were sufficiently established to support a long-term attendance boundary.

Residential development within the North Waterloo and North Waterloo II DAs has advanced since the temporary assignments were established. Current development and enrolment information now supports reviewing attendance boundary options.

Boundary Review Scope

The purpose of the boundary review is to establish sustainable long-term attendance boundaries for the schools in the review area, improve the balance of enrolment and permanent school capacity (utilization), address identified enrolment pressure, and determine whether the North Waterloo and North Waterloo II **Development Areas (DAs)** can be incorporated into long-term attendance boundaries.

The boundary review includes schools within **Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP)** Review Area E22 Waterloo West (Clair Hills-Columbia Forest). All four schools have a **French Immersion (FI)** program.

- Abraham Erb Public School (JK- 6, FI)
- Edna Staebler Public School (JK- 8, FI)
- Laurelwood Public School (JK- 8, FI)
- Vista Hills Public School (JK- 8, FI)

Edna Staebler Public School currently serves as the Holding School for the North Waterloo and North Waterloo II Development Areas.

The following matters are outside the scope of this boundary review:

- school closure or consolidation;
- changes to the established grade configuration of a school; and
- changes to the location or delivery model of the French Immersion program.

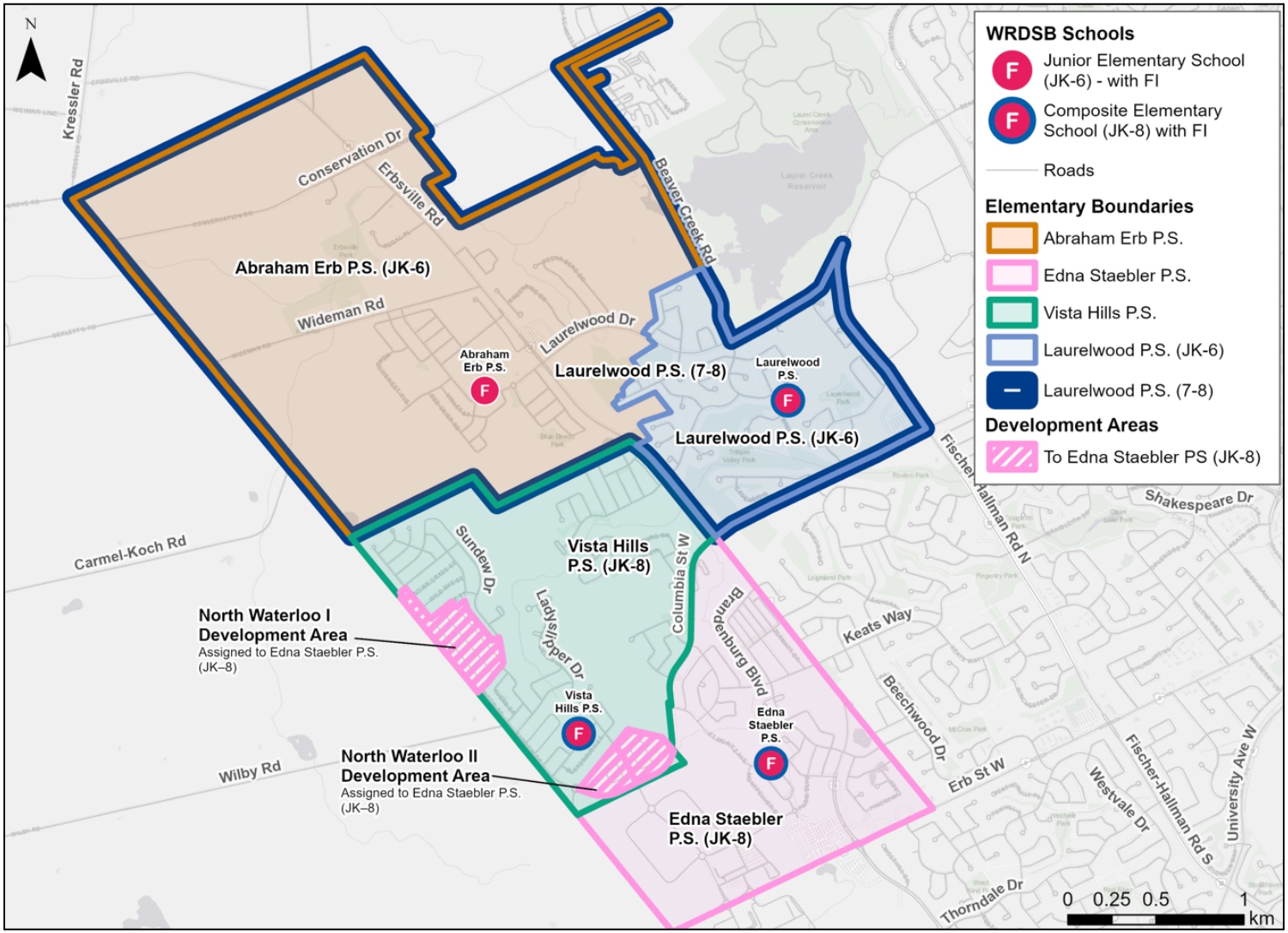
Proposed boundaries should maximize the number of students within a school boundary who are within walking distance (refer to Board Policy 4009—Student Transportation).

All schools in the review have a **French Immersion (FI)** program. The boundary review will evaluate potential transition provisions for students currently enrolled in FI and identify them in the Final Report. Transportation eligibility may change based on any approved home school assignment or transition provision.

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.

Appendix A

Figure 1: Review Area Schools and Development Areas



(For complete boundary context, visit the online map)

Appendix A

Facility and Site Information

Table 1 provides an overview of the facilities in Review Area E22.

Table 1: Review Area E22 Waterloo West (Clair Hills-Columbia Forest) - Facility and Site Information

School	Year of Construction	On-the-Ground Capacity	Site Area (acres)	Gross Floor Area (m^2)	Child Care and Extended Day	Programs
Abraham Erb PS	2005	487	5.99	4795.8	Extended Day	FI
Edna Staebler PS	2008	720	5.86	4201.6	Child Care and Extended Day	FI
Laurelwood PS	1998, addition 2024	550	8.04	5844.17	Extended Day	FI
Vista Hills PS	2016	643	6.02	6365.75	Extended Day	FI

Boundary changes may affect access to before- and after-school care for some families. Existing programs in the affected area are operating at or near capacity, and several maintain waitlists. Approval of a boundary change does not guarantee that a child care or Extended Day placement will transfer to, or be available at, a student's newly assigned school. WRDSB staff will coordinate with the operators during transition planning to communicate available options to affected families.

Existing Conditions

Table 2 provides status quo enrolment projections for the review area school, assuming no changes to existing attendance boundaries or Development Area holding assignments. The projections are based on September 2026 enrolment and incorporate student yields from development applications in circulation at the time.

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Under the status quo, Vista Hills Public School is projected to remain above 100% utilization throughout the projection period. Laurelwood Public School is projected to remain above capacity in the earlier years of the projection before declining just below 100% utilization. Edna Staebler Public School is projected to decline to 59% utilization by 2036. These projections demonstrate an uneven distribution of enrolment and permanent capacity across the review area.

Table 2: Status Quo Enrolment Projections

		ACTUAL		PROJECTED				*Utilization*		
School	**OTG**	**2025**	**2026**	**2027**	**2030**	**2033**	**2036**	***2027***	***2033***	***2036***
Abraham Erb Public School	487	400	400	370	330	380	390	*76%*	*78%*	*80%*
Edna Staebler Public School	720	550	535	550	480	440	425	*76%*	*61%*	*59%*
Laurelwood Public School	550	695	665	625	560	535	510	*114%*	*97%*	*93%*
Vista Hills Public School	643	775	785	775	740	715	720	*121%*	*111%*	*112%*
Review Area Total	**2400**	**2420**	**2385**	**2320**	**2110**	**2070**	**2045**	**97%**	**86%**	**85%**

Notes:

1. Enrolment projections are estimates and will be updated as new information becomes available.
2. Utilization is calculated using Ministry-rated on-the-ground capacity.
3. Development Area enrolment is assigned to Edna Staebler Public School under the status quo.

Enrolment projections are planning estimates based on available development, housing, student yield and enrolment data as of September 2026. Actual enrolment may vary depending on development timing, servicing capacity, housing occupancy, program participation and community enrolment choices.

Appendix A

Scenario 1

The **Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC)** has developed Scenario 1 as a starting point for analysis and community engagement. It may be revised or replaced in response to community input, transportation analysis and further review by the BRSC. Figure 2 below and this interactive online map show Scenario 1.

The BRSC will use the input received to refine the scenario and/or develop new boundary options. Additional engagement opportunities will be added if significant scenario changes emerge.

Scenario 1 Highlights

- Reassign the Columbia Forest neighbourhood (north of Clair Creek) from Vista Hills Public School to Abraham Erb Public School for JK-6 and Laurelwood Public School for Grades 7-8
- Reassign the portion of the Clair Hills neighbourhood, south of Clair Creek (identified on Figure 2), including Munich Circle and Salzburg Drive, from Vista Hills Public School to Edna Staebler Public School for JK-8.
- Incorporate the North Waterloo Development Area into the Vista Hills Public School attendance boundary for JK-8.
- Incorporate the North Waterloo II Development Area into the Vista Hills Public School attendance boundary for JK-8.

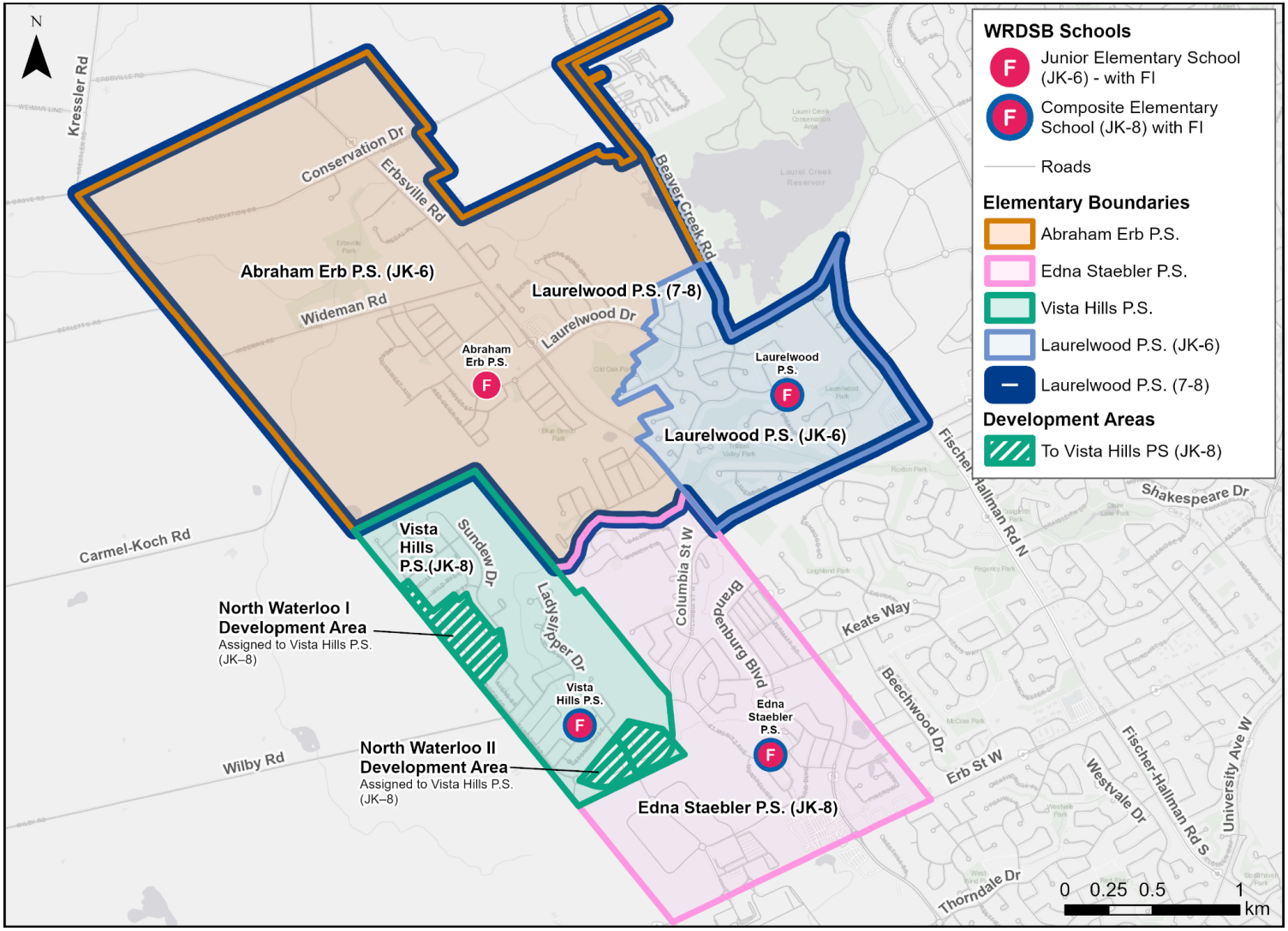
Impacted Students

Based on preliminary 2026-2027 enrolment data, Scenario 1 would impact approximately 200 students. Approximately 150 students would be reassigned from Vista Hills PS to Abraham Erb, Laurelwood, and Edna Staebler Public Schools. Approximately 60 students from the **Development Areas** would be reassigned from Edna Staebler Public School to Vista Hills Public School.

These estimates are preliminary and may change as enrolment information is updated.

Appendix A

Figure 2: Scenario 1 Map



Appendix A

Table 3: Scenario 1 Enrolment Projections

		ACTUAL		PROJECTED				Utilization		
School	OTG	2025	2026	2027	2030	2033	2036	*2027*	*2033*	*2036*
Abraham Erb Public School	487	400	400	**450**	420	485	495	*92%*	*100%*	*102%*
Edna Staebler Public School	720	550	535	**480**	390	350	340	*67%*	*49%*	*47%*
Laurelwood Public School	550	695	665	**675**	590	560	540	*123%*	*102%*	*98%*
Vista Hills Public School	643	775	785	**725**	710	680	680	*113%*	*106%*	*106%*
Review Area Total	**2400**	**2420**	**2385**	**2330**	**2110**	**2075**	**2055**	**97%**	**86%**	**86%**

Notes:

1. Enrolment projections are estimates based on September 2026 enrolment and may be updated as new information becomes available.
2. Utilization is calculated using Ministry-rated on-the-ground capacity (OTG).
3. For projection purposes, French Immersion students are assumed to remain at their current FI school.
4. Totals may differ slightly between the status quo and scenario projections because of rounding and how projected students are assigned across school boundaries.

Scenario 1 redistributes enrolment among the four review area schools and reduces projected utilization at Vista Hills Public School compared with the status quo. However, Vista Hills Public School is still projected to remain above 100% utilization throughout the projection period. Laurelwood Public School is projected to experience significant overutilization in the implementation year before declining to approximately 100% later in the projection period (note that the existing portapak structure is not included in the school's OTG). Abraham Erb Public School is projected to approach or slightly exceed capacity in the longer term. Edna Staebler Public School is projected to become increasingly underutilized, declining to 47% utilization by 2036. These results and associated trade-offs will require further consideration throughout the review. The projected long-term underutilization at Edna Staebler Public School will require continued monitoring through the LTAP and future capital and accommodation planning processes.

Legacy and Transition Provisions

The following preliminary transition considerations will be evaluated throughout the review:

- Allowing students entering Grade 8 in the implementation year to remain at their current school;
- Permitting students currently enrolled in French Immersion (FI) to remain at their existing FI school, subject to applicable procedures; and
- Confirming transportation eligibility for students who exercise any approved legacy provision.

The Final Report will identify any recommended transition provisions, including eligibility, sibling treatment and transportation implications, subject to Board approval where required.

Transportation Impacts

Preliminary transportation analysis indicates that Scenario 1 is expected to reduce the number of buses required at Vista Hills Public School from 6 to 2. One additional bus route may be required for both Abraham Erb Public School and Edna Staebler Public School. Based on preliminary analysis, most students in the North Waterloo Development Area are expected to be within walking distance of Vista Hills Public School, subject to confirmation of transportation eligibility and a suitable walking route.

The City of Waterloo is planning a pedestrian crossover at Columbia Street West and St. Moritz Avenue. Construction is currently anticipated in 2027, subject to municipal approvals and construction scheduling.

A development proposal for 515 Erbsville Road currently includes an extension of Royal Fern St to White Birch Avenue to the North. If the proposed road connection is constructed and an appropriate walking route is confirmed, it may affect

future transportation eligibility for some students travelling from Columbia Forest to Abraham Erb Public School. The timing and suitability of this potential route have not yet been confirmed.

Any active transportation routes referenced in this report are preliminary. Availability depends on confirming that appropriate infrastructure is complete and that a suitable walking route has been identified in accordance with WRDSB transportation policies.

Scenario Evaluation Criteria

The following evaluation criteria were considered in developing Scenario 1:

- Balancing utilization between schools
- Improving walkability for students
- Reducing reliance on transportation
- Creating contiguous attendance boundaries that provide clear student pathways
- Replacing Development Area temporary assignments with sustainable long-term attendance boundaries

Overall, Scenario I:

- Improves but doesn’t eliminate overutilization at Visa Hills Public School;
- Increases near-term enrollment pressure at Laurelwood Public School;
- Moves Abraham Erb Public School toward capacity;
- Increases long-term underutilization at Edna Staebler Public School;
- Replaces the two temporary Development Area assignments; and
- Changes transportation and walking eligibility for some students.

Community engagement and input will be critical to informing the scenario recommended for consideration in December 2026.

Community Engagement

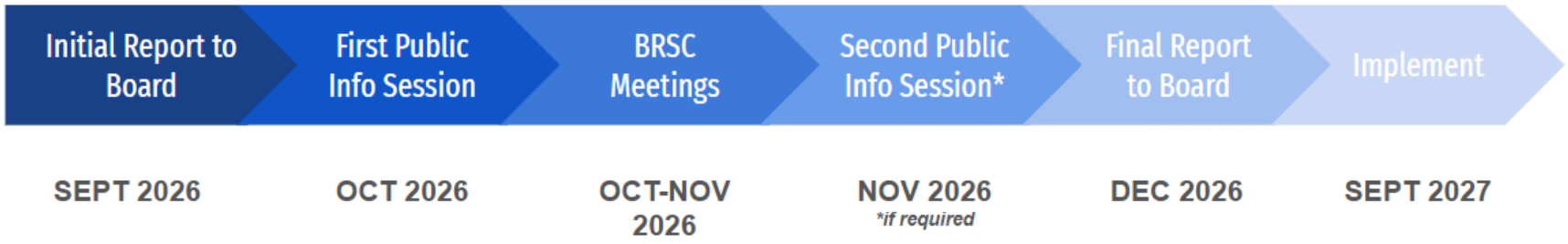
The WRDSB is committed to meaningfully engaging school communities throughout the West Waterloo boundary review process. Community input is important to the BRSC's understanding of local conditions, potential impacts and opportunities to improve boundary options. Feedback will inform the BRSC's analysis and recommendations but will not be treated as a vote on a preferred scenario. The Board of Trustees decides whether to approve a boundary change.

The goal is to create multiple opportunities for families and community members to understand the boundary review process, share input, and see how their feedback shapes decisions.

Engagement Timeline and Activities

Engagement activities are planned throughout the 2026-2027 school year (Figure 3 and Table 4).

Figure 3: Boundary Review Timeline



Appendix A

Table 4: Boundary Review Engagement Activities

Phase	Activity	Timing	Purpose
Phase 1	Initial Information Sharing	September 2026	Share Initial Report and Scenario 1; introduce process and context
Phase 2	Community Feedback	September to October 2026	Collect feedback through online form, in-person open house, and school-based engagements
Phase 3	Scenario Refinement	October to November 2026	Review community input and consider revisions or new scenarios
Phase 4	Draft Final Recommendation	Late November 2026	Share the preferred boundary scenario and rationale
Phase 5	Final Input Window	Minimum 21 days before December Board	Collect final comments on draft recommendation
Phase 6	Final Report to Board	December 2026	Present final recommendation, including summary of engagement and community input
Phase 7	Transition Planning	January–June 2027	Plan for the transition of affected students and update attendance boundaries
Phase 8	Implementation	September 2027	Implement any Board-approved boundary changes

Engagement Methods

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

- Online feedback form for all families and community members
- In-person open houses
- Interactive mapping tools to help the community visualize the proposed changes
- School-based engagement through school councils (as requested) and direct communication (e.g., website, SchoolDay)
- Plain-language materials designed to support translation, together with translated information or interpretation supports where identified and feasible.
- Information on how participants can request accessibility, interpretation or accommodation supports for public engagement activities.

Communications

The WRDSB Communications Department, working with the BRSC, has developed a comprehensive communications plan to ensure consistent and accessible updates. This includes:

- A dedicated boundary review webpage, with review updates, reports, maps and engagement opportunities
- A schedule of school community communications (via School-Day and web posts)
- Social media posts through appropriate Board and school channels
- Coordination with community partners, including child care providers.

The communications plan will be updated to align with the community's needs and the review.

Appendix A

Glossary of Terms

Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC)

A staff committee established under AP 4991 to review planning information, assess boundary options, consider community input, and prepare recommendations for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

Development Area (DA)

A geographically defined area that is temporarily excluded from an established school attendance boundary, typically created in 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.

French Immersion (FI)

An optional program in which students learn in French for a prescribed portion of the school day in accordance with WRDSB program requirements.

Holding School

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

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).

Appendix A

Portables and Portapaks

Relocatable classroom buildings used to temporarily increase a school's capacity when enrolment exceeds available space. Portable classrooms are standalone buildings, whereas portapaks are physically attached to the school building.

Scenario

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

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.

Walking Distance

The distance threshold used to determine transportation eligibility under Board Policy 4009. The existence of a suitable walking route is assessed separately by Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region.

Appendix B

West Waterloo Elementary Schools Boundary Review

Online Feedback - April 2026 - September 18, 2026

"As a resident of Clair Hills (Klosters Drive), I am writing to request that Klosters Drive remain within the current boundary for Vista Hills Public School. Our area is within a reasonable walking distance to the school and forms part of a cohesive, walkable community.

I encourage the Board to prioritize minimizing disruption to established neighbourhoods and maintaining walkable school zones when considering any boundary adjustments. Preserving stability for families with children entering school in 2027 is also especially important.

Thank you for considering this input as part of the review process."

“The new Activa builds (Autumn Willow Drive etc.) should be part of Vista Hills PS (not Edna Staebler) as it is too far to walk”

“We have lived in the Vista hills community for 4 years now. We moved into the Raspberry place subdivision in August 2022. Our children at the time were all in elementary and we still have 2 kids at Edna staebler. The last 4 years has been very challenging for us as parents juggling work commute and ensuring kids are in school on time. We moved to the community due to proximity to Vista Hills public school and the home builders had previously advertised this on their web page. We live 700 m from the school but have been zoned for Edna staebler which is a pretty long walk to a school in a neighboring community while Vista Hill houses kids from other communities. I understand that this is before the current Vista Hills community expanded. But it seems only fair that children from the Vista Hills community should have first access to the school verses kids from other communities. Other communities have more available schools closeby which they can access. It would be great if our kids and others in the new subdivisions could have their kids make the shorter 500 m vs 2.5 km walk to school everyday. This becomes less stressful especially during winter. Children from the community closest to the school should be zoned and accomodated first before

admitting kids from other communities which only seems fair to the people who live in this community and pay taxes so their children can enjoy the advantages of living here.”

“We live on Raspberry place which is very close to Vista Hills PS. My toddler goes to the vista hills park very often and that school feels homely, once he gets older he would be able to walk safely to Vista Hills school where the road crossing is easier compared to going to Edna stabler as the on Columbia street cars go very faster. Would appreciate if you consider moving Raspberry place and foam flower under Vista Hills.“

“Raspberry Place in Vista Hills is currently assigned to Edna Staebler PS rather than Vista Hills PS. Residents face a safe, 450-metre walk to Vista Hills PS, compared to a 1.6 km route to Edna Staebler PS — one that requires crossing Columbia St W without a proper pedestrian crossing if one needs to go by walk. Reassigning Raspberry Place to Vista Hills PS would be the safer, more practical choice for this community. In addition, most people would stop using their car to take their kids to school from Raspberry Place and they would exclusively walk.”

“I would like my daughter to attend vista hill school“

"My son is going to start school at Edna Staebler this year to our surprise since we live two minutes away from Vista Hills. It's so odd that even though we live in Vista Hills in an area much closer than other residents whose attend that school, we will be forced to send our son much further away. This needs to change as we feel less connected to our local school and community that we walk past almost every day.
What was going to be a short walk to pick him and eventually my daughter from school will now have to be a drive, which is a waste of resources and time for our collective society."

“Kindly include Vista Hills PS in the Raspberry Place boundary. It's walking distance from our house”

Appendix B

“My kids are currently enrolled at Edna. It is a 20min walk with no school crossing on a busy street (Columbia). Vista is a 2min walk from our home. This boundary makes no sense. I will be extremely upset if they get sent to Laurelwood or Abe as that would be a 40 min walk which is absurd.”

"Dear Trustees,

I am writing to provide feedback as part of the current boundary review and to respectfully request that our home, located in the Vista Hills subdivision (Raspberry Place/Foamflower Place) be assigned to Vista Hills Public School rather than the current holding school, Edna Staebler Public School.

Our family has lived in this community since 2022. While our address falls within the broader Vista Hills area, we understand that only a small portion of the neighbourhood, specifically the last two streets including Raspberry Place and Foamflower Place has been directed to Edna Staebler as a holding school due to historical boundary decisions. With the continued growth and development in Vista Hills, we believe the current assignment no longer reflects present-day realities. I would like to highlight the following key considerations:

1. Student Safety and Accessibility:
Safety must be the top priority. Vista Hills Public School is approximately 450 meters (a 7-minute walk) from our home within our neighbourhood. Edna Staebler Public School is about 1.6 km away (a 22-minute walk). Reaching Edna Staebler requires crossing Columbia Street and navigating busy intersections and roundabouts, which presents safety concerns for a young student. In contrast, Vista Hills offers a safer, internal neighbourhood route with minimal traffic. It also allows our elderly parents to assist with drop-offs, which would not be practical for the longer route to Edna Staebler.

2. Community Cohesion and Student Well-Being
Assigning our child to Vista Hills Public School would allow her to attend school with children from our immediate neighbourhood. This fosters familiarity, emotional comfort, and a sense of belonging, particularly important for young students starting school. It enables her to build friendships with peers she will interact with outside of school as well. Being placed in a different school from the rest of our neighbourhood creates unnecessary social disruption and isolation. Attending Vista Hills PS would help her feel safe, confident, and supported, allowing her to thrive both academically and socially.

Appendix B

3. Equity and Boundary Alignment
It is our understanding that neighbouring communities, such as Claire Hills, Claire Creek etc are currently assigned to Vista Hills Public School even in cases where Edna Staebler may be geographically closer. This inconsistency highlights that existing boundaries no longer align with current population distribution or neighbourhood development. Given that our home is located within Vista Hills itself and is significantly closer to Vista Hills Public School, it is reasonable and equitable that our street be included within the Vista Hills PS catchment.

4. Changing Demographics and Growth
The Vista Hills community has grown substantially in recent years, with many new homes and young families moving in since the original boundary decisions were made. As the WRDSB has already recognized by initiating this boundary review, adjustments are necessary to better reflect current demographics and ensure fair, logical school assignments. From a practical standpoint, shorter commute times contribute positively to student well-being by reducing fatigue and allowing more time for rest, family interaction, and extracurricular activities. Vista Hills PS offers a significantly more accessible and sustainable option for our child.

In light of these factors particularly student safety, proximity, community integration, and equity, we respectfully request that Raspberry Place and Foamflower Place be reassigned to Vista Hills Public School as part of the boundary review outcome. We appreciate the Board's efforts to gather community feedback and to make decisions that best support students and families. Assigning our child to Vista Hills Public School would greatly enhance her safety, well-being, and ability to thrive in a familiar and supportive environment. Thank you for your time and consideration."

"Please consider bringing the new development areas in Vista Hills under the Vista Hills Public School boundary. It is highly inefficient time and cost wise to bus an entire group to students to a Edna Staebler PS in an adjacent area, while a school exists literally two streets away and in walking distance. The same applies to students having to be bussed from other communities like Columbia forest to Vista Hills. Please give more weightage to the efficiency factor than 'historical' attendance factors and transition impact, because people always resist change."

"Would support motion to provide vista hills school to raspberry place"

Appendix B

"I would like to express my concern regarding the current attendance boundary for Vista Hills Public School.

Under the current boundary arrangement, the recently developed streets of Foamflower Place, Raspberry Place, Canada Plum Street and Balsam Poplar Street remain classified as Development Areas and are temporarily assigned to Edna Staebler Public School. These streets form a continuous part of the Vista Hills neighbourhood and are substantially closer to Vista Hills Public School than to their current holding school.

Based on the locations shown on the WRDSB map, Foamflower Place and Raspberry Place are approximately 0.2 to 0.5 kilometres from Vista Hills Public School in straight-line distance, while Canada Plum Street and Balsam Poplar Street are approximately 0.6 to 1.0 kilometres away. All four streets are considerably farther from Edna Staebler Public School.

At the same time, Columbia Forest Boulevard remains within the Vista Hills boundary, even though the street is generally closer to Abraham Erb Public School, and much of it is also closer to Laurelwood Public School. I recognize that school grade structures, capacity and student transitions must also be considered.

I understand that the Development Areas were originally created to relieve enrolment pressure at Vista Hills and that Columbia Forest was retained partly to avoid repeatedly moving existing students. However, the circumstances have changed: the new streets are now developed and occupied. Since this review is intended to create more walkable and connected neighbourhood school boundaries, I respectfully ask the Board to reconsider whether Foamflower Place, Raspberry Place, Canada Plum Street and Balsam Poplar Street should be included in the permanent Vista Hills boundary.

I also ask the Board to reassess the Columbia Forest area using current enrolment, school capacity, development projections and actual safe walking distances. Any changes affecting existing students could be introduced gradually or include appropriate grandfathering provisions to minimize disruption."

“Travel time, road network, and neighborhood geography all point the same direction: Clair Hills is the logical fit for Edna Staebler. Drawing in outlying pockets of Vista Hills

instead — including sections of Autumn Willow Drive — forces those families through the constrained Wilmot road access to reach the same school."

"There are a lot of kids at Vista Hills PS who are living out of the current boundary but are attending Vista Hills by providing fake address information. Can there be strict verification process to ensure the guidelines and regulations are followed. Having more than accounted children at school leads to bigger classroom sizes and less one on one time with teachers."

"We would like our street (Foamflower place) to be included in the Vista Hills Public school boundary instead of Edna Staebler. We would appreciate if this request is given some serious consideration.
Thank you"

"I am grateful for this review, since the amount of children in portables and disassociated from the greater Vista Hills school, I believe is isolating. A teacher myself, I feel like being in a portable is like being out on an island. Necessary, I understand, but for a school so new, seems like poor planning considering how many new houses are under construction in Vista Hills. Hopefully some changes to the boundaries could ease some pressure on the school."

"Our child has attended Edna Staebler school from SK to grade 6 while living in Vista Hills, just a couple of blocks away from Vista Hills school. We've had to pay for extended day care in order to be able to drop them off and pick them up by car. Our child has not been old enough to safely walk from Edna Staebler to our home in Vista Hills until this school year. Even now, I am apprehensive about them crossing the round about at Lady Slipper and crossing Columbia at St. Moritz. I am also not sure if they will be able to safely walk that distance and route home on cold/snowy winter days. If the boundaries were changed, our child would have a much shorter and safer walk to and from school. We absolutely love Edna Staebler school and it would be a big adjustment for our child to switch schools, however, it would drastically improve our daily routine

during the school year and it would ensure that our child would have the safest and most convenient travel route to and from school.”

“I am a parent living in Vista Hills. I have 2 children. My kids go to edna staebler and I am always worried about safety and distance for the kids to walk to school and I would prefer them go to Vista hills for a safer walk for both of them.”

“Raspberry pl ideally comes in the Vista Hills Catchment area.”

“Dear WRDSB Planning Committee and West Waterloo Working Group,I am writing to express my strong opposition to any boundary adjustments that would move our neighborhood (foam flower Pl and Raspberry Pl) out of the Edna Staebler Public School catchment area. My oldest child is currently thriving in Grade 2 at Edna Staebler, and my youngest is set to begin Junior Kindergarten in September 2027.While I understand the board’s need to manage enrollment pressures across West Waterloo, I urge the committee to heavily weigh the human impact of these decisions, particularly on vulnerable student populations. My children are neurodivergent. For neurodivergent students, school is far more than just a building; it is a carefully constructed ecosystem of predictable routines, familiar sensory environments, and established trusting relationships with specialized educators, educational assistants, and peers.At Edna Staebler, my oldest child has spent years building a sense of safety and predictability. Forcing a transition to a completely new school building for Grade 3 would cause immense distress, trigger severe regression, and profoundly disrupt their ability to access their education. Furthermore, having my youngest child enter Junior Kindergarten at the exact same time would compound this instability for our family.While the board frequently looks to peripheral neighborhoods located further away (such as our area of foam flower pl and Raspberry Pl at Vista hills community to balance numbers, removing settled, neurodivergent students from their support systems goes against the WRDSB’s core commitment to student well-being, equity, and inclusion.I ask that the committee prioritize transition exemptions or grandfathering clauses for families with neurodivergent students or existing sibling groups to ensure continuity of care and education. Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to protecting our students' mental health”

Appendix B

“Vista hill near to us like 800 m still we got edna stabler which is 1.6 km away . How kids can walk this much ? Thanks”

“Hello! I’d just like to clarify that my 2 sons are in grades 6 and 1 at Vista Hills P.S. We line on Star Flower Ave., which is very close to Erbsville Rd. and the border of Laurelwood. Laurelwood P.S. is much closer to where we live and more easily accessible.”

“My family is currently considering purchasing a new home on Ladyslipper Drive, and the future elementary school assignment is an important factor in our decision. The continued uncertainty around the boundary is making it very difficult for families to make informed, long-term housing decisions.

Our strong preference would be for the Ladyslipper Drive area to be assigned to Vista Hills Public School, if this is consistent with the Board’s capacity, transportation, and long-term enrollment planning.

I respectfully ask the Board to finalize and communicate the West Waterloo boundaries as soon as reasonably possible. For families purchasing new construction, school assignment is a significant part of a major long-term commitment, and having a clear decision and timeline would allow families to make informed decisions.

Thank you for considering the perspective of families who are planning to make West Waterloo their long-term home.”

“Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important topic. As you are considering a review of the school boundary areas, I would greatly appreciate if homes along Raspberry Place and Foamflower Place continue to qualify for eligibility within the Edna Staebler school perimeter. Grandfathering existing homes and their children into the Edna Staebler perimeter, whether existing or modified, will not only help minimize disruption to young kids already enrolled into the school, including

ours, but will also ensure that schools across the area are functioning in optimal capacity. I sincerely hope you consider this request in its earnest. Thank you."

"We moved into Vista Hills before the school was built as we prepared to have a family. We want to ensure that the school can meet the needs as the subdivision continues to grow and that there is not an excess of portables due to over population."