

**Report to Committee of the Whole
January 23, 2017**



**Waterloo Region
District School Board**

Inspired Learners – Tomorrow's Leaders

SUBJECT: Doon South Elementary Schools Boundary Study – Boundary/Program Implementation Enrolment Update

ORIGINATOR: This report was prepared by Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services & Treasurer of the Board; Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner in consultation with Coordinating Council.

PURPOSE/STRATEGIC PLAN:

To update the Waterloo Region District School Board (Board) with respect to enrolment projections and school capacities for the schools involved in the Doon South Elementary Schools Boundary Study (Brigadoon, Doon, Groh, J.W. Gerth, and Pioneer Park Public Schools).

The three strategic priorities that are used to guide the work of the Board are:

- Our Students are First – Each and Every One
- Our Staff, Families and Caregivers are Partners in Every Student's Learning Journey
- Our Culture of Innovation Builds Students' Confidence and Success as they Face the Future

BACKGROUND:

At the January 20, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting, the Board of Trustees passed the following motion:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Scenario 16 as outlined in Appendix A of this report titled "Recommendation Resulting from the Doon South Boundary Study", dated January 20, 2014, to be implemented when the new South Kitchener (Groh Drive) school opens

Specifically regarding French Immersion, Scenario 16 recommended:

That the new South Kitchener (Groh Drive) school offer French Immersion classes with the possibility of offering Grades 1-6 by the 2018/19 academic year, to be evaluated by staff to determine viability

In November 2016, staff completed their assessment regarding French Immersion (FI) at Groh Public School and determined that Groh Public School will offer a Grade 1 French Immersion class for the 2017/18 school year as long as a minimum of 20 children register for the program through the French Immersion Program registration process opening in January 2017. Groh Public School will not offer any French Immersion classes beyond Grade 1 for the 2017/18 school year. Staff notified parents and students affected in early January 2017 in order to inform their decision-making process.

At the January 16, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting, Trustees requested additional information from staff regarding projected enrolments, site capacities and financial implications of opening of Groh Public School with French Immersion beyond Grade 1 for the 2017/18 school year.

STATUS:

Staff has compiled the requested information in Appendix A of this report.

Requested Information	
Enrolment projections* by school, grade, and program for Brigadoon, Doon, Pioneer Park, J.W. Gerth, and Groh Public Schools for 2017/18 through 2021/22.	Figures 1 - 10
2017/18 French Immersion students within the Groh Public School Boundary potentially attending school out-of-boundary for the French Immersion program.	Figure 14
On the ground capacity, site capacity for portables, and projected number of portables on site for the 2017/18 school year for Brigadoon, Doon, Pioneer Park, J.W. Gerth, and Groh Public Schools.	Figures 15 and 16

*Projections include combined classes

As a result of the opening of Groh Public School, J.W. Gerth Public School's projected enrolment is 567 students for the 2017/18 school year. The projected enrolment will require 2 portables on site. Furthermore, as a result of the reduction in the number of students attending J.W. Gerth Public School, staff believes strain on the site will be reduced. The Board's School Travel Planner will continue to monitor the site and provide assistance as required.

COMMUNICATIONS:

All students impacted by the implementation of the Groh Public School Boundary described in Scenario 16 have been notified. Human Resource Services will start the Elementary school staffing process shortly with the goal of completing enrolment projections by March 31, 2017.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

No financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation. For information only.

 **Director of Education**

Further Information: Enrolment and Program Considerations as a Result of the New Groh Public School Boundary Implementation

In making the determination to not offer French Immersion at Groh Public School beyond grade 1 for the 2017/18 school year Board staff evaluated the number of students currently enrolled in French Immersion in what will be the new Groh Public School boundary for the 2017/18 school year. Additionally, staff evaluated two scenarios; one in which students in French Immersion who are within the new Groh Public School boundary remain at their respective 2016/17 schools (e.g. Brigadoon and J.W. Gerth Public Schools), and one in which a French Immersion program is implemented at Groh Public School up to Grade 4.

Updated Enrolment Projections by Grade/Program

Scenario 1 – French Immersion program at Brigadoon and J.W. Gerth Public Schools

* Please note these projections do not make any assumptions with respect to an incoming grade 1 French Immersion class, as the French Immersion registration process is currently underway. This methodology avoids double counting grade 1 students between the Regular Track program and the French Immersion program.

Fig. 1: Enrolment by school, grade and program for the 2017/18 school year (Scenario 1)

School Year	Program	School	JK	SK	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2017/2018	Regular Track	Brigadoon PS	61	56	44	41	32	9	36	36	0	0	315
		Groh PS	62	62	52	47	46	46	45	55	56	0	471
		JW Gerth PS	52	52	63	26	37	33	52	41	0	0	357
		Pioneer Park	42	41	47	46	33	51	43	38	0	0	341
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	149	174	323
	Total		218	211	206	160	148	139	176	170	205	174	1807
	French Immersion	Brigadoon PS	0	0	0	38	46	24	36	30	0	0	174
		Groh PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		JW Gerth PS	0	0	0	43	55	41	35	36	0	0	210
		Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	29	81
	Total		0	0	0	81	101	65	71	66	52	29	465
	Grand Total		218	211	206	241	249	204	247	236	257	203	2272

Fig. 2: Enrolment by school, grade and program for the 2018/19 school year (Scenario 1)

School Year	Program	School	JK	SK	1*	2*	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
20182019	Regular Track	Brigadoon PS	63	65	53	46	43	32	10	37	0	0	349
		Groh PS	53	60	61	50	45	43	44	43	43	54	496
		JW Gerth PS	54	57	48	67	28	37	34	53	0	0	378
		Pioneer Park	46	50	40	51	51	34	53	48	0	0	373
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	123	154	277
	Total		216	232	203	214	166	146	141	181	166	208	1874
	French Immersion	Brigadoon PS	0	0	0	0	34	44	23	37	0	0	138
		Groh PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		JW Gerth PS	0	0	0	0	38	55	41	35	0	0	169
		Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	52	116
	Total		0	0	0	0	72	99	64	72	64	52	423
	Grand Total		216	232	203	214	239	245	205	253	230	260	2297

Fig. 3: Enrolment by school, grade and program for the 2019/20 school year (Scenario 1)

School Year	Program	School	JK	SK	1*	2*	3*	4	5	6	7	8	Total
20192020	Regular Track	Brigadoon PS	65	67	61	55	48	42	32	11	0	0	381
		Groh PS	75	53	66	64	55	50	48	48	47	48	554
		JW Gerth PS	55	58	53	51	69	28	39	35	0	0	388
		Pioneer Park	51	54	49	46	56	50	38	60	0	0	404
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	146	129	275
	Total		246	233	230	215	228	170	157	153	193	177	2002
	French Immersion	Brigadoon PS	0	0	0	0	0	33	41	23	0	0	98
		Groh PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		JW Gerth PS	0	0	0	0	0	38	55	41	0	0	134
		Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	64	133
	Total		0	0	0	0	0	71	97	64	69	64	365
	Grand Total		246	233	230	215	228	241	253	217	262	241	2367

Fig. 4: Enrolment by school, grade and program for the 2020/21 school year (Scenario 1)

School Year	Program	School	JK	SK	1*	2*	3*	4*	5	6	7	8	Total
20202021	Regular Track	Brigadoon PS	66	69	62	62	56	46	42	33	0	0	438
		Groh PS	85	75	59	66	64	55	53	51	48	47	603
		JW Gerth PS	55	60	54	56	53	69	29	39	0	0	417
		Pioneer Park	56	60	55	55	51	55	54	43	0	0	428
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	114	152	266
	Total		263	263	230	240	225	226	178	167	162	199	2152
	French Immersion	Brigadoon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	43	0	0	74
		Groh PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		JW Gerth PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	55	0	0	93
		Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	69	132
	Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	69	98	63	69	299
	Grand Total		263	263	230	240	225	226	247	264	225	268	2451

Fig. 5: Enrolment by school, grade and program for the 2021/22 school year (Scenario 1)

School Year	Program	School	JK	SK	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6	7	8	Total
20212022	Regular Track	Brigadoon PS	68	70	64	64	64	54	46	44	0	0	474
		Groh PS	80	85	75	59	64	63	55	53	51	48	633
		JW Gerth PS	57	60	56	57	58	53	72	30	0	0	444
		Pioneer Park	64	68	63	63	64	50	61	62	0	0	495
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	126	122	248
	Total		269	283	258	244	251	221	234	189	177	170	2294
	French Immersion	Brigadoon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	27
		Groh PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	18
		JW Gerth PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	25
		Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	95	63	157
	Total		269	283	258	244	251	221	234	259	271	233	2521
	Grand Total		269	283	258	244	251	221	234	259	271	233	2521

Scenario 2 – French Immersion program at Brigadoon, Groh, and J.W. Gerth Public Schools.

* Please note these projections do not make any assumptions with respect to an incoming grade 1 French Immersion class, as the French Immersion registration process is currently underway. This methodology avoids double counting grade 1 students between the Regular Track program and the French Immersion program.

Fig. 6: Enrolment by school, grade and program for the 2017/18 school year (Scenario 2)

School Year	Program	School	JK	SK	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
20172018	Regular Track	Brigadoon PS	61	56	44	41	32	9	36	36	0	0	315
		Groh PS	62	62	52	47	46	46	45	55	56	0	471
		JW Gerth PS	52	52	63	26	37	33	52	41	0	0	357
		Pioneer Park	42	41	47	46	33	51	43	38	0	0	341
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	149	174	323
	Total		218	211	206	160	148	139	176	170	205	174	1807
	French Immersion	Brigadoon PS	0	0	0	33	41	20	36	30	0	0	160
		Groh PS	0	0	0	20	25	16	0	0	0	0	61
		JW Gerth PS	0	0	0	28	35	29	35	36	0	0	163
		Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	29	81
	Total		0	0	0	81	101	65	71	66	52	29	465
	Grand Total		218	211	206	241	249	204	247	236	257	203	2272

Fig. 7: Enrolment by school, grade and program for the 2018/19 school year (Scenario 2)

School Year	Program	School	JK	SK	1*	2*	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
20182019	Regular Track	Brigadoon PS	63	65	53	46	43	32	10	37	0	0	349
		Groh PS	53	60	61	50	45	43	44	43	43	54	496
		JW Gerth PS	54	57	48	67	28	37	34	53	0	0	378
		Pioneer Park	46	50	40	51	51	34	53	48	0	0	373
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	123	154	277
	Total		216	232	203	214	166	146	141	181	166	208	1874
	French Immersion	Brigadoon PS	0	0	0	0	29	39	19	37	0	0	124
		Groh PS	0	0	0	0	18	25	16	0	0	0	59
		JW Gerth PS	0	0	0	0	25	35	29	35	0	0	124
		Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	52	116
	Total		0	0	0	0	72	99	64	72	64	52	423
	Grand Total		216	232	203	214	239	245	205	253	230	260	2297

Fig. 8: Enrolment by school, grade and program for the 2019/20 school year (Scenario 2)

School Year	Program	School	JK	SK	1*	2*	3*	4	5	6	7	8	Total
20192020	Regular Track	Brigadoon PS	65	67	61	55	48	42	32	11	0	0	381
		Groh PS	75	53	66	64	55	50	48	48	47	48	554
		JW Gerth PS	55	58	53	51	69	28	39	35	0	0	388
		Pioneer Park	51	54	49	46	56	50	38	60	0	0	404
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	146	129	275
	Total		246	233	230	215	228	170	157	153	193	177	2002
	French Immersion	Brigadoon PS	0	0	0	0	0	28	36	19	0	0	84
		Groh PS	0	0	0	0	0	18	25	16	0	0	59
		JW Gerth PS	0	0	0	0	0	25	35	29	0	0	89
		Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	64	133
	Total		0	0	0	0	0	71	97	64	69	64	365
	Grand Total		246	233	230	215	228	241	253	217	262	241	2367

Fig. 9: Enrolment by school, grade and program for the 2020/21 school year (Scenario 2)

School Year	Program	School	JK	SK	1*	2*	3*	4*	5	6	7	8	Total
20202021	Regular Track	Brigadoon PS	66	69	62	62	56	46	42	33	0	0	438
		Groh PS	85	75	59	66	64	55	53	51	48	47	603
		JW Gerth PS	55	60	54	56	53	69	29	39	0	0	417
		Pioneer Park	56	60	55	55	51	55	54	43	0	0	428
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	114	152	266
	Total		263	263	230	240	225	226	178	167	162	199	2152
	French Immersion	Brigadoon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	38	0	0	64
		Groh PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	25	16	0	59
		JW Gerth PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	35	0	0	60
		Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	69	116
	Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	69	98	63	69	299
	Grand Total		263	263	230	240	225	226	247	264	225	268	2451

Fig. 10: Enrolment by school, grade and program for the 2021/22 school year (Scenario 2)

School Year	Program	School	JK	SK	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6	7	8	Total
2021/2022	Regular Track	Brigadoon PS	68	70	64	64	64	54	46	44	0	0	474
		Groh PS	80	85	75	59	64	63	55	53	51	48	633
		JW Gerth PS	57	60	56	57	58	53	72	30	0	0	444
		Pioneer Park	64	68	63	63	64	50	61	62	0	0	495
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	126	122	248
	Total		269	283	258	244	251	221	234	189	177	170	2294
	French Immersion	Brigadoon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	27
		Groh PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	25	16	59
		JW Gerth PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	25
		Pioneer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Doon PS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	47	116
	Total		269	283	258	244	251	221	234	259	271	233	2521
	Grand Total		269	283	258	244	251	221	234	259	271	233	2521

Staffing Implications

Provided **all** in boundary Grade 2 through 4 French Immersion students attend Groh Public School's program, there will not be a net increase in the number of French Immersion classes for the 2017/18 school year. However, the Board does not mandate French Immersion students to attend their in boundary school.

Figure 11 details the organization and number of classes by school for Scenario 1 for the 2017/18 school year. **Figure 12** details the organization and number of classes by school for Scenario 2 for the 2017/18 school year. In both scenarios the total number of French Immersion classes across all schools is 20.

Fig. 11: Scenario 1 projected French Immersion class organization and distribution (2017/18)

School	02	02/03	03	03/04	04	04/05	05/06	06	07	08	Total
Brigadoon PS	2		2	1		1	1	1			8
Doon P.S.									2	1	3
J W Gerth PS	1	2	2		1	1	1	1			9
Total	3	2	4	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	20

Fig. 12: Scenario 2 projected French Immersion class organization and distribution (2017/18)

School	02	02/03	03	03/04	04	04/05	05/06	06	07	08	Total
Brigadoon PS	1	1	1	1		1	2				7
Doon PS									2	1	3
Groh PS	1		1	1							3
J W Gerth PS	1	1		2		1	1	1			7
Total	3	2	2	4	0	2	3	1	2	1	20

Groh Public School French Immersion Program Considerations

While projections indicate there are no increased staffing costs* in implementing French Immersion up to grade 4 at Groh Public School for the 2017/18 school year, Board staff considered a number of other factors in determining that a French Immersion program at the school was not viable. Of particular concern were the French Immersion class sizes at Groh Public School. **Figure 13** details the class sizes and organizations of a French Immersion Program (up to Grade 4) at Groh Public School for the 2017/18 school year.

*Provided all in boundary Grade 2 through 4 French Immersion students attend Groh Public School

Fig. 13: projected French Immersion class organizations/sizes at Groh Public School, 2017/18 (Scenario 2)

	Enrolment									
Grade Organization	JK	SK	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	Total
2				20						20
3					20					20
3/4					5	16				21
Total	0	0	0	20	25	16	0	0	0	61

Board staff expressed concern about the viability of the program moving forward. Cohort attrition is a documented trend in the French Immersion program within the Board. With such small class sizes, any loss of students in the program through cohort attrition will create staffing challenges in the future at Groh Public School.

As well, the viability of the class sizes and organizations described in **Figure 13** is dependent on 100% of the identified French Immersion students currently at Brigadoon and J.W. Gerth Public Schools attending Groh Public School. While public sentiment suggests the community is supportive of implementing the program, it is not certain that all of the identified students would be in favor of leaving their current French Immersion schools.

The Board could require those students to attend Groh Public School in order to remain in the French Immersion program however there are concerns with the fact that the French Immersion program is a choice program and that this could create situations for families where siblings would be divided across two schools.

Existing French Immersion students within new Groh PS Boundary

With the implementation of the new Groh Public School boundaries there exist a number of French Immersion students who will be attending an out-of-boundary school should they remain at their current school (Scenario 1). **Figure 14** illustrates the distribution of these students by grade and school for the 2017/18 school year.

Fig. 14 – 2017/18 distributions of French Immersion students living within Groh P.S. boundary

School	JK	SK	01F	02F	03F	04F	05F	06F	07F	08F*	Grand Total
Brigadoon PS				5	5	4	5	3			22
Doon PS									13	11	24
J.W. Gerth PS				15	20	12	15	11			73
Pioneer Park P.S.											0
Grand Total	0	0	0	20	25	16	20	14	13	11	119

Doon South Elementary Schools Boundary Study – Portable projection 2017/18

The opening of Groh Public School will reduce the number of portables required at the Doon South area schools. Implementation of a French Immersion program at Groh Public School (Scenario 2) should further reduce the number of portables required to accommodate students within the Doon South area of Kitchener. Brigadoon and J.W. Gerth Public Schools should see a respective one and two classroom reduction in space (portable) needs. Groh Public School could accommodate these French Immersion classes within its On the Ground (OTG) capacity thereby reducing the overall portable need by three units (See **Fig. 15, 16**).

Fig. 15: Scenario 1 portable projection 2017/18

School	Capacity (OTG)	Enrolment	Current Portables (2016/17)	Projected Portables (2017/18)	Site Portable Capacity
Brigadoon PS	421	489	3	3	6
Groh PS	600	471	0	0	20
J.W. Gerth PS	536	567	6	2	21
Pioneer Park PS	308	341	4	4	14
Doon PS	331	404	8	4	12
Total	2196	2272	21	13	73

Fig. 16: Scenario 2 portable projection 2017/18

School	Capacity (OTG)	Enrolment	Current Portables (2016/17)	Projected Portables (2017/18)	Site Portable Capacity
Brigadoon PS	421	475	3	2	6
Groh PS	600	532	0	0	20
J.W. Gerth PS	536	520	6	0	21
Pioneer Park PS	308	341	4	4	14
Doon PS	331	404	8	4	12
Total	2196	2272	21	10	73