

## The East Hamilton/Lower Stoney Creek Boundary Review

### Advisory Panel #1

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Orchard Park Secondary School

#### Present:

Chair: Paul Denomme, Superintendent of Equity and Student Achievement, Family of Schools 1

Matthew Gerard- Associate Director

Trustee: Todd White

David Anderson- Senior Facilities Manager

Ellen Warling- Manager, Planning, Accommodation and Rentals

Ian Hopkins- Senior Planner, Accommodation and Planning

Jeremy Koop- Research Officer

Collegiate: Principal: Lisa Barzetti

Eastdale- Principal: Stephen Yull, Vice-Principal: Laura Murray

Lake Avenue- Principal: Kelly Mccrory

South Meadow: Principal: Jennifer Harvey

Winona: Principal: Charon Buck, Vice-Principal: Saira Waseem

Representative from Collegiate School Council: Kelsey Clohecy and Kenny Cheng

Representative from Eastdale School Council: Brianna Dunn and April Chiro

Representative from Lake Avenue School Council: no representatives.

Representative from South Meadow School Council: Cheryl Martinez, Juliana Mrkobrada

Representative from Winona School Council: Nitu Jhuty and Ateeka Khan

Karolina Grochowska- EA to Superintendent Denomme

#### Regrets:

Simon Goodacre, Superintendent of Equity and Student Achievement, Family of Schools 3

Sally Landon- Research and Analytics Manager

Lake Avenue- Vice-Principal: Wendy Tyrrell

Eastdale- Vice-Principal: Karen Gervais

South Meadow: Vice-Principal: Nasim Assadian

Winona: Vice-Principal: Belal Ahmad

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:02 PM

**Land Acknowledgement-** Superintendent Denomme

The Superintendent welcomed everyone.

Advisory Panel members shared the following:

- South Meadow: The school is new and at full capacity with many portables.
- Collegiate: The Collegiate community has strong relationships with the school, which may be impacted by the boundary review. The school is only four years old and already at full capacity.
- Winona: The massive catchment zone and French Immersion program will be impacted by the boundary review.
- Lake Avenue: Lots of different layers at the school, such as multiple languages spoken, increase in size over the next couple of years.
- Eastdale: The school is at full capacity. The community is very passionate, and there may be challenges with before and after school care challenges.

Superintendent Denomme began the presentation by going over the main goals such as the boundary review process, roles and responsibilities of members, key dates and methods of communication, accommodation issues, boundary change options, development of evaluation criteria and the next advisory panel meeting. The Superintendent discussed what a boundary review is, the policy and procedure and the reason behind it. Further, he talked about who is included in the membership under Advisory Panel and Resource Staff. In addition, Superintendent spoke about meeting details, boundary review timelines and final report. He also talked about the Transition Committee, draft evaluation criteria and school information.

Ian Hopkins, Senior Planner, Accommodation and Planning, HWDSB, reviewed in detail the School Info Packages for Collegiate, Eastdale, Lake Avenue, South Meadow, and Winona Elementary Schools. He also talked about the current situation and boundary changes for consideration for those schools. Then he discussed Boundary review initial options:

- Option 1- FI Grades 6-8 moves from Eastdale to Collegiate in September 2025 and the transportation impacts
- Option 2- FI Grade 5-8 moves from Eastdale to Collegiate in September 2025 and the transportation impacts
- Option 3- Move portion of Eastdale English boundary to Collegiate in 2025 and the transportation impacts

- Option 4- Move a portion of Eastdale English boundary to Collegiate in 2025 and the transportation impacts
- ❖ All options include allocating 1 class of Grade 1 FI at Eastdale.

Superintendent Denomme continued the presentation by going over the draft evaluation criteria. One of the suggestions was to add families to the criteria discussing the limitation on the number of schools moves for affected students. This would reflect the needs of both students and families, and take into consideration busy roads, crosswalks and the walking ability to school. Promoting active and safe routes to school. No objections to the other criteria. Lastly, Superintendent Denomme talked about the communication strategy, online feedback and the next steps. The initial communication was shared with school communities on June 11, 2024. Main communication outlets: School messenger, school and Engage website. Translation services will be available at the public meeting.

#### **Draft Evaluation Criteria:**

- School enrolment does not exceed building and maximum temporary accommodation capacity.
- Reliance on temporary accommodation is balanced and feasible.
- Fully utilize existing facilities (minimize underutilization).
- Limit the number of school moves for affected students.
- There should be balance of French and English program enrolments to foster a successful learning experience for every student based upon program HWDSB's elementary program strategy.
- Minimize students' time on school busses.
- Availability of Before and After School child care.

#### **Q&A**

##### **Q) What's the basis of the English boundary changes in options 3 and 4?**

A) The boundary changes in options 3 and 4 are intended to limit to number of English students moved from Eastdale to Collegiate to balance the use of temporary accommodation. The boundary changes proposed in option 3 and 4 captures approximately 80-90 students.

##### **Q) What things are considered for a boundary review?**

A) Boundaries are initially identified by reviewing student population density and location. Boundaries are typically created using geographical features such as Lake Ontario, the escarpment, highways and major roadways. In areas of the city with higher student population density, boundary lines can run along residential streets. In this case, preferably the boundary line would run down the back of residential property lines to capture all students on one street but at times this is not possible. Future residential development is also taken into consideration. The goal for the boundary change in Option #4 and #3 was to move approximately 80-90 students from Eastdale to Collegiate.

**Q) How about Before and After care? Different providers.**

A) HWDSB is aware of the wait lists our operators have at the schools in the review area. We are working with our partners to discuss ways to reduce the wait lists.

**Q) How many portables can be accommodated at Collegiate?**

A) Our goal is not to exceed six portables at Collegiate as per the school information sheet.

**Q) How are students with IEPs accommodated in a potential boundary change situation?**

A) There will be a transition committee established that will work collaboratively with Principals, staff and parents to support every student through this boundary change.

**Q) How can we share the presentation/resources?**

A) The presentation along with notes will be posted on the HWDSB website.

**Meeting End Time:** 7:42 pm. Participants were thanked for attending.

Next meetings are as follows:

Advisory Panel #2 – November 5, 2024

Public Meeting #1 – November 19, 2024

Advisory Panel #3 – December 3, 2024