



## GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: Brenda Blancher, Director of Education & Secretary

FROM: Jamie Gunn, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

RE: **French Immersion Accommodation – Community Consultations**

DATE: September 21, 2015

**Recommended Action:** It was moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
 THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the French Immersion Accommodation-  
 Community Consultations report as information.

**Recommended Action:** It was moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
 THAT the Grand Erie District School Board initiate an Accommodation Review for the Paris Area  
 Elementary Regular and French Immersion program following Policy FT5- Pupil Accommodation  
 Reviews as amended and approved for circulation in May 2015 to commence no earlier than  
 October 28, 2015.

### **Background:**

The Board has recognized accommodation pressures from the growth in French Immersion (FI) program enrolment and approved recommendations to present a number of options to the school community for feedback.

### **Meeting to Share FI program boundary options:**

The three proposed accommodation options below involve a common group of parents and would be best presented at a common meeting. Parents attending this meeting would receive information about all three proposed options at one meeting and gain a fuller understanding of the impacts of each option on the overall accommodation pressures. We would be looking for the Board to set a date in early October at BCI or North Park. All parents of Dufferin, Fairview and Burford FI programs would be provided with notice of the meeting. Meeting notice will also be posted in the public forum and the meeting will be open to all who wish to attend.

The following accommodation options will be presented at this meeting:

- a) *Accelerate the implementation of FI program at Burford Elementary by adding grades 5 and 6 in September 2016 and complete the implementation with grades 7 and 8 added in September 2017. Beginning with September 2016, all Brant County resident FI students would be assigned to a FI program provided in Brant County*

- b) *Implement a new dual track program at Branlyn for students residing in the Brier Park, Cedarland, Banbury and Branlyn school catchment area. The initial program would include JK to Grade 2 commencing September 2016 and be expanded in future years by adding one cohort per year.*
- c) *Establish a secondary FI program at North Park or Pauline Johnson in September 2016.*

The meeting will include a formal presentation of French Immersion Accommodation information and details about each of the proposed options. The presentation will be followed by an opportunity for participants to ask questions of the presenters. We will provide a link to the resources presented for parents and others who may wish to review the material. A link will be provided for the submission of additional questions that may arise after the meeting.

Administration will consider feedback from this meeting and prepare a report of final accommodation options for consideration by the Board at the November 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole Board Meeting.

#### **Process to review FI and Regular program school boundaries in Paris:**

The accommodation option discussed by the Board to *“Amend the North Ward and Cobblestone Boundaries to include the current catchment area of Paris Central School and assign FI students from north Brant County to Paris Central making it a single track FI school effective September 2016”* would be best reviewed following the Pupil Accommodations Review Guidelines recently amended by the Ministry. This process provides for broader community consultation than the meeting format discussed above. Administration is recommending that the Board follow Policy FT5-Pupil Accommodation Reviews as amended in May 2015. The above recommended action is required to initiate the review.

Following the policy as amended, a minimum of two meetings will be held with a minimum of forty days between the first and last meeting. The first meeting will be held at Paris Central School no earlier than October 28, 2015. The schools included in the review are North Ward, Cobblestone, Paris Central and Burford District Elementary. Our hope would be to complete the review and get a final board decision in January 2016.

A communication plan is being drafted pending Board approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Gunn  
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer