



Paris Boundary Review Public Meeting

#1

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

5 pm

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

- Grand Erie Staff:** Chair, W. Baker, Superintendent of Education
R. Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business
N. Hercanuck, Planning Supervisor
J. Cottam, Principal St. George German Public School
R. Garnier, Principal North Ward Public School
L. Hearn, Principal Glen Morris Central Public School
K. Graham, Superintendent of Education
C. MacDonald, Principal Cobblestone Elementary School
J. Merrick, Principal Paris District High School
L. Reuben, Principal Paris Central Public School
A. Schuyler, Principal Burford District Public School
- Community:** S. Beatty, St. George German Public School Parent Council
M. Fairfax, Glen Morris Central Public School Parent Council
M. Francis Paris District High School Parent Council
L. Keefe, Paris Central School Parent Council
M. Pearson, North Ward Public School Parent Council Co-Chair
M. Shewburg, Glen Morris Central Public School Parent Council
S. Nash, Cobblestone Public School Parent Council
Y. Rutherford, North Ward Public School Parent Council
- Trustees:** R. Collver
T. Waldschmidt
- Recorder:** W. Kipp, Executive Assistant

A - 1 **Opening**

Superintendent Wyszynski read the Land Acknowledgement

B - 1 **Setting the Stage for Public Consultation**

Superintendent Baker reviewed the virtual meeting guidelines and information on how to share comments or concerns regarding this boundary review.

C - 1 **Boundary Review
Background**

N. Hercanuck, Planning Supervisor shared the purpose of this boundary review which is to advise and provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees. A school closure cannot be considered during a boundary review process. Schools involved in the Paris Boundary Review are Cobblestone Elementary School (COB) Paris Central Public School (PCS), North Ward School (NWS) and Paris District High School (PDH) with surrounding rural schools Burford District Elementary School (BUR), Glen Morris Central Public School (GLE) and St. George-German Public School (SGG). Current and projected enrolment numbers were shared.

N. Hercanuck, Planning Supervisor shared accommodation considerations:



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1. SGG has some short-term surplus capacity.
2. GLE has some surplus capacity projected to be available.
3. BUR and PCS have French Immersion programs.

D - 1 Public Discussion

Grouping of these questions do not reflect the order they were asked.

Boundary Questions and Comments

Pair up the schools that are closest to one another to balance the students throughout the schools. Add 2 portables to NWS for PCS overflow. SGG would go to GLE adding 2 portables, BUR and COB receive portables for overflow.

BUR would not be able to help due to septic system as the, septic permit does not allow for any additional permanent or temporary capacity (portables). We are optimistic that we would have an answer with respect to expanding its capacity for 2024.

The process to apply for additions or new builds requires a business case submitted to the Ministry of Education and ensures the business application meets certain criteria such as capacity, long term projections, capacity at neighbouring schools, ability to add portables and additions.

We are looking at capital addition in the next round of capital priorities to help support the growth in this area.

Committee should consider a level of complexity beyond just redrawing boundaries. Students who are invested in a school, have as little disruption as possible. Such as a student in grade 8 would have more difficulty moving to a new school as opposed to someone who has just moved into the community who would not be as invested. Consideration of different boundaries for old as of new areas. Reach out to other families via survey would be great. Don't just draw boundaries.

The suggestion you have given is the notion of legacy accommodations (grandfathering), if everyone who was in an area applied to be grandfathered in it would negate the process. Out of attendance area can be submitted for compelling reasons.

If you have ideas on how to redraw boundaries, please share them with us.

Is it up to the principal to accept students?

Yes, the principal has the right to determine if there is space to accommodate out of area students.

How do you decide where the students move from an area?

There are several considerations when moving kids. They are programs that can be moved (ex. French Immersion), geography plays a big part in attendance boundaries, within walking distance, major transportation corridors, traffic concerns, so several factors to consider.

Feeding elementary to high school, would that affect out lying areas that feed into PDH? Could we change the boundaries of PDHS and send some students to other high schools?

The committee could make that recommendation.



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For a school to undergo a boundary change under this process, they must be involved in this boundary review area, so to change PDHS boundaries we would have to change another high school's boundary to make up or lose that portion of the boundary and there are not other high schools in this process. The committee could request to expand into another process for more high schools to be involved in a Review and boundary changes.

I would consider the new development on the golf course be reassigned to North Ward to free up capacity at PCS.

What are the boundary adjustments being considered for PDHS going forward?

Unsure if there are any.

Redraw boundary, send lower, Mile Hill, south end of Paris to PCS to open up spaces at COB.

Bussing/Walking Questions and Comments

45 mins for FI from north end of Paris, how will boundaries affect bus routes?

Aim to keep bus routes as short as we can. Boundaries are drawn with many considerations and use a program to analyze shortest routes as possible to minimize drive time.

Boundaries changing or new school, are walkers going to have to rely on bussing or parents driving?

Guidelines around who rides the bus will remain the same. Elementary walking distance is 1.6 km, beyond that transportation is provided.

Children crossing Hwy 24 is not a safe option to go to COB.

Crossing Grand River Ave North, all students east should be bussed.

This comes from the pedestrian infrastructure provided by the county

Different schools feeding into Paris district, if shortage of spaces at PDHS, what that looks like for out of area students, can they be denied opening up spaces for Grand Erie students?

It can be looked at, out of attendance areas are looked at every year.

Significant number of kids from out of area, research the numbers.

Education act states that even if students are in another school district they are entitled to attend the closest high school.

Business Case and New Build Questions and Comments

When a developer buys a plot of land, they must ensure room for playground or school?

Municipalities review and approve zoning and bylaws and development, County is approval authority, school boards are commenting authorities. School Boards can indicate to the County that a school site is needed, and the County can require the developer to put aside acreage for a site. Currently GEDSB does not have other school sites in the review area.

How far out does the school board start developing a new plan to build a new school? How long will this take?



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Business case can take 6-8 weeks to develop, turn around time varies, from time submission is in to building completion it is 4.5 – 7 years.

If business plan is extensive, can distribute the students and instigate another next public review and where to put a school?

Is there a business case submitted for a new school?

We are looking towards submitting a new business case in this area, but it has not been developed yet.

For the minutes and to be considered later as it's not pertinent to the current conversation: my spouse and I are concerned about who is making these projections when only a few years ago we were fighting to keep PCS from closing due to "low enrolment" Is it the GEDSB or has it been an independent consultant? Either way it has been a failure. We now have schools such as COB (only 13 yrs. old) over capacity with several portables. In addition, several new subdivisions have been built, with more under construction, and even more in the planning stages. These developments have been in the works for decades, in some cases. Where was the school planning for this? It feels like we're scrambling now. Whatever decisions that are made, we hope it is for the long-term plans, and considers the future growth of this town and the county for years well beyond a 10-year projection.

Yes, we agree, we will be looking at long term but require a short-term solution right now.

A concern is that if zoning does not get done and schools are overcapacity then they use the Gym's and libraries.

Our hope is to plan ahead and have portables in place so this would not happen.

Can not continue building new homes with out new schools.

Why has a business plan not been written?

We have the data and are waiting for the format which the Ministry requires us to submit the plan. Its has not been a lack of planning, we can not make a business case until boundaries and available space in surrounding schools are used up.

Business plan is geared towards an additional elementary or high school?

Elementary panel.

Create a secondary school business plan at the same time?

At this time Elementary is our priority.

Were you involved in the approval process for subdivision planning?

Boards are circulated on development applications, but I can not comment on this and what was provide to the municipalities previously because that is before my time with this board. We are here now dealing with the situation and establishing relationships with the counties and talking about directions and development moving forward.

Can we create two business plans at the same time, one for elementary and one for a high school?

We certainly could but the priority here is to focus on elementary excess spaces.

French Immersion Questions and Comments

Is it on the table to send the FI students back to BUR?

Yes, we will take this back to the committee.



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Send the current FI students enrolled in PCS to BUR and have it as a K-8 school. Would it be possible to reopen the original elementary school in BUR so all FI students could be at one school? That would open space in BUR and PCS.

Schools that have been closed and sold off we would have to approach the owners if they would like to sell them back.

FI students free up students at PCS.

Phase out FI at PCS and add students to BUR.

Most FI parents would like kids in same school.

Child Care Questions and Comments

Child Care at COB is putting an addition on the east side.

Cancel childcare center and save space there for the school age children.

Before and after care is not equal between schools, so kids who have care now at their current school may not have care at a new school.

Third parties survey school communities to see what the need is.

Purchase other property Questions and Comments

Is there any possibility to lease back the old Maple Ave school for next 2-3 years while appealing to provincial gov't to approve a new school?

It would probably be large enough for all FI which would free up classroom space at BUR and PCS? I know there is a building plan for the property but not sure how quickly they plan to build on that property?

This would be something we would have to look into to ensure it would be in a condition for us to provide educational services.

Maple Ave school back?

Schools closed and closed off we would have to approach buildings owned by other business to see if they are able to sell them back and we would also have to go through the Ministry for this.

Harley is still in good condition.

Something to consider could be to make PDH a public school, like BUR has done, and then build a new high school.

Possible to turn PDHS into an elementary school?

Capacity of high schools in Brantford that could feed from BUR.

Was COB built to add a 3rd floor?

Current school board officials are not aware of this option at COB.

Add another floor to high school?

We will look into this with facilities.

Grade 7 and 8 students to PDH Questions and Comments

Grade 7, 8 in high school, elementary should be separated from older grades.



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This model has been used and we will bring in another staff member to speak to this from their experience. Students are kept apart, school within a school, Steps can be taken to make this accommodation.

Grade 7 and 8 help with younger students and growth so they should stay in the Elementary schools and not be moved to PDHS.

7-12 will cause more bullying.

I attended PDHS in grade 7 and 8 and do not feel it should go back to this model.

PDHS has lost portables over the past few years, if they are required can they come back?

Yes

Keeping families together to consider older children who sometimes look after younger.

Difficult for families who have older students who are done earlier than younger siblings and help to watch after school.

Moving cohorts together, children often want to stay with their friends, keep grades together or keep FI together.

Could the Ministry come to meetings?

Highly unlikely but we can ask them.

If the Ministry is unable to attend, could Director come to the meeting?

What information do you feel Director could provide? The Director is not going to have any more access to what we would like to be done from the Ministry.

Survey sent to all families to participate, not depend on social media.

Focus is on collecting the information at these public meetings but, yes, if a question for individual school comes up, we can do a survey, but we are using a public platform to provide information.

Are you including comments from social media for the planning committee?

We have provided some avenues, 3 or 4 ways you can get your comments or questions to us may be the fairest way. Our communications department is in constant attendance on the various platforms and have them keep their eyes out for the boundary reviews for ideas.

What date is this to be submitted by for this to take place?

This would have to be submitted by February for any changes to be put in place for fall of 2023.

E - 1 Next Steps

- Provide a list of out of attendance area numbers.
- Can floors be added to COB and PDHS?
- The next two Ad Hoc committee meetings, November 15, 2022 and November 29, 2022 will address what was discussed tonight and what will be presented at the next public meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 5 pm.
- At the public meeting the community will share options and what the committee would like to present to the Board of Trustees.



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F - 1 **Adjournment**
6:47 pm

G - 1 **Next Meeting**
Tuesday, November 15, 2022, Ad Hoc Meeting #2