



# Brantford East Boundary Review Public Meeting #1

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

5 pm

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

## MINUTES

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Grand Erie Staff:</b> | Chair, L. Munro, Superintendent of Education<br>R. Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business<br>J. Pathak, Planning Officer<br>D. Atanas, Principal – Central Public School<br>I. Segura-Romero, Principal – Echo Place School<br>G. Ash, Principal – Major Ballachey Public School<br>D. McGaghan, Principal – Woodman-Cainsville School |
| <b>Consultants:</b>      | J. Ammendolia – Watson & Associates, Managing Partner   |
| <b>Community:</b>        | A. Smith – Central Public School<br>S. Bradfield – King George School<br>P. MacDougall – Major Ballachey School<br>A. Bogema – Woodman-Cainsville School  |
| <b>Trustees:</b>         | C-A. Sloat<br>S. Gibson   |
| <b>Regrets:</b>          | C. Bannister, Principal – King George School<br>D. Johnson, Vice-Principal – Major Ballachey Public School  |
| <b>Recorder:</b>         | K. Harrison, Executive Assistant  |

### A - 1 **Opening**

Superintendent Wyszynski read the Land Acknowledgement

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

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

### C - 1 **Boundary Review Background**

J. Ammendolia, Watson & Associates 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 Brantford East Boundary Review are: Central Public School (CEN), Echo Place School (ECH), King George School (KGS), Major Ballachey Public School (MBS) and Woodman-Cainsville School (WOO). Current and projected enrolment numbers were shared.

### D - 1 **Public Discussion - Boundary Questions and Comments**

#### **How many people are being bused to Woodman now?**

Currently there are approximately 210-220 students being bused to WOO.



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### **Why wasn't a boundary review conducted years ago? And why is it being conducted at this particular point in time?**

Covid-19 impacted the ability to conduct meetings in public consultation. With the rise in technology and virtual meetings we chose to wait until this school year to address it.

**Comment: The projected enrolment numbers are not correct. Schools have already met or surpassed those numbers already. Major Ballachey is already above the projected enrolment for 2024.**

### **Do these numbers include new development?**

New development was included in the projection but, they are probably already outdated due to recent trends. Change in numbers is a factor of several conditions: new development, more families purchasing homes with school age children, migration from the GTA, trends we have not previously seen. Historical numbers were used to project. L. Munro advised that current enrolment numbers will be provided at the next Ad Hoc committee meeting.

### **Wasn't Woodman in horrible condition prior to Covid? How often do students have access to gym and library?**

The principal of the school confirmed he is proud of the condition of WOO as well as the staff and students. The school has a full working library that is used daily. Every student is provided gym use twice a week. The school sits on 4 acres of land so there is plenty of outside time as well.

### **The key pieces in terms of really understanding what kind of boundary adjustments we could make is identifying the first piece of the puzzle, which is what is the ideal size of enrolment at Woodman-Cainsville? The capacity is one thing, the portables are another and the number of portables on site are just not sustainable long term. Do you have a sense of what enrolment should be at the school?**

Currently the enrolment at WOO is 470 students. The school has a large MLL population. Busing is challenging. A reduction in three to four portables would be manageable for the site.

### **If Major Ballachey and Central are also expected to grow in capacity, why are they part of this Boundary Review?**

When doing a boundary review, we look at all schools adjacent to the school over capacity. Sometimes it becomes a puzzle and some pieces require movement to accommodate all schools in proximity.



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### **Has there been conversations with the City of Brantford planning?**

Yes, we are required to be in consultation with the City of Brantford. We take into consideration new development and new permits and we take that information to ensure that it encompasses our enrolment projections. We want to be able to make a decision that incorporates all those variables when conducting a boundary review.

### **How many portables can fit on these sites? Is there a max?**

We have to get approval from the City of Brantford. They would ask if there are sufficient washrooms for students and staff, staff parking spaces, etc. These would limit the number of portables allowed.

**Comment: Woodman has a substantial amount of multi-language learners and Woodman has all of the supports already in place. By moving these students to other schools, it would be an extreme amount of learning for that school staff to support those learners.**

### **Onondaga Brant School is adjacent to Woodman-Cainsville. Are they not part of this boundary review because they are high in capacity?**

We cannot comment now but, we will look into this. Portables, country, septic, water.

### **Why are only these schools included in the review?**

When we looked at the over capacity of WOO, we look at the schools in close proximity to WOO.

#### **E - 1 Next Steps**

- a) The next two Ad Hoc committee meetings, December 15, 2022 and January 12, 2023 will address what was discussed tonight and what will be presented at the next public meeting on January 19, 2023 at 5 pm.
- b) Will confirm Onondaga Brant question.
- c) Senior Admin will work with Communications to translate the Boundary Review information to be communicated to the MLL community.
- d) [Planning@granderie.ca](mailto:Planning@granderie.ca) encourage to share, ask questions or make comments to this email.

#### **F - 1 Next Meeting**

Thursday, December 15, 2022, Ad Hoc Meeting #2

#### **G - 1 Adjournment**

5:53 p.m.