



# Brantford East Boundary Review Public Meeting #2

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

5:30 pm

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

## MINUTES

### Grand Erie Staff:

Chair, J. White, Superintendent of Education  
R. Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business  
L Munro, Superintendent of Program  
J. Ammendolia, Watson & Associates  
S. Lees, Watson & Associates  
D. Atanas, Principal – Central Public School  
Jennifer Brackenbury - Branlyn Community School  
I. Segura-Romero, Principal – Echo Place School  
C. Bannister, Principal - King George School  
G. Ash, Principal - Major Ballachey Public School  
D. McGaghan, Principal – Woodman-Cainsville School  
J. Pathak, Planning Officer

### Community:

P. MacDougall  
S. Bradfield  
A. Bogema  
S. Radojcic  
J. Oliver  
J. Lomanto

### Trustees:

S. Gibson

### Absent:

C.A. Sloat

### Recorder

E. Roberts, Executive Assistant

### A - 1 Opening

Superintendent Wyszynski provided the Land Acknowledgement.

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

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

### Boundary Review Proposed Options

J. Ammendolia, Watson & Associates explained the purpose of this boundary review which is to advise and provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Schools involved in the Brantford East Boundary Review are: Branlyn Community School (BCS), Central Public School (CEN), Echo Place School (ECH), King George School (KGS), Major Ballachey Public School (MBS) and Woodman-Cainsville School (WOO). The outcome from the options considered would move students from surrounding areas to reduce enrolment pressures at Woodman-Cainsville PS. It was noted that school closures cannot be considered under a boundary review. This would require a separate process called a Pupil Accommodation Review.

Current and projected enrolment and school capacity statistics were shared as well as current and proposed boundary change options. Grade structure changes involving a combined Intermediate/Secondary Grade 7-12 model has been discussed and removed from the options under consideration.



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Branlyn Community School was added as a possible school that could accommodate all students within the current Woodman-Cainsville boundary following the January 19, 2023 Special Ad Hoc Committee meeting when the committee asked if there was a school that could accept all Woodman-Cainsville students rather than splitting the community between two or more schools.

The following recommended boundary change options were presented:

- Option 1: All WOO students to go to KG
- Option 2: WOO students split between KG and EP
- Option 3a: WOO students split between BCS and EP
- Option 3b: WOO students split between BCS and KG

### C - 1 Public Discussion

All comments and questions received from the public verbally, through the meeting chat box, or via [planning@granderie.ca](mailto:planning@granderie.ca) have been collated. **Grouping of these questions does not reflect the order in which they were asked.**

#### Boundary Questions

**Will transportation be provided for students affected by the boundary change(s) who'll now be a further distance from the school they attend?**

The transportation requirements will be the same. If a student resides further than the walking distance set by Transportation Services, bussing will be provided.

**How will this accommodate families who use the Before and After School Program if kids are forced to change schools?**

Branlyn, Echo Place, Woodman and Central already offer a Before and After School Program. King George and Major Ballachey currently do not offer a program, but one can be explored if there is sufficient need.

**Could a new school be built instead to accommodate growth in the Garden Avenue area?**

Space/capacity must be fully utilized at schools adjacent to those experiencing over-capacity prior to a proposal being considered by the Ministry of Education for capital funding for a new school.

**Follow-up to the Garden Ave. boundary question, if it's completed as a parcel as explained, would Garden Ave. be included in Area 17 or maintained at Woodman-Cainsville? Clearer quality maps are requested.**

This needs to be confirmed and will be shared in the posted communication with information on this boundary on the Grand Erie website. More detailed/better quality maps will also be provided.

**Will students living on opposite sides of the same street go to different schools (for example those living on Garden Avenue)?**



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This is avoided where possible. Parcels of areas are used in the maps for the review and are finalized by Grand Erie's Planning Department.

### **With the new townhouses on Colborne St. being built, have you factored in that growth in King George, Major B area? Has other new growth in these communities been considered?**

We received notifications from the City and surrounding Counties identifying areas of housing expansion and do our best to calculate the expected enrolment yields from the types of units being built. This information is incorporated into our long-term projections.

### **Does the Ministry need to approve an addition at Woodman-Cainsville? Were they not denied an addition?**

The primary reason an addition was not successful in the first two submissions was that the Ministry said the board has ample space at nearby schools.

### **Will the students affected by changes be able to go to their new locations to familiarize themselves with these changes? This is huge.**

The details of transition supports haven't been determined. It is a priority for the committee to ensure that we have smooth transitions for all of our students. School administrators will work together to support the transitions for the existing and new students.

### **When would these changes be implemented?**

A decision will be made the Board of Trustees on February 27, 2023 and will be communicated to families in March. The changes would be effective September 1, 2023.

### **Does this impact Kindergarten enrolments for folks who are still within boundary of Woodman?**

Communication was shared stating Kindergarten registration will need to be confirmed based on any decision by the Board of Trustees coming out of this review. Registration information will be transferred to the new school if a student is impacted by a boundary change.

### **What about having a "middle school"? Keeping JK-5 at one school and moving 6-8 to another school in the area? Echo Place and Woodman are so close they could be used that way?**

That is not something that the committee has considered but can be discussed at our next meeting.

### **Public Comments:**

- **One concern transferring students to King George would be the traffic congestion.**
- **It's too bad planning is reactive rather than proactive.**
- **3b seems the most reasonable to maintain more equal enrolment throughout the schools.**
- **Four comments were made expressing support for WOO students to go to BCS.**



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- I am glad you abandoned the grade 7-12 proposal. I know that was from a number's perspective, but I also think there is a strong child development argument for this separation as well.
- I feel strongly that as many of the students leaving the school should be kept together. Given the last few years of Covid and its impact on children and their schooling and relationships, I would like my children to keep as many of their peers as possible. I feel that Branlyn is the best option. *There were 6 likes for this comment.*
- I think the middle school is worth looking into. *There were 2 additional comments supporting exploration of a middle school.*

The following comments were submitted to the Planning Department following the meeting:

- I am concerned about Echo Place school and hoping that closing it is not in any of the options.
- I am in favour of sending all children to Branlyn. This is due to bussing, space availability for pick up/drop off for bus students. Children living in this area and attending Catholic school are already bussed to Notre Dame.
- I will have a child entering grade 7 and a legacy student status was mentioned for 1-2 years. While a great option for some, this is not something I'm interested in for my family. I will also have a grade 4 student and I'd like to keep them together.
- As a family that has moved west and back to Ontario and kids switching schools, we made the best of it and our kids adjusted quite quickly. I anticipate the same for the fall.
- I would like to strongly advocate for Garden Ave. to not be included in area 17 and to maintain it in areas 13 and 15. Personally for our family, daycare in the area and emergency contacts would be impacted for us if those living on Garden Ave were included.

### D - 1 Next Steps

- a) A further Special Ad Hoc committee meeting will be held on, February 6, 2023 to review feedback from this evening's meeting and confirm recommendations to go forward to the Board of Trustees on February 27, 2023.
- b) Senior Admin. will work with Communications to translate the Boundary Review information to be communicated to the MLL community.
- c) [Planning@granderie.ca](mailto:Planning@granderie.ca) encourage to share, ask questions or make comments to this email.

### E - 1 Adjournment

6:20 p.m.