



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board

FROM: Brenda Blancher, Director of Education

RE: **Elementary French Immersion Accommodation Update**

DATE: November 23, 2015

Recommended Action: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
 THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the recommendations provided in the
 Elementary French Immersion Update Report.

Background Information

At the November 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole 2 meeting, Trustees recommended that a motion delaying entry to Grade 1 at all French Immersion schools.

Since that time we have been made aware of a regulatory change as of September 1, 2014 that would prohibit the Board from moving in this direction.

For this reason, a new plan to move forward decision making for French Immersion accommodation is proposed which will cause the Board to make other recommendations.

Additional Information

The following recommendations are proposed:

- for September 2016 French Immersion programs currently in place - single-track programs at École Dufferin and the new Coronation site, dual-track programs at Burford District, Walsh Public, and Caledonia Centennial Public School will continue with JK/SK/Grade 1 as the entry level
- in order to manage enrolment in the short-term, there will be an enrolment cap at our existing FI schools for the 2016-17 school year:
 - a process will be put in place to manage the cap - registration will take place in January as usual, and further information will come to the Board in January regarding a process to be set up whereby families with children currently attending an FI program will declare the number of siblings of existing FI students planning to enter Kindergarten in September 2016
 - once the sibling numbers are factored into the spaces available, it will be determined how many spaces are available for new registrations
 - a process will be put in place to manage new registrations within the capped number and once the spaces are full, no more FI registrations will be allowed
- in order to develop a French Immersion accommodation plan that includes greater consultation with families and staff, a committee consisting of Board staff, including the

Director, trustees, principals, school council representatives, staff representatives and representatives from the local branch of Canadian Parents for French and any other group that may be deemed appropriate will meet beginning in February 2016 to consult about the options to address French Immersion enrolment growth into the future

- a report on the work of the Committee will be presented to the Board on June 13, 2016
- the plan for French Immersion accommodation will be presented to the Board for approval in the fall of 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Blancher
Director of Education