

Boundary Review - McClung Road Subdivision, Caledonia
Elementary Information Session – McKinnon Park Secondary School

Tuesday May 30th, 6:00 p.m.

Working Committee Members:

Linda De Vos – Superintendent of Education (Chair of Elementary Session)

Jamie Gunn- Superintendent of Business

Brian Doyle – Trustee

James Richardson – Trustee

Tom Fitzsimmons – Principal, Caledonia Centennial

Jen Donohue – Parent, Caledonia Centennial

Caitlin McVean -Principal, Seneca Central

Tracy Reed – Parent, Seneca Central

Superintendent Linda De Vos commenced the Elementary portion of the meeting at 6:00 pm by reading the Land Acknowledgement statement and introducing the working group members and welcoming guests, including Board representatives David Dean, Chair of the Board, Carol Ann Sloat, Trustee, Diane Sowers, Trustee, Brenda Blancher, Director of Education and Michelle LeDressay, Resource to the Working Group.

Superintendent De Vos invited Superintendent Gunn to facilitate the following agenda items: The Boundary Review Process; Grand Erie’s demographics and long term forecasts for the Caledonia area; and, the current and proposed catchment area boundaries for Caledonia Centennial and Seneca Central.

The proposed boundary under review would amend the two school boundaries to include both sides of McClung Road, Caledonia to Caledonia Centennial. This area was formerly part of the Seneca Central School boundary. This change ensures that all new residential development in the Avalon – McClung Road development are assigned to Caledonia Centennial Elementary School.

The Elementary School Boundary Review slide deck for the Caledonia area is available on the Grand Erie Website for reference.

Superintendent Gunn provided information how to provide feedback to the Board and that the Board would consider the boundary change at its Committee of the Whole Board meeting on June 12, 2017 with final consideration at the June 26, 2017 Regular Board meeting.

Superintendent De Vos and Superintendent Gunn opened the floor to questions.

Questions/Comments from the Community:

My concern is that we live on McClung Road and have four children, not all of them are in school yet. Will my children be attending Caledonia Centennial then moving to Seneca and will they all be able to continue to stay at Seneca?

Grandfathering and how extensive it is would be a decision made by the board. There are ways to grandfather to meet the requests of the whole family.

Any questions/concerns/comments can be send to the principal or to info@granderie.ca.

Will bussing be provided if my children are grandfathered?

The board will continue to provide transportation.

Do the projected numbers include the new development?

Yes, the projected numbers take into consideration the new development.

How long are portables expected at Caledonia Centennial?

If approval is received from the Ministry to build a new school, the portables will remain at the school at the earliest date of 2020-2021.

How many portables and what grade students would be placed in the portables:

There would be six or seven portables. Ages would be determined by school administration. Typically, the preference is for the older grades to be in portables.

Do you receive your information from Empire?

We work with the developer and county. Information may change as we approach Phase 4, but we are hopeful that we can establish boundaries before that. We need to show growth in the schools to receive Ministry funding.

Where are portables to be placed?

The portables will be placed where the playground has been taken out and will continue across the teacher parking lot. The teachers will use the church parking lot.

I am concerned about timelines with the development, phase 3 just sold and it should be ready closer to 2018. It seems the projected number of students seem low with the number of families projected coming from that community, and those especially with multiple children.

We rely on historical data, development and yield. There is a similar community in Brantford building Empire homes. We see the number of students per household and use a demographer to use long term projections. Housing can change depending on how phases are sold, and the projection is just for four years. All of the students will not be attending the public schools.

Will there be anymore changes other than the boundaries?

The only boundary change is McClung Road, as it is consistent with development.

Is there a reason to send students to Caledonia Centennial versus adding portables at Seneca?

There are always bigger challenges with rural schools in terms of municipal infrastructure (example: well water, septic).

What does the future look like at Caledonia Centennial?

That would be for the board to determine in the future. Years from now, the Quality Accommodations Committee will likely review the J.L. Mitchener and Seneca catchment area.

Are you concerned about portables at McKinnon Park SS?

There cannot be anymore portables placed at McKinnon Park SS.

How much liaison does the developer have with Grand Erie District School Board?

We are involved with development within the Caledonia Centennial catchment.

Is J. L Mitchener in that area?

The area of the subdivision at some point will require another boundary review however will not include Caledonia Centennial.