

D-1-e Boundary Review – McKinnon Park/Cayuga Secondary

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

Tuesday May 30, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

**Working Committee Members:**

Denise Martins – Superintendent of Education (Chair of Secondary Session)

Jamie Gunn- Superintendent of Business

Brian Doyle – Trustee

James Richardson – Trustee

Dave MacDonald – Principal, McKinnon Park Secondary School

Sara Richardson – Parent, McKinnon Park Secondary School

Dave Thomas - Principal, Cayuga Secondary School

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 Gunn shared enrolment and accommodation data, boundary options for consideration and administration's recommendations for boundary amendments. Superintendent Gunn shared that a review of the secondary school catchment areas for Caledonia had been initiated by the Board of Trustees after consideration of long term accommodation forecasts and recommendations from the Board's Quality Accommodations Committee.

The proposed boundary under review would amend the two school boundaries and move the area bound by Highway #6 on the east, the Grand River on the south, McClung Road on the west and the Halidbrook Road on the north from McKinnon Park SS catchment area to the Cayuga SS area. This area does not include any residents on Highway #6. This change ensures that all new residential development in the Avalon – McClung Road development are assigned to Cayuga Secondary School.

The Secondary School Boundary Review slide deck for the Caledonia area are 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 Martins thanked Superintendent Gunn for the overview and information shared and opened the floor to questions.

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### Questions/Comments from the Community

*Question: How does grandfathering work if we live on the other side of Hwy 6 (Yellow shaded area) and my child is attending Cayuga SS as out of area?*

If he/she is already attending as an out of area student, he would remain at the school. The process of applying for out of area would be the same.

*Question: Do the numbers include Tuition Agreement students attending McKinnon Park SS as they are not recognized as students of the board?*

The ministry considers the Tuition Agreement students as real people of the board.

*Question: 500-800 homes are expected to be built with the development, has there been consideration for McKinnon Park SS?*

We don't expect to have that many students for McKinnon Park SS, the boundaries between McKinnon Park SS and Cayuga SS present an overlap so there would be a choice for students.

*Question: Any plan for expansion at MPSS?*

The graphs were shown that highlighted under-utilization at Cayuga SS and over-utilization at McKinnon Park SS. The Ministry would direct the board to move students from McKinnon Park SS to Cayuga SS before consideration of adding to McKinnon Park SS. It is extremely difficult to present a business case for an addition when there is surplus of space at Cayuga SS.

*Question: Can you please elaborate on the Tuition Agreement students?*

Capital funding does not see Tuition Agreement students as pupils of the board, and remove those students from the numbers upon review of a capital case.

*Question: Are you aware of any other board that presents similar challenges when considering the Tuition Agreement students?*

Lambton-Kent may be similar to Grand Erie District School Board, but not aware of any others.

*Question: Will Cayuga SS ever reach maximum capacity? If so, how would this affect younger siblings who would plan to attend there?*

Projections for the next 20 years show that boundary changes would not fill Cayuga SS. How long grandfathering is considered would be a decision made by the board. They need to control where population growth is evident, and consider those siblings in younger grades.

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***Question: Have you considered building a super school?***

It is not an option, the board did discuss this three and a half years ago. We are currently working with community developers to use existing spaces.

***Question: Will you look at any other boundary reviews to move students to Cayuga SS?***

The Quality Accommodations Committee did review other options; however, this would mean that students in the close proximity of McKinnon Park SS would be moved. The proposed boundary change makes the most sense since it is dealing with students who are not there yet and it is considered the furthest area of McKinnon Park SS catchment and closest to Cayuga. It is a significant change when you move students within the urban area. The rural area may only affect 20 students or so.

***Comment from Trustee Doyle: Parents need to understand that as long as Cayuga SS has capacity, we are going to fill that school up. McKinnon Park SS cannot support foundation to build any addition upwards. It is important to acknowledge that this town is growing.***

***Question: How do you determine projections of students who will be living in the new survey?***

The typical yield is .2 or one secondary student for every 10 houses. It is expected that 3500 homes are going in.

***Question: Do you foresee a similar case for elementary in 15 years?***

We don't see surplus capacity elsewhere that would require us to consider building another secondary school anywhere.

***Comment from Arlene Everets (Past trustee): This boundary proposal is the cleanest way to address the situation, assigning the students in the survey to Cayuga SS works well.***

***Question: Are you worried about this again in 10 years with the possibility of students attending the catholic secondary school if they can't attend McKinnon Park SS?***

That is always an option or choice, however if more students attend Cayuga SS then it will present more program options and program expansion.