

TO: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

SUBJECT: SECONDARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

2020-21 STRATEGIC DRIVER ALIGNMENT:

Student Well-Being

Good Financial Stewardship including legislative requirements re: balanced budgets

ORIGIN: Director's Council

BACKGROUND

At the June 23, 2020 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting, Trustees considered the report entitled: "*Proposed Changes to the Attendance Boundaries of Bishop Ryan CSS, Cathedral HS, St. John Henry Newman CSS, Bishop Tonos CSS and St. Thomas More CSS*". The report was deferred seeking additional information on the review of all seven secondary schools and to further review the proposed flex-boundaries for St. Thomas More CSS and Bishop Tonnos CSS.

In his 2019 Initial Meeting Address, the Chairperson of the Board highlighted the need for a secondary school boundary review as to provide a better balance in enrolment and efficient use of our secondary school facilities.

The following principles guided staff in their detailed analysis of all boundaries during this review:

1. Keeping grade 8 graduating classes together;
2. Minimal disruption to historical parish-school relationships;
3. A focus on improving the balance of enrolment between the seven secondary schools over time/long term; and
4. A focus on the efficient use of available classroom space in all seven secondary facilities.
5. Recommended boundary solutions will not create circumstances where students are given the option of bussing to more than one school.

COMMENT

The Board is responsible for providing schools and facilities for students and for operating and maintaining schools within the Board as effectively and efficiently as possible to

support faith formation and student achievement. School attendance boundaries are necessary to create school communities that are appropriately sized for the capacity of each school facility.

As stated in the Board approved *Multi-Year Accommodation Plan, 2020-2024*, boundary adjustments are sometimes required to help balance student growth from new housing development and immigration.

The establishment and maintenance of school boundaries shall consider the efficient and educationally effective use of the capacities of each school, the geographical location of each school and its relationship to the surrounding student population, safe walking conditions and the preservation of parish and neighborhood identities within a school.

CURRENT STATE

Upper Stoney Creek is currently experiencing the highest amount of residential development within the City of Hamilton, and is forecasted to continue to experience significant future growth. Long-range Planning projections indicate a net growth of approximately 469 students at Bishop Ryan CSS by the 2030-31 school year.

The boundary for St. Thomas More CSS was established at a time when several residential subdivisions were not yet completed. Over time, as communities were built and homes became occupied, the boundary line for an area north of Rymal Road became problematic—students who live within much closer geographic proximity to St. Thomas More CSS fell within the Bishop Tonnos CSS boundary. As such, many of these area students attend St. Thomas More CSS.

Table 1, below, identifies current and projected enrolment for Bishop Ryan CSS, Bishop Tonnos CSS, Cathedral HS, St. Jean de Brebeuf CSS, St. John Henry Newman CSS, St. Mary CSS and St. Thomas More CSS.

Please refer to *Appendix ‘A’* for current “status quo” boundary maps.

Table 1: Current and Projected Enrolment

Catholic Secondary School	On-The-Ground (OTG) Capacity	Portables	2019-20 ADE Enrolment	Short-Term Projections (ADE)			Mid- and Long-Range Projections (ADE)	
				2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2024-2025	2030-2031
Bishop Ryan	1455	12	2095	2084	2186	2280	2363	2564
Bishop Tonnos	1224	0	1188	1207	1283	1316	1278	1283
Cathedral	1137	6	1198	1173	1225	1155	1318	1205

St. Jean de Brebeuf	1101	13	1420	1455	1422	1432	1497	1589
St. John Henry Newman	1311	0	1462	1516	1530	1567	1548	1540
St. Mary	1038	9	862	882	946	1026	1231	1562
St. Thomas More	1389	15	1958	2046	2034	2017	1965	1947
Totals:	8655	55	10183	10363	10625	10793	11201	11692

Note: Hidden decimals may cause rounding error. Cathedral projections include 137 Wilma’s students.

BOUNDARY CONFIGURATIONS ASSESSED BY STAFF

Following the guiding principles noted previously, staff set-out to look at modelling various secondary boundary configurations in an effort to help create a better balance of enrolment among the seven secondary schools in the system, with a focus on minimal disruption to existing school boundaries and school-parish relationships. Staff looked at resulting 10-year (2030) projections to determine optimal changes to secondary boundaries.

Bishop Ryan CSS

As shown in Table 1, Bishop Ryan CSS currently requires 12 portables to accommodate its current enrolment of 2095 students ADE. The Ministry rated capacity (OTG) of Bishop Ryan CSS is 1455 pupil places. Enrolment is projected to steadily increase as growth from new development intensifies in Upper Stoney Creek, reaching approximately 2564 students ADE by 2030. According to the EDC Background Study, the Board should acquire a new secondary school site by approximately 2024 in a key location somewhere in the Elfrida-Binbrook growth corridor—in preparation for the future construction of a new secondary school facility to relieve forecasted enrolment pressures.

Staff looked at several different boundary scenarios as it was determined that the 10-year projection for Bishop Ryan CSS is too high, greatly exceeding its calculated Functional Capacity (OTG + portable capacity + 15%) of 2018 pupil places:

1. Status Quo
2. St. David to St. John Henry Newman CSS;
3. **St. David to St. John Henry Newman CSS, and St. John the Baptist and St. Eugene Regular Track to Cathedral HS;**
4. St. David and St. Luke to St. John Henry Newman CSS, and St. John the Baptist and St. Eugene Regular Track to Cathedral HS.

As noted in Table 1, the 10-year (2030) projection for Bishop Ryan CSS is 2564 students ADE, therefore Status Quo was initially ruled-out as a reasonable option.

Based on the remaining boundary models assessed, staff determined that model #3 resulted in the most optimal long-range projection for Bishop Ryan CSS at 2026 students ADE by 2030.

Model #2 had a negligible impact to Bishop Ryan's 2030 projection, as many St. David graduates currently attend St. John Henry Newman CSS.

Model #4 resulted in a long-range projection of 1848 students ADE, which falls well below Bishop Ryan's Functional Capacity of 2018 students, and was therefore ruled-out. Furthermore, there is insufficient capacity at St. John Henry Newman to accommodate St. Luke graduates.

Bishop Tonnos CSS

Bishop Tonnos CSS is forecasted to moderately grow by approximately 95 students for a total projection of 1283 students ADE by 2030—this falls neatly within its calculated Functional Capacity of 1285 pupil places. Furthermore, the 2033 projection contained within the Board's recently completed EDC Background Study indicates that Bishop Tonnos CSS will further grow to approximately 1373 students ADE, bringing it closer to the long-range enrolments of other secondary schools in the system. This potential future growth can be accommodated at Bishop Tonnos CSS through careful master scheduling. Therefore, no boundary changes are recommended.

On July 9, 2020, Board Planning staff formally responded to an Application by Corbett Land Strategies Inc. for a City-wide amendment to the Urban Hamilton Official Plan (UHOP) and an area-specific amendment for lands located in the Twenty Road West area. It is our understanding that the intent of the application is to seek amendments to the UHOP to expand the urban boundary and incorporate parcels of land into the urban area. Ultimately, over time, this will result in additional growth at Bishop Tonnos CSS.

The recently completed EDC Background Study recommends the Board acquire an elementary school site somewhere in the area of south Ancaster and Mount Hope by 2029 to accommodate future residential growth. At that time, when the nature and location of residential development is better understood, staff will submit a business case to the Ministry of Education requesting capital funds to construct a new elementary school. As part of that process, a formal boundary review for area elementary schools will be required.

Cathedral HS

Enrolment at Cathedral HS is expected to remain relatively stable over the next ten years, with a projection of 1205 students ADE by 2030.

Staff looked at two different boundary scenarios as it was determined that the 10-year projection for Cathedral HS was declining. The calculated Functional Capacity for Cathedral HS is 1351 students (4 period day) or potentially 1480 students (5 period day):

1. Status Quo
2. Eugene Regular Track to Cathedral HS;
3. **St. John the Baptist and St. Eugene Regular Track to Cathedral HS.**

Status Quo was initially ruled-out as a reasonable option. Excluding 137 Wilma’s Place students who reside off-site, Cathedral’s current 10-year projection is 1068 students. This projection falls well below Cathedral’s calculated Functional Capacity noted above.

Based on the remaining boundary models assessed, staff determined that model #3 resulted in the most optimal long-range projection for Cathedral HS at 1684 students ADE (note: this includes 137 students enrolled in the Wilma’s Place program). From a distance perspective, both St. John the Baptist and St. Eugene are also in closer geographic proximity to Cathedral HS. Furthermore, this scenario helps to optimize long-range enrolment at Bishop Ryan CSS, as noted previously.

St. Jean de Brebeuf CSS

Enrolment at St. Jean de Brebeuf CSS is projected to moderately grow by approximately 169 students for a total projection of 1589 students ADE by 2030. This projection is close to its calculated Functional Capacity of 1640 pupil places.

Furthermore, the 10-year projection for St. Jean de Brebeuf CSS falls within a similar range as compared to the current or proposed 10-year projections of several other secondary schools in the system:

2030 Projections

St. Jean de Brebeuf CSS	1589 students ADE (current)
Cathedral HS (excluding Wilma’s Place)	1547 students ADE (proposed)
St. John Henry Newman CSS	1600 students ADE (proposed)
St. Mary CSS	1562 students ADE (current)
Average Projected Enrolment:	1575 students ADE

Therefore, no boundary changes are recommended.

St. John Henry Newman CSS

St. John Henry Newman CSS is forecasted to moderately grow by approximately 78 students for a total projection of 1540 students ADE by 2030. The calculated Functional Capacity for St. John Henry Newman CSS is 1508 pupil places. Therefore, the 2030 projection for St. John Henry Newman CSS is fairly optimal. However, as part of a larger review of boundaries in the system, staff assessed one additional boundary change:

1. Status Quo
2. **St. David to St. John Henry Newman CSS;**

Many nearby St. David graduates currently attend St. John Henry Newman CSS due to close geographic proximity. Model #2 simply assumes all St. David students to attend St. John Henry Newman CSS. Under this scenario, there is a modest increase in future enrolment to 1600 students ADE by 2030. While this projection exceeds the Functional Capacity of the facility by approximately 92 students, there are options available to potentially increase classroom spaces at St. John Henry Newman CSS.

St. Mary CSS

St. Mary CSS is forecasted to significantly grow by upwards of 700 students for a total projection of 1562 students ADE by 2030. This forecasted growth is a combination of larger projected grade 9 intake as well as sizeable forecasted development growth—upwards of 200 new students alone are projected from residential development by 2030. Staff will continue to carefully monitor area developments as they unfold and will keep the Board regularly informed.

Furthermore, the 10-year projection for St. Mary CSS falls within a similar range as compared to the current or proposed 10-year projections of several other secondary schools in the system:

2030 Projections

St. Mary CSS	1562 students ADE (current)
Cathedral HS (excluding Wilma’s Place)	1547 students ADE (proposed)
St. Jean de Brebeuf CSS	1589 students ADE (current)
St. John Henry Newman CSS	1600 students ADE (proposed)
Average Projected Enrolment:	1575 students ADE

While St. Mary CSS is projected to incrementally grow by approximately 70 students per year on average, staff assessed one additional boundary proposition to gauge short-term impacts to St. Mary CSS projections:

1. St. Lawrence to St. Mary CSS

This scenario results in a significant drop of approximately 216 students to Cathedral HS projections, and based on the relative close geographic proximity of St. Lawrence students to Cathedral HS, this boundary proposition is not recommended.

Overall, due to robust long-term forecasted growth at St. Mary CSS, no boundary changes are recommended at this time.

St. Thomas More CSS

As shown in Table 1, St. Thomas More CSS currently requires 15 portables to accommodate its current enrolment of 1958 students ADE. Enrolment at St. Thomas More CSS is expected to remain relatively stable over the next ten years, with a projection

of 1947 students ADE by 2030. The Functional Capacity of St. Thomas More CSS is approximately 2029 pupil places.

As articulated in a later section of this report, staff recommend a flex-boundary arrangement to recognize the residential communities' immediately north and south of Rymal Road West that are in particularly close geographic proximity to St. Thomas More CSS, but fall within the Bishop Tonnos CSS boundary. The establishment of a flex-boundary gives grade 8 graduating students in this identified area equal access to either St. Thomas More CSS or Bishop Tonnos CSS. The proposed flex-boundary (as shown on the map in *Appendix 'C'*) is expected to have a negligible effect on enrolment at either school. If the proposed flex-boundary is approved, enrolment at St. Thomas More CSS is projected to modestly increase to approximately 1966 students ADE by 2030.

Enrolment at St. Thomas More CSS is projected to vary between 1958 and 2046 students ADE, depending on the projection year. These projections are within a reasonable range of the facility's Functional Capacity. Any increase in enrolment, however, will exacerbate accommodation challenges at the facility.

PROPOSED BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS AS A RESULT OF STAFF REVIEW

#1. Proposed Boundary Adjustments—Bishop Ryan CSS, Cathedral HS and St. John Henry Newman CSS

Board staff have carefully analysed the current attendance boundaries of Bishop Ryan CSS, Cathedral HS and St. John Henry Newman CSS, as well as projected enrolment and area residential development, in order to propose the following boundary adjustments:

- Redirect new students from St. John the Baptist Catholic elementary school and St. Eugene Catholic elementary school Regular Track program to Cathedral HS starting in September 2021.
- Existing St. John the Baptist and St. Eugene Regular Track program graduates and their siblings may remain at Bishop Ryan CSS.
- Redirect new students from St. David Catholic elementary school to St. John Henry Newman CSS starting in September 2021.
- Existing St. David graduates and their siblings may remain at Bishop Ryan CSS.

The proposed boundary map for Bishop Ryan CSS, Cathedral HS and St. John Henry Newman CSS is found in *Appendix 'B'*.

Through the proposed boundary adjustments, enrolments at Bishop Ryan CSS, Cathedral HS and St. John Henry Newman CSS are projected to be much more evenly balanced over time, as shown in Table 2 (found later in the report). Both Cathedral HS and St. John Henry Newman CSS can accommodate an enrolment increase of

approximately 15% over their respective functional capacities—largely through careful master scheduling. Furthermore, both facilities may require additional classroom space to meet long-range peak projections in 2024. If required, additional space can be made available through the use of portables, portapaks, and/or internal retrofits. This will be subject to further assessment and review.

The Saltfleet Branch of the Hamilton Public Library has been occupying space at St. John Henry Newman CSS since 2000. There is potential additional capacity to accommodate enrolment growth should the first floor library become available. This will be subject to further review and discussions with the City of Hamilton’s Library Board.

#2. Proposed Boundary Adjustments—Bishop Tonnos CSS and St. Thomas More CSS

Board staff have carefully analysed the current attendance boundaries of Bishop Tonnos CSS and St. Thomas More CSS, as well as projected enrolment and area residential development, in order to propose the following flex-boundary arrangement:

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux students who reside within the area north of Rymal Road West, east of Upper Paradise Road, west of Garth Street, south of William Schwenger Park and also south of (but including) Claudette Gate **shall have equal access** to either St. Thomas More CSS or Bishop Tonnos CSS.
- St. Thérèse of Lisieux students who reside within the area south of Rymal Road West, east of Glancaster Road, west of Garth Street and north of the hydro corridor **shall have equal access** to either St. Thomas More CSS or Bishop Tonnos CSS.

The proposed boundary map for Bishop Tonnos CSS and St. Thomas More CSS is found in *Appendix ‘C’*. This map also provides current student distribution for these two schools.

As shown in Table 2 on the following page, the proposed flex-boundary arrangement is estimated to have a negligible impact on projections for Bishop Tonnos CSS and St. Thomas More CSS—as many area students currently attend St. Thomas More CSS.

Note: Bishop Tonnos students who reside within the flex-boundary will continue to receive bussing.

Overall, in summary, long-range projections in Table 2 show a more balanced distribution of students in all seven secondary schools.

Table 2: Current and Projected Enrolment After Proposed Boundary Adjustments

Catholic Secondary School	On-The-Ground (OTG) Capacity	Portables	2019-20 ADE Enrolment	Short-Term Projections (ADE)			Mid- and Long-Range Projections (ADE)	
				2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2024-2025	2030-2031
Bishop Ryan	1455	12	2095	2084	2091	2082	1926	2026
Bishop Tonnos	1224	0	1188	1207	1279	1308	1262	1265
Cathedral	1137	6	1198	1173	1306	1325	1691	1684
St. Jean de Brebeuf	1101	13	1420	1455	1422	1432	1497	1589
St. John Henry Newman	1311	0	1462	1516	1543	1594	1610	1600
St. Mary	1038	9	862	882	946	1026	1231	1562
St. Thomas More	1389	15	1958	2046	2037	2025	1983	1966
Totals:	8655	55	10183	10363	10625	10793	11201	11692

Note: Hidden decimals may cause rounding error. Cathedral projections include 137 Wilma’s students.

Next Steps

Following Board approval of the draft proposed boundary review, staff will consult with the affected school communities. The public consultation process will inform the communities involved of the boundary adjustment recommendation, collect feedback and answer any questions related to the boundary review. Following the consultation phase of the boundary review, Board staff will then review the collected community feedback and present a final boundary recommendation to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The proposed flex-boundary for Bishop Tonnos and St. Thomas More does not alter existing boundaries. While consultation is not necessary, staff will issue a formal communication to both school communities advising them of the changes.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT THE BOARD DIRECT STAFF TO CONSULT WITH THE AFFECTED SCHOOL COMMUNITIES REGARDING THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR BISHOP RYAN CSS, CATHEDRAL HS AND ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CSS.

2. THAT ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD THE CHAIRPERSON WRITE TO THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHAIRPERSON'S OF THE AFFECTED SCHOOL COMMUNITIES INFORMING THEM OF THE REVIEW AND INVITING THEIR COUNCILS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS.

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