

"Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to speak here tonight. My name is Grant Elligsen, and I'm a parent of two children at St. Catherine Catholic School. I'm also the Chair of the St. Catherine CSPC. Tonight, I am presenting on behalf of St. Catherine, its staff, and our community. The following will present some of our rationale for recommending a boundary review for St. Catherine Catholic School.

Our CSPC was given a presentation from the TCDSB that presented three scenarios for adjusting the St. Catherine boundary. The results of all three scenarios either overwhelmed St. Catherine and negatively impacted our neighbours at Annunciation and Precious Blood, or they provided negligible results. We propose that a boundary review may result in a solution somewhere in the middle of these extremes, so that it might benefit all schools involved. The presentation included their proposed "Scenario 3", which would call for the entirety of the Victoria Village neighbourhood (illustrated by the lower pink coloured area) to attend St Catherine. Of course, this is not feasible. One of the other deterrents was the logistics of busing, which understandably requires considerable resources.

St. Catherine has a maximum capacity of 141 students, with 104 students currently enrolled, consisting of 53 students from inside our boundary. This means, nearly half our students, 51 to be exact, are coming from outside our boundary. Of this cohort, 12 are from the north and includes those in the Annunciation boundary; 1 student comes from the east; 10 students come from the west, all of which are from the St. Bonaventure boundary; 9 students come from south of the Precious Blood boundary; and 19 of our students, nearly a fifth of our student population, come from the Victoria Village neighbourhood in the north part of the Precious Blood boundary.

We also have 4 buses that drop students off at St. Catherine daily, including three pre-existing bus stops in this same area north of Sweeney Drive, in the Victoria Village community of the Precious Blood boundary.

St. Catherine is currently experiencing a critically low enrollment in Junior Kindergarten, and we currently have only 2 JKs enrolled for 2022.

Over 1/3 of the area within our boundary is industrialized, including 100% of buildings on Railside Road.

Boundary review will direct students to St. Catherine rather than CSPC marketing our school in other boundaries.

To conclude, we agree that none of the TCDSB proposals were suitable solutions for a formal boundary review.

However, we believe that there is a suitable alternative that can benefit all schools. St. Catherine is urgently in need of help from the Board.

For that reason, we are asking the Board of Trustees to support St. Catherine and recommend a boundary review.

Thank you for your time."