



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

***ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY REVIEW –ST. GREGORY,
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, MOTHER CABRINI, ST.
MARCELLUS, OUR LADY OF SORROWS –FINAL REPORT
(TRUSTEE WARDS 1 AND 2)***

“Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”, Ephesians 4:3

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April 5, 2017	April 19, 2017	Click here to enter a date.

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RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Vision:

At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.

Mission:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.



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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the March 2, 2017 Student Achievement and Well Being, Catholic Education and Human Resources Committee meeting, the Board considered the report “*Attendance Boundary Review – St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus, Our Lady of Sorrows – Interim Report (Trustee Wards 1 and 2)*” in accordance with Elementary School Attendance Boundary Review Policy (S.A.03). The full report and appendices can be found on the website at the following link:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/PlanningandFacilities/PlanningServices/BoundaryReview/Documents/BARC-March2,%202017-Sect-15.d.pdf> .

At that meeting, staff recommended that the following be considered for approval at the meeting of the Board of Trustees on March 30, 2017:

1. *The attendance boundaries for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows remain status quo (unchanged).*
2. *That, in accordance with the Long-Term Accommodation Program Plan (LTAPP), staff investigate and assess possible locations in the South /Central Etobicoke area for a new elementary school to alleviate enrolment pressures in this area.*

This Final report considers the recommendations of the Director’s Interim report, the BRC’s input and public delegations and written submissions received at the:

- March 2, 2017 Student Achievement and Well Being Committee meeting,
- March 9, 2017 Corporate Services, Strategic Planning and Property Committee meeting,
- March 30, 2017 Regular Board meeting, and
- April 6, 2017 Student Achievement and Well Being Committee meeting.

In addition, 2 public meetings were held on November 15 and December 12, 2017.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to consider public input and to present final recommendations for consideration and approval regarding the Boundary Review Process for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows.

C. BACKGROUND

1. The initiation of a Boundary Review for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows elementary schools was approved by the Board on January 21, 2016 and February 9, 2016.

2. The Boundary Review, undertaken in accordance with Elementary School Attendance Boundary Review Policy (S.A.03), spanned approximately six months, with public meetings held on November 15, 2016 and December 12, 2016. Members of the Boundary Review Committee (BRC) also met on several occasions as a group for further discussion as is required under the policy.

Minutes from the public meetings are included in *Appendix 'A'* in the Interim report which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/PlanningandFacilities/PlanningServices/BoundaryReview/Documents/BARC-March2,%202017-Sect-15.d.pdf> .

3. All information discussed as part of the Boundary Review process, materials provided to the BRC for consideration, and all notes from public meetings have been made available on the Board's website.

4. The BRC conducted an assessment of all boundary options including status quo, the staff option, and additional options discussed through the course of the BRC meetings. However, the BRC concluded that consensus could not be reached.

5. Resulting from the BRC's discussion and community feedback, staff recommend that the attendance boundaries for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows remain status quo (unchanged).

6. Additionally, staff will continue to investigate possible locations in the South/Central Etobicoke area to secure a new elementary school site to alleviate current and projected enrolment pressures.
7. In the interim, to admit approximately 150 projected FDK students for September 2017, up to 3 portables may be required at St. Gregory. Staff will fully assess portable requirements as part of the annual portable plan which is expected at Board in April 2017.

Community feedback was provided to Trustees on March 2nd 9th, 30th, and April 6th, 2017. A summary of the delegations and written submissions are included in this report, and staff have provided explanations or responses to these concerns. The actual submissions can be found on the website at the following link:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/PlanningandFacilities/PlanningServices/BoundaryReview/Documents/Delegations-Mar9-30-R.pdf>

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. The following is a Summary of Delegations and Written Submissions:

Summary of Concerns	Staff Comments
The Board needs to conduct an audit to determine how many students live outside the St. Gregory fixed attendance boundary.	Fixed boundaries were approved and implemented in 2012, the impacts of which are still being felt. Some students were within the original catchment area prior to the implementation of fixed boundaries. In addition, the Admissions Review Process includes a number of priorities in determining eligibility.
Any boundary option that would have students cross Highway 427 is dangerous, it creates lengthy bus rides and deters students from participating in extracurricular activities. If students miss the bus, how will they get home?	Provisions will be made to provide bussing to students as per Transportation Policy.
Moving the Special Needs Program or the French Program is disruptive.	This is not a staff recommendation, however the Board relocates programs based on need and location of students.

<p>The effect of a boundary change may reinforce positive and negative stereotypes of school communities.</p>	<p>The proposed boundary option for St. Gregory/Nativity of Our Lord was drawn along the Mimico Creek without prejudice to socio-economic considerations. The goal was to balance enrolment at schools using a logical boundary such as a watercourse. The geographical population density of students living in this area was another consideration in determining the most suitable boundary.</p>
<p>Children should be able to walk or ride their bikes to school promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles.</p>	<p>The TCDSB has approved an Active Transportation Travel Charter which encourages the use of active transportation for travel to and from school and supports healthy and active living. This is promoted regardless of geographic boundaries.</p>
<p>Dividing the community will impact children's abilities to form friendships in the neighbourhood.</p>	<p>The Board is sensitive to any disruptions that a boundary change will have on children however, an accommodation problem exists in this area which poses an equally significant challenge to the well-being of children.</p>
<p>Use portables at St. Gregory until a new site can be found to address a long-term solution.</p>	<p>In order to admit approximately 150 FDK students for September 2017, up to 3 portables may be required at St. Gregory. Staff will fully assess portable requirements as part of the annual portable plan which is expected at Board in April 2017. The Board has been investigating and assessing possible locations in the South / Central Etobicoke area for a new elementary school.</p>
<p>If a boundary change is going to happen, create a grandfathering clause for people who have moved into the area and children are not yet school aged.</p>	<p>Students will be admitted as per the Admissions Policy. Any students currently enrolled at St. Gregory will be allowed to continue in the school regardless of a boundary change.</p>
<p>Why has bussing been acceptable for those currently being bussed and not now?</p>	<p>The Board does bus students across highways and major arterial roads and it was a consideration at the outset of this review.</p>

Mimico creek is an inappropriate boundary to divide school communities.	Under SA 03 Boundary Review Policy a watercourse is described as a logical boundary.
The process was unfair, people were notified late in the process and were not invited to present alternative proposals, as well neighbouring schools to the south were not invited to participate.	There were two public meetings held on November 15, 2016 and December 12, 2016. These meetings are required as part of the process to gain community input. The BRC process, communication to community, and other material has been posted at the following website: https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/PlanningandFacilities/PlanningServices/BoundaryReview/Pages/default.aspx
Has the Committee considered other scenarios to alleviate enrolment issues?	All scenarios that were considered by the Committee are included in <i>Appendix 'B'</i> in the Interim report which can be found at the following link: https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/PlanningandFacilities/PlanningServices/BoundaryReview/Documents/BARC-March2,%202017-Sect-15.d.pdf
Portables at St. Gregory will not address the long-term solution of oversubscription in an area with future growth. The result will be less outdoor space for children to play. With more students at St. Gregory traffic congestion on site will be worse.	Portables are used across the system to provide short-term relief to accommodation pressures. Only a minimal number of portables are contemplated at this time. Traffic impacts can be mitigated through separate processes in consultation with transportation officials of the board and the City.
Opposed to Status Quo, however in support of the Board investigating a new school site but this will take time. In short-term supportive of Committee Discussion Scenario 1.	The Board has been investigating and assessing possible locations in the South / Central Etobicoke area for a new elementary school.
Opposed to status quo because students at St. Gregory already have inferior space / classrooms ie) music room is now a staff room, music is being held on the stage while gym class is occurring. Worry there will be	Portables can be placed on St. Gregory's site as a temporary measure. They are used across the system and are a standard practice in mitigating short-term accommodation pressures. The school based staffing models

a compromise on curriculum with overcrowding.	ensure an acceptable level of accommodation.
Opposed to Status Quo and that St. Gregory should not accept portables as Nativity of Our Lord has excess capacity to accommodate students.	This was recognized by staff but not accepted by the Committee.
Opposed to Status Quo because St Josyf Cardinal Slipyj should be used to alleviate enrolment pressures in this area.	JCS is full to capacity with approximately 600 students and 5 portables on site. It is an Eastern Rite school with unique programming.
Oppose status Quo - adopt Scenario 3 to alleviate pressure on Our Lady of Sorrows.	Noted.
How does the Board calculate projections?	Consensus enrolment projections are produced by TCDSB Planning Services on an annual basis during a 6 month cycle spanning October to March. Enrolment for the upcoming school year is projected based on October 31 st enrolment of the current year. Planning Services assesses each TCDSB school individually based on historical enrolment, and to gauge local trends within the existing community. Additionally, throughout the year, TCDSB Planning Services maintains a database of all development applications circulated by the City of Toronto Planning Department. This information is used to predict student growth from new development in a particular school community, and when combined with information from the existing community, results in a draft staff projection for consultation. Beginning in mid-December, staff circulates draft enrolment projections to all principals in the system for comment. Based on local feedback from the Principals, the initial draft staff enrolment projection is reassessed and adjusted where necessary. The adjusted projection is then sent to school

	superintendents for signoff, ultimately resulting in a consensus enrolment projection.
How does the Board calculate space and student distribution?	Classroom allocations are assessed annually in conjunction with staff assignments. An increase in student population does not always require additional classrooms. Classes are filled to the maximum allowed under the Collective Bargaining agreement as well as any Ministry restrictions. The need for additional/temporary spaces are assessed annually. Student distribution is managed through the use of fixed attendance boundaries in accordance with the Admissions and Placement Policy.
The total units which are to be added to the catchment area for Our Lady of Sorrows is 1,941 which is a yield of 102.8 students. Further, proposed development units to be built (1,759 – 5,850 units) between 2017 and 2030 are more significant to the OLS catchment area than any other area in Etobicoke.	In the Our Lady of Sorrows boundary, the City of Toronto circulated, at the end of 2016, additional development applications for 383 units. These applications were not included in the original analysis by the PAR because the information was not received prior to the start of the process. To date, a total of 2,324 units are proposed for occupancy for up to 2030.

7. BRC and Community Feedback

In brief, the BRC conducted an assessment of all boundary options including status quo, the staff option and additional options discussed through the course of the BRC meetings. The boundary options can be found in *Appendix 'B'* of the Interim report at the following link:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/PlanningandFacilities/PlanningServices/BoundaryReview/Documents/BARC-March2,%202017-Sect-15.d.pdf> .

The BRC concluded that consensus could not be reached for the following reasons:

- Bussing across major highways was not acceptable,
- Moving special programs was perceived to be disruptive to students,

- Opportunity for a new school in the area requires exploration and would be a better solution to enrolment pressures.

The majority of verbal and written comments submitted through the delegation process reflect the above reported observations. However, some community members were supportive of bussing students across Highway 427.

Another issue was portables at St. Gregory, which some community members were supportive of.

8. Traffic Report

In response to the traffic concerns, staff provided a summary below of the City traffic reports for the period of January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2016. The full traffic reports are attached to the Interim report in *Appendices 'D' and 'E'* which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/PlanningandFacilities/PlanningServices/BoundaryReview/Documents/BARC-March2,%202017-Sect-15.d.pdf> .

For the intersections of the East Mall and West Mall at Rathburn Rd, on the bridge over Highway 427, and the intersection of Kipling and Rathburn, the following observations were reported:

- a) Between 2012 and 2016 there were zero fatalities and 26 personal injuries.
- b) Of the 26 personal injuries, 6 were pedestrian collisions and 2 were cyclist collisions.
- c) Most collisions occurred between 8am to 9am as well as 3pm to 6pm.
- d) There were no school bus or school guard collisions.
- e) Collisions were categorized by minimal, minor or major.
- f) 1 major collision was reported.
- g) 5 collisions occurred within the 0-4yr age range and 10 collisions occurred within the 5-14yr age range.

For the intersection of Kipling and Rathburn, the following observations were reported:

- a) Between 2012 and 2016 there were zero fatalities and 7 personal injuries.

- b) Of the 7 personal injuries, 1 was a pedestrian collision and 1 was a cyclist collision.
- c) Most collisions occurred at 8am as well as at 4pm.
- d) There were no school bus or school guard collisions.
- e) Collisions were categorized by minimal, minor or major.
- f) No major collisions occurred.
- g) 2 collisions occurred within the 0-4yr age range and 3 collisions occurred within the 5-14yr age range.

9. Portable Needs

St. Gregory currently has 5 purpose built FDK spaces. The projected September 2017 enrolment is approximately 734 students. In order to accommodate the projected enrolment, approximately 3 portables would be required for 2017. However given the current 4.5 FDK allocation cap in place for St. Gregory, there will be a requirement for 2 portables for 2017.

10. Development

Central Etobicoke is an area experiencing significant growth in the City of Toronto. The table below provides forecasted residential development units and associated projected student yields for each school under review. For further detail, refer to *Appendix 'C'* in the Interim report which can be found at the following link: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/PlanningandFacilities/PlanningServices/BoundaryReview/Documents/BARC-March2,%202017-Sect-15.d.pdf>

School	Total Units	Projected Student Yield
St. Gregory	1,305	83.7
Nativity of Our Lord	196	35
Mother Cabrini	38	12.7
St. Marcellus	152	29.1
Our Lady of Sorrows	1,941	102.8
Total	3,623	263.3

11. Transportation

As the BRC did not reach consensus, the existing attendance boundaries will remain in place, resulting in no additional transportation costs.

12. Summary

Resulting from the BRC's discussions and community feedback, staff recommend that the attendance boundaries remain status quo. Additionally, staff are actively pursuing school sites in the South / Central Etobicoke area to accommodate enrolment growth. This direction is consistent with the recommendations of the Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP).

On March 9, 2017, the Board approved entering into an Agreement of Purchase and Sale to acquire the former Buttonwood Hill Public School, a non-operating school declared surplus by the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), which is located in the larger area of forecasted growth. As per the requirements of *Ontario Regulation 444/98*, the TCDSB submitted an Expression of Interest for the Buttonwood Hill property on March 20, 2017.

E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the following recommendations be considered for approval at the meeting of the Board of Trustees on April 19, 2017.

1. That the attendance boundaries for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini, St. Marcellus and Our Lady of Sorrows remain status quo (unchanged).
2. That, in accordance with the Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP), staff investigate and assess possible locations in the South /Central Etobicoke area for a new elementary school to alleviate enrolment pressures.
3. That, subject to the purchase of the Buttonwood site, or an alternative site in Central Etobicoke, that a boundary review be initiated involving St. Gregory, St. Marcellus, Our Lady of Sorrows, All Saints, Father Serra, and St. Eugene.