



# Bronte Green New Development Area School Boundary Review

Report of Online Survey Results

Report Prepared by:  
*Research & Development Services*  
4/19/2021

# Table of Contents

- Survey Background.....3
- Survey Results.....3
  - About the Respondents: Demographics.....3
  - Proposed School Boundaries.....4
    - Q1: To what extent do you support the proposed school boundaries for St. Mary CES and St. Joan of Arc CES?*.....4
    - Q2: Do you have any final comments on this boundary review?*.....6
- Appendix A.....7

# Bronte Green New Development Area School Boundary Review

## Report of Online Survey Results

---

### Survey Background

The purpose of this survey was to collect feedback from the community regarding the proposed school boundaries for St. Mary CES and St. Joan of Arc CES, proposed by the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) School Boundary Review Committee. The survey was available online from Wednesday April 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. In total, 170 responses were received. Responses are aggregated and discussed below. While many stakeholders provided their feedback, the results are not representative of the entire HCDSB community and should be interpreted with caution.

### Survey Results

#### About the Respondents: Demographics

When asked to select their role, the majority of respondents (n = 166; 97.6%) indicated that they were *parents/guardians* (see *Table 1*).

**Table 1**

#### *Respondents' Roles*

Role	Count (n)	Percentage (%)
Parent/Guardian	166	97.6%
Student	3	1.8%
Other (e.g., general member of the community)	1	0.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>100%</b>

If respondents selected *Parent/Guardian* as their role, they were then asked to select the school(s)<sup>1</sup> that their child(ren) attend. Most of the parent/guardian respondents indicated that they were part of St. Mary CES (n = 132; 79.5%). Please see *Table 2* for the complete breakdown.

---

<sup>1</sup> Parents/Guardians with children in different schools were able to select more than one school.

**Table 2**

*School(s) of Parents/Guardians' Children*

Schools	Count (n) <sup>2</sup>	Percentage (%) <sup>3</sup>
St. Joan of Arc CES	37	22.3%
St. Mary CES	132	79.5%
Other HCDSB elementary school	4	2.4%
HCDSB secondary school	5	3.0%
Other (e.g., HDSB schools, private schools)	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>100%</b>

If respondents selected *Student* as their role, they were then asked to select the school they are currently enrolled in. Two students attend St. Mary CES; one student attends St. Joan of Arc CES.

### Proposed School Boundaries

*Q1: To what extent do you support the proposed school boundaries for St. Mary CES and St. Joan of Arc CES?*

Results are presented for three groups of respondents, namely: (1) *All respondents*; (2) *St. Mary CES respondents (parents/guardians and students)*; (3) *St. Joan of Arc respondents (parents/guardians and students)*. As in shown in *Figures 1 and 2*, the pattern of results did not differ between *All respondents* and *St. Mary CES respondents*. However, the pattern of results for *St. Joan of Arc CES respondents*, as shown in *Figure 3*, did differ from *Figures 1 and 2*.

#### **All Respondents**

As shown in *Figure 1*, below, the majority of respondents (n = 131; 77%) either *support* or *strongly support* the proposed school boundaries for St. Mary CES and St. Joan of Arc CES.

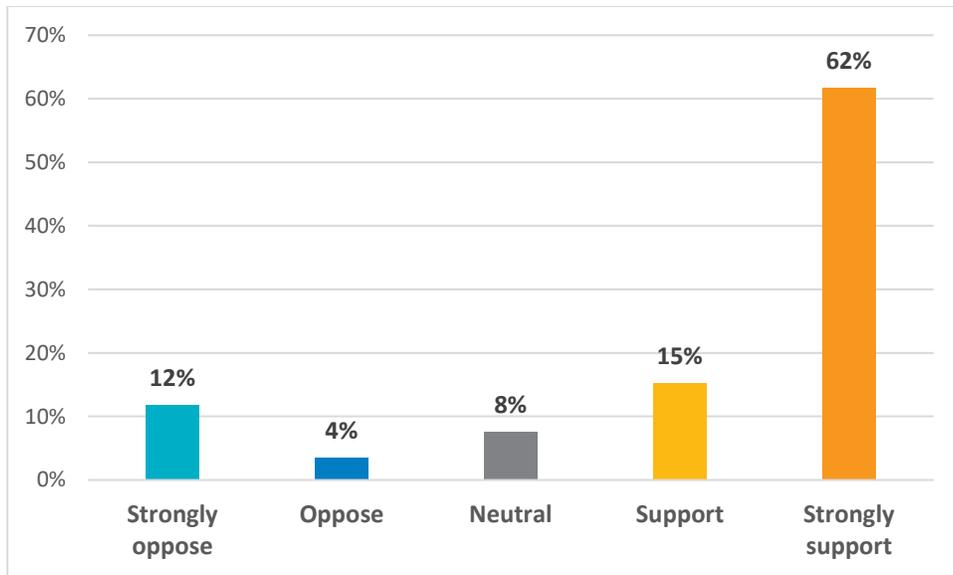
---

<sup>2</sup> Total count of schools exceeds the number of respondents (n = 166) as respondents were allowed to select more than one response.

<sup>3</sup> Percentage of respondents (n = 166) who selected each response.

**Figure 1**

*Support of Proposed School Boundaries – All Respondents (n = 170)*

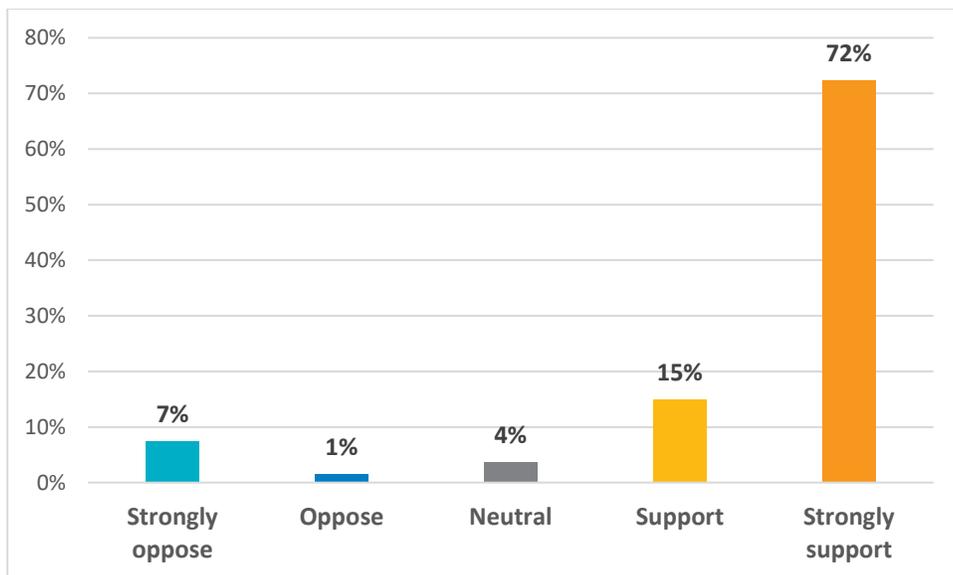


**St. Mary CES Respondents**

As shown in *Figure 2*, the majority of St. Mary CES respondents (n = 117; 87%) *support* or *strongly support* the proposed school boundaries for St. Mary CES and St. Joan of Arc CES.

**Figure 2**

*Support of Proposed School Boundaries – St. Mary CES Respondents (n = 134)*

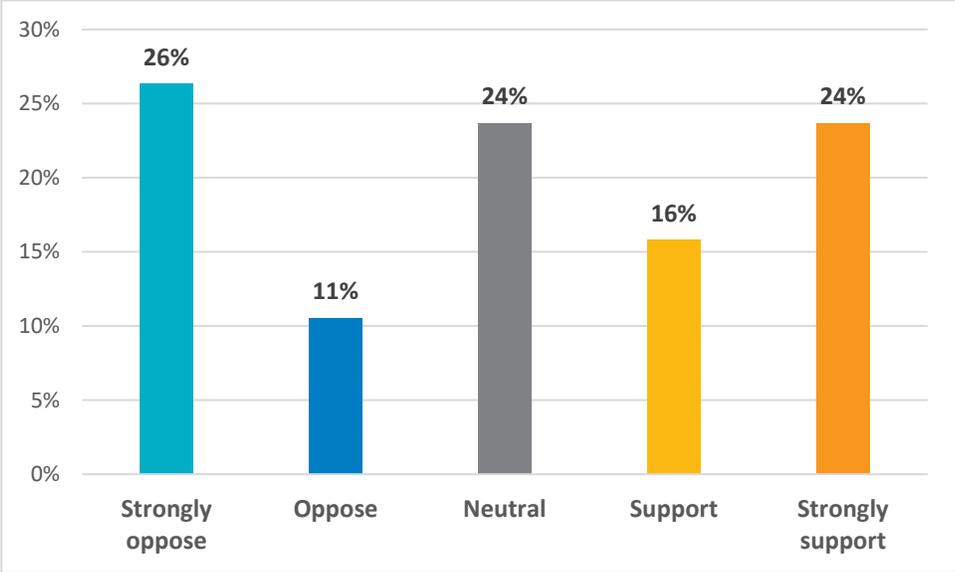


**St. Joan of Arc CES Respondents**

As shown in *Figure 3*, the percentage of respondents that either *supported* or *strongly supported* the proposed school boundaries (n = 15; 39%) was slightly higher than the percentage that either *opposed* or *strongly opposed* the boundaries (n = 14; 37%).

**Figure 3**

*Support of Proposed School Boundaries – St. Joan of Arc CES Respondents (n = 38)*



*Q2: Do you have any final comments on this boundary review?*

Sixty-nine respondents provided a comment. The most prevalent theme amongst the comments received was *Support of the proposed school boundaries due to overcrowding at St. Mary CES*. Please see *Appendix A* for the full list of comments.

## Appendix A

### Q2: Comments as Received

Agree with the proposed adjustments. St Mary's seems to be taking the higher volume of students at the moment. St Joan of Arc has higher capacity to receive more students (e.g. St Mary's has several portables while St. Joan of Arc does not).

As a new development not currently populating St. Mary, their should be little impact to new residents. Enrollment from that new development would have a huge impact on enrollment as well as vehicle traffic in the parking lots as it is not in walking distance to the school.

As a parent who resides in the current school boundary for St. Mary I recognize the need to ensure that both schools reach their capacity. I would like to point out that I have purchased a house within the new Saw Whet community and this decision was based on the fact that my children would still be able to attend St. Mary. I would hope that if the new boundary is approved that children who are currently enrolled at St Mary would NOT have to relocate schools as this would adversely impact them. If the boundary changed and only impacted students who were NOT current students of St. Mary I would support the proposal.

As with anything life, driving pressure upward toward capacity limits is less than optimal and does not make for a pleasant experience. As an example, just because there are 5 seats in a Honda civic doesn't make it a comfortable ride when all seats are full. The proposal will make our student body feel like the unlucky family member who has to ride squished into middle seat in the back of the car.

Based on student enrollment levels, it appears that it is appropriate to implement the proposed school boundaries and have students in the new housing development attend St. Joan of Arc.

Boundaries must be reviewed in conjunction with existing neighbours. Planning for existing student counts must be taken into consideration. If st Joan of arch has the space to sustain this growth, then it should be that school first to accommodate the additional students

Build a new school in the new area.

Do not change students that are attending ST MARY, and have been attending it since Kindergarten to St Joan of Arc. It could be detrimental to their mental health and social life, after all they have been through the pandemic.

Fully supportive of this newly expanded boundary for St. Joan. St. Mary school is over capacity. We need to do this to alleviate the pressure on St. Mary.

Given that St. Joan of Arc has declining enrolment, I think that the proposed changes would best accommodate the new developments within the boundaries. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Great job organizing the revised boundary area before the new saw whet development is complete. Your proactive approach will benefit future families.

Great temporary solution to change the boundaries. St. Mary alone cannot handle all these new students.

In the future, this area really needs another new Catholic Elementary School to be build.

How about further reducing the population that St. Mary's covers and considering some of the catchment areas for St. Joan of Arc and/or St. John Paul II?

how do you foresee the change in boundaries effecting enrollment rates at each school? how will the increase in enrollment at SJoA impact classroom size? Will there be need for portables to be installed? How will the shift in boundaries impact students at STM?

I am in agreement with these changes to the schools boundaries provided that children who are ALREADY students at St Mary and are relocating to the new development at Bronte Green are allowed to remain at St Mary. I believe that it would be disruptive to children's education and damaging to

---

their emotional well being to expect them to move schools. Parents would have bought homes in Bronte Green only for the reason that their child would not have to relocate. It is unfair to change the rules when parents are committed to moving to these new homes.

I am in support of the current boundaries base on the actual school capacity.

I believe the learning environment is important for the children and keeping the enrollment capacity under FBC is important.

I fully support the boundaries increasing enrolment for St. Joan of Arc.

As a teacher of DPCDSB I have experienced both school boundary changes, as well as empty schools, due to demographics of a neighborhood.

I also wonder if a proposal to have new registrations of P27 be sent to JOFA to eliminate the cost of busing?

I just want to reference on the boundary adjustment. West of Bronte Street which now is being allocated to St Joan of Arc is where Bronte Park is located and represents at least 95% of this land. The biggest allocation to St Joan of arc is east of Bronte Street. If you are unaware of the area just by looking at this map makes it look like St Joan of Arc is being allocated a big boundary. The change makes sense. Thank you

I strongly support this as with St Mary already being the designated French Immersion school it is over capacity already!

I think the area of P27 should be included in the St. Joan of Arc given the overcapacity at St. Mary CES and the need for bussing from that area which would've be required at St. Joan of Arc.

I think the proposed boundaries make logical sense when reviewing the fact patterns and current enrollment compared to capacity additions from the Bronte Green development.

I will pull my children and look for another school if that new boundary is applied. It would no doubt double classroom sizes impacting my children's education.

I wish the boundaries were reviewed much earlier when enrollment was declining at St. Joan of Arc for several years now which was also due to French Immersion programs offered at other schools and not have to wait until a new community was being constructed. Several Principals, Vice Principals and great teachers left that didn't need to happen.

I would have left area O18 to St. Mary's and taken P27, P31 and maybe P33 instead.

I'm glad to see that the School Board took the logical approach of re-directing the Bronte Green development to St. JOFA to avoid disrupting children who live on the east side of Bronte, north of the pipeline. I'm grateful that my son would be able to complete his schooling at St. Mary.

It makes sense this change in the boundaries.

It seems very clear that St. Mary, by hosting the French Immersion program as well as currently having the Bronte Green New Development, is over capacity. If St. Joan of Arc has capacity, then of course, the boundaries should be adjusted accordingly. It makes no sense to overcrowd one school when there is a feasible plan to allow for both schools to function at more appropriate capacity levels. I am STRONGLY in favour of directing the Bronte Green New Development area to St. Joan of Arc CES.

It seems very clear that St. Mary, by hosting the French Immersion program as well as currently having the Bronte Green New Development, is over capacity. If St. Joan of Arc has capacity, then of course, the boundaries should be adjusted accordingly. It makes no sense to overcrowd one school when there is a feasible plan to allow for both schools to function at more appropriate capacity levels. I am STRONGLY in favour of directing the Bronte Green New Development area to St. Joan of Arc CES.

---

It will also help with traffic in the area, and at the school for drop offs and pickup which is already backed up. As well as not over crowding our school and adding pressure to its staff and infrastructure which is at capacity. It makes no sense to have JOFA under capacity.

My children have been attending St. Joan of Arc since they started school they are in grades 7 and 4 and I don't want them to have to change schools because of proposed changes to boundary. They have built long lasting friendships and we wouldn't want them to lose their friends not at a time like this when we are in a pandemic and things aren't normal for them in terms of school ie masking and distancing.

My class size at st Mary is very large we can't take more students our education will suffer

Parents should have a choice to enroll their child in St. Mary or Joan of Arc catholic schools.

Probably the better move as St. Mary's is bursting at the seams. The new development will have an influx of new students, which will not help the capacity issues.

Proposed new boundary is important to guarantee proper learning to current students at St Mary's and avoid straining the system.

SJOA has a small population and St.Mary's had a huge population. The kids should be divided properly

St Joan of arc has class room that sit empty.. those class rooms should be filled.

Why pack more kids into a school that is already full. Make the changes that would best benefit the children.

St Mary CES has already portables which cover almost half of the original designated playground. The population continues to grow in the area. The school is already over populated and more students from new developments are putting a greater strain on this school

St Mary is already too full adding extra kids to the school makes no sense

St Mary is over populated already with French immersion. New development should go to Joan of Arc

St Mary simply cannot accommodate more students. The school now feels like a huge high school

St Mary's has been bursting at the seams for sometime now, it's important to stop this sizeable growth and establish this new boundary.

St Mary's accommodates the boundaries for their school as well as French Immersion! The school is full. I strongly support a new boundary map to provide relief.

St. Mary already has 10 portables. The new proposed boundaries make more sense. St Joan of Arc has a bigger yard also. Kids at St. Mary have no space outside. And pick up and drop off is a nightmare.

St. Mary cannot accommodate any more students so that is good the new area is to be associated with Joan of Arc

St. Mary CES already faces significant accommodation pressures, which will only get worse if the new Sah-Whet community stays within the St. Mary boundary. SJOA has capacity.

St. Mary CES has grown a lot in portables in the last two years and children no longer space to play.

St. Mary has already overpopulation, and this new development will only add to the challenges that the school community is already facing. Thanks

St. Mary has been experiencing pressure to their school population for a few years now. There are a total of 10 portables at the school even with a portion of students participating in online learning. The proposed boundary makes sense.

St. Mary is already at capacity. Joan of Arc has capacity, is in close proximity, and has more room for drop off and pick up. It is the logical choice for the new development.

St. Mary is overpopulated while SJOA is not. This change should have happened years ago.

St. Mary is already overpopulated...includes French Immersion students...yearly increase of portables...very high traffic volume... makes more sense to accommodate students within Bronte Green boundary to St Joan of Arc which has declining enrolment...

St. Marys with its EFI program and expanding boundaries needs some relief from its overpopulation. Also there should be consideration around the nearby St. John Paul II as well as it is lower in numbers.

The area redirected to St Joan of Arc should be bigger than the proposed, specially due to the over capacity that the French immersion program brings. Also, an idea is to move the French Immersion program to St Joan of Arc.

The current boundaries are extremely disproportionate and certainly NOT equitable. Given the high demand on St. Mary's OVER their building capacity threshold, while St. Joan of Arc is BELOW it's building capacity threshold, there really is no question that the Proposed Boundary change needs to be accepted. Even this proposed boundary change is disproportionate - but at least improved from current. Students at St. Joan of Arc are currently enjoying smaller class sizes while students at St. Mary's are at maximum class sizes, receiving LESS one on one attention on a teacher to student ratio - this is not equitable - so in your mission to ensure equity and inclusivity, there really is no option here - in fact further efforts to make the boundaries more equalized should be put forward.

The health and safety of the kids is paramount. Overcrowding is not ideal.

The new proposed school boundaries seem to be more reasonable and adequately utilize the school resources.

The projected coverage for the new areas should be absorbed by both St. Joan of Arc & St. Bernadette!

There are already too many portables at St. Mary, this takes away from the recess / free area that the kids have. They are, therefore, limited to a very small free outside area to relax and play during recess. This is already not a healthy situation for young kids, they should be allowed to run and play during recess. By not proceeding with the new proposed boundary we will just reduce their free area even more .... This is not ideal for any young child.

This is an obvious outcome from my perspective. St Mary is already above capacity. The portable solution should be temporary and it already appears that it is more permanent than anyone would like. Expanding the boundary to cover Bronte Green would only exacerbate the problem, while a clear (and better) alternative exists for all involved.

This is the best solution. St. Mary is already overcrowded.

This makes sense please go ahead!

This proposal will add tremendous traffic pressures along west oak trails and further congest an already congested parking lot. Making changes solely to bring a school to near full capacity is not in service of the children and is likely to have a detrimental effect on students, staff, and parents.

Too many students at st mary as is - makes more sense to have those students at st.Joan of arc.

We are currently attending St Mary school and although it's a great school, it's very hard to imagine adding even more students without a serious impact on their education .

St Mary is already very crowded

We have been in St Mary's since it's beginning nine years ago. As parents of three students, we are really concern how the school has changed over these last years. Particularly, two of them have been in portables for two consecutive years, my daughter most probably next year Seoul's be her third year. At this point, if nothing is changed I will move then to Palermo.

We really felt the shortage of space and limited use of facilities such as gym, bathrooms, etc over the last four years. Also, the we don't have space during recess because of portables!!!

With French Immersion at the school as well, the school is over crowded. For years, there have been separate recesses to accommodate all students as well as alternating lunch recesses. There are

already 10 portables placed on the property resulting in a smaller school yard. School resources are stretched between classes and indoor physical educational time is limited. The number of cross boundary students currently attending the school is also of concern as they add to the increasing numbers.

you should add P27 to JOFA to make it more even. They are on that side already.