

# MEETING MINUTES

Milton Catholic Elementary Boundary Review  
to Accommodate French Immersion Expansion  
Working Meeting #7



## MEETING DATE & LOCATION

Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Teams Meeting

## IN ATTENDANCE

### *Board Staff*

Emi Bakaic	Superintendent of Education
Jeff Crowell	Superintendent, Curriculum Services
Lorrie Naar	Superintendent of Education
Ryan Merrick	Superintendent, Facility Management Services
Branko Vidovic	Senior Manager, Planning Services
Dhilan Gunasekara	Planning Officer, Planning Services

### *Board Guests*

Marvin Duarte	Vice Chair of the Board
Aaron Lofts	Superintendent, Business Services
Patrick Murphy	Chair of the Board
Claudia Palucci	Planning Clerk, Planning Services
Kathie Panzer	Planning Officer, Planning Services
Rudy Stawarek	GIS/Junior Planning Officer, Planning Services
Erin Sweeney-Hurd	Principal, St. Scholastica CES

### *Parent Representatives*

HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ST. PETER CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Marc LeBrun  
Matthew Salvaterra

GUARDIAN ANGELS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jennifer Santos

LUMEN CHRISTI CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Nikola Blair

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

QUEEN OF HEAVEN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bryan DeSousa

Kylie Dillon

ST. SCHOLASTICA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Rosie Ogang

Tanya Palermo

### **OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Superintendent Naar.

### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Superintendent Merrick welcomed all parent volunteers to the committee and reviewed the meeting etiquette.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **SBRC Meeting Minutes to be Reviewed**

- SBRC Working Meeting #6 Minute Approvals

#### **Amendments, additions approval**

- Are there any changes that the SBRC is requesting prior to approving the minutes?

No changes. The minutes from Working Meeting #6 were approved.

### **MEETING AGENDA AND GOALS**

#### **Feedback Review & Discussion**

- Review the results of the feedback survey from Virtual Public Information Meeting #2.
- Refine preferred option if needed.
- Identify SBRC recommendation for Trustee consideration.

Superintendent Merrick reviewed the meeting format and agenda and provided an overview of the meeting goals.

### **SBRC RECOMMENDED BOUNDARY OPTION & GRANDFATHERING PLAN**

## SBRC Recommended Boundaries (Option A2)

- No changes to RT and ExF boundaries.
- Under Boundary Option A2, there will be **four French Immersion locations**, starting in the 2022-23 school year:
  - **St. Peter CES**
    - Feeders: St. Peter CES, Holy Rosary (M) CES, and St. Anthony of Padua CES
  - **Guardian Angels CES**
    - Feeders: Guardian Angels CES, Our Lady of Fatima CES, and Our Lady of Victory CES
  - **St. Benedict CES**
    - Feeders: St. Benedict CES, Queen of Heaven CES, and Lumen Christi CES
  - **St. Scholastica CES**
    - Feeders: St. Scholastica CES, and future schools in the Boyne area, including Milton #10 CES and Milton #9 CES

## SBRC Recommended FI Grandfathering Grandfathering Based on FI Cohorts in 2021-2022 School Year

- Existing students at St. Peter CES, as of the 2021-2022 school year, remain at St. Peter CES FI until Grade 8.
- Existing students at St. Scholastica CES, as of the 2021-2022 school year, remain at St. Scholastica CES FI until Grade 8.
- Existing students at St. Benedict CES, as of the 2021-2022 school year, remain at St. Benedict CES FI until Grade 8.

## VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING #2 FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

### Survey Results: General Summary Respondent Demographics

D. Gunasekara, Planning Officer, Planning Services, reviewed the VPIM #2 survey results.

- Total of 154 respondents completed the survey, the vast majority being parent/guardians.
- Of those respondents, 149 (96.8%) represented parent/guardians and 3 (1.9%) represented students.

### Parent/Guardian Responses

- Of all parent/guardian respondents, 52 (34.9%) represented St. Scholastica CES, 39 (26.2%) represented St. Benedict CES, and 16 (10.7%) represented Our Lady of Fatima CES.
- Of these respondents, 104 (69.8%) represented Regular Track programming and 54 (36.2%) represented French Immersion programming.

## Student Responses

- Of all the student respondents, 2 represented St. Benedict CES, and 1 represented an HCDSB secondary school.
- Of all those respondents, 1 represented French Immersion programming, 1 represented Extended French Programming, and 1 represented other programming.

## Survey Results: Support for Option A2

### All Respondents

- **73%** (n=112) of respondents **support/strongly support** the proposed boundaries as presented in Option A2.
- 21% (n=32) of respondents were neutral to the proposed boundaries as presented in Option A2.
- 6% (n=9) of respondents oppose/strongly oppose the proposed boundaries as presented in Option A2.

### French Immersion Respondents

- **73%** (n=40) of respondents **support/strongly support** the proposed boundaries as presented in Option A2.
- 22% (n=12) of respondents were neutral to the proposed boundaries as presented in Option A2.
- 5% (n=3) of respondents oppose/strongly oppose the proposed boundaries as presented in Option A2.

## Grandfathering

### All Respondents

- **71%** (n=110) of respondents **support/strongly support** the grandfathering of students as presented at VPIM #2.
- 19% (n=29) of respondents were neutral to grandfathering of students as presented at VPIM #2.
- 9% (n=14) of respondents oppose/strongly oppose the grandfathering of students as presented at VPIM #2.

### French Immersion Respondents

- **75%** (n=41) of respondents support/strongly support the grandfathering of students as presented at VPIM #2.
- 15% (n=8) of respondents were neutral to grandfathering of students as presented at VPIM #2.
- 11% (n=6) of respondents oppose/strongly oppose the grandfathering of students as presented at VPIM #2.

## Comments

### Theme: Grandfathering Siblings

- A total of 36 respondents provided comments
- A wide variation of comments was provided, with some mentioning siblings and grandfathering. A few of the comments regarding this theme are provided below:

*"I hope the students who are considered "grandfathered" will be given the option to attend the "boundary school" (to be with younger siblings, if they too are in the EFI program)."*

*"Please consider having a solid plan for siblings to attend the same French immersion school. Our son (G2) goes to St. Scholastica and our daughter (SK) goes to Our Lady of Fatima and we are planning to enroll her in the French Immersion program. With the new boundary, they will be in different schools which is unfeasible."*

*"There should be special inclusions regarding siblings. Siblings should be allowed to attend school together as it lessens the impact on parents."*

*"My sons enjoying learning where he is now. The location is very convenient for bussing. Its totally better if they would stay in the same school till they Graduate. So I strongly support this option 2."*

### **Theme: School Accommodation**

- Some provided comments regarding accommodation challenges at schools and French Immersion programming growth. A few of the comments regarding this theme are provided below:

*"Guardian Angels is already over crowded and I believe has the highest school population in Milton for an elementary school. Adding more kids does not seem like the right thing to do. While it would be nice to have the program close as my child wanted to do French immersion but didn't want her to go all the way over to st scholastica for it. Guardian Angels just doesn't seem like a good option given current population."*

*"The FI schools keep changing so much. Families and kids are confused with the constant changes. The constant changes is also costing Parents money as they have to buy new uniform tops. The FI schools need to be fixed, the program can't keep on changing."*

*"When housing optional programs at a school, it is essential that the board consider the effects the inevitable overpopulation in a school like St. Scholastica (with growing community on it's own) has on the school community. Lack of space, increased use of portables (especially during times of covid...air quality issues), loss of a sense of community (students not knowing teachers and teachers not knowing students), and lack of resources are all things our children have had to endure at their home school, because an optional program is very rapidly overtaking the school."*

### **A Sample of Other Comments**

- Some mentioned their support for Option A2.

*"Great work! This is a viable long term solution for French immersion. Parents can build long-standing relationship with the school and staff. Kids don't have to worry about being split up."*

*"I really happy that kids have the opportunity to learn French since 1<sup>st</sup> grade and most school will be offered plus the development of new communities, we need more schools."*

*"Option A2 by far the most needed – We definitely need MORE locations with French Immersion programme with growing communities. Just 2 in Milton is not enough. And the split school option is too disruptive."*

*“Excellent option”*

*“This seems like a great option.”*

## **SBRC DISCUSSION ON FEEDBACK RESULTS**

### **Questions to Consider**

B. Vidovic, Senior Manager, Planning Services, lead the discussion on the survey feedback results.

- Are there any themes that the Committee would like to bring to the forefront?

The SBRC suggested offering a crest be provided for parents to purchase for uniform shirts. Board staff to take comment back and will look into the potential of grandfathering of uniforms or other options for uniforms.

The issue of staffing shortages was mentioned. Superintendent J. Crowell mentioned that the Board is working with a pilot program to improve this issue. It is a little early to provide results, but a presentation will be shared with Trustees soon. The staffing issue is outside of the boundary review process.

The SBRC brought forward some of the comments regarding accommodating siblings together. Board staff mentioned that it will be challenging to accommodate siblings at the same school as not all grades will be available at all schools at the same time. If there is a grade available at the same school, the Board may look at student accommodation on a case-by-case basis if space is available.

- What are the take-aways that need to be carried forward?

SBRC did a great job achieving the level of support from the community for Option A2.

- Based on the public feedback results, should we proceed with Option A2 and the proposed grandfathering plan for Trustee consideration and approval?

The SBRC voted and agreed to proceed with Option A2 and the proposed grandfathering plan for Trustee consideration and approval.

## **NEXT STEPS: BOARD MEETINGS**

### **Interim Staff Report – SBRC Recommendations: October 19, 2021**

- SBRC recommended options will be presented to Trustees for information at the October 19, 2021 Board Meeting as a Staff Report.

### **Public Delegations – November 2, 2021**

- Opportunity for the school community to delegate to the Board will be available at this meeting.

## Final Action Report – SBRC Recommendations: November 16, 2021

- SBRC recommended option will be presented to Trustees for consideration and approval at the November 16, 2021 Board Meeting as an Action Report.

If the committee members are interested in participating in the Board meetings, on October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup> or November 16<sup>th</sup>, contact D. Sayers to arrange to receive a meeting invitation.

## SCHOOL BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE SCHEDULE Tentative Schedule of the SBR Process

SBRC Working Meeting #1	March 18, 2021
SBRC Working Meeting #2	April 8, 2021
SBRC Working Meeting #3	April 29, 2021
SBRC Working Meeting #4	May 13, 2021
SBRC Working Meeting #5	May 20, 2021
Virtual Public Meeting #1	June 3, 2021
SBRC Working Meeting #6	June 23, 2021
Virtual Public Meeting #2	September 9, 2021
SBRC Working Meeting #7 (Final)	October 7, 2021
<b>Interim Staff Report to Board</b>	<b>October 19, 2021</b>
Public Delegations	November 2, 2021
Action Report to Board	November 16, 2021
New boundaries implemented	September 1, 2022

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 P.M.**