

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Create Positive, Inclusive Learning Environments, and Maximize Outcomes for Students

DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 24, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 6.3 a)

SUBJECT: Boundary Changes Following Consultation – North Perth and Stratford Planning Areas

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A report was brought forward to the Board at its regular meeting of June 13, 2017 outlining proposed boundary changes based on development areas near the North Perth Westfield Elementary School and concerns with accommodation pressures existing at both Downie Central PS and Bedford PS.
- 1.2 Staff has monitored housing development in both the Listowel and Stratford areas over the last number of years, keeping the Board apprised annually through the enrolment projection report and preliminary accommodation review report.

2.0 Listowel

- 2.1 In Listowel, given the close proximity of the development area to the North Perth Westfield (NPW), staff believed it reasonable to assume future families residing there would desire accommodation at NPW.
- 2.2 The adjustment to add the development area to the NPW attendance boundary was implemented effective September 2017 as no families currently reside in the adjustment area.
- 2.3 The one family affected in the adjustment area was called, and the current student given the opportunity to continue to attend Elma since there is space available, which has been accepted. Any new students as they arise in the adjustment area will attend NPW.

3.0 Stratford

- 3.1 In Stratford this year, the identified areas for the proposed change focussed on the north west corner of the city, including Jenn Ann, Avon West and the north west portion of Queensland, serving Downie for English and Bedford for French Immersion.
- 3.2 The planned timing of the transition to the new boundary configuration was identified as September 2018, over a year from the introduction of the planned changes.
- 3.3 A commitment was made within the report to hold a consultation session for the parents in the affected areas in September.

4.0 Stratford Consultation

- 4.1 Some parents sought changes to the proposed boundaries prior to the consultation meeting.
- 4.2 The consultation meeting at Bedford for the French Immersion parents affected by the proposed change was held on Tuesday September 19, 2017.

5.0 Discussion and Findings

- 5.1 The history related to the creating of the second dual track French Immersion (FI) site, along with the cautions regarding continued enrolment pressures and possible boundary changes, was reviewed.
- 5.2 An analysis was undertaken that included data from the current Board reports on enrolment projections and the preliminary accommodation review, current school capacities and over-capacity status in Bedford. This was shared with parents. Also, the implications for Bedford's school organization in the 2018/19 school year using existing student numbers, not including projected growth, were explained.
- 5.3 The distinction was made between FI as a "program" versus English as a "home school", wherein a program can move, and has done in the past, versus a home school, which is part of an English language district school board governed by the *Education Act*, with defined boundaries and rights of attendance.
- 5.4 Board staff apologized for the disruption such boundary changes cause. It was further explained that Avon Maitland attempts to be proactive in responding to enrolment pressures which are imminent in comparison to some other boards which respond only when, and immediately upon, pressure arising.
- 5.5 In addition, the already agreed-upon changes in response to input arising from the individual parent meetings and conversations were reviewed in detail. These changes include:
 - 5.5.1 grand-parenting current grade five students to avoid two transitions in successive years;
 - 5.5.2 developing a process to allow for border crossing of current grades one through four students, subject to space constraints and criteria including no transportation;
 - 5.5.3 allowing students to move early to Anne Hathaway, subject to space availability, and with provision of transportation; and
 - 5.5.4 organizing students in current grades, such that they would know other students upon moving to Anne Hathaway.
- 5.6 Plans to ensure a smooth Transition, consistent with past practice in other moves, were explained. These activities include visits to school, activities to get to know the school, and grouping of students within the school in the following school year.
- 5.7 Options to border cross to other English schools, as well as the possibility of JK/SK students to border cross to Anne Hathaway with FI siblings were addressed, in response to questions.

- 5.8 Likewise, the expected timeframes for decisions in relation to the various border cross situations were explained in response to questions.
- 5.9 Other possible suggestions for resolution of the Bedford overcapacity were sought, but nothing new was presented.

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