

The Waterdown New School Boundary Review

Advisory Panel #1

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Guy B. Brown Elementary

Present:

Superintendent Nicole Lee, Superintendent of Equity and Student Achievement (Family of Schools 4)

Matthew Gerard - Associate Director of Business Services & Treasurer of the Board

Graeme Noble – Trustee (Ward 15)

David Anderson - Senior Facilities Manager

Ellen Warling - Manager, Planning, Accommodation and Rentals

Nicole Thibeault - Senior Planner, Planning, Accommodation and Rentals

Kristen Hebner - Planner, Planning, Accommodation and Rentals

Lisa Kiriakopoulos - Manager, Early Years

Guy B. Brown - Principal: Christopher Blunsdon, Vice-Principal: Laura Kelly

Flamborough Centre - Principal: Nancy Kucic

Allan A. Greenleaf - Principal: Colleen Uhler, Vice-Principal: Marianne Lancaster

Mary Hopkins - Principal: Maggie Thomson

Representative from Balaclava: Jennifer McCarney

Representative from Guy B. Brown: Laura Hamilton and Mohamed Khamis

Representative from Flamborough Centre: Kellie Battenham and Angela Devall

Representative from Allan A. Greenleaf: Brijesh Pandey

Representative from Mary Hopkins: Carley Casey and Marissa Saunders

Michelle Baker - EA to Superintendent Lee

Regrets:

Balaclava - Principal: Anna Ricci

Mary Hopkins - Vice-Principal: Paula Thomson

Representative from Balaclava: Kyrsten Koverko

Meeting Start Time: 4:33 PM

Land Acknowledgement

Superintendent Lee opened the meeting with Land Acknowledgement.

Agenda Review

Superintendent Lee reviewed the agenda, which is divided into two sections.

Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves, stating either the school they represented or their role within HWDSB.

School Representative Sharing

Each school group was asked to share:

- Something important the committee should know about their school/community
- One opportunity and one challenge they foresee with this process

Guy B. Brown

- Dual-track school with approximately 700 students
- Features a well-equipped learning commons and multiple seating areas
- Offers diverse student activities
- Challenge: Bussing concerns

Allan A. Greenleaf

- Approximately 776 students; largest elementary school in Waterdown
- Ranked third highest in the area (as per ChatGPT)
- Challenges: Bus delays due to Waterdown bridge construction with buses arriving at the school approximately an hour after bell time. Anticipated overcapacity from new housing development

Flamborough Centre

- Pilot site for the STEM Program
- Challenge: Low enrolment in Kindergarten to Grade 4; desire to increase class sizes

Balaclava

- Rural school with excellent outdoor space
- Challenges: Transportation challenges due to being on a secondary bus route, excursion planning difficulties, reliance on well water

Mary Hopkins

- Unique Kindergarten to Grade 4 school
- Challenges: Managing siblings at different schools, bell time coordination, bussing logistics

Advisory Panel Overview

- Mandate: To offer feedback and guidance through ongoing discussions and inquiries related to HWDSB
- Goals: Understand the process, roles, & responsibilities; review key dates and communication methods; interpret provided materials; collaborate effectively

Meeting Etiquette

- Positive communication
- Respect for other values and beliefs
- Creating a safe and inclusive environment
- Only committee members may ask questions and provide input
- Notes will be uploaded to the Waterdown Boundary site

Boundary Review Process

- Part 1: Establish a permanent attendance boundary for the new Waterdown Elementary School
- Part 2: Revisit temporary boundary changes (established in 2023)
- Why a boundary review occurs: New school construction, balancing enrolment, site/facility constraints, evolving program needs
- Timeline for Boundary Review: Implementation for the 2027/2028 school year began May 2025 and will continue through to February 2026

Communication

- Engage HWDSB site will be regularly updated and will include boundary review meeting notes
- Online translation services available
- QR code/link cards distributed
- Users can submit public or private posts using the Engage HWDSB site
- Research and Analytics Department will compile feedback

Review of Maps and Data

- Reviewed School Information Profiles (SIPS), status quo maps, option maps, walking web maps, evaluation matrix
- Transportation Services evaluates street safety for student crossings, walking webs are just an estimation

New Waterdown Elementary School Overview

A permanent attendance boundary needs to be established. Discussions are required to address pressures at existing schools, including interim solutions for the 2026–2027 school year.

- Capacity: Approximately 504 pupil spaces
- Opening: 2027–2028 school year
- Facilities: 4 Kindergarten classrooms, 18 regular classrooms, Child Care Centre with 5 rooms (1-infant, 2 toddler and 2 preschool)
- Childcare operator selected via HWDSB procurement process; Child Care Centre to open Fall 2027
- Challenge: Large child care waitlist in Ontario

Key considerations for Boundary Options

- Balance of overall enrolment
- Geographical Area and Barriers
- Student Experience
- Temporary Accommodation (which must be balanced as best as possible)
- Transportation, goal is walkable schools
- Septic/wells can be a challenge as they restrict the number of portables that can be accommodated on a school site
- Minimize transitions for students (junior/middle model was discussed)
- New Waterdown Elementary School will be built for sustainable enrolment rather than peak enrolment

Boundary Evaluation and Option 1 Review

Manager Warling reviewed both the “Required” and “Considered” evaluation criteria for the draft matrix and explained its purpose. The committee was provided with a copy of the Evaluation Criteria Matrix – Status Quo Activity.

The committee reviewed current elementary school regular track attendance boundaries. A map was presented outlining the proposed boundaries for the new Waterdown Elementary School. Manager Warling shared boundary graphs specific to Waterdown, based on 2025–2026 enrolment projections. Each school’s graph illustrates the shift from status quo projections to those under Option 1, in relation to the building’s on-the-ground capacity. The graphs used colour coded bars to represent annual enrolment numbers:

- Light yellow: Status Quo English
- Light blue: Status Quo French Immersion
- Dark yellow: Option 1 English Track
- Dark blue: Option 1 French Immersion
- Red line: On-the-ground capacity (reflects permanent built space and excludes portapaks/portable classrooms)

Option 1 Boundary Proposal: Area South of Highway 5 from Howard Boulevard to Kerns Road. The boundary was developed keeping the key planning considerations in mind.

Option 1 for Balaclava

- 2026–2027: No change
- 2027–2028: No courtesy bussing for new students

Option 1 for Allan A. Greenleaf

- 2026–2027: New JK–4 enrolments south of Highway 5 to Mary Hopkins
- 2027–2028: All RT JK–8 students south of Highway 5 to new school

Option 1 for Mary Hopkins

- 2026–2027: Receives new JK–4 enrolments south of Highway 5
- 2027–2028: JK–5 dual-track school

Option 1 for Flamborough Centre

- 2026–2027: No change
- 2027–2028: RT Grade 5 to Mary Hopkins; FI Grades 6–8 gradually return

Option 1 for Guy B. Brown

- 2026–2027: No change
- 2027–2028: FI Grade 5 remains at Mary Hopkins; FI Grades 6–8 remain and graduate

Option 1 for New Waterdown Elementary School

- 2026–2027: Under construction
- 2027–2028: Receives all RT JK–8 students south of Highway 5 from Howard Blvd to Kerns Rd

Manager Warling noted that projected enrolment may align with the school's-built capacity once the new Waterdown Elementary School is completed. However, there is a possibility that one or two portables may be needed.

Evaluation Activity and Next Steps

- Participants completed the Evaluation Criteria Matrix activity for Option 1
- Completed matrixes will be reviewed and findings shared at the next meeting, unfeasible options will be excluded
- Submit alternative options by November 3, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. to planning@hwdsb.on.ca
- Public meeting will be held in open house format with a short presentation
- Next meeting: November 13 at 4:30 p.m. at Guy Brown Elementary

Key Considerations and Discussion Points

- Temporary Boundaries: Families opting for French Immersion to avoid challenges of boundaries
- French Immersion Staffing: Ongoing shortage of qualified teachers; French immersion Program Review underway
- Student Transportation: Collaboration with HWSTS
- City Growth: Waterdown continues to grow
- Bell Times: Review needed to improve student experience
- Legacy Students: Consideration for continuity

Participants were thanked for attending.

Meeting ended time: 6:30 p.m.