

Date of Meeting: 2021 FEB 23

Item #: 12.b

REPORT TO:	 □ Administrative Council □ Policy Working Committee □ Board □ Program and School Services Advisory Committee □ Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee □ Other:
	For Board Meetings: ☐ PUBLIC ☐ IN-CAMERA
TITLE OF REPORT:	Initial Attendance Area Review Report for the Oxford County French Immersion and City of Woodstock Elementary Panel Accommodation Review
PRESENTED BY: (list ONLY those attending the meeting)	Jeff Pratt, Associate Director Geoff Vogt, Superintendent of Facility Services and Capital Planning Ben Puzanov, Manager of Planning
PRESENTED FOR:	☑ Approval ☐ Input/Advice ☐ Information
Recommendation(s):	That Administration be directed to proceed with the Oxford County French Immersion and City of Woodstock Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review and establish an Attendance Area Review Committee (AARC) for the purpose of obtaining public feedback regarding the two accommodation options included in the Initial Attendance Area Review Report.
Purpose:	To provide an overview of the accommodation options for addressing the overcapacity challenge at Roch Carrier French Immersion Public School and the student distribution imbalances across English track elementary schools in the City of Woodstock as well as to seek approval to proceed with this attendance area review.
Content:	Background
	At the October 27, 2020 Board meeting, Trustees requested that Administration prepare an Initial Attendance Area Review Report with options for addressing the enrolment pressure at Roch Carrier French Immersion Public School as well as the student distribution imbalance across English track elementary schools in the City of Woodstock. Because of the moratorium in place on pupil accommodation reviews, the preferred approach identified was the establishment of a dual-track school to provide for additional instructional space to meet the TVDSB's FI needs in Oxford County.
	The enrolment pressure in the City of Woodstock extends beyond Roch Carrier FI PS and is occurring due to increased development activity across the City. Much of the growth in Woodstock is occurring at the north end of the City, with new subdivisions contributing to increasing enrolment across the elementary panel. Through discussions with Oxford County planning staff, Administration was advised that the pace of development in the north end of Woodstock is expected to continue over the next five years. In addition, a secondary plan exercise is anticipated to be initiated for a large tract of land that was recently annexed into the City's corporate boundary at its southwest.
	Through the Ministry of Education's feedback provided regarding the TVDSB's most recent business case submission for an addition at Springbank PS,

Administration was advised that the Board should utilize vacant pupil places across the City as a first approach to addressing the enrolment pressure.

Accommodation Options

In developing options to relieve enrolment pressure at Roch Carrier FI PS, a number of potential scenarios were explored. Oliver Stephens PS is one of two schools in Woodstock with enrolment at approximately two-thirds of its capacity. Given the school's current utilization, central location at the south end of Woodstock, proximity to Highway 401 and its current split attendance area on either side of Southside PS, it was identified as the preferred candidate for dual-track programming.

There are two options being recommended for Trustees' consideration. Both options would maintain Roch Carrier FI PS as a single-track FI school, establish a dual-track school at Oliver Stephens PS, increase the utilization at Eastdale PS and Algonquin PS, return holding zone students from Winchester Street PS to Springbank PS and alleviate some of the current enrolment pressure at Springbank PS. The difference between the two options relates to FI boundaries and is described below.

The full Initial Attendance Area Review Report is included in Appendix A.

English Track Attendance Areas

The English track boundary change recommendations are the same in both options. The recommended school attendance area changes pertaining to the English track schools are specific to Springbank PS and Algonquin PS in the northeast portion of the City and Oliver Stephens PS and Eastdale PS in the south end of the City. In addition, the students currently holding at Winchester Street PS are returned to Springbank PS.

The portion of the Springbank PS boundary north of Devonshire Avenue is recommended to be directed to Algonquin PS in order to alleviate enrolment pressure at Springbank PS. The portion of the Oliver Stephens PS attendance area that is west of Southside PS (west of Mill Street) is recommended to be directed to Eastdale PS in order to create sufficient consolidated space for dual-track programming at Oliver Stephens PS.

The following facility utilization changes, based on current on-the-ground (OTG) capacity, would result in the English track schools during the first year of implementation:

- Algonquin PS: Utilization increase from 81% to 113% in 2022, with a projected decrease to 96% by 2027.
- <u>Eastdale PS:</u> Utilization increase from 64% to 87% in 2022, with a projected increase to 96% by 2027.
- <u>Springbank PS:</u> Utilization decrease from 167% to 134% in 2022, with a projected increase to 161% by 2027.
- <u>Winchester Street PS:</u> Utilization decrease from 120% to 102% in 2022, with a projected decrease to 101% by 2027.

FI Attendance Areas - Option 1 (Administration's preferred approach)

Option 1 would create two French Immersion boundaries in Oxford County following a north/south geographic split. Roch Carrier FI PS would remain as a single-track FI school serving the north end of Woodstock and the northern portion of the County whereas Oliver Stephens PS would become a dual-track English and FI school serving the south end of the City and the southern portion of the County as a whole.

Under this option, utilization at Roch Carrier FI PS would decrease from 199% to 125% in 2022, with a projected increase to 168% in 2027. The utilization at Oliver Stephens PS would increase from 66% to 104% in 2022 and remain stable through 2027.

FI Attendance Areas - Option 2 (Administration's alternative to preferred approach)

In Option 2, Roch Carrier FI PS would remain as a single-track FI school and Oliver Stephens would be converted to a dual-track English and FI school similar to Option 1. However, in Option 2 the FI enrolment from the portion of the County outside of Woodstock would all attend Oliver Stephens PS. In addition, Oliver Stephens would have a FI boundary immediately surrounding the school to provide a more intimate and largely walkable neighbourhood boundary. All other FI students in Woodstock would attend Roch Carrier FI PS.

Under this option, utilization at Roch Carrier FI PS would decrease from 199% to 133% in 2022, with a projected increase to 172% in 2027. The utilization at Oliver Stephens PS would increase from 66% to 97% in 2022 and increase to 101% by 2027.

Additional Considerations

Given the growth occurring across Woodstock schools as a whole, the TVDSB will require capital investment from the Ministry of Education in order to permanently accommodate growing enrolment. The intent of the subject attendance area review is to position the TVDSB more favourably for securing that investment in addition to providing more instructional space to meet current FI demand in Oxford County.

The two options under consideration would alleviate enrolment pressure at Roch Carrier FI PS and Springbank PS while at the same time improve space utilization at Oliver Stephens PS, Eastdale PS and Algonquin PS. Algonquin PS is expected to need portables in the short term in order to assist with alleviating the significant enrolment pressure at Springbank PS. Enrolment at Algonquin PS is expected to gradually decline while growth at Springbank PS will persist. It is anticipated that continued enrolment growth at Springbank would be accommodated through a future school addition or an attendance area review process.

Roch Carrier FI PS currently provides single-track grade 1-8 FI programming in Oxford County. The school's enrolment is currently over capacity and projected to continue increasing. Consideration was given to introducing English track JK and SK classes at Roch Carrier FI PS as part of the subject

	review in order to be consistent with other FI schools across the district. However, because of the development activity forecast in the north end of Woodstock and the overall growth in enrolment that is anticipated, this is not preferred at this time. It is thus recommended that the introduction of English track JK and SK classes at Roch Carrier be re-evaluated at the time that an attendance area for a new English track school in north Woodstock is established through a subsequent attendance area review process. Administration has been in discussions with Oxford County Planning staff
	regarding the secondary plan process for the land that has been recently annexed into Woodstock's corporate boundary in the City's southwest. Depending on the type and density of residential development that is ultimately designated for this area as part of the secondary plan, it is anticipated that students in this part of the City would be accommodated at a new southwest school or an existing school in Woodstock through a subsequent attendance area review following the construction of a new school at the City's north end.
Financial Implications:	The costs to complete the subject Attendance Area Review are expected to be accommodated within the 2020-2021 budget.
Timeline:	Expected timeline if the Board of Trustees approves proceeding with the attendance area review and directs the formation of an Attendance Area Review Committee for the purposes of gathering public feedback:
	 <u>February/March 2021:</u> Establish Attendance Area Review Committee (AARC). <u>March 25, 2021:</u> Host Introductory AARC Meeting. <u>April and May 2021:</u> Coordinate school-level AARC Subcommittee meetings.
	 <u>Summer 2021:</u> Review public comments and prepare Final Attendance Area Review Report. <u>September 2021:</u> Provide Final Attendance Area Review Report to the Board of Trustees.
	• September 2021: Public Delegations Meeting(s).
	September 2021: Decision of the Board of Trustees.
	• <u>September 2022:</u> Implementation of the Decision of the Board of Trustees.
Communications:	Administration is assembling a communications plan as part of the public consultation program for this attendance area review.
Appendices:	Appendix A:
	Initial Attendance Area Review Report for the Oxford County French Immersion and City of Woodstock Elementary Panel Accommodation Review
Strategic Priority Area(s):	
Relationships:	 ☐ Students, families and staff are welcomed, respected and valued as partners. ☑ Promote and build connections to foster mutually respectful communication among students, families, staff and the broader community. ☐ Create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships.
Equity and Diversity:	 ☑ Create opportunities for equitable access to programs and services for students. ☑ Students and all partners feel heard, valued and supported. ☑ Programs and services embrace the culture and diversity of students and all partners.

Achievement and Well- Being:	 ☐ More students demonstrate growth and achieve student learning outcomes with a specific focus on numeracy and literacy. ☐ Staff will demonstrate excellence in instructional practices. ☑ Enhance the safety and well-being of students and staff.

Form Revised January 2020