



Thames Valley
District School Board

**Oxford South
Elementary Panel
Attendance Area Review**

Appendix C: Subcommittee Reports

tvdsb.ca



Table of Contents

Subcommittee Report: Westfield PS	3
Subcommittee Report: South Ridge PS	5
Subcommittee Report: Annandale PS	9

Subcommittee Report: Westfield PS

School Name: **Westfield Public School**

Date of Submission: January 15, 2025

1. SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AFFILIATION

S. Shagambayev (Chair)
C. Bertrand
J. Kirkof
A. Sulkowski
J. McMillan
K. Prichard
S. Wright (VP)
J. Ames McLay (P)

2. SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Date(s): Dec 19/24, Jan 9/25

Number of Attendees at each meeting: 10 and 15

Number of Participants in Discussion: same as above

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We strongly advocate for TVDSB to select Option 1 in an effort to continue to support the students and families of Westfield and minimize the negative impacts on our school community.

4. BRIEF SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROFILE

Westfield PS is a JK-Grade 8 Elementary school in Tillsonburg. The school has been open since 2015 and currently has 641 students. The school is known for regularly hosting community building events and community partnerships. The culture is one of acceptance and student excellence.

5. FEEDBACK REGARDING PROPOSAL

We focus on the mental wellness of our children and understand that change is difficult for children.

Option 1 is the favourable option because:

- Affects fewer children.
- Keeps peers and families together.
- Does not overload Annandale to the point of overcrowding of an aged building whose infrastructure may not support 6 portables by 2031.
- Option 1 supports Annandale for a gradual increase in students.
- Option 2 is more drastic, overloads the school and may require investing in alterations to the building. It may be more fiscally responsible to put the funds towards Option 1 and erecting portables Southridge and Westfield as they have space and existing infrastructure to accommodate additional portables.



6. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

If Option 2 is chosen it is important to note that our community shared the following concerns:

- Students entering grade 7 and 8 who are expected to move to another school should be given the choice to move or stay with their peers for the remainder of their elementary school career.
- Siblings of students in grade 7 and 8 should be given the same opportunity to stay at home school as it is too much to ask parents to transport children to two different schools and we believe that families should stay together.
- If Option 2 is chosen, we recommend that students from grades 4-8 be given the choice to remain at Westfield PS until graduation.
- The age of Annandale PS should be considered as it may be more reasonable to add on or add portables to Westfield or Southridge or both than to overload an ageing building that has limited green space and outdated washroom facilities.
- The committee believes that if funds are going to be spent to accommodate increased enrolment and upgrade existing space, it is more fiscally responsible to invest in newer properties (Southridge and Westfield) that have infrastructure in place to support the growth of new students.
- If Option 2 is chosen, we recommend that students be provided various opportunities to attend Orientation Events and Transition Opportunities

7. APPENDICES

[Recording of Jan 9th Meeting](#)



Subcommittee Report: South Ridge PS

School Name: **South Ridge PS**

Date of Submission: January 23, 2025

1. SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AFFILIATION

Dorcas Yoemi - AARC Chair
Stacey Armstrong - AARC secretary
Rebecca Haley - School Council Chair and AARC member
Debora Fallon - AARC member
Jamie Long - AARC member
Ian Hatchard - AARC member
Matt Collins - AARC member
Brittany Vaughn - AARC member
Rowell Umabol - AARC member
Linnea Lamain - AARC member

2. SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Date(s):

- a. Meeting #1 – December 17th
- b. Meeting #2 – January 7th 2025
- c. Meeting #3 – January 16th 2025

Number of attendees at each meeting:

- a. 8 attendees
- b. 13 attendees
- c. 5 attendees

Number of participants in discussion at each meeting:

- a. 8 participants
- b. 10 participants
- c. 3 participants

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TVDSB has informed the school community of projected enrollments at schools in the town of Tillsonburg. Future enrollments based on the data would cause the addition of 14 portables at South Ridge Public school if no changes to the school area attendance boundaries are made. The board has presented two options to level load enrollment at the 3 public schools in town.

The overwhelming feedback from the school community has been that they are worried about having their children switch schools and would prefer the option to stay at South Ridge Public School. There is concern over whether the board will provide any transition supports for any children who must move. Parents are also concerned that even with the boundary changes the board proposed that South Ridge school will still be left with a high number of portables and that the resulting school environment will be compromised – will there be enough room for play in the yard with that many portables, is there room

for more busses, room in the school for more staff (staff rooms and washrooms), parent and staff parking etc. Parents are also worried that our community will have to go through this boundary adjustment process again in a few years, depending on the long term solution from the board.

4. BRIEF SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROFILE

South Ridge is a school community of approximately 450 students that come from both residential and rural areas north of Tillsonburg. The community is becoming more diverse, and we are seeing an influx of growth in all parts of our community. South Ridge has gone from a kindergarten to grade six school to a kindergarten to grade 8 school in a previous reorganization.

5. FEEDBACK REGARDING PROPOSAL

- A. Many committee members and parents who participated in the meetings expressed concern over being required to change schools and not wanting to have their children move.
- B. Parents are concerned about whether the board will provide any supports or transition assistance for students required to switch to Annadale.
- C. 'Grandparenting' was discussed multiple times. Community members requested that the board consider at a minimum grade 8 students and their siblings be allowed to stay at South Ridge Public School for their final year. Community members also requested that grade 7 students also be considered as well as a request to have any student currently attending South Ridge be allowed to stay, provided their parents could provide transportation.
- D. Concerns were also raised multiple times that the town will have to go through this boundary adjustment process again if/when a new school is built.
- E. It was noted that this proposal is not the final solution since even with the boundary changes South Ridge Public School still ends up with a high number of portables. There was also feedback regarding the school itself - whether portables or an addition is made to the school – would this leave enough room for more busses, staff, parking, pick up and drop off zones etc. Parents are concerned that an already busy parking lot and pick up / drop off zones will become further congested and are concerned about safety with an increased student population.
- F. Community members requested that the board consider the option of building a new school in town and that the school be a French immersion school – this would save students being bussed from Tillsonburg to Woodstock and enrollment at this school could reduce pressure on Westfield and Southridge.
- G. A parent asked to remove the A2 boundary to exclude Beckett Boulevard from moving schools. According to data from the board, there are 17 children within this A2 boundary. This would keep it consistent that the south side of North Street goes to Annadale and the north side goes to South Ridge School.
- H. Concern raised from a parent on Cornell Road. Their family lives on the south side of the road. They would be the only family in the area that would have to switch to Annadale. This would also require another bus to travel down this portion of Cornell Road just to pick up this family. This parent has requested that the A3 boundary adjustment be modified south to New Road and allow this one family to stay at South Ridge public school. This area is zoned agricultural and



Norwich township does not have the same development by-laws as the town of Tillsonburg. At the current state, this section of Cornell Road will not create any enrollment pressure. Suggesting both sides of New Road go to Annadale instead.

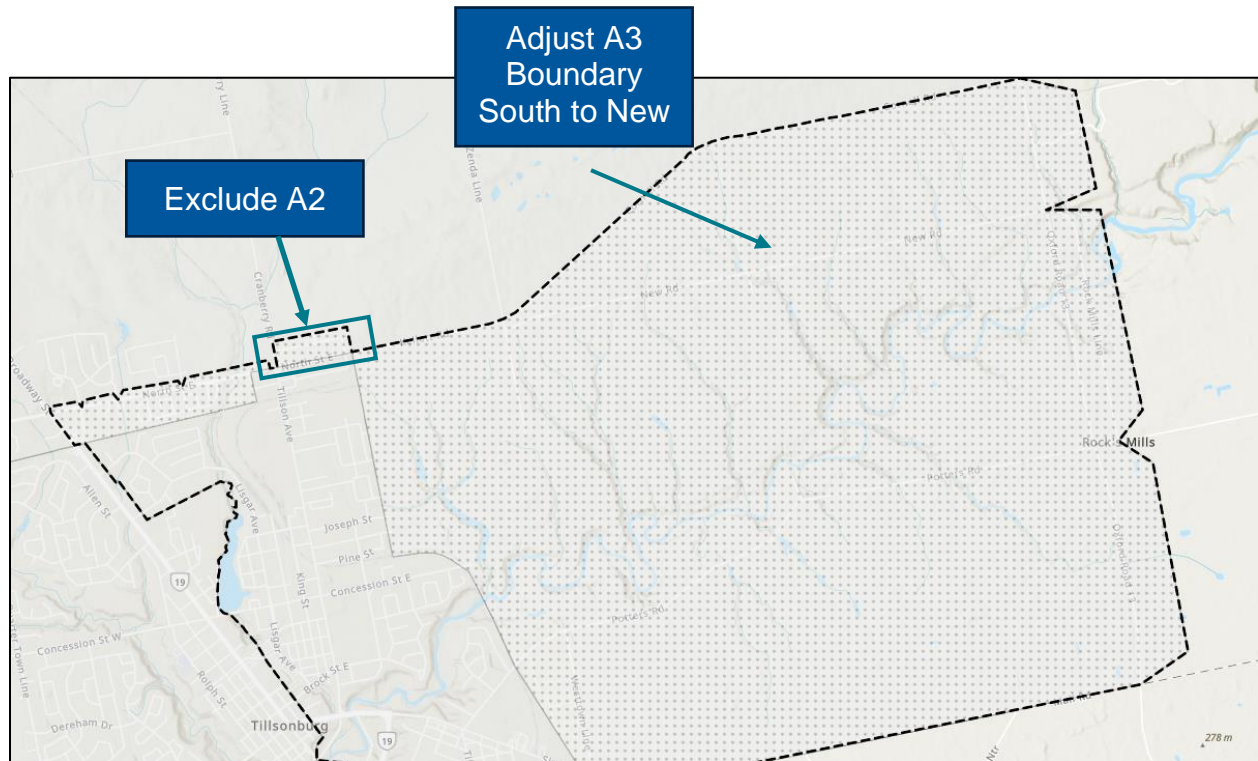
- I. A parent proposed the board examine reverting Annadale back to a middle school – consider the cost to renovate back for older students.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

- A. A request was made to create a holding zone (or several new holding zones) to allow the South Ridge Public School boundaries to remain unchanged. These holding zones within the SRPS boundary would send students to Annadale Public School. The effect of this is that any new developments within the existing boundary would go to Annadale.
- B. Grandparenting – many requests to grandparent in some or all existing students were voiced during the community meetings. We request that the board add at least one of these options for existing students:
 1. All existing students are allowed to remain at South Ridge Public School provided that the parents can provide transportation.
 2. AND/OR all grade 7/8 students and their siblings are allowed to remain at South Ridge Public School with board provided transportation, or if that is not feasible then parent provided transportation.
 3. AND/OR all grade 8 students and their siblings be allowed to remain at South Ridge Public School with board provided transportation or if that is not feasible then parent provided transportation.
- C. Multiple requests were made by the school community that if any students are required to change schools (whether it was South Ridge or Westfield) that the board provide a transition plan and/or supports. Example: an open house for parents and students to view Annadale, meet staff etc.
- D. If the board will go ahead with option one, this committee asks that the board modify option one to exclude A2 and modify the A3 boundary line south to New Road (See Appendix)



7. APPENDICES



Boundary adjustments as per Item D in 'Recommendations and Considerations'.

Subcommittee Report: Annandale PS

School Name: **Annandale Public School**

Date of Submission: January 27, 2025

1. SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AFFILIATION:

FDK	Laura Bennett
Primary (1-3)	Karen Conrad (chair)
Junior (4-6)	Jaslyn Declercq (secretary)
Intermediate (7-8)	Denise Haley
FDK	Melissa Galpin
School Council Chair	Sheena Larmer

2. SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETINGS:

- Date: December 18, 2024
- Number of Attendees at each meeting: In-person – 7, Virtual – 2
- Number of Participants in Discussion: 9

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annandale sub-committee prefers option 1 of the two proposed options. We welcome other options that will bring the Annandale school population up to 100%. In particular, the area designated as A3 appears to be a natural fit to be rezoned to Annandale.

4. BRIEF SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROFILE

From 1950 to 1995 Annandale was a high school, and from 1995 to 2010, Annandale was a grade 7-9 school. From September of 2010 to June 2012, Annandale was a grade 7-8 school. Annandale is currently an FDK to grade 8 school with a system Developmental Education class. There are approximately 430 students with a capacity of 580.

Annandale was changed to an FDK to grade 8 school after an accommodation review that saw Maple Lane closed and the new Westfield school built. The change to area boundaries for the schools zoned Annandale mainly within the core of Tillsonburg. Tillsonburg has a growing population, but the existing boundaries leave Annandale in a position where students from the new subdivisions are going to either South Ridge or Westfield. Annandale sits with several empty classrooms while South Ridge and Westfield have portables.

5. FEEDBACK REGARDING PROPOSAL

The Annandale sub-committee solicited feedback via school messenger, email, facebook, and with a community meeting with invitations to attend in person or virtually. Interest was generally low and there was not much feedback received.

Options presented in the initial report:



Of the two options presented, the sub-committee strongly prefers Option 1. In particular, significant parts of the A3 area are closer to Annandale than South Ridge and seem like a natural fit to be rezoned. Anecdotally, there were some people who moved to the A3 area who thought that it was zoned for Annandale, and then were disappointed to learn that it was actually zoned for South Ridge and their child would need to take a long bus ride. The A1 and A2 areas are adjacent to areas already zoned for Annandale that are eligible for busing.

The sub-committee does not consider Option 2 to be feasible. Option 2 would involve moving 86 students from Westfield to Annandale and then would result in Annandale needing portables. This seems especially bad for the affected students – they have to change schools and then may still end up in an overcrowded school with portables. Option 2 does not balance enrolment, but rather moves the high enrolment problem to Annandale instead of Westfield.

Additional possible options:

The subcommittee discussed a possible additional option that would bring the students from A3 and B1 to Annandale, while leaving A1 and A2 zoned for South Ridge. The B1 and A3 areas are quite close to Annandale and this would alleviate some attendance pressure from South Ridge and Westfield.

Another option is to rezone only the A3 area to Annandale. There are significant developments in this area that will increase Annandale's enrolment within the next few years. This option does not relieve much pressure from South Ridge and doesn't relieve any from Westfield, but also causes very little disruption to current students. We are concerned that the future student population of A3 is being underestimated (see below).

6. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

Although the Annandale school zone has not been subject to as much housing development as the zones for South Ridge and Westfield, there is still some development. There were two large apartment buildings recently built on Tillson Ave and there is a large proposed apartment building next to the former Elliot Fairbairn school. There are also discussions of a new housing subdivision near the Annandale ball diamonds near the end of Concession St. These types of developments would increase Annandale's enrolment.

It should also be noted that the A3 area is growing very quickly. The Harvestview development is currently under construction and will include over 500 units, including 3 bedroom apartments and affordable housing options that are likely to appeal to families. We expect the student population of A3 to increase significantly over the next few years. The first of these four buildings is slated for completion in 2025. Board projections show the student population of A3 at 32 in 2026 and 35 in 2031 – we believe these are significant underestimations and the board's data may not be reflecting this large development that is already underway.

There are families in zones A1, A2, A3, and B1 who are currently in the process of registering new students, especially kindergarten students, for South Ridge and Westfield for September 2025. If they will be moved to Annandale for September 2026, we feel they should be informed and encouraged to start their school career at Annandale in September 2025, rather than start at one school and move later. If the



decision is made in April 2025 to do this, we need to find a way to inform those families as soon as possible. One challenge is transportation for the 2025-2026 school year, as these areas would not have busing to Annandale until September 2026. We would suggest to allow them to go to an Annandale bus stop (A1 and A2 in particular will have these bus stops near them) or they can provide own transportation.

If the decision is made in April 2025 as planned and many students request to switch to Annandale for September 2025 (rather than waiting until September 2026), this may cause problems since staffing decisions are normally made in March.

In general, Annandale should accept as many out-of-area requests as possible from students currently zoned for South Ridge and Westfield as long as they are received early enough to be included in staffing decisions. Mid-year requests present more challenges with staffing and would require more consideration.

We recognize that it will be a difficult transition for any students who need to move to a new school. We expect that the other school sub-committees may propose some additional options that involve only new students moving to Annandale, while legacy students can stay where they are currently. Although this would mean Annandale would fill more slowly, it would still likely move to 100% within a few years. We would welcome these types of other options that bring Annandale up to (but not over) 100%.

Longer term, there is a strong need for additional student space in Tillsonburg, either through building additions to one or more of the existing schools or through the building of a new school. Given population growth estimates for the town, we feel these actions should be taken as soon as possible.

7. APPENDICES

n/a