

GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: Brenda Blancher, Director of Education & Secretary

FROM: Jamie Gunn, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

RE: Enrolment Growth Accommodation - French Immersion Program Accommodation

DATE: November 9, 2015

Recommended Action: It was moved by ______Seconded by _____ THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the implementation of delayed entry for French Immersion commencing September 2016.

Recommended Action: It was moved by _____Seconded by _____ THAT the Grand Erie District School Board approve the implementation of a secondary French Immersion Program at North Park Collegiate commencing September 2016.

Background:

The Board has recognized accommodation pressures from the growth in French Immersion (FI) program enrolment and approved recommendations to present a number of options to the school community for feedback. A public meeting was held on October 13, 2015 where options were shared and questions and input was received from attendees. Meeting notes were taken and a copy is attached (Appendix A). All data presented at this meeting was posted on the Board website and many questions and comments have been received from the community about the proposed boundary changes.

The Manager of Communications and Community Engagement and staff have tracked and summarized questions and feedback received through the Board website. A summary of the community feedback received since the October 13th meeting is attached (**Appendix B**)

Accommodation Options:

Options presented for feedback were -

- 1. Accelerate the implementation of FI program at Burford Elementary by adding grades 5 and 6 in September 2016 and complete the implementation with grades 7 and 8 added in September 2017. Beginning with September 2016, all Brant County resident FI students would be assigned to the FI program provided in Brant County.
 - a. 80 students are currently bused into the city of Brantford from Brant County to attend Dufferin and Fairview.
 - b. If FI program were extended in Brant County enrolment pressure at Dufferin and Fairview would be eased.

c. Grade 7 & 8 students from Brant County currently attending Dufferin and Fairview would be permitted to complete their elementary program at their current school

2. Amend the North Ward and Cobblestone Boundaries to include the current catchment area of Paris Central School and assign FI students from north Brant County to Paris Central making it a single track FI school effective September 2016.

- a. An Accommodation Review has been initiated for the three Paris elementary schools to consider consolidation of Paris Central students into North Ward and Cobblestone schools.
- b. A new FI Program would be initiated at Paris Central as a JK to Grade 8 program serving students of Brant County.
- c. This would augment the program at Burford and provide 219 additional pupil places for the FI program.
- d. The Burford catchment would be defined to accommodate JK to Grade 4. Students from this area would attend Paris for Grades 5-8 FI programming.

3. Implement a new dual track program at Branlyn for students residing in the Brier Park, Cedarland, Banbury and Branlyn school catchment area. The initial program would include JK to Grade 2 commencing September 2016 and may be expanded in future years by adding one cohort per year.

- a. 97 students living in the proposed catchment area attend Dufferin and Fairview.
- b. If a new FI Program were added at Branlyn enrolment pressure at Dufferin and Fairview would be eased.
- c. Many of these student are within walking distance of Branlyn School.
- d. Accommodation at Branlyn would not support the expansion of the program Grade
- e. Students from this area would attend Fairview for Grades 3-8 FI programming.

4. Establish a second FI program at North Park or Pauline Johnson in September 2016

- a. both North Park and Pauline Johnson have capacity that would allow growth to be accommodated.
- b. Implement the program one grade at a time and permit students currently attending BCI to complete the secondary program there.

Options to Manage Future Growth:

Information was also shared about other options the Board may consider to manage the future growth in the French Immersion program.

1. Cap enrolment level of new registrations

• Would require an approval process or lottery if requests exceed the number of available spaces

2. Delay entry into the FI program until SK or Grade 1

• Students would attend their home school for JK and SK

3. Modify or eliminate transportation provided for the FI program

- Students would walk to their home school and/or group stops. This creates an inequity for rural students.
- 4. Expand available space for the FI Program

• Ministry of Education has been clear that funding requests to create new pupil places for FI program growth would not be considered

5. Retain Ecole Fairview once Coronation is complete

• Total board enrolment has not increased to support an additional school

If no changes were made to shift regular program space to FI or to manage growth in the program, FI enrolment in Brant-Brantford will grow to 400 students beyond capacity of the pupil places assigned to the program. The table below shows the projections for the Brant-Brantford program.

Brant - Brantford French Immersion Enrolment

Year	Dufferin	Fairview	Burford	Total
2016	471	638	179	1288
2017	488	643	213	1344
2018	514	643	245	1402
2019	529	664	274	1467
2020	543	682	290	1515
2021	541	691	299	1531
2022	545	689	313	1547
2023	544	687	318	1549
2024	544	690	321	1555

Projected Enrolment - Status Quo

School 461 Capacity	547*	150	1158
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* Capacity at the expanded Coronation site.

Discussion of Options and Feedback (Elementary Program:

A review of the feedback received presents concerns for all of the proposed options. Established patterns of attendance is valued by respondents and many would like to see the exiting school catchments remain the same. If any change is considered, most who provided feedback would prefer to see grandfathering for all students currently enrolled and changes only impact new students coming to the program.

Some favoured the retention of Ecole Fairview as an additional FI site once Coronation is complete. This request would cause the Board to fund the operation of an additional school site. Without an increase in the total enrolment of the Board there would be no additional funding to sustain the added cost burden of another school. Utilities, maintenance, custodial and clerical staff and school administration costs would add \$350,000 annually to the Board budget. There

would also be additional capital costs to restore the building and site to a safe state for occupancy as a school as the current four classroom module is being moved to the Coronation site this July.

Parents of students whose regular program would be moved to other schools to make space for FI program also expressed their displeasure with the proposed option and would like to see the exiting school catchments remain the same.

The feedback received and concerns about finding qualified teachers to continue to staff a growing program lead administration to re-consider the option to manage program growth. Four of six neighbouring boards do not provide French Immersion programming until grade one. Students enrol at their home school for JK and SK.

Grand Erie could implement delayed entry into French Immersion program until grade one by eliminating JK in 2016 and SK in 2017. No new JK or SK students would be taken into the program for two years. The students currently in the JK/SK FI program would be provided FI programming and progress to the Grade 1FI program in September 2016 and 2017. This would grandfather the current JK and SK students into the program. Resulting program enrolment for Brant-Brantford would require 156 fewer pupil spaces in 2016-17 and 320 fewer pupil spaces in 2017-18. The table below shows the projected enrolments for the Brant-Brantford FI program with delayed entry implementation.

Brant - Brantford French Immersion Enrolment

Year	Dufferin	Fairview	Burford	Total
2016	413	563	156	1132
2017	375	491	158	1024
2018	401	491	190	1082
2019	416	512	219	1147
2020	430	530	235	1195
2021	428	539	244	1211
2022	432	537	258	1227
2023	431	535	263	1229
2024	431	538	266	1235

Projected Enrolment - delayed entry to Gr 1

School	461	547*	150	1158
Capacity	401	547	130	1130

* Capacity at the expanded Coronation site.

With elementary program offered from Grade 1 to 8, enrolment pressures are resolved at Dufferin and Fairview/Coronation. The FI program at Burford will encounter accommodation pressures by 2018 and would require an addition to continue to expand the program to Grade 8. There are

regional issues in the Burford Area with high nitrate levels in the water table involving the Ministry of the Environment and an ongoing study. It is likely that we would not be able to obtain a building permit until the study is complete. If the Brant County program were split between Burford and Paris Central, all FI students could be accommodated. Administration is suggesting that both schools run dual track programming with Grades 1-5 FI at Burford and Grades 6-8 at Paris Central. Students in the FI program would transition from Burford to Paris Central as a cohort. The extension of the FI program at Paris Central would help ensure viability of the school for its regular program students.

If the Board decides to proceed with implementation of delayed entry, and a dual track program at Paris Central were to be pursued, implementation of the Paris Central program would not be required until September 2017. This would provide the Accommodation Review in process for North Brant time to consider the option of implementing a dual track program. If this is pursued, the Board should add Burford District Elementary School to the review area and invite their representatives to participate in the future ARC meetings.

If approved, delayed entry would be implemented for all FI programs in Grand Erie including Norfolk and Haldimand County programs.

It is assumed in these projections, that once programming in the Brant County schools is extended to Grade 8, transportation would not be provided for students attending at Dufferin or Fairview/Coronation from Brant County. Boundaries for Dufferin and Fairview/Coronation FI program would include only students from within the Brantford city limits as well as portions of Brant County to the west of the city as shown on the boundary map attached. Shellard Lane and Oakhill areas would remain in the Dufferin catchment area.

Senior Administration recommends the implementation of delayed entry for French Immersion commencing September 2016 (no JK intake for September 2016 and no SK intake for September 2017).

Senior Administration also recommends that discussion takes place regarding the potential of offering a Core French program beginning in Kindergarten at all Grand Erie schools. It is suggested that this new program would not begin before September 2017 to allow the Elementary Program team ample time to investigate how other school boards offer Core French before the mandatory Grade 4 start in terms of program and staffing.

Secondary French Immersion Site:

Senior Administration recommends beginning in September of 2016, students entering the grade 9 French Immersion program, and currently residing in the Fairview catchment area, will attend North Park Collegiate and Vocational School. Students currently attending Brantford Collegiate Institute in the French Immersion program will be grandfathered to allow them to complete their program at their current school.

French enrolment at the secondary level will increase significantly over the next 10 years. It is important that Grand Erie Human Resources in conjunction with secondary French Immersion Principals establish a teacher recruitment strategy to ensure adequate French Immersion teachers are in place to deliver program. It should be noted that the students who are currently enrolled at Caledonia Centennial and Walsh Public School in the French Immersion program will be entering secondary school in September 2020. As a result, a secondary French Immersion site in Haldimand/Norfolk will need to be designated and a staffing strategy established.

Grades	Year	FI Enrolment
9	2016	34
9-10	2017	51
9-11	2018	95
9-12	2019	149
9-12	2020	150
9-12	2021	169
9-12	2022	174
9-12	2023	197
9-12	2024	236
9-12	2025	270

Projected Enrolment at Secondary French Immersion at North Park Collegiate

A communication plan is being drafted pending Board approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Gunn Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

Appendix A



Public Meeting French Immersion-Accommodating Enrolment Growth

Tuesday October 13, 2015 Joseph Brant Learning Centre, Grand River Hall 7:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Director Blancher welcomed those present and made introductions to Trustees and staff present:

Trustees: C A Sloat, D Dean, R Collver A Felsky, G Anderson, T Waldschmit,

Principals: Beth Lougheed, Leanne Smith

Staff: B Blancher, J Gunn, A Nesbitt, Wayne Baker, D Abbey, Liana Thompson, S McKillop, K Underwood

2. Setting the Context

Director Brenda Blancher welcomed those present and walked through the process to date in terms of Enrolment Growth and Accommodations in French Immersion. The Director noted that the meeting purpose is to present various options and impacts and then receive feedback from the school communities.

3. Enrolment Growth and Options

J Gunn presented information on Census, Enrolment and Population data, Enrolment history, and the various options to manage French Immersion program growth and the process for community consultation. (See attached slides)

4. Secondary School Considerations for French Immersion

A Nesbitt outlined the various options for the Secondary School French Immersion program taking into account the increase in Elementary French Immersion. (See attached slides)

5. Feedback and Next Steps

J Gunn reported that the presentation and maps will be located on the Board website along with the responses to tonight's questions. Options to provide feedback include submitting questions by email to info@granderie or by requesting delegation status at a future Board meeting.

Feedback will be presented along with a final recommendation to the Committee of the Whole Board No. 2 meeting on November 9, 2015, with a final decision at the Board meeting on November 23, 2015.



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6. Questions/Comment and Feedback

The following is a summary of questions/answers and comments received:

Q-Question, A-Answer, C-Comment

C Believes the program has tripled, why is there no growth plan for the future? Why is the Board treating the FI students differently than the English program students? Why do we have to displace FI students? Would like the enrolment numbers for all the Board schools, and would like to look at the Enrolment numbers for Tollgate Technological Skills Centre.

C Thank you for accommodating French Immersion Students.

Q Is there a preference between the North Park or PJ sites when considering Secondary FI?

A No

Q Are you going to be offering grandfathering if you offer the program at Branlyn for those families that have multiple children in the current FI schools?

A We have heard your comments and Trustees will consider these comments as they deliberate the recommendations.

Q Concerns for the Human Resources for the Elementary level when FI is expanding, what is the plan?

A This is a concern for School Boards across the Province. It is important to focus on recruitment to build capacity with FSL and with French Speaking teachers. FI Programs only require 50% of the teaching program to be taught in French.

Q Given the current capacity why can't we keep Fairview School?

A While FI Enrolment has increased, total Elementary Enrolment across the Board has remained static. This does not support adding French schools and we need to find spaces within the existing facilities.

Q Is Branlyn being recommended as JK-2 only for French Immersion?

A Correct.



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Q Will you Grandfather Secondary Students currently attending BCI and provide transportation?

A That is one option that is being considered.

C Encourage the teachers in Teachers College to get the required qualifications.

Q Was Coronation planned to be a bigger school and wouldn't this open more spaces? Concern that students will have to move three times in Elementary School and would like the programs all at one school.

A Coronation is opening with 547 pupil spaces as approved by the Ministry. There are enough spaces for a full JK-8 FI program at Coronation.

C Can we not look at the whole Board to accommodate FI programming not just pockets? Please be inclusive and involve the parents to provide input.

Q Concern from a teaching perspective, the hiring for quality teaching, would staffing locations change?

A Would work within the collective agreements, there would be a posting process for requesting staff at another location.

Q Fairview will be sold, why can't we use that money and buy Sky Acres Campus to keep a third FI School?

A Proceeds from a sale are a one-time event, opening a third school incurs ongoing operating and maintenance expenses.

Q Shift from English to French Enrolment, would there be the capacity to accommodate French Immersion students to go back to the English program? We need to find a school that could accommodate a full FI school so that the value of the education is not diminished.

A The Board in the last 10 years has closed more than 15 schools and shifted students to other schools in the resulting consolidations. The Ministry is not providing additional funding so we need to find the spaces where we are under utilizing a school.



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Q Concern that West Brant parents are not informed with the boundary changes, are you considering grandfathering these students?

A We are hearing your comments and will consider this.

Q Is the decision for Paris Central being made on November 3, 2015? Is the Board deciding on Paris Central at that meeting?

A The Board is not considering the Paris Central program change at the November 23 meeting. The Accommodation Review Process will be followed, the process is inclusive and will give opportunities for input.

Q Projected enrolment, has there been any consideration in the forecasting for the development growth? (in Paris)

A In our projected enrolment we take into consideration the development growth and the yield from the development. There are currently over 100 surplus pupil spaces at Cobblestone.

Q Have you considered the loss of the English students at Paris Central to the Catholic Board?

A When reviewing the options, we consider this possibility of parents moving to the Catholic Board.

Q Enrolment overall is stagnant, are both Boards stagnant?

A The share of elementary population is not changing at either Board. If FI parents weren't registering in Grand Erie then the enrolment numbers would decrease.

Q The FI program doubled but you're only projecting to open 300 more spaces. If you open more spaces, won't more FI attend?

A Yes, that is a possibility but it is difficult to predict.

Q For NP and PJ, have you determined the catchment areas? Has there been consideration at looking at Tollgate Technological Skills Centre for the new FI High School and displacing the English speaking students?

A The first step is to receive feedback, second step is to take a recommendation to the Board. No we have not considered Tollgate Technological Skills Centre at this time.



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Q Besides looking at the capacity of PJ and North Park as a secondary location, is there any other criteria?

A A capacity audit would need to be completed and a full understanding of the dynamics of each school to reorganize and once complete this will trigger further criteria.

C Concern that the current Fraser Institute reporting on the two FI schools would impact the FI students attending Pauline Johnson.

Q Attracting the proper talent, what if you can't attract the qualified and skilled staff for the increased Enrolment?

A We would consider some additional options discussed earlier to manage the size of the program.

C Isn't it better to have all the FI program students at one school to help with the staffing resources? Suggest to change the catchment of English schools to not split up the FI Program.

C Branlyn is only showing a cap of 98 students, would prefer a single-track FI program over a dual-track FI program.

C If FI was offered at Banbury, there is a safety concern for her child who would be required to walk 1.3 km.

C Worried that Coronation won't be able to accommodate the students in four years.

Q Concern with a middle school at Burford, no consideration that West Brant would be effected and West Brant was not informed of this option and have not had the opportunity to come to this venue.

A The options for Board consideration are evolving and will probably change after the meetings. We will certainly reach out to parents to ensure that they are informed and given the opportunity to provide comments.

Q What will the accommodations be to ensure that the quality of my child's FI program is sustained if she were to be diverted to a dual-track FI program? Concern that the dual track program is not equal in quality.

A Differences are that dual track offers French Immersion and English while single track offers only French Immersion program. For dual-track FI, it's important to build a



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community within the school, having to ensure that where there are opportunities to communicate, that you do so in both languages. Wherever you add a new component, you have to build the program and it is a challenge but Grand Erie is committed to ensuring the same experiences for FI students.

Q Paris Central School students would be diverted to Cobblestone, this would maximize the Enrolment with the additional FI and development growth. Expressed a problem with busing the students out of the downtown core.

A We do not feel that this will be a problem and students will be able to be accommodated. If and when the development East of Rest Acres and North of Powerline proceeds, another school will be considered.

C Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School is committed to teaching the whole student. The Fraser numbers can be misinterpreted and if French Immersion students were to come to Pauline Johnson, they would be experiencing the same benefits and positive environment of a school committed to the whole student.

Q Separating older kids from younger kids was wonderful at Sky Acres. Where did the funding come from to rebuild Coronation?

A The Board submitted a capital request to the Ministry and it was approved for Capital funding. However, since the last submission, the Ministry guidelines for capital funding have changed. The Ministry clearly indicated that funding is only for total board Enrolment growth not program growth. A similar request would not be successful under these new guidelines.

Q Seems really rushed to have something implemented for the Fall of 2016. Seems that the Paris question will be affected by the boundary review.

A Yes, the Boundary review is dependent on the Accommodation Review outcome. If the growth continues and there are no boundary/program changes the Board will have to cap program Enrolment.

Q How is the Board going to address the 59% EQAO at Branlyn, how are you going to guarantee the same level of teaching that the FI schools are offering now?

A There are excellent teachers and excellent programs at all of our schools. Those students at Fairview and Dufferin who excelled in the EQAO testing will continue to do



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well. The EQAO testing is only one means to measure a student's success. The Fraser Institute only looks at EQAO.

C French Immersion means different things in different Boards. Kids need to see older kids speaking French. Separating the grades does not work.

Q Looking at the numbers of growth, have you considered that this is an exponential growth?

A Part of the growth (477 students) is due to the dual-track FI program implementation at three new sites in 2011.

Q If you open the program for further growth, would it not allow for further growth of the FI program and supporting the long term sustainability?

A That is a possibility. The options presented here would create 327 additional FI pupil spaces. This fall, there were only a few FI students that were not able to be accommodated.

Q Planning over the next 10 years with the growth in FI, are you still seeing the decline in English schools and should you consider closing an English school? Where is the most decline in the English schools?

A Accommodation review is a continuous process that takes into consideration an area of schools where there are available spaces. The spaces in the areas where FI is growing the most is currently under review.

Q Need to clarify that Paris Central students will be bused out to either North Ward or Cobblestone ES and other FI students will be bussed in?

A That is a consideration that is being presented for discussion on November 3, 2015 Accommodation Review Committee meeting.

Q Can we approach the BHNCDSB to engage in discussion to develop a joint FI school that would be mutually beneficial?

A We will consider this suggestion.

7. Next Steps and Conclusion

The Director informed the parents that the notes of the meeting will be shared with all Trustees and available to the public. The Director commented that the Grand Erie District



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School Board is listening to the parents and highlighted the different methods to provide feedback. The Director shared that a number of trustees present tonight, heard your voices and she thanked everyone who came out.

French Immersion Comments/Feedback – info@granderie.ca

Total Inquiries: 36

Themes: Grandfathering (8); South West Boundaries (11); Clarification of Boundary Maps (10); Concern (13); Comment (10); Suggestion (5); Staff and Children (3); Interest in FI in Paris (1); General Info re: FI (4); Community Impacts (1); Family Split (2)

Detail: For specific information, please see refer to the following chart.

	Theme of Feedback/Inquiry
Comment No. 1	 Two children in Grades 5 and 7 (been at Dufferin since Kindergarten) Clarification of boundary map – lives in South West Boundaries but map would indicate them as going to County of Brant school Concern for children not finishing at Dufferin
Comment No. 2	 General Info re: FI Access to presentation from meeting
Comment No. 3	General Info re: FI Access to presentation
Comment No. 4	General Info re: FI Access to presentation
Comment No. 5	Clarification on boundary maps
Comment No. 6	 Comment re: dual track program at Branlyn Alternate suggestions include: students in North end of Brantford attend Paris Central if it becomes single track FI; English schools in Brantford amalgamate making room to open new FI school in Brantford; keep Sky Acres open for longer
Comment No. 7	 Suggestion: partnership with catholic board to create FI school, similar to Notre Dame and Branlyn Concern that this plan may fall through after adjustments made –impact on families, families may pull children from FI, families may move to closer schools
Comment No. 8	Clarification of boundary map for Brant County – live on Brant County Rd. 18, but are still in Fairview catchment area based on map.
Comment No. 9	 Suggestions include: using Tollgate Tech to accommodate FI students in Grades 6-8; Move English students from a school with 52% population, displace 356 students to N.PC and P.J Concern for scattering the FI population and unnecessary bussing Concern for children attending PJ for FI
Comment No. 10	 Children attend Dufferin. Live in South West Boundaries Comment re: living within city limits but sending children to county schools Parent is a board staff member
Comment No. 11	Suggestion: close English school with lowest population, redraw boundary maps to reallocate students and use that school for FI
Comment No. 12	 Clarification of boundary maps – live in west Brantford Interested in Grandfathering
Comment No. 13	Clarification of boundary maps

Comment No. 14	Comment – classroom sizes are not comparable. Difference between classroom space and portable
Comment No. 15	 Concern for kids who attend Dufferin and reside in Southwest Brantford Comment – moved from Catholic board so they could attend FI school Students attend boys and girls club Does not support children being relocated to Burford or Paris
Comment No. 16	Interested in having FI in Paris
Comment No. 17	 Comment – child attends Dufferin and parents plan on sending second child Concern with having both children at different schools and out of city limits Suggestion - transform a currently English school to another FI school within the city limits Lives in South West Boundaries
Comment No. 18	 Concern with splitting up children – both children attend Fairview, but live in Branlyn area Request that if Branlyn is approved, students with siblings at Coronation can attend together making drop off and pick easier
Comment No. 19	Staff Children (teacher at Dufferin on an un paid leave) Going back to Dufferin next yet
Comment No. 20	 Concerns include: temporary solution; Concern for before and after school programs
Comment No. 21	 Two students at Dufferin – live in Brier Park area Interested in Grandfathering
Comment No. 22	 Two children at Dufferin live in South West Boundaries Grandfathering
Comment No. 23	 General Information: FI Class sizes, number of educators, French GEPIC
Comment No. 24	 One child at Dufferin Grandfathering Staff Children Live in South West Boundaries Concerns with dual track vs. single track
Comment No. 25	 Students at Dufferin Live in South West Boundaries Concern for disconnect from community if schooled in brant county Interested in Grandfathering
Comment No. 26	 Student attends Dufferin since JK, lives in D'Aubigny area Concern for student having to change schools
Comment No. 27	Community Impacts re: crossing guards and bussing concerns in county
Comment No. 28	 Children attend Dufferin and live in South West Boundaries Concern for sending students to County for FI Interested in Grandfathering Suggestion – remove Kindergarten from FI program and start students in FI in Grade 1 Concern for dual track vs single track
Comment No. 29	 Child at Dufferin but live in South West Boundaries Preference of single track vs. dual track Interested in Grandfathering Issue with sending child to county while living in the city

Comment No. 30	 Three children attending Dufferin Interested in Grandfathering Concern for Family split and multiple pick up and drop off times
Comment No. 31	Clarification
Comment No. 32	Southwest BrantClarification
Comment No. 33	 Lives in Southwest Brant Clarification re: schools with lower population, and plan details
Comment No. 34	Clarification of boundary maps
Comment No. 35	 Lives in Southwest Brant Clarification of boundary maps
Comment No. 36	 Concern w. two children attending Dufferin and family split Clarification of boundary maps – looking for specific street names

