

**Greater Essex County District School Board**  
**BOUNDARY REVIEW**  
**RIVERSIDE AREA SCHOOLS**  
**Thursday, February 4, 2015 at 5 p.m.**  
**Dr. David Suzuki School**  
AGENDA

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At the November 18, 2014, regular meeting of the Board, Trustees approved the following recommendation regarding Hetherington, Princess Elizabeth and Dr. David Suzuki Public Schools:

**THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITATES A BOUNDARY STUDY INVOLVING, HETHERINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL, PRINCESS ELIZABETH PUBLIC SCHOOL AND DR. DAVID SUZUKI PUBLIC SCHOOL, TO ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES AND PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT THE SUPERINTENDENT OF ACCOMMODATIONS PRESENT THE BOUNDARY STUDY PROCESS TO TRUSTEES FOR APPROVAL.**

The process was approved at the regular meeting of the Board on December 9, 2014.

**Present:** Hetherington School, Jackie Connolly, Principal, Brenda Popovich, staff rep, Lori Gault and Jennifer Archer, parent reps; Dr Suzuki School, Jan Fairall, Principal, Karen Lamoure, staff rep, Philippa von Ziegenweidt and Deb Sissons, parent reps; Princess Elizabeth School, Yvonne Petta outgoing Principal and Penny Fremlin, incoming Principal, Megan Toyne, staff rep, Kelly Reitsma and Jennifer Cadarette, parent reps; Lorrain Caba and Betty Turner, Community reps

**Regrets:** nil

**Chairperson:** Todd Awender, Superintendent of Education

**Recorder:** Lynne Hornby

1. Call to Order and welcome

It was explained that the Superintendent had been delayed returning from a county school due to the poor weather. In his absence Mrs. Hornby reviewed the contents of the information binders. The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Superintendent Awender who explained that his role is that of facilitator and advisor on this committee.

He noted that the Riverside family has three primary areas of concern, which we would hope to address during the study:

1. That Dr. David Suzuki School is over capacity, with portables on site. Enrolment projections show an anticipated increase. Portables are more expensive for this school due to eco status of the school. We are concerned about losing our LEEDS designation regarding the amount of portables that can be placed on the site. We are trying to determine just how many portables may be placed on site before we lose this status.
2. That Princess Elizabeth and Hetherington are under capacity and enrolment is anticipated to continue to decline.
3. Disjointed boundaries for all three schools in the study.

The differences between a boundary study and a Program and Accommodation Review were discussed.

Everyone is passionate about their own school but the committee must remember to consider what is best for the system as a whole, not just their own school. Be respectful of each other's communities and schools. Each individual school has exceptional students, staff and administration. Our families at each school are fantastic citizens representing and promoting their school communities.

2. Review of Annual Accommodation Report relative to this family of schools

The Superintendent reviewed the Annual Accommodation Report briefly and in particular the portion of the report specific to the Riverside family of schools. Overall, we have 6,000 empty student spaces in the Board. The Report provides a lot of data on the system as a whole.

Enrolment data for the three schools was reviewed in detail, both historical and projected. Each term was explained. A handout of acronyms is included in the binder distributed to each committee member. Some frequently used terms:

OTG - On the Ground – the number of students that can be accommodated in a school based on the Ministry of Education (MoE) Guidelines

Renewal – how much money needs to be invested in a school to bring it to where it would reach MoE standards.

FCI - Facility Condition Index – the dollar value of repair work needed in each school as identified in the Total Capital Planning Solution (TCPS) system divided by the replacement value for the school as determined by the Ministry of Education

In an effort to determine future enrolment, the Board uses the services of a consultant who works with all the municipalities. We are made aware of any new housing developments which are taken into consideration when projecting enrolments. We have recently acquired Barager software which can track all sorts of demographic data and we have our own system data.

The primary focus of this study will be to adjust Suzuki's boundaries but how that is to be accomplished is an unknown at this time. The committee will review a great deal of data and develop recommendations that will be used in Administration's report to trustees. Unlike a PARC, the committee does not write its own report during this process. Some considerations are the balance of students, viability of programming.

Also to be addressed are the disjointed boundaries for all three schools which the Transportation Consortium would like to see streamlined.

3. Communication

It is important that information shared is accurate in order to stem the talk that happens at bus stops, arenas, parks and parents can greatly assist in curtailing rumours. Any communications to families will be generated from the Superintendent's office in order that everyone receives the same information at the same time.

4. Process

Ministry of Education regulations do not govern a boundary study, however, as a Board we have determined to run the process in a manner similar to a Program and Accommodation Review (PARC). A PARC is currently underway involving four high schools and an elementary school in the county.

This is an advisory committee; Trustees are the decision making body. Because this is a boundary study, there will be no school closings, however, it is inevitable that some students will be moving schools. As always, we will endeavour to affect the least amount of students possible.

There will be one community meeting, where ideas will be presented and input collected. The goal is to have the recommendations developed for presentation to the Board of Trustees by the end of this school year.

5. Brainstorming

Superintendent Awender reviewed the current boundary maps. Each committee member has a copy in their information binder. The committee was asked to think about some ideas/solutions to the situation. At the next meeting we will chart those brainstorming ideas but there will be no commenting or criticizing of ideas. . The ideas will be recorded, we will provide any further information deemed necessary by the committee and then each idea will be explored in detail.

6. Requests for Information and Questions:

At this time, we cannot speculate when any changes will take place, it will depend on our recommendation.

7. Future meeting dates:

Committee meetings, all will be at 4 p.m. A brief tour of each school will take place as we meet at each of the schools:

Tuesday February 24 at Hetherington School

Tuesday March 10 at Princess Elizabeth

Thursday March 26 at Suzuki

Wednesday April 15 at Hetherington

Community meeting:

To be determined

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.