

**The Waterdown New School Boundary Review
Advisory Panel #2 - Thursday, November 13, 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 –Associate Planner, Planning, Accommodation and Rentals
Lorraine Valmadrid, Research and Analytics
Lisa Kiriakopoulos - Manager, Early Years
Balaclava – Principal: Anna Ricci
Guy B. Brown - Principal: Cathy Calvano, 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 Guy B. Brown: Laura Hamilton and Mohamed Khamis
Representative from Flamborough Centre: Kellie Bутtenham
Representative from Allan A. Greenleaf: Jennifer Valeri
Representative from Mary Hopkins: Carley Casey and Marissa Saunders
Michelle Baker - EA to Superintendent Lee

Regrets:

Mary Hopkins - Vice-Principal: Paula Thomson
Representative from Balaclava: Jennifer McCarney
Representative from Balaclava: Kyrsten Koverko
Representative from Flamborough Centre: Angela Devall

Meeting Start Time: 4:33 PM

Land Acknowledgement

Superintendent Lee opened the meeting with a Land Acknowledgement.

Agenda Review

Superintendent Lee reviewed the Agenda and housekeeping items, highlighting the Advisory Panel's mandate and outlining the goals of the meeting. Participants were also reminded of meeting etiquette.

Waterdown Boundary Timelines

Timelines for the Waterdown Boundary Review were discussed. Members were reminded of the upcoming Public Meeting scheduled for November 27th at 5:30 p.m. in the Waterdown District High School library/cafeteria as well as Advisory Panel Meeting #3 occurring on December 11, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. at Waterdown District High School.

Communication

Participants were reminded to share the Engage HWDSB link with the community to encourage feedback through the online platform at www.engagehwdsb.ca/waterdown. The site provides both a public comment and private message feature.

Feedback

Lorraine Valmadrid from Research and Analytics provided an update on feedback received through Engage HWDB to date. 30-40 families shared input via the Engage website and through emails to staff. Lorraine summarized feedback into two main categories: Global Feedback and Specific Scenarios.

- Global feedback reflects common themes across comments. Key concerns include:
 - Keeping siblings together.
 - Limiting school moves to reduce social, emotional, and academic impacts and to preserve the established school communities.
 - Availability of before and after school care and daycare options for younger siblings.
 - Bell times, bussing, and walkable considerations.

Many of the themes align with the evaluation matrix discussed at the first Advisory Meeting.

- Specific Scenarios feedback received has been grouped into the following 5 categories:
 - Regular track students living North of Highway 5 and East of the train tracks, and South of Highway 5 and East of Waterdown Rd – currently part of Mary Hopkins Elementary’s boundary. Feedback received is to include this area in the new Waterdown Elementary School boundary to increase walkability.
 - Regular track students from Mary Hopkins Elementary who have or will transition to Flamborough Centre in the next year before the new Waterdown Elementary School opens (they are living within the new school’s proposed boundary). Feedback received is to remain at Flamborough Centre for their child’s final grades instead of going to the new school.
 - As part of the temporary accommodation strategy, French Immersion students from Mary Hopkins Elementary graduate to Guy B. Brown Elementary. Current proposal is for French Immersion students from Mary Hopkins Elementary to transition to Flamborough Centre as it will return to being a dual track school. Feedback received is to allow students who have transitioned to Guy B. Brown Elementary to remain at Guy B. Brown Elementary.
 - Area South of Highway 5 and West of Hamilton St – currently part of Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary’s boundary, and proposal is for this area to be part of the new school. Feedback received is for this area to remain part of Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary for walkability and to preserve the school community that has been built.
 - Include Millgrove Elementary in this boundary review. Millgrove Elementary students attend Greensville in Dundas for Grades 6-8 and then transition back to Waterdown for high school. Feedback received is to allow Millgrove Elementary students to attend Balaclava Elementary or Flamborough Centre in their middle school years to keep students within the community.

Manager Warling provided the following updates:

- Before and After Care is planned for the new school, along with 88 full-day spaces for younger children. The provider will be selected through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process one year prior to opening. Increased space is expected to reduce waitlists.
- Bell times and transportation will be discussed once boundaries are finalized. A bell time schedule will need to be established for the new Waterdown Elementary School. Feedback will be shared with the Transportation Team.
- French Immersion programming in Waterdown may be affected by the HWDSB Program Strategy Review. The Program Committee will be presenting to Trustees on December 11, 2025.
- School grade configurations were discussed, and suggestions include changing

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Flamborough Centre to a middle school and including Millgrove Elementary in the review. These will be considered through the Long-Term Facilities Plan process and may be a recommendation to Trustees next Spring.

- Boundary scenario requests were reviewed, and an alternative boundary proposal for the new Waterdown Elementary School (including part of Mary Hopkins Elementary current boundary North of Highway 5) was reviewed. This scenario does not meet the first three evaluation criteria and is not a viable option.

Evaluation Criteria Matrix (Revised)

Before and after school care criteria was removed based on feedback received during Advisory #1. It was reiterated that a boundary review is not a process for considering modifications to existing school spaces. The newly established boundary is expected to alleviate stress in school's common areas.

Waterdown Boundary Review

Manager Warling explained that the enrolment projections used in the presented options are based on actual 2025–2026 enrolment figures. Each graph illustrates the shift from the status quo projections to the projections under Option 1, compared against the school's on-the-ground capacity.

- Bars represent enrolment by year
- Status Quo English: Light yellow
- Status Quo French Immersion: Light blue
- Option 1 English Track: Dark yellow
- Option 1 French Immersion: Dark blue
- The school's on-the-ground capacity is indicated by a red line

Note: Capacity does not include portapaks or portables

Three options will be reviewed. Option 1: shared at Advisory #1, Option 2 and Option 3 were developed from discussions at Advisory Meeting #1.

Waterdown Boundary Review (Option 1)

The boundary created is the area South of Highway 5 from Howard Boulevard to Kerns Road. This boundary was created with key considerations in mind that were reviewed at the previous meeting. North and South Highway 5.

Balaclava Elementary

- 2026-2027 Changes: No Change.
- 2027-2028 Changes: Transportation Impacts: No courtesy busing offered to new students.

Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary

- 2026-2027 Changes: New JK to grade 4 enrolments South of Highway 5 will be directed to Mary Hopkins Elementary. Transportation Impacts: Students currently attending Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary from the new Waterdown Elementary School boundary will continue to be bused to Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary. All new students within the new Waterdown boundary in Junior Kindergarten to grade 4 will be bused to Mary Hopkins Elementary, while new students in Grades 5 to 8 will be bused to Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary.
- 2027-2028 Changes: All JK to grade 8 (regular track) students South of Highway 5 will attend the new Waterdown Elementary School. Transportation Impacts: Busing should not change.

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Mary Hopkins Elementary

- 2026-2027 Changes: Receives new JK to grade 4 (regular track) enrolments South of Highway 5. Transportation Impacts: All new students in the new school boundary, JK to grade 4 will be bused to Mary Hopkins Elementary.
- 2027-2028 Changes: JK to grade 5 (dual track) school, students South of Highway 5 directed to the New Waterdown Elementary School. Transportation Impacts: Busing should not change.

Flamborough Centre

- 2026-2027 Changes: None
- 2027-2028 Changes: Grade 5 (regular track) remains at Mary Hopkins Elementary. French Immersion, Grades 6 to 8 slowly phases back into school from Mary Hopkins Elementary commencing in 2028. South of Highway 5 students directed to the New Waterdown Elementary School. Transportation Impacts: Busing should not change.

Guy B. Brown

- 2026-2027 Changes: None.
- 2027-2028 Changes: French Immersion - grade 5s stay at Mary Hopkins Elementary. French Immersion grades 6 to 8 from Flamborough Centre stay and graduate. Transportation Impacts: Busing should not change.

New Waterdown Elementary

- 2026-2027 Changes: None.
- 2027-2028 Changes: Receive all JK to grade 8 (regular track) students South of Highway 5 in the new boundary. Transportation Impacts: Busing should not change.

Manager Warling discussed the Evaluation Criteria Matrix Option 1 results and shared that it represents the consensus of the last meeting's discussions and activities.

Waterdown Boundary Review (Option 2)

Same geography as Option 1, but grades 7 to 8 (regular track) graduate from their current schools (Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary and Flamborough Centre). No transportation will be offered to legacy students. Siblings will be directed to the new Waterdown Elementary School.

Balaclava Elementary

- 2026-2027 Changes: No Change.
- 2027-2028 Changes: No courtesy bussing offered to new students. Students who are already receiving courtesy bussing will continue to receive it. Transportation Impacts: None

Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary

- 2026-2027 Changes: New JK to grade 4 enrolments South of Highway 5 will be directed to Mary Hopkins Elementary. Transportation Impacts: Students currently attending Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary from the new Waterdown Elementary School boundary will continue to be bused. All new students residing in the new Waterdown Elementary School boundary in Junior Kindergarten through Grade 4 will be bused to Mary Hopkins Elementary, while new students in Grades 5 to 8 will be bused to Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary.
- 2027-2028 Changes: All JK to grade 8 (regular track) students South of Highway 5 will attend the new school. Grade 7 and 8 students can stay but will not receive transportation. Siblings must

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attend the new school.

Mary Hopkins Elementary

- 2026-2027 (same as option 1) Changes: receives new JK to grade 4 (regular track) enrolments South of Highway 5. Transportation Impacts: All new students in the new Waterdown Elementary School boundary, JK to grade 4 will be bused to Mary Hopkins Elementary.
- 2027-2028 Changes: JK- grade 5 (dual track) school. Students South of Highway 5 directed to the new Waterdown Elementary School. Transportation Impacts: Busing should not change.

Flamborough Centre

- 2026-2027 Changes: None.
- 2027-2028 Changes: Grade 5 (regular track) remain at Mary Hopkins Elementary. French Immersion grades 6 to 8 slowly phases back into school from Mary Hopkins Elementary. JK to grade 6 students south of Highway 5 directed to the new school; grades 7 & 8 students can stay. No transportation will be provided to legacy students. Siblings must attend the new Waterdown Elementary School.

Guy B. Brown

- 2026-2027 Changes: None.
- 2027-2028 Changes: French grade 5 stay at Mary Hopkins Elementary. French Immersion grades 6 to 8 from Mary Hopkins Elementary/Flamborough Centre stay and graduate. Transportation Impacts: Busing should remain the same.

New Waterdown Elementary

- 2026-2027 Changes: None.
- 2027-2028 Changes: Receive all JK to grade 8 (regular track) students south of Highway 5 in the new boundary. Grades 7 - 8 can stay at current schools. No transportation provided to legacy students. Siblings must attend the new Waterdown Elementary School.

Manager Warling requested completion of the Evaluation Criteria Matrix for Option 2. The information from Option 2 matrix will be presented at the 3rd Advisory meeting.

Waterdown Boundary Review (Option 3)

Same geography as Option 1, but FI grades 6 to 8 continues to be directed to Guy B. Brown Elementary. Flamborough Centre stays as a regular track JK to grade 8 school with no French Immersion.

Balaclava Elementary

(Same as Option 1)

- 2026-2027 Changes: No Change.
- 2027-2028 Changes: No courtesy bussing offered to new students. Students receiving courtesy busing will continue to be received. Transportation Impacts: No transportation impacts.

Allan A Greenleaf Elementary

(Same as Option 1)

- 2026-2027 Changes: New JK to grade 4 enrolments South of Highway 5 will be directed to Mary Hopkins Elementary. Transportation Impacts: Students currently attending Allan Greenleaf

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Elementary from the new Waterdown Elementary School boundary will continue to be bused there. All new students within the new Waterdown Elementary School boundary in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 4 will be bused to Mary Hopkins Elementary, while new students in Grades 5 to 8 will be bused to Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary.

- 2027-2028 Changes: All JK to grade 8 (regular track) students South of Highway 5 will attend the new school. Transportation Impacts: Busing should not change.

Mary Hopkins Elementary (Same as Option 1)

- 2026-2027 Changes: Receives new JK to grade 4 (regular track) enrolments South of Highway 5. Transportation Impacts: All new students in the new Waterdown Elementary School boundary, JK to grade 4, will be bused to Mary Hopkins Elementary.
- 2027-2028 Changes: JK- grade 5 (dual track) school. Transportation Impacts: Busing should not change.

Flamborough Centre

- 2026-2027 Changes: None.
- 2027-2028 Changes: Grade 5 (regular track) remain at Mary Hopkins Elementary. Single track JK to grade 8 school.

Guy B. Brown

- 2026-2027 Changes: None.
- 2027-2028 Changes: French Immersion - grade 5 stay at Mary Hopkins Elementary. French Immersion - grades 6 to 8 directed from Mary Hopkins Elementary.

New Waterdown Elementary (Same as Option 1)

- 2026-2027 Changes: None.
- 2027-2028 Changes: Receive all JK to grade 8 (regular track) students south of Highway 5 in the new boundary. Transportation Impacts: Busing should not change.

Manager Warling requested completion of the Evaluation Criteria Matrix for Option 3.

Feedback and Public Meeting

The committee reviewed the format for the upcoming Public Meeting. The Advisory Committee's role is to listen to community input and encourage participants to submit questions or comments either on the paper provided or through the Engage HWDSB website. HWDSB staff will be present at the meeting to respond to questions.

Option 4

An additional Option 4 was briefly discussed, and information on it was agreed to be shared with the committee members for review. Option 4: New school boundary to be south of Highway 5 from Hamilton Street South to Kerns Road. Flamborough Centre will remain a single-track school for JK to Grade 8. Legacy students in Grades 7 and 8 will continue at Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary and Flamborough Centre. French Immersion students will move from Mary Hopkins Elementary to Guy B. Brown Elementary for middle school years of French Immersion.

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All four options will be shared for feedback at the public meeting.

Questions

- Will we need to do another boundary review in 2030?
- What will numbers look like in Option 1 if the new Waterdown Elementary School does not open in 2027?
- Once the new Waterdown Elementary School is open, how many students will be leaving their current schools?

Comments

- Guy B. Brown Elementary stage is being used as a student area (not just a stage)
- Students currently attending Allan A. Greenleaf Elementary are being reassigned to other schools, while new families moving into the area enroll at Allan A. Greenleaf. Legacy students should be able to remain at Allan A. Greenleaf.
- Walkability is important.
- Going down Highway 5 is impossible at times.
- Transportation - does not make sense to send people across the bridge.
- Programs are being reestablished rather than boundaries.
- New developments in the community to be considered.
- Staffing of French Immersion programs needs to be considered.

Participants were thanked for attending.

Meeting ended time: 6:35 p.m.