BOARD **22 June 2021**
Report No. 21-051

New Half Moon Bay Elementary School – Approval of Grade, Program Offering and Attendance Boundary

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PURPOSE:

1. To seek Board approval of the grade structure, program offering and attendance boundary for a new elementary school located in the Half Moon Bay community of Barrhaven; and,

   Revised attendance boundaries for Half Moon Bay Public School
   In association with the opening of the New Half Moon Bay elementary school.

CONTEXT:

2. In the summer of 2020, the Board received notice of capital priority funding for the construction of a second elementary school within the Half Moon Bay community.

   In anticipation of this funding, the Board acquired the school site in November 2018. The 2.83 ha (7 acre) site is located at the southwest intersection of Kilbirnie Drive and River Mist Road. Please refer to the general location map attached as Appendix A.

   Construction of the 674 pupil place school is anticipated to commence in 2021 and tentatively scheduled to open for September 2022, pending municipal approvals and construction timelines.

   Given that the existing attendance area for Half Moon Bay Public School mirrors the community's well-defined geography, the new school boundary was anticipated to be formed from within the existing community.

   On December 15th, 2020 the Board approved a timeline and consultation plan which included the formation of a relatively small advisory committee. The committee was composed of Principals and school council representatives from both Half Moon Bay Public School and from Cedarview Middle School and a local

community association representative. The meetings were also attended by Board staff, along and the area Trustees.

Over the past several months, the advisory committee met on three separate occasions and considered several potential accommodation options for the new school. These options attempted to address key objectives such as the desire to maintain viable programs, balanced enrolment and utilization between schools, and create attendance boundaries that are both logical and sustainable.

An online public consultation period began on April 28th and extended through to May 11, 2021.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

3. The following factors/considerations were discussed with the Advisory Committee and these considerations have served to guide the development of the two Options that were the presented for comment during the Public Consultation period.

Factors Considered

Regular English Program Enrolment

Not unlike trends in schools across the District, there has been a marked increase in the demand for Early French Immersion (EFI) programming, which has generally resulted in lower regular English (ENG) program enrolments.

A basic premise of the Advisory Committee however, has been that the ENG program should also be offered at the new Half Moon Bay elementary school.

This dual track program English/Early French Immersion (ENG/EFI) program offering is consistent with all other elementary schools serving students in the larger Barrhaven community. As well, the size of the ENG program currently at Half Moon Bay Public School is of a sufficient magnitude that it can be split between the two elementary schools. With a dual track program offering, siblings who may attend different programs and/or who later switch programs, are able to do so without changing schools.

Middle French Immersion Program

The Advisory Committee considered the possibility of the introduction of a new Middle French Immersion (MFI) program at one of the Half Moon Bay area schools. A review of the current MFI programs in the Barrhaven area, suggests that there is not yet a sufficient critical mass of students to support a third MFI program in the Barrhaven area. Given that the MFI program is fairly new at Barrhaven Public School, it was determined that the program needs time to mature and gain strength over time, before additional program sites in the Barrhaven area are considered.

Intermediate Program

The Advisory Committee considered the possibility of introducing an intermediate program (grade 7-8) at either one or both of the Half Moon Bay area schools. With the introduction of an intermediate program, enrolment would soon exceed capacity and hasten the need for portables. Cedarview Middle School would also see a further significant reduction in its enrolment, beyond that of recent reductions stemming from the recently approved redirection of the Chapman Mills area from Cedarview Middle School/John McCrae SS to Longfields –Davidson Heights for grades 7-12 which was effective for September 2020.

In this scenario, the phase-In of an intermediate program would commence two years after the opening of the new Half Moon Bay elementary school since it would open with a JK-5 grade configuration, phasing in one grade per year thereafter.

Regardless, the Advisory Committee did want an Option shown that reflects the impact of an intermediate program offering for public comment.

Residential Development

In the early 2000's the City of Ottawa initiated the development of concept plans for the future Half Moon Bay Community in conjunction with the City's Official Plan. During the consultation process, the OCDSB outlined its future need for three (3) elementary school sites. In 2006, the Barrhaven South Community Design Plan (CDP) was approved by the City and later in 2018 the Barrhaven South Expansion Area CDP was approved. These two CDP plans, envisioned over 8,600 dwelling units for the future community. With approx. 7100 units built to date, the area is now beginning to approach build out.

With over 1500 units remaining, more than half of these are located within the new school boundary area.

Co-terminous School Board Presence

Within the Half Moon Bay Community, the Ottawa Catholic School Board has two existing JK-6 elementary schools in the community – St. Cecelia which opened in 2013 and St. Benedict in 2016.

The OCSB recently received notice of provincial funding for a third elementary school, tentatively scheduled for a September 2023 opening.

The French Catholic School Board also has a presence in the community with the opening of école Sainte Kateri a JK-6 elementary school in 2013.

Staff continue to monitor both development trends and the plans of our co-terminous boards in the context of our accommodation needs in the growing Half Moon Bay community.

Following discussion of the issues involved, the Advisory Community endorsed the presentation of two Options for the purpose of receiving input from the larger school community.

Proposals for Public Consideration

Two accommodation options were provided for comment during the Public Consultation Period (April 28th- May 11th, 2021) as noted below.

Option A: Both Half Moon Bay Public School and the new Half Moon Bay Elementary School offer a JK-6 ENG & EFI program. The attendance boundary division line is generally along Cambrian Road.

Option B: Same as Option A, except that the both schools also offer an Intermediate program (JK-8 ENG/EFI) which would phase commencing with grade 7 in 2024.

Note that in both of these Options, the New Half Moon Bay Elementary School would open with a JK-5 grade configuration, with grade 6 phasing in the following year.

Staff Comment

As part of the Information Package, a staff comment was provided following the overview of the two main Options for Public Comment wherein staff noted its preference for Option A as follows:

Staff do have a preference for Option A wherein both schools are proposed to offer a JK-6 ENG/EFI grade structure and program offering. In this Option, both schools would likely remain under 100% utilization by 2026.

Each school would also have some buffer for future growth providing area families with some stability and certainty in the medium term.

An intermediate program can be considered at a later time, and be implemented fairly quickly should both enrolment numbers warrant and space available. In the interim, staff would have the opportunity to monitor enrolments and accommodation, as development in the community proceeds.

Cedarview Middle School would continue to house intermediate program students from the Half Moon Bay area and continue to be able to offer a robust intermediate program with a growing enrolment in the 800 range by 2026.

The Information Package prepared for the Consultation period also outlined "Other Options Considered" as part of the Advisory Committee process. Please refer to Appendix B

Among the "Other Options Considered" was a scenario where Half Moon Bay Public School offered a JK-6 English program serving the entire community, along with a local Early French Immersion program while the new school offered a local JK-6 EFI program along with 7/8 ENG/EFI program.

A scenario which reflected a JK-3 ENG/EFI grade/program configuration at Half Moon Bay Public School and a Grade 4-8 ENG/EFI at the New Half Moon Bay Elementary School was also considered.

Note that the Information Package provided rationale as to why these Other Options were not pursued. For further details please click the weblink below:

https://ocdsb.ca/informationpackage

Public Consultation and Input Received

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this entire accommodation review including meetings with the Advisory Committee and Public Consultation period was held both virtually and in an on-line format.

Notification of the pending consultation process was given through a wide variety of social media platforms. The consultation process venues consisted of a Powerpoint Video with voiceover, including links to the Boards website for the Accommodation Review and Information Package for the public to review. The ThoughtExchange portal, as well the study website email, was available for the exchange of viewpoints on the Options presented.

The ThoughtExchange Consultation period extended from April 28th through to May 11th inclusive.

Overall, through ThoughtExchange, there was 252 Participants, 269 Thoughts, and 3932 Stars assigned. Most participants identified as being associated with Half Moon Bay Public School (76%) and Cedarview Middle School (8%). Those associated from both schools (13%) and Other at (3%).

Thought Exchange Feedback

The following general themes emerged from Thought Exchange:

- Strong support for a Grade JK-8 grade offering at one or both schools, less transitions, and not having to go to Cedarview for grades 7/8
- View that a 7/8 program be implemented sooner.
- Concern with overcrowding at Cedarview MS and at John McCrae
- Questioned when a new local secondary school would be built.
- Willingness to have portables to have 7/8 program added
- Support for a dual track ENG/EFI program at both schools
- Support for a JK-6 Grade configuration
- Support for the proposed boundary
- Comments that the new school boundary is too large.

- Comment that an MFI program in the area would be desirable

Staff Comments on the Feedback Received

Intermediate Program

There was strong support for the implementation of an Intermediate Program within the community. Further comment suggested that It would be preferable if the program could be offered sooner, unlike that proposed in **Option B**.

As detailed in Option B, Grade 7 would be phased in at both schools, 2 years after the opening of the New Half Moon Bay Elementary School which would initially open with a JK-5 grade structure, as shown in the chart below. Note: this opening grade structure, and resultant total student movement, is in compliance with the provincial requirements of the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines.

School	Phase-In of Intermediate Program at Half Moon Bay Area Schools			
	Year			
	2022*	2023	2024	2025
Half Moon Bay Public School	JK-6	JK-6	JK-7	JK-8
New Half Moon Bay Elementary School	JK-5	JK-6	JK-7	JK-8
*Opening date subject to Construction Timing and Municipal Approvals				

It should be noted that staff did indicate its preference for Option A in the Information Package (both schools as JK-6 Dual Track), there are a few important considerations which support this preference.

- As noted in the Information package for Option A, both schools would remain under 100% utilization until 2026, while in Option B, utilizations exceed 100%. As growth in the community has occurred at a fast pace, it would be prudent to continue to monitor enrolment growth at each JK-6 school to ensure that both schools can accommodate area growth and to avoid premature overcrowding at the two schools.

- Staff would be able to continue to monitor enrolments at area schools in the broader Barrhaven area as well as at Cedarview Middle School.
- In general at the intermediate level, enrolments should be sufficiently large in order to continue to offer robust programming for students. Larger enrolment levels allow for flexibility, including co-curricular programming and extracurricular activities. Larger program enrolments allow for the full potential of the intermediate

program to be realized, which includes specialized staff such as for music and other specialty programs.

- In the event that both Half Moon Bay elementary schools offer an intermediate program, along with Cedarview Middle School, the resulting enrolment distribution of the intermediate program between 3 sites would be reduced. As a result, the full breadth of programming opportunities (programs ie music/activities) that have historically been offered at Cedarview Middle School may be impacted/diminished.

- Additionally, consideration should be given to the context of a larger accommodation strategy for schools in this part of the District. In the foreseeable future, the intermediate program at Cedarview Middle School will continue to house a strong enrolment. Among the area JK-6 elementary feeder schools for Cedarview Middle School, none are likely to have room to offer a 7-8 program. Accordingly, there is a clear need to maintain the current intermediate program at Cedarview Middle School.

- It is acknowledged that a JK-6, 7-8 and 9-12 grade structure in this part of the District does have additional transitions for area students.

- As well, it is also possible that a new secondary school in this part of the District may offer a 7-12 grade structure which may entail a future review of intermediate program offerings in the larger area.

Overcrowding at Cedarview MS/John McCrae SS

A recent accommodation review which was implemented effective September 2020, redirected the Chapman Mills area from Cedarview MS (7-8) / John McCrae SS(9-12) to Longfields Davidson Heights SS for grades 7-12. The impact of this redirection will serve to significantly reduce enrolment growth and pressures at both Cedarview MS and at John McCrae SS. Projected enrolments for Cedarview MS forecast enrolment in the 650 to 800 range by 2026 while enrolment growth at John McCrae SS has been stabilized and is expected to remain in the 1400 range.

Future Secondary School

Staff does acknowledge the future need for this secondary school serving student needs in this part of the District. The Board does have a secondary school site identified within the growth plans of the Half Moon Bay Community. The timing of the need for this capital project is likely to be identified within the Board's next iteration of its District Needs Analysis (Capital Plan).

Proposed Attendance Boundary too large

In geographical terms, the proposed attendance boundary for the new Half Moon Bay Elementary School does appear large in comparison to that of Half Moon Bay Public School. It should be noted that a significant portion of the new school attendance boundary (area south of Barnsdale road) is outside of the urban area boundary and is rural in nature.

Middle French Immersion

The Information Package provided for the Public Consultation period did detail the Advisory Committee's interest in the program and a staff response. In short, there is not yet a critical mass of students to support a third (3rd) MFI program in the Barrhaven area.

Support for Attendance Boundary and Dual Track Program Offering

In large part, there was broad support for the proposed attendance boundary division lines (Cambrian Road) and support for the dual track ENG/EFI program offering at both schools.

Staff Recommendation

Given the nature of the above noted staff comments and associated rationale provided, Staff recommend that **Option A** (which provides for two dual track JK-6 ENG/EFI elementary schools) be approved by the Board.

In order to limit disruption to students and families, staff is recommending that New Half Moon Bay Elementary School open with a JK-5 grade structure, with grade 6 phasing in the following year.

Grade 5 students at Half Moon Bay Public School would be able to remain at the school to complete Grade 6.

Staff will continue to monitor the rate of development and impact on area enrolments with the implementation of this option.

As is typical, a fulsome transition plan will be developed and implemented to ensure that a seamless transition for area students occurs.

Please refer to Appendices C and D for the recommended attendance boundaries and enrolment projections.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

4. The cost of conducting the review will be managed within existing departmental budgets.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

5. The Board's communication department played a pivotal role in preparing a tactical communication strategy in an effort to inform affected communities, parents/guardians, students, and staff of the consultation process and opportunities to provide comment on the Options for the Grade, Program Offering and Attendance Boundary for the new Half Moon Bay Elementary School.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

6. Conducting a review of pupil accommodation in this part of the District in order to provide students with improved access to learning environments, serves to optimize the use of District resources which is consistent with the Culture of Caring objective of the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

A THAT grade, program offering, and attendance boundaries for the New Half Moon Bay Elementary School be approved as per Appendix C of Report No. 21-051, with the school offering a JK to 5 grade structure upon opening, with a phase in of Grade 6 students the following year.

B. THAT, a revised attendance boundary for Half Moon Bay Public School be approved as per Appendix C of Report No. 21-051.

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Camille Williams-Taylor
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

APPENDICES

Appendix A General Location Map
Appendix B Other Options Considered
Appendix C Recommended Attendance Boundaries
Appendix D Accommodation Impact