

**Name: Todd Whitley**

**Brief summary of issue or topic of discussion:**

The Neighbours of Knoxdale are concerned about the EPR Boundary changes that appears to run counter to several of the stated objectives. Specifically Manordale will become overcapacity, and require additional bus services for kindergarten kids currently served by Knoxdale and Briargreen. These schools will be further under utilized. I request consideration be given to maintaining the current boundary for these schools

Here to discuss a specific issue created by the initial plan, which is the over-population at Manordale in Nepean. Manordale is a JK-6 school with portables already in place. The new boundaries will draw in 79 students from Knoxdale and Briargreen. This will immediately put Manordale over capacity and would require more portables. At 20 kids per class, that would be four more portables. Furthermore, Manordale is in the intensification zone of the transportation corridor. This densification will put greater pressure in the longer term. Making a bad situation even worse.

In addition, the new zones added to Manordale will be outside the walking distance for kindergarten kids, thereby putting even more buses on the roads.

While it is recognized that the plan is multi-faceted, there does appear to be a simple solution with limited impact to the wider plan. That is to maintain the existing FI boundaries with Knoxdale and Briargreen. Both schools are currently well under capacity (around 2/3 capacity) and will be even further underutilized under the EPR plan.

Both schools are similarly JK-6 schools, so no additional student moving would be required. The current zone boundary is ~800m from both Knoxdale and Manordale which isare within the walking radius of both schools, so no new school bus routes would be required.

Some homes in the zone would be 100m from Knoxdale, instead of 2km from Manordale. Homes that can hear the Knoxdale school bell and kids playing will definitely have a stronger connection to this community.

I request that the board reconsider the Manordale, Knoxdale, and Briargreen boundaries to better reflected the stated goals of capacity, community, and the unstated goal of fiscal responsibility.

If the feedback from the community cannot be included in the plan before the vote, I would like to suggest that the vote be delayed to accommodate the feedback coming from the community.



### EPR Proposal impacts for Manordale/Knoxdale

Equality of education and access to resources is very important to parents, and unfortunately, part of this plan will aggravate already over-stretched resources in some schools, while further under-utilizing capacity at neighbouring schools - in particular, Manordale, Knoxdale, and Briargreen Public Schools.

This written delegation addresses a specific issue created by the initial plan, which is the proposed boundary changes which will cause over-population at Manordale in Nepean. Manordale is a JK-6 school with portables already in place. Further increasing the boundaries and stretching the school's capacity will result in reduced access to resources, higher costs, and more buses.

The new boundaries will draw in 79 students from the Craig Henry Neighbourhood currently attending Knoxdale. This will immediately put Manordale over capacity (105%) and would require more portables for more kids to be taught in. Adding new portables or other changes to support the higher intensity will increase costs to the board. There are obviously better uses for this money.

Furthermore, Manordale is in the intensification zone of the transportation corridor. This densification will put greater pressure in the longer term, making a bad situation even worse.

In addition, nearly 100% of the new Craig Henry zone added to Manordale will be outside the 800 m safe walking distance for kindergarten kids; and half of the 840 homes moved to Manordale would be outside the 1.6 km safe walking distance. The distance and route to school will, put even more buses and driving parents on the roads. Carola Street in front of Manordale is a small residential street that cannot handle the current traffic volume and causes disruptions for local residents. Local Councillor Sean Devine petitioned the City of Ottawa to improve the unsafe situation around for Manordale School in September 2024. His efforts were unsuccessful and the same transportation limitations and dangers will be aggravated by having more students come from further distances.

For many parents the Extended Day Program is essential for their livelihoods and family. EDP is already stretched beyond capacity, and this change will again over burden resources and disadvantage current families that have EDP in place and future families needing EDP in the expanded Manordale zone who rely on this service for their livelihood.

Like many of the neighbours of Knoxdale, we currently have 2 children walking to Knoxdale. We have organized our life around their school hours, have a community of parents where we share



childcare and after school play dates. The lack of a school commute gives us more time with our children and opportunities for them to engage with their neighborhood friends.

### Proposed Alternative:

While it is recognized that the plan is multi-faceted, there does appear to be a simple solution with limited impact to the wider plan. That is, to maintain the existing boundaries for the French Immersion program (expanded to all programs) with Knoxdale PS and Briargreen PS. Both schools are currently well under capacity and will be even further underutilized under the EPR plan (61% and 70% respectively).

Both schools are similarly JK-6 schools, so no additional student movement would be required.

The current zone boundary almost perfectly matches the 800 m radius distance from both Knoxdale and Manordale which is within the kindergarten walking radius of both schools, so no new school bus routes would be required.

Some homes in the proposed zone for Manordale would be 100m from Knoxdale, compared to 2+ km from Manordale. Homes that can hear the Knoxdale school bell and kids playing would definitely have a stronger connection to this community.

The current boundaries in this plan put unnecessary pressure on Manordale's physical resources, local transportation resources, and current and future working families. The proposed alternative keeps more children in walking distance (and less buses), keeps families closer to their schools, avoids adding further problems to traffic infrastructure. This proposal also reduces short-term costs (portable installations) and long-term costs (buses to locations currently not needing them).

I realize that this is a small area of a much bigger plan, where it is easy to overlook some of the practical implications of the decisions. I hope this note brings new details to better inform decisions to achieve the EPR goals.

I request that the board reconsider the Manordale, Knoxdale, and Briargreen boundaries to better reflect the stated goals of capacity, community, and the unstated goal of fiscal responsibility by retaining the current boundaries.