

**Name: Leah Gunnell**

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

EPR specifically Briargreen grandfathering to Knoxdale

**Key Point:** relocating students from one school to another does not consolidate programming or reduce excess pupil spaces for the family of schools of Briargreen, Knoxdale, and Manordale.

- Even without a community assessment of the projected number of students having to move as a result of the EPR within the areas of Manordale, Briargreen, and Knoxdale, reducing excess pupil spaces is not a factor when relocating students from one school to another within this family of schools based on each's utilization: Manordale 83% (71%-EPR), Briargreen 72% (70%-EPR) and Knoxdale 68% (79%-EPR) ([Appendix A Report 25-022 - EPR Updated Index](#)).

Recommendation: The Western parts of Craig Henry were added back into Knoxdale boundary, and so should Briargreen given the available space.

- Briargreen PS enrolment projections for 2023 and 2024 from the 2017 Western Area Review (390 and 400 respectively, Appendix F) fall short when compared to current enrolment: 263 (p.4 October 31, 2024 Enrolment Statistics Summary). Eng: Gr1-28, Gr2-33, Gr3-41, Gr4-35, Gr5-41, Gr6-29. Total change from 2023 to 2024: -30. There seems to be a vibrant English program at Briargreen across all grade levels.

Recommendation: Community Assessment Survey: A survey to Briargreen-residing families with students currently at Knoxdale reveals 32 students wish to remain at Knoxdale for FI (by grade, an average of 5 students) out of a total of 49 students/33 households. Talks with parent councils of Manordale and Briargreen suggest a complex mixture of desired programming. To not have a survey ahead of time is not within the spirit of the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines.

- The [2017 Western Area Report](#) mentions conflicting information about Knoxdale PS when referencing the closure of

Leslie Park. Page 30 identifies Knoxdale PS as “over-utilized” while Leslie Park and Briargreen are deemed under-utilized, yet on page 32, if Leslie Park had added MFI to bolster enrolment and remain open this “would result in a decline in population and underutilization at Knoxdale PS.” Further, “If [the addition of MFI at Leslie Park was] undertaken, this would have required the consideration of at least one, if not two, school closures (Manordale and/or Briargreen) to achieve optimal program consolidation and space utilization. The family of schools cannot sustain three MFI programs.”

Recommendation: That Briargreen PS allow Grandfathering for its EE: When Leslie Park (EE) closed in 2017 and students were designated to Briargreen PS, there was not an increase over the years in student population at Briargreen PS of any significant note (Briargreen was projected at full capacity (409) in 2025 per the 2017 Western Area Review, yet remains at 70% with 263 students per the October 31, 2024 Enrolment report). Leslie Park families who had to switch to Briargreen after 2017 may still have younger siblings that attend there and wish to stay.

- Manordale maintains a French Immersion program despite low numbers: Gr1-22, Gr2-15, Gr3-19, Gr4-11, Gr5-15, Gr6-9 (p.7 October 31, 2024 Enrolment Statistics Summary) Recommendation: maintain status quo for Manordale PS for EE and EFI: As in the case for Leslie Park/Briargreen, there was not a significant-enough increase in population at Briargreen PS to take note of, proving that the relocation of students from one school to another within this family of schools does not consolidate programming nor reduce excess pupil spaces. Shifting Manordale EFI students to Briargreen PS, for example, therefore does not result in a consolidation of the EFI program. Community assessment- It would be prudent to first ascertain numbers of students who will want to attend Briargreen PS EFI to further prove that relocating students between this family of schools does not consolidate programming nor impact excess pupil spaces.

Final Recommendation: Introduce French Immersion at Briargreen PS.

- Do a community assessment across all schools to see who will want to attend EFI at Briargreen PS. As proven in the Leslie Park case and Craig Henry-West boundary

inclusion into Knoxdale: the relocation of students from one school to another within this family of schools does not affect pupil spaces nor consolidation of programs.

- Maintain EFI at Manordale to assess its progress, as it seems to be maintaining desirability despite current numbers.
- Allow Briargreen families and any other families to stay where they are within this family of schools as it does not impact program viability, program consolidation, nor excess pupil spaces as we've seen from past boundary changes.