



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Report No. 19-077

17 September 2019

**Chapman Mills Public School Area – Intermediate & Secondary
School Attendance Boundary Redirection – Consultation Plan
Approval**

**Key Contact: Michael Carson, Chief Financial Officer, 613-596-8211
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PURPOSE:

1. To obtain Board approval of a consultation process and timeline to review the accommodation pressures at John McCrae Secondary School (SS) and at Cedarview Middle School (MS) by considering an attendance boundary redirection in the Chapman Mills neighbourhood, (west of Woodroffe Avenue) area of South Nepean (Chapman Mills Public School boundary area). (see map attached as Appendix A.)

CONTEXT:

2. Prior to the opening of Chapman Mills Public School (PS) in 2013, there was a debate about how best to set the boundary of this school and the schools to which it would feed for grade 7-12.

Geographically, this school would be most closely affiliated with Longfields Davidson Heights Secondary School (LDHSS), but at the time, the growth in the South Urban Community (SUC) meant that LDHSS was already significantly over its pupil capacity. The decision was made to direct students in the Chapman Mills PS catchment to Cedarview MS and John McCrae SS and boundaries were amended to reflect this decision.

Development in the SUC remains a challenge for the District. The last District Needs Analysis (DNA) identified an urgent need for another grade 7-12 school in the Riverside South area of the SUC. At that time, staff made note of the ongoing pressures at John McCrae SS. In an effort to address some of these pressures, renovations were carried out at John McCrae SS in 2014 increasing the capacity of the school from 807 pupil places to the current 996 pupil places.

3. Accommodation Overview

John McCrae SS is a small grade 9-12 secondary school on a constrained site in the old Barrhaven area. In 2014, the capacity of the school was increased to 996 pupil places. The site, which has a maximum portable capacity of 18 portables, will have 15 portables allocated for instructional use for the 2019-2020 school year, up from 12 in the 2018-2019 school year.

With an enrolment of 1301 students as of October 2018, the status quo projections indicate that there could be an enrolment approaching 1800 students by 2023 which far exceeds the sustainable capacity of the school and site.

Cedarview MS (grade 7-8) is the sole elementary feeder school for John McCrae SS and its enrolment of 694 pupils as of October 2018 is expected to increase significantly over the next few years. Accordingly, there is a need to alleviate pressures at Cedarview MS. The school is currently fed by the following five elementary JK-6 feeder schools: Barrhaven PS; Chapman Mills PS; Half Moon Bay PS; Jockvale Elementary School (ES) and Mary Honeywell ES.

LDHSS opened in 2009 as a grade 7-12 facility with a capacity of 1353 pupil places. An addition to the school was completed in 2015 which increased the capacity to 2057 pupil places.

There are currently 10 portables in use on the LDHSS site. While the school is currently experiencing peak enrolment levels with 2196 students in the 2018-2019 school year, enrolment is now expected to decrease slightly over the next few years as its three elementary feeder schools stabilize. The school is currently fed by the following three JK-6 feeder schools: Adrienne Clarkson ES; Berrigan ES; and Farley Mowat PS.

In order to alleviate growing enrolment pressures at both Cedarview MS and at John McCrae SS, an attendance boundary redirection is proposed which involves the re-assignment of the Chapman Mills PS attendance area from both Cedarview MS (grade 7-8) and John McCrae SS (grade 9-12) to LDHSS (grade 7-12).

It should be noted the Middle French Immersion (MFI) program students residing in the Chapman Mills area attending Adrienne Clarkson ES for grade 4-6 MFI have already been directed to LDHSS for grade 7-8. Currently, these students have the option to remain at LDHSS for grade 9-12.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

4. Typically, the OCDSB engages in consultation with a range of options to be considered. In this case; staff proposes a boundary redirection that is necessary to manage enrolment pressures at both Cedarview MS and John McCrae SS. Other options have not been considered.

Staff anticipates that moving the High Performance Athlete (HPA) program, located at John McCrae SS to alleviate enrolment pressure will be raised during the consultation phase. Currently, the HPA program at John McCrae SS has 180 students enrolled with only 50 of the students in the program from the John McCrae SS boundary. Therefore, moving the HPA program is not a measure that negates the need to look at a larger boundary redirection. Moving the program would only represent a reduction of 130 students over a four-year period.

5. The Proposed Plan

In advance of the proposed consultative approach, staff has formulated a focused plan to address the pressures at John McCrae SS and at Cedarview MS as follows:

Redirect the Chapman Mills PS (grade JK-6) attendance boundary area from Cedarview MS (grade 7-8) and John McCrae SS (grade 9-12) to LDHSS for grade 7-12 on a phased basis. The redirection of area students would be undertaken in a phased manner commencing with grades 7 and 9 for September 2020, followed by grades 7-8-9-10 for September 2021 until the full phase is completed for grades 7-12 by 2023.

This approach serves to alleviate enrolment pressures at both Cedarview MS and at John McCrae SS. The redirection does impose enrolment pressures at LDHSS but the larger secondary school facility is better suited to accommodate these enrolment levels.

Chapman Mills Public School area MFI students are already directed to LDHSS. The proposed Chapman Mills PS attendance boundary redirection would quite likely remain unchanged given the probable future alignment of attendance boundaries associated with a new grade 7-12 Riverside South secondary school.

6. Formal Pupil Accommodation Review Not Required

A formal Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) under Board Policy P.118.PLG, Pupil Accommodation Reviews, is not required for the proposed plan.

The policy states that a PAR is not required when the Board is planning the relocation of grades or programs in which the enrolment constitutes less than 50% of the school's enrolment. The calculation is based on the enrolment at the time of the relocation, or the first phase of a relocation that is to be carried out over a number of years. (Note that under the proposed plan, only graduating students are being redirected).

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

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

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

8. An Information flyer and web link to this report will be sent to affected schools and their respective communities when this report becomes public, in advance of the Board's Committee of the Whole meeting on 17 September 2019.

Once a decision has been made to proceed with the review as an exemption from a PAR, notice in accordance with the policy will be provided to the City of Ottawa, coterminous school boards, the Ministry of Education, and community partners that have expressed an interest.

Given the focused scope of the proposed attendance boundary redirection, an information meeting with affected principals and school council representatives is proposed to be held in October 2019, prior to a larger public meeting. Affected schools include Chapman Mills PS, Cedarview MS, John McCrae SS and LDH SS.

A public consultation meeting, to be held within the community, is planned for November 2019. Final Board decisions regarding the review are scheduled to take place in December 2019. The timeline and consultation plan are attached as Appendix B & C to the report.

Appendix D provides current and projected enrolments for those schools which are to be included in the process.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

9. 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 broader stewardship objectives of the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. THAT Board affirm that a Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) under Board Policy P.118.PLG is not required for this review.
- B. THAT the Board approve the timeline and consultation plan attached as Appendix B and C to Report 19-077 in order to consult with local school communities and the public.

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

APPENDICES

- Appendix A General Location Map
- Appendix B Timeline
- Appendix C Consultation Plan
- Appendix D Current and Projected Enrolments