

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Report No. 19-125

10 December 2019

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

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

1. To obtain Board approval of an intermediate and secondary school attendance boundary redirection in the Chapman Mills area, west of the Woodroffe Avenue area of South Nepean. See Appendix A – General Location Map.

CONTEXT:

2. At the Board meeting of 24 September 2019, trustees approved the consultation plan and timeline for the intermediate and secondary school attendance boundary redirection for students residing within the Chapman Mills Public School (PS) area. (Attached as Appendix B).

The objective of the review, which included Chapman Mills PS and Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School (SS), was to alleviate growing enrolment pressures at Cedarview Middle School (MS) and a need to stem further enrolment growth at John McCrae SS.

In advance of the proposed consultative approach, staff formulated the following proposed plan to address enrolment pressures.

The proposed plan involves the redirection of the Chapman Mills PS (JK-grade 6) attendance boundary area from Cedarview MS (grade 7-8) and John McCrae SS (grades 9-12), to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS for grades 7-12. The redirection would commence in a phased manner with grades 7-9 in September 2020, followed by grades 7,8,9, and 10 in 2021 until full phase-in of grade 7-12 enrolment by 2023.

The impact of these proposed changes would result in the stemming of further enrolment growth at John McCrae SS (i.e., enrolment would hold in the 1400 range) while Cedarview MS would have a smaller cohort of incoming grade 7 students as its number of assigned elementary feeder schools are reduced from five to four, bringing enrolment into the 700 student range.

Over the course of the phase-in of enrolment at Longfields-Davidson Heights SS, enrolment could exceed 2500 students by 2023 with a potential need of 30

portables. This redirection will impose enrolment pressures at the school, but this larger secondary school facility is better suited to accommodate greater enrolment levels. Generally, the redirection of enrolment would serve to balance the level of overcrowding, with each secondary school being approximately 400 students over capacity.

Given the focused nature of the review and in accordance with the approved consultation plan/timelines, an advisory committee meeting and a public meeting were held.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

3. In accordance with the approved consultation plan and timeline, an advisory committee met on 23 October 2019 and in response to the staff-proposed plan, raised a number of discussion points and alternate options.

Following the advisory committee meeting, a public meeting for the community was held on 13 November 2019 and was attended by more than 80 people. Included in the information package for the meeting was, the staff proposed plan, comments and alternate options raised by the advisory committee along with staff comment. Public feedback and comment received generally focused on the following issues:

- Could Chapman Mills PS graduating grade 6 students be phased-in one grade per year at Longfields-Davidson Heights SS beginning with grade 7 in 2020?
- Could the current cohort of grade 7-8 students at Cedarview MS residing in the Chapman Mills PS area be permitted to attend John McCrae SS?
- Could Chapman Mills PS area students who have a sibling at John McCrae SS be permitted to attend John McCrae SS?
- Could Chapman Mills PS area grade 6 students have the option to attend either Cedarview MS or Longfields-Davidson Heights SS for grade 7-8? (generally equivalent to the request to delay redirecting intermediates to Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School);
- Could area students have the option to attend either secondary school?
- There was also public comment with regard to the possibility of the District using instructional space at the Confederation Education Centre (EC) or the possibility of redirecting students to South Carleton HS; and
- Questions were raised about the existing High Performance Athlete (HPA) program at John McCrae SS.

4. Staff Comment/Response

The alternate proposal to phase-in Chapman Mills PS area grade 6 students to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS commencing with grade 7 in 2020, grade 8 in 2021 and grade 9 by 2022 would not serve to curtail enrolment growth at John McCrae SS until 2022 and therefore is not a viable option to address the immediate accommodation concerns.

There was public feedback on the issue of permitting the current cohort of grade 7-8 students at Cedarview MS (residing within the Chapman Mills PS area), to

attend John McCrae SS. It should be noted that this would have the equivalent effect as the alternate proposal noted above as grade 9 enrolments at John McCrae SS would not be impacted until 2022 and therefore is not a viable option.

In response to community feedback, staff has reviewed potential sibling considerations and is of the opinion that sibling considerations can be accommodated as detailed in Section 6 of this report. The impact of this provision is limited, as it would potentially affect 18 Grade 9 students in 2020 at John McCrae SS, 16 students in 2021 and 13 students in 2022.

There was public comment requesting that graduating Chapman Mills PS area grade 6 students be provided with the choice of attending either Cedarview MS or Longfields-Davidson Heights SS for grade 7 in 2020. Staff would be prepared to provide this additional layer of flexibility for September 2020 only, given the limited impact. In terms of implementation, area students would formally be directed to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS but provided with a one-time option to attend Cedarview MS, however students would then be directed to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS for grade 9, subject to the noted sibling provisions as detailed in Section 6. Note that permitting these students to attend Cedarview MS maintains existing transition points for those students exercising this one-time option.

A proposal to permit area students to attend either secondary school is not viable given the magnitude of enrolment levels and uncertainty that this would impose upon school organization, staffing, portable requirements, etc.

5. Confederation Education Centre

The option to consider the use of Confederation EC was contemplated by staff but considered not viable at this time. Typically, staff uses an option like this to house a new school's enrolment as a group at a holding school after a funding announcement for a new school has been made, should the accommodation situation warrant. Using the Confederation EC would not be conducive to address the immediate need to alleviate growing enrolment pressures at John McCrae SS. The District would also have to consider the accommodation of the current tenants of Confederation EC, which includes the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) and various other tenants.

There was public comment with regard to the possibility of directing area secondary school students to South Carleton High School (HS). Staff noted that, while there are existing optional attendance areas in South Nepean for South Carleton HS, few students choose to attend given the distance and perception that it lies outside of the community of South Nepean. In addition, enrolments at South Carleton HS will only be reduced after the opening of the New Stittsville SS in 2022. This timeline would not serve to alleviate the more immediate accommodation concerns.

The issue of the High Performance Athlete program being located at John McCrae SS was raised, It was noted that enrolment this year is approximately 140 grade 9-12 students with 20 students in grade 9. Moving the program would be governed by the provisions of the Board's Policy P.105.CUR, Changes to Programs and Program Delivery Structures at Secondary Schools and the accompanying Procedure PR.629.CUR. In addition, as just under half of this enrolment lies within the John McCrae SS boundary area, moving the HPA program is not a measure that negates our need to look at a larger boundary redirection. Moving the program would only represent a small reduction of students over a 4 year period with a phase-out.

6. A Modified Staff Recommendation

In order to alleviate growing enrolment pressures at both Cedarview MS and at John McCrae SS an attendance boundary redirection is recommended which involves the phased re-assignment of the Chapman Mills PS attendance area from both Cedarview MS and John McCrae SS to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS commencing September 2020.

Staff is recommending modifications to its original proposed plan, including a one-time option to attend Cedarview M.S., and sibling provisions in recognition of public comment received.

The recommended plan in its entirety is as follows:

- The Chapman Mills PS JK-grade 6 attendance boundary area be redirected to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS for grades 7-12 on a phased basis commencing with grades 7 and 9 in September 2020, followed by grades 7,8,9 and 10 in 2021 until full phase-in of grade 7-12 enrolment by 2023, subject to a one time option and siblings provisions noted below;
- The current (2019/2020) graduating Chapman Mills PS area grade 6 students be provided with a one-time option to attend Cedarview MS in September 2020. (This effectively allows area students a one-time choice to attend either intermediate program at Cedarview MS or at Longfields-Davidson Heights SS) In September 2021 and in years thereafter, area students would subsequently be directed solely to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS for grade 7 -12 subject to the sibling provisions noted below;
- The current (2019-2020) Chapman Mills PS area grade 6 students, attending Chapman Mills PS and Chapman Mills PS area grade 7-8 students attending Cedarview MS, may attend John McCrae SS for grade 9 -12 if they have an older sibling currently (2019/2020) attending John McCrae SS in grades 9 to 11;
- It should be noted that Chapman Mills PS area grade 8 students must have a sibling at John McCrae SS, in attendance, in the school year that they are to begin grade 9;

- This sibling provision would allow current Chapman Mills PS area grade 6, 7 and 8 students to attend John McCrae SS for Grade 9 in 2020, 2021 and 2022 at which time the current cohort of older siblings at John McCrae SS would graduate, thereby ending the sibling provision; and
- Refer to Appendices C and D for the recommended attendance boundary and enrolments under the recommended plan.

Students always have the option to apply for a student transfer under Policy P.077.PLG, Designated Schools/Student Transfers, in situations of extenuating personal circumstances. (It should be noted in this particular case however, that area schools will likely have a zero student transfer cap for 2020-2021, and that applicants will have to utilize the appeal provisions within the student transfer policy).

The public did ask if there could be flexibility with this policy. The flexibility may come, not in the timing and appeal, but with accepting limited student transfers despite a zero cap in the most extenuating circumstances.

It should be noted that Chapman Mills PS area Middle French Immersion students are already directed to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS. and that the recommended Chapman Mills PS attendance boundary redirection would likely remain unchanged given its geographical proximity to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS, under the probable future alignment of attendance boundaries associated with a new grade 7-12 Riverside South SS.

It is acknowledged that attendance boundary changes create challenges and disruption for students, families and staff at the affected schools. It is hoped that the recommended additional caveats and sibling considerations noted, serve to minimize the impacts of the recommended changes and address many of the transitional concerns raised by the community, while maintaining the need to stem enrolment pressures at John McCrae SS and alleviate growing enrolment pressures at Cedarview MS.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7. The cost of conducting the review has been managed within existing departmental budgets.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

In accordance with the approved timeline and consultation plan, an advisory committee meeting was scheduled and held on 23 October 2019 and attended by:

- Area trustees;
- School council members;
- Principal/vice-principal representatives of affected schools (Chapman Mills PS, Cedarview MS, John McCrae SS, and Longfields Davidson Heights SS); and
- District staff.

Local area community associations were invited but were not in attendance.

On 13 November 2019, a public meeting was held in the auditorium at Longfields-Davidson Heights SS in order to receive family and community feedback on the proposed plan and other potential options.

Notice of the public meeting with translation information was provided by the following methods:

- An email distribution to the student body of each of the affected schools, or by school newsletter/website to parents and guardians of students attending the affected schools;
- A posting of the accommodation review located on the District website and board calendar and associated District social media notifications; and
- Communication through school councils and local community associations.

A binder containing public feedback in its original form has been placed in the Trustees' Committee Room for reference purposes. A digital email compilation of comments received is also being sent out on a weekly basis to trustees.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

8. 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 the Chapman Mills P.S. JK-grade 6 attendance boundary area be redirected to Longfields-Davidson Heights SS for grade 7-12 on a phased basis commencing with grades 7 and 9 in September 2020, followed by grades 7,8,9 and 10 in 2021 until full phase-in of grade 7-12 enrolment by 2023 subject to Recommendations B and C to Report 19-125;
- B. THAT the current (2019-2020) graduating Chapman Mills PS. area grade 6 students be provided with a one-time option to attend Cedarview MS for September 2020, and further subject to the sibling provisions outlined in Recommendation C to Report 19-125;
- C. THAT the current (2019-2020) Chapman Mills PS area grade 6 students, attending Chapman Mills PS and Chapman Mills PS area grade 7-8 students attending Cedarview MS may attend John McCrae SS for grade 9 -12 if they have an older sibling currently (2019-2020) attending John McCrae SS in Grades 9-11; and
- D. THAT the intermediate and secondary school attendance boundary for the Chapman Mills Public School area be approved as outlined in Appendix C to Report 19-125.

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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 Recommended Chapman Mills PS Area Attendance Boundary Redirection

Appendix D Status Quo Projected/Recommended Plan Enrolments