



Feedback from Community Drop-ins Long-term Capital and Accommodation Plan

Some schools in specific areas of HPEDSB are experiencing enrolment pressures. Due to a variety of factors, only certain options are available to HPEDSB to address accommodation pressures. Much of the enrolment increase is occurring in the Belleville to Trenton corridor, with accommodation pressures specifically in the northeastern portion of Belleville and the Bayside area. From May 29 to 31, 2023, the public was invited to review information about the options being considered, both in person and on the HPEschools.ca website, and submit their solutions to the accommodation challenges through a feedback form. The information shared below is the feedback offered by the public.

[Link to the Long-term Capital Accommodation Plan information](#)

Aside from the proposed options, what additional solutions do you suggest?

The Harmony PS/Foxboro PS Boundary Changes seem to be a viable immediate option but i would love to understand if building a new school is in prospects

Already on the list - keep FI at Bayside and introduce FI at Trenton HS - if FI moves to Trenton HS my child will not continue with FI and will be registered at his home English school

Transfer Stirling 9-12s to Trenton HS instead of Bayside- same geographical distance

Move the 7/8's out of CSS, move the Belleville area FI from BSS to CSS. Move Trenton FI kids to THS.

Keep Trenton kids in Trenton add to their schools for FI. Add portables to certain schools if possible.

I feel the purposed options are good, my children currently go to Parkdale and we have been looking north of the 401 to move but I am hesitant to put my young child on a bus to Harmony. The location would fall into the new proposed catchment for Parkdale or at least give these boundary lines the option of which school to send the children.

Add more portables to accommodate currently enrolled students to avoid uprooting current students. My kids both attend Harmony PS and they would be affected by the proposed changes to the North Front St boundary (to Susanna Moodie/Park dale). Changing the boundary in an area with huge growth will only shift the existing problem to Susanna Moodie/Park Dale who are likely less equipped to handle a surplus of students. At a very minimum, allow CURRENTLY enrolled students to stay at their current school (via drop off/pickup) while implementing the boundaries for new student growth only.

Bayside should remain French immersion with students who are sure art there and wishing to remain there to finish their studies. Especially those in grade 10 and 11 currently

Build more schools.

It is noted that a concern with moving some Harmony students to Susanna Moodie is that Susanna Moodie is in an area with significant expected growth (I note that there are several schools in this area with capacity for future boundary changes - Prince Charles, Sir John). Harmony is also in an area of significant expected growth (Farnham Rd development extending up to Scott St, Maitland Rd development extending up to Roy Blvd, and potentially Black Bear Ridge). Accordingly, the chosen solution should also plan for future growth at Harmony. In addition to the solutions presented, consideration could be given to send some Harmony students (ie south of Blessington rd and east of Moira River) to Prince of Wales or Harry J which both appear to have capacity. Particularly Prince of Wales which likely has very little future growth potential in its catchment area.

I think boundary changes are a viable solution for helping with enrolment. I completely against moving the French immersion students to Trenton. It is not equitable to have a program like French immersion at the far west end of our school board. We have students that live as far east as Deseronto that attend French immersion. It is not equitable for these students to be on a bus for hours everyday in order to continue in the program they started in at HJC. Hundred of student access this program. It should be centrally located and stay at Bayside. Concoider changing some of the boundaries for Bayside in order to help with enrolment concerns there.

1. Move the students at Bayside HS that are not in FI to other schools and make Bayside French Immersion only. This will increase enrolment in both Trenton HS and Eastside, both of which are demonstrating that they have capacity.
2. If moving FI program to Trenton HS, this should be done starting with a new cohort of students rather than displacing existing students at Bayside who have made course and credit decisions based on existing assumptions that they would be at Bayside for their entire high school years. Some students may decide to stay at Bayside and in the English program rather than move schools and these students would be disadvantaged through no fault of their own.
3. Expand the French Immersion program to other high schools in Belleville to allow more students to take advantage closer to where they live.

Is it possible to investigate changing boundaries with Kawartha Pine Ridge? With new developments sitting close to HPEDSB boundary line (2nd Dug Hill Road, Telephone Road and County Rd 40), and the proximity to our elementary and secondary schools in Trenton (THS, PCT), it seems that it might help with enrollment and capacity for these schools? It may even open up more option for FI students wanting to stay in HPEDSB.

There are buses running to Trent River p.s. that are picking up students that are a 10 or 15 minute walk away. Eliminating unnecessary buses would be a good idea.

I believe the Harmony/Susanna Moodie changes would be the ideal change for the elementary grades with the FI students from Trenton taking FI at Trenton HS.

For French immersion, what if you divided the boundaries and sent those in the Trenton area to Trenton high, and those in the Belleville and north of the 401 to Central Hastings.

When the French Immersion program attracts students from all surrounding catchment areas why make it in an area that is not central. Instead why not change English secondary student boundaries in areas such as Frankford or srirling to go to Trenton highschool instead. You risk losing french immersion students if their bussing trip will now be double the time.

Use of portables. If boundary movement is needed, "grandfather" in students entering high school. The weight of mental health challenges for a student to be separated from peers entering high school would be devastating to those in higher grades (7 and 8).

In place of shifting the French immersion program from a school that is central between 2 cities. Why not shift students from other schools more local, in Trenton. I know School boards get more money per child enrolled in the french programs. If you move the french program outside of a central location the program is going to lose many students. I myself have two children one enrolled 1 Currently And one in the future. If the program moves to trenton they will be pulled out. There are already restraints on the buzzing board. I feel that this is going to cause even more pressure. In order to continue in a French program that is more local and more convenient for families and for children. If need be I would pull my children from the public school board and enroll them in the catholic schoolboard. Don't decentralize a program don't make it an inconvenience for people who have day care arranged people who have buzzing arranged Before & After school. Care arranged. What about shifting? Other schools in Trenton Frank ford, Into the proposed schools in Trenton. I believe it was questioned a few years back when. High schools and elementary schools were closed due to low enrollment rates. What is going to happen in the future when enrollment rates start to rise? Where are these children going to go? Look where we are now in the very position that was? There is already as mentioned above a strain on the Tri board for bussing. How is this going to help that situation are Parties working and talking to come up with a solution on that side of things. Maybe having the option of the french immersion program being offered with in prince edward county to give these children a place to go.

It does not make sense for my children that attend Susanna Moodie and that live so close to the school have to be potentially go to Prince Charles, which is further away. It must be kept in mind that Potter's creek subdivision is a growing community with families, so the numbers will only increase. A change that makes the least disruption to the children should be highly considered. So what is the point of making a change that would need to be changed again. Also the boundary for Susanna Moodie could be changed at the farthest east side section and could be moved to Frankford which is 401 and Vermilyea Rd section.

Also the boundary were Airport Parkway and south of 401, those students could go to Tyendinaga school.

Change the intake rules for Bayside instead of moving the French Immersion classes to Trenton High. We do not want our kids moved to THS. If this plan is actioned, we will be moving out kids out of French Immersion. There's a reason there's so much available space at THS. We don't want our kids at that school.

Realigning the Frankford Public School boundary to be a feeder school to THS. Realign some of the Stirling Public School boundary to share students with FPS.

The proposed option to move Trenton area FI students to THS, according to the charts provided on the display boards would result in a new FI program for 6 grade 4-6 students, 27 grade 7-8 students, 63 grade 9-12 students. This is not a viable FI program. See email from a staff member with complete detailed suggestions

#1 ALL English students enrolled at BSS who belong to Trenton High or other English programs (based on cross boundary applications) should return to Trenton High before any \$ is spent on implementing a FI program at Trenton High. This of course excludes kids who are at risk of danger by attending designated school. (Only extreme circumstances should be approved).

#2 Stirling and /or Frankford Public schools could be redirected to Trenton High to alleviate surplus at BSS and fill T.H. There is a +1km difference to go to Trenton High vs. BSS. Frankford is also already on the west side of the Trent River. Doing this will not require the implementation of a separate FI program at T.H. as both Stirling and Frankford had the option in grade 4 to attend BSS for FI and passed on the opportunity, and will be graduating from grade 8.

#3 Batawa/Bernard Long Rd (Frankford P.S. students English stream) boundary should be included in the Bayside catchment as those who live there go to Frankford P.S. but end up having to go to Trenton High when all their friends go to BSS.

#4 Any FI student that is attending BSS at the time of any change that may affect them should be grandfathered in to be able to stay at BSS. For example. If FI is offered at T.H. next year my son will have to do grade 12 FI at T.H. after doing 7 years of it at BSS, and my daughter will have to do grade 10, 11 and 12 at T.H. after spending 5 out of 8 years at BSS. Neither have connection to TH as they both went to Frankford P.S. and all those friends will attend BSS. They are both A students in the FI program and I feel the upheaval of them to a new school with no friends will negatively affect them both academically and emotionally....so much that if put in that position, we will move back within the Frankford boundary (roughly .5 km away from our doorstep, so that they can attend BSS.

#5 I do think T.H. would benefit from FI, but perhaps a gradual introduction should happen. For example...in September 2024 start with newly enrolled (Trenton boundary kids) into FI, the September 2025 they create the grade 5 class and new grade 4 kids enroll at TH. In 8 years by reclaiming English program students from BSS and enrolling new FI gradually should alleviate the surplus at Bayside but not shock the TH system and the families affected.

We live in Thurlow/Settlers ridge and the enrolment harmony would impact our daughter. While she is at Harry J Clarke for French presently, if she chooses to return to her home school, she is a harmony student. Moving her to the various options then also impacts her high school home school from ESS to CSS which is having capacity issues as well. In moving students from harmony to CSS school zone, will this create issues for CSS capacity? I would prefer not to have my daughter move schools again but if needed, I would suggest students in this zone have choice with bus options. Students going to Susie Moo could have destinations option with bussing. Parkdale bussing. Foxboro bussing. I think bussing needs to be provided to each option. Also could you survey parents which school option they would pick? Parkdale, Foxboro, Susie Moo?

Also ensuring that Bayside French immersion is NOT moving to Trenton? This was indicated on page 2. If that move was to happen, both my kids would not be in French immersion anymore and be going to Catholic secondary school

Another option would be to move more of the rural students from Harmony PS to Tyendinaga PS.

Adding FI to THS doesn't make sense, it will be a mediocre program and the teachers will feel alienated since they won't have a sense of community among other FI teachers. It also doesn't make sense since based on your own numbers, BSS will still be overcapacity. I'm not sure why a boundary change wasn't proposed for BSS (like it was for Harmony), it seems like the obvious solution. My suggestion is to have the English Frankford students go to THS

Several residents in the Potters Creek neighbourhood (between Sidney St and Wallbridge Loyalist) have expressed concerns about the board's tentative plan to move our students to Prince Charles once Susanna Moodie is full. Half of our subdivision attends Sir John A Macdonald, and many of us bought in this area specifically because we knew our children would attend either SM or SJA. Given that SJA also is under capacity, we feel that any move from SM should be to SJA as opposed to Prince Charles.

It is nice to see the board is looking to expand FI by adding it to another school, however it seems silly to have 2 FI schools so close together. Also, our board's FI students are at a disadvantage compared to students in most other board's in the province since they start in grade 4 instead of SK. If we really want to expand and improve the program we need to be looking at starting FI in SK and then potentially adding FI to an east end secondary school. To address the enrollment pressures at BSS, consider looking at a boundary change instead (ex sending Frankford students to THS)

1) Why are we even considering options that fix the problem at Harmony, but create the same problem at one or more other schools????? That doesn't even make sense!!! I'm not sure why you would change the boundary between Harmony and Foxboro, when Foxboro is already almost at capacity. To me, it would make more sense to change the southern boundary between Harry J Clarke and Harmony (move the boundary further North from Airport Parkway to North of the 401 somewhere, based on the number of students in that area), and between Parkdale and Harmony (but not to the extent that has been suggested as that puts Parkdale over capacity. From the numbers, it looks like these two schools would be able to deal with the current overflow from Harmony without going over capacity.

2) When considering moving FI from Bayside to Trenton High: I'm not sure if you are thinking about moving secondary or just elementary FI to Trenton. Elementary FI wouldn't be so bad, but moving a portion of secondary FI to Trenton would be a horrible idea! Students already have limited French immersion electives to choose from to fulfill the FI requirements, if you divide it up more, there would be even fewer choices. Students would be forced to take electives they have no interest in just to get their FI certificate.

3) Why not make it so that Frankford becomes a feeder school for Trenton High instead of Bayside? I would think that would be an easy switch.. It wouldn't completely deal with the overflow at Bayside, but it would help and Trenton High is just as close or closer than Bayside is. Put the Bayside gr 7 and 8 back into the elementary school. That would reduce number in the secondary school to allow French Immersion to stay there.

1. Is it possible to remove grades 7 and 8 from BSS and put them back in their home schools? Or at least some of the home schools? 2. I'm suggesting this because Trenton HS doesn't seem like a good fit for FI unless you institute other more academic programs there. My child is as interested in the AP program as anything else, and I don't believe this is available in Trenton HS? Plus I suspect it will not be easy to build another FI program. The Bayside program is already quite sparse from what we've experienced from other FI programs in Ontario.

Hire more teachers and get more portables

There should be FI secondary in Belleville.

Suggest phasing in FI to Eastside SS starting with grade 9 the first year and adding a grade in each subsequent year. This would provide more time to locate FI staff. This may also be a savings with transportation; many FI elementary students are bussed to Harry J Clarke. Perhaps these same busses could include secondary students. Harry J and Eastside are only a few blocks from each other. The transportation savings would also include any FI students within walking distance to Eastside.

I am very reluctant to have my FI student transported out of town to attend highschool only because of FI.

Change the boundary so that Frankford PS students attend Trenton HS. Leave all FI secondary students at the more centrally located Bayside SS. Not sure of the viability of a FI program at Trenton HS at this time due to low student numbers but maybe over time it can be built. The numbers for this idea work and increase Trenton HS to similar capacity as other secondary schools while lowering pressure on Bayside SS. Promote FI in Trenton area or add other specialty program and increase enrollment in Trenton HS over time.

We have two children who attend Harmony Public School. Our son and daughter are currently in Grades 5 and 2, respectively. They have only ever attended Harmony Public School.

We are quite concerned about the overcrowding situation at Harmony as well as the proposed boundary changes outlined in the Long Term Capital and Accommodation Plan with respect to our children. We live in the Deerfield Park Subdivision, west of Hwy 62 and south of Maitland. Most of the proposed boundary change plans would take our neighbourhood outside of the catchment area for Harmony Public School and inside the catchment area for either Susanna Moodie or Park Dale Schools.

We understand that any boundary changes would not come into effect until (at least) the Fall of 2024. We also understand that any students in Grades 7 & 8 would be permitted the option of continuing to go to their current school if they fall outside any new catchment areas. Our son will be starting Grade 7 in the Fall of 2024. However, our daughter will only be starting Grade 4. Consequently, we are concerned of the possibility of them attending separate schools. We are also concerned that our daughter will attend Harmony Public School next year, continue to develop her familiarity and friendships there, only to know that she has to leave for the following year.

We were wondering whether it is possible to have all current students "grandfathered" into their current school, should they fall outside catchment areas due to boundary changes? If that is not possible, is it possible to also "grandfather" siblings of those Grade 7 and 8s who would be permitted the option of finishing out their studies at their current school?

As for the Long Term Capital and Accommodation Plan itself and in reviewing the proposed boundary changes and forecasted results, one major concern we have is that these boundary changes are simply band aid solutions which are likely to cause more widespread capacity issues and the need for more widespread boundary changes in the near future. It would seem logical that all boundaries and catchment areas be reviewed at this time to avoid a patchwork of boundaries and ensure that students are attending the school that is located closest to where they live. We are wondering if all boundaries and catchment areas were reviewed or whether this was considered in creating the Long Term Capital and Accommodation Plan and the proposed boundary changes?

Maybe use Bayside as a strictly French immersion school

Students that are already enrolled grade 9-12 this school year should not be affected and any changes should only affect new enrolments. They should be allowed to finish their high school years at bayside.

Re-open Quinte SS

Get rid of Ann Street building into 24 Palmer Rd. facility and move to Quinte Secondary

Move it Frankford PS grade eights to Trenton High instead of Bayside Secondary to alleviate the overpopulation

(2x) align Frankford Public School to be a feeder school to Trenton High

Include Batawa in the Bayside boundary all kids in Batawa go to Frankford but have to go to a different high school and lose friends

Too many kids at Frankford PS now. They should not be combining kindergarten to grade one to accommodate the over population.

Move kids who reside out of the area back to their home school. Frankford has so many kids who do not live in the area but reside in areas such as Trenton.

By using the back lot line instead of concession roads for any boundary changes, HPEDSB will avoid splitting rural neighbourhoods

Your public input. It's too short.

(2x) agree to using portable short term as it allows kids to stay at the school they started at

It feels like this plan could also relieve busing pressures re: Trenton area students to Trenton

Proposed solution: gradual transition for program relocations, and or boundary adjustments. Also, all existing registrations to stay in current schools/locations, grandfathering.

First, explain all of the factors contributing to the school changes. Second, ask for opinions on how to resolve the matter without changing schools. Remember that schools are defined by the programs they offer. Without them, you'll lose students which will re-open the problem.

As a parent with a child who has not learned to read/write as quickly as my other kids, I would not favour FI starting at K

I agree with the proposed boundary changes used to guide enrolment in the future

Look at modifying grade structures offered at schools. For example, all high schools 7 to 12 or 8 to 12 and having others be K to seven.

Move the grade 7s and 8s from Harmony to Eastside and also from Foxboro to Centennial

Suggestion: Harmony section south of the Foral one moved to Tyendinaga, which is currently under utilized

Grade 7/8 in portables a Bayside Public School Ann leave the French immersion program 9 to 12 at Bayside

(2x) Aikins Rd to Vermilyea Road area could possibly move to Frankford area to reduce Susanna Moodie capacity for harmony students. Vermilyea Road to Akins Road can be moved to Frankford to make more room at Susanna Moodie. That would make more room for the Harmony kids as well as the homes being built in the area.

A good FI program needs community FI teachers at Trenton I will feel alienated

Northern section of Prince Edward County feeds into Bayside for French immersion. It would be great to have our area on the map for consistency and clarity.

None of the maps include catchment from Prince Edward County over the bay bridge. It feels like not all the info is available here for people to be able to see the full picture. How can suggestions be made without that?

It sounds like a great option to present immersion at additional schools

After grade 12 graduation each year determine grade 9 allowable entry numbers from out of the area

Concerns regarding programming for students in an FI program at the secondary level (senior maths, and science is open level courses variety)

To the maximum extent possible, allow students to finish where they started. COVID-19 has had a large negative impact on social skills, sports, mental health. We need to allow students to graduate with their social circles, sports teams, and clubs.

We should consider the French immersion teachers, a Bayside Secondary, and how they feel about moving. They are the ones who will be teaching at Trenton high and possibly ending their career there.

Have grade 7-8 French immersion at other more local public schools so that high school French immersion can remain intact at Bayside

South of 401 and Airport Parkway area could go to Tyendinaga

As a grade 6 student, I know for a fact that my friends will be moving to other schools if this change happens. This leaves us to find different friend groups.

Strongly disagree with moving Bayside French immersion to Trenton 1) reduce pressure on Bayside Secondary by letting Frankford Public School kids go to Trenton high 2) maintain program for majority of Belleville kids at Bayside Secondary for French immersion

If the school lines change, what effect will the elementary changes have on the high school lines? These changes will have a huge impact on my kids' futures. Could the high school kids be grandfathered in the school? They are in now?

Agree to using portables at Bayside Secondary if it keeps the French immersion centralized

With these changes, students will possibly leave and attend NCC

I hope French immersion changes would be phased in students have had enough change in the past few years give Trenton time to build French immersion and hopefully AP programs

I am concerned about kids moving from Susanna Moodie to Prince Charles

I think keeping French immersion at Bayside and offering it in the Trenton area would be an asset to HPEDSB and future enrolment versus the Catholic board

Any harmony students currently at Bayside Secondary for French immersion should be grandfathered in to stay if their eligibility is affected by any changes my daughter will have done five of eight years French immersion and son seven or eight years at Bayside and would have to move in French immersion is offered or move to Trenton. High, we will move before my kids are up ready to go to Trenton high

(2x) my children go to Susanna Moodie and we live in the Potters Creek subdivision. It does not make sense why my children would possibly go to Prince Charles which is further away.

If French immersion is needed in other areas look at specialist training or incentives to attract extra staffing to help it grow in other areas. This is a bilingual country

Is it possible to reduce Bayside Secondary catchment for non-French immersion, reduce, and move English only to Trenton

If I am not religious, or have differing religious beliefs. I should not have to attend a Catholic school to be enrolled in the French immersion program.

Please consider grandfathering and gradual transitions. An unfortunate source of stress for the board, parents, staff, and participating students. Our child is worried about it.

Boundary changes for the county are not showing on the latest poster. Students living on County Road three are currently in the catchment. Will this change?

As a grade 9 student, I'm worried about losing my friend group if changes are made before I start university

Keep French immersion centralized at Bayside secondary. There is a massive underutilization at Trenton high school. You only consider two options on your board. How about option three, movement of non-French immersion students between Trenton and Bayside

(3x) Bayside office, French, immersion and AP level courses, forcing students in certain boundary areas to attend Trenton High from Bayside eliminates the opportunity for students to pursue French immersion and AP courses.

The north Harmony section going to Foxboro does not make sense as both schools will still be over utilized. New homes continue to be built in the areas of both schools.

Sir John A Macdonald should be an option for Potters Creek families instead of Prince Charles

(3x) for kids currently in French immersion at Bayside Secondary, grandfather them in so they can finish out their high school years with current friends and classmates. children on the spectrum especially will be disrupted with this change. they've had enough change in their short school career.

Leave Bayside Secondary school as the only French immersion school. You will never be able to replicate it elsewhere. Look at boundary change instead, Frankford public school goes to Trenton high.

Consider moving grade 7s and 8s back to Sir John A Macdonald as there's more space there now and move grade 7s and 8s from Foxboro Susanna Moodie to Centennial with no boundary move

Adding French immersion to Trenton high doesn't solve the problem. Bayside secondary is still over capacity unless we change boundaries.

Have Trenton residents go to Trenton High School. Belleville and area attend Bayside.

Change secondary school boundaries for English Stream at Bayside Secondary and Trenton high. Leave French immersion as it is a Bayside Secondary. concerns about fewer students less staffing. Fewer options at both French immersion locations.

The current proposals only consider the number within HPEDSB IT. A more complete analysis would consider adjacent school boards. For example, could THS be boosted by moving its catchment area a few kilometres west?

Change Stirling Rawdon to go to Trenton High. It's a difference of about 1 km travel to Trenton High. More cost-effective.

Have grade 7/8 French immersion at other more local public school so that high school French immersion can remain intact

Please consider grandfather and the kids currently attending Bayside Secondary. Have the Belleville kids have BSS on the bus route

Moving Bayside would stop kids from entering welding

The problem with separating French immersion Secondary program to multiple schools is that students will have very few choices of the required elective French courses. even now with close to 400 French immersion school students, There are few grade 11 and 12 courses offered in French. if you divide the French immersion in Secondary program further that means even fewer course choices students will be forced to take grade 11 and 12 courses they have no interest in just to meet the French immersion requirements When these electives are supposed to be geared toward their interest.

(x2) start French immersion in senior kindergarten, expand the French immersion program to primary. We are one of only two boards in Ontario that have middle immersion. This may change numbers in a variety of locations.

K to 12 French immersion site at Bayside Secondary school move all French immersion to the secondary school offset English to Trenton high school in Centennial

(x2) keep French immersion, a Bayside and restrict and reduce the out of boundary students from going to Bayside get the out of boundary students to go to their allocated schools

It's hard to imagine there are good resources for French immersion at Trenton high and Bayside Secondary. Keep French immersion at Bayside Secondary and change boundaries so more kids go to Trenton high, but increase the academic possibilities at Trenton high by adding AP courses.

Keep French immersion, at Bayside elementary and secondary insure kids that start at a school are allowed to finish at the same school, friendships are key

Moving BSS with top programs like BSS outside, welding, etc. that can't be accessed elsewhere

Grandfather current students at Bayside Secondary

Bayside, Public and Secondary schools have been French immersion schools for years. It should remain at Bayside Public and secondary schools Trenton area regular stream. Students should be in Trenton area schools staffing. Both schools with French immersion teachers will be difficult.

Bayside is the only school that has MSIP. Don't take that away! I am very productive during that time and would be stressed if they took that away.

What happened to the portables at Bayside Public? Is it possible to return grade 7s and 8s back and use the space for Bayside Secondary? If FI is moved to Trenton we would pull others out.

(x7) keep French immersion at Bayside Secondary School I strongly disagree with moving French immersion

Cross boundary English students who go to Bayside that belong to Trenton, should return to Trenton

If Bayside secondary no longer has French immersion, we would move area for kids to English at Centennial. We will not send them to Trenton high

Suggestion: move BPS, English students to Trenton area schools, close the annex and make BPS a French immersion only school, 4 to 6 or 4 to 8

We considered French immersion because our child wanted to do it. The only reason we agreed to an hour. Bus ride versus five minutes is because they were going to Bayside. These children are bright with huge ambitions in the program at Trenton high, will not accommodate their needs for future success this is the best program around. Please do not ruin that as many will just go back to their home schools causing more problems.

Addition added onto Bayside Public School

Include Harrington Road again to Bayside Secondary. Catch base would be Harrington Road, Grills Road, Mackenzie Road.

Having French immersion program in Trenton will create busing issues, forcing families to go either to Catholic school or to get out of the French immersion program. I hope it stays at Bayside Secondary.

As a grade 8, Bayside Secondary, School Student, having both French immersion and English programs, create a great and strong community in Bayside Secondary, moving one or another, will overall effect the students mental health

Allow students who have started their studies at Bayside Secondary to complete their studies there. If necessary to diversify, Trenton, then begin from new grade for students.

As a Bayside, Secondary, School Grand, eight student moving French immersion, would ruin my high school vision

If French immersion is removed from Bayside, Secondary, chances are the majority of students who attend DSS will not have transportation to Trenton high. This might cause them to leave the school board all together.

If you move French immersion to Trenton, hi from Bayside Secondary, you alienate a huge chunk of the population, ethnic and indigenous, who may not like French immersion, moving so far away from Belleville

Please keep French immersion program at Bayside Secondary. It's the best FI program around quite area other than the true French immersion program in Trenton at section St. Jeunesse. I know this as I grew up in Montreal. The best option is to open up French immersion program at Trenton high as well to accommodate those students.

Many Trenton area, French immersion students would attend French immersion at Trenton high, leaving space for those not wanting to change to remain at Bayside secondary. Please keep French immersion in Bayside Public in Secondary schools.

Please keep Bayside Secondary School, Front, emerg John at Bayside. Otherwise you alienate young people from continuing with French immersion at the high school level.

Change boundaries of Stirling Public School so that someone go to Trenton High and Sam go to Bayside for high school. Have PECIF I program go all the way to grade 12.

Please don't decimate the French immersion a Bayside Secondary school. We have very few enrichment programs at HPEDSB Bayside Secondary is still central for a lot of French immersion kids unless the board is trying to do just that.

Please don't dilute the French immersion community by sending a large percentage to Trenton high school. The community, resources and number of teachers are already thin

I just want to confirm that FI (Belleville) will not be relocated from Bayside Secondary. I have two students in rolled who will not be travelling to Trenton for FI. They would regretfully have to transfer to English programs.

Please don't illuminate the French immersion program at Bayside. I believe in assumption has been made that the students are being forced there by their parents to attend French immersion. They are not they choose to go and we parents except it because it is Bayside. My children will no longer attend this amazing program. If moved, we will actually challenge boundaries to move to a new district not Hastings.

Move the kids who don't reside in the area back to their home schools. I know for a fact there are lots of kids going to Frankford who reside out of the area such as in Trenton. Frankford is overpopulated as is. Kindergarten should not be blending with grade 1s. It's a totally different learning style. The solution needs to start now as the projected subdivision expansion (new builds) could possibly potentially bring upwards of 300 kids in the next five years.

If Bayside secondary is too full, why not move Frankford public school to Trenton high school it is actually closer if that doesn't do it to do the same with stirling. If you move French immersion to Trenton, it will create impossible busing situations for many.

I am incredibly concerned about proposals to move French Immersion even further away from the bulk of the student population. My son's bus ride is currently an hour each way in order to attend French immersion which is detrimental to physical and mental health. He is 10 years old and spending 2 hours a day on the school bus. Changes should be made to reduce this barrier for students, not increase it. I understand there are financial pressures to cut transportation and consolidate buildings but making these choices without consideration of student wellbeing will result in long term cost increases for the government by negatively impacting student health and education outcomes.

I am supportive of dividing the French immersion program and offering it in a west and central/east location. To achieve this, and reduce pressures at Bayside, why not change the boundaries for Bayside SS and have students from Frankford and/or Stirling attend Trenton High? This would retain space at Bayside for the French Immersion program without disrupting transportation distances too much.

I have heard that Frankford students may have to go to Trenton. This would be highly fought by our family and I would continue to drive my child to bayside. I know there is no perfect answer but I do not want my child to move to trenton high regardless of capacity.

I did not see this as an option in the slides but have heard this several times since the meetings. I hope if this option is in consideration all people receive communication.

Our children (2 boys) are current and prospective French Immersion students at BaysidePS. We live in PEC and our kids bus to Bayside. Our concern is that the option presented appears to indicate all current FI students at Bayside would be moved to TrentonSS. We are one of many families who would not accept such a change and would rather begrudgingly pull our kids out of FI and send them back to their home schools than have them bus even further to attend FI at TrentonSS, sacrificing their French-language education for the sake of their mental well-being.

I suggest the option of having FI at two secondary schools could work (ie at both Trenton and Bayside), but the boundaries for FI would need to be reevaluated to better balance the numbers (eg all FI students who live West of Aikins Rd would go to TrentonSS and those East of that boundary would go to BaysideSS). I was confused by the charts on page 100 of the LTCAP since they don't actually indicate the number of FI students, but rather the overall total students at the listed schools. How can meaningful recommendations be produced by the public without the appropriate data being provided? Specifically, the total students in FI and their general address locations or what their home school would be if they were not in FI would be needed to make an informed recommendation. Some transparency around the reason QuinteSS is no longer an option would be appreciated by interested stakeholders as well.

Please at least "grandfather" the students that are already in FI at Bayside and make changes for students in grade 5 or 6 now so they can make an educated decision on where their children will attend secondary school. You could also find a way to help senior secondary FI students get their last few FI credits with online courses so they can stay at Bayside. Overall please keep the wonderful, smart, future leaders that are in FI right now at Bayside where they belong. You will have a LOT of unhappy parents and students if you move the FI program.

How many tax dollars went into this 100 pages of nonsense? Looks and sounds like it was generated an AI program because no one who knows the area would be ok with this plan. Moving the French program to Trenton then forcing everyone to provide their own rides?? I propose we clean house at the school board for a more competent crew. What happened to Quinte? Saving the land to sell to one of your buddies later on the cheap. Obviously we will be considering the Catholic board if this goes through.

May 30, 2023

Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board
c/o Mr. Ernie Parsons, Trustee
156 Ann Street
Belleville, ON
K8N 3L3

Re: 2023 Long Term Capital Accommodation Plan (LTCAP)

Dear Board Members,

We are again writing to you on behalf of Bayside Secondary School, School Council with respect to the HPEDSB Long Term Capital Accommodation Plan (LTCAP).

We first wrote to Trustee Parsons on February 26, 2023 expressing our concerns with the LTCAP before it was accepted by the Board at your February 27, 2023 meeting.

Trustee Parsons' March 1, 2023 response letter notes the LTCAP is about data, however, the data appears to be flawed.

The Accommodation Options presented in Appendix F present analysis with 2022 enrolments and utilizations. This is short sighted. **Accommodation Options must consider 2031/2032 projections to ensure this Long-Term Capital and Accommodation Plan is truly long term.**

Bayside Secondary School Council has had feedback from students and families that the onslaught of disruptive programming, boundary, and transportation changes being proposed by the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board without adequate consultation, budget analysis, or planning are causing students and families stress and anxiety.

Therefore, the Bayside Secondary School Council respectfully requests Appendix F – Accommodation Options be removed from the LTCAP.

Accommodation Options must be revisited as follows:

1. Update all accommodation options with enrolment projections informed by municipal growth data and with consideration to family decision making.
2. Provide a financial analysis of all Accommodation Options.
3. Allow for public consultation during the preparation of the revised and alternative Accommodations Options and input *prior to* acceptance by the Board.

1. Enrolment Projections

Pointed questions were asked about the Board's past lack of foresight in accommodation planning during Director of Education, Katharine MacIver's radio interview with Kim Horrigan on Quinte Broadcasting.

- The closure of Quinte Secondary and now talk of reopening.
- New build Harmony Public over capacity and with portables.

Director MacIver summarized with "Projections are just that. They're not perfect." Bayside Secondary School Council is not asking for perfect data projections but we are asking for better.

The current LTCAP Accommodation Options are a repeat of past mistakes. All Accommodation Options presented are utilizing October 31, 2022 enrolments! The Accommodation Options are not even considering current enrolments, 2023 enrolment projections, nor projections to at least 2032 to be truly long term.

HPEDSB must recognize the greatly accelerated growth projections of area municipalities and update all Accommodation Options presented in Appendix F.

Specifically:

- All Accommodation Options need to be re-examined considering the City of Belleville's [Loyalist West Secondary Plan Update](#). Over 6000 residential dwelling units are projected for the City's west end.
- Accommodation Options 1, 2, and 3 related to Harmony Public School's being over capacity need to also consider the new homes currently under construction in the Riverstone and Canniff Mills subdivisions and the eventual buildout of the Canniffon Secondary Plan Area in the City of Belleville.
- Accommodation Option 4 relating to Bayside Secondary School and Trenton High School needs to be re-examined considering the City of Quinte West's [Official Plan Review](#). The new Official Plan includes an urban boundary expansion at the west end of Trenton to accommodate 1312 residential units.
- Our neighbouring Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board's [Long Term Accommodation Plan](#) includes municipal development plans overlaid on school boundary plans. This needs to be completed and included in HPEDSB's LTCAP to inform enrolment projections.
- The Province of Ontario has passed the More Homes Built Faster Act which aims to build 1.5 Million homes in the province over the next 10 years. How does this impact our area communities? Enrolment projections must be projected to at least 2032.
- Given the poor quality of the current document and past embarrassment of poor enrolment projections, the revised LTCAP and its data should be peer reviewed by a third party.

Further, **HPEDSB must consider family decision making in their analysis.** The Accommodation Options presented in Appendix F assume families and students just willingly change schools. This is inaccurate.

Specifically:

- Accommodation Option 4 affecting Bayside Secondary and Trenton High needs to be re-examined realistically.
 - According to a recent school population survey initiated and conducted by BSS School Council, 90% of students currently attending French Immersion program at Bayside Secondary, grades 7 to 12, will switch to the English stream program or move to another school board if French Immersion, in whole or in part, is moved to Trenton High School or other Trenton area sites. (See attached survey results).
 - Considering family decision making, how would increased enrolment projections for English stream at HPEDSB schools affect their respective utilizations? How would decreased enrolment projections if students leave for another school board affect HPEDSB school utilizations? That is, does Accommodation Option 4 solve anything at all?

2. Financial Analysis

Each Accommodation Option has associated cost implications. A financial analysis is required.

- Transportation Costs - HPEDSB just hosted a series of Student Transportation Town Hall Meetings in March 2023 because transportation expenses exceed funding and a deficit recovery plan is required. The LTCAP Accommodation Options are all presenting further increased transportation costs. Option 4 in particular will require bus routes from Stirling, Frankford, and Bayside catchment areas to Bayside Secondary for English stream and to Trenton High for French Immersion. What are the transportation costs associated with each Accommodation Option?
- Per-Student Funding – Accommodation Option 4 affecting Bayside Secondary and Trenton High not only assumes French Immersion students will remain in French Immersion if the location is changed but also assumes French Immersion students will remain in HPEDSB.

Anecdotally, parents in the Belleville and Stirling areas do not frequent Trenton. They work and do business in Belleville. Bayside is only a 3-minute drive from the west end of Belleville. Trenton High is another 12 minutes further from Bayside, making Trenton High 15 minutes from the west end of Belleville. Families choose which school students attend based on distance from home and work.

For example, out of the 83 students in the grade 8 graduating class of Stirling Public School in 2022, 20 to attend St. Theresa's with the Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board primarily for this reason: proximity to home and work.

Experiences families have had have led to diminished confidence in the public board, particularly with respect to French immersion has created family stress and anxiety over the uncertainty of program longevity and continuity. This has resulted in a decline of enrollment at Bayside French Immersion equal to two and a half classes. Just for this year, that is approximately 75 students. This attrition has been ongoing over the past 6 years. We know a market for French Immersion still exists where families understand that knowledge of a second language is valuable, families are simply choosing other school boards to fulfill their student's education goals and success. As a result, HPEDSB has lost a significant amount of funding dollars over the last few years. This is easily ascertained reviewing the available data. According to our calculations, working with the provincial funding formulas, this loss amounts to approximately \$8,228,925 in per pupil funding.

Similarly, HPEDSB risks losing 90% of our current and future Bayside Public School and Bayside Secondary School French Immersion students, (according to a recent school population survey initiated and conducted by BSS School Council, see attached), and tens of millions of dollars in per pupil funding to adjacent school boards if any proposed changes to move all or part of French Immersion to Trenton area schools move forward. Only 9.9% of our current FI population would remain enrolled in HPEDSB. This will have a significant impact on our Board's budget at a time when we can least afford it.

We can not assume that those currently enrolled with HPEDSB, would stay with the board, if the location of French Immersion were changed. Diluting or distributing French Immersion more broadly, lessens the immersive experience, and is contrary to the Ministry of Education guidelines with respect to best practices for French Immersion education.

3. Public Consultation

Though the May 29 to May 31, 2023 Community Drop-ins are appreciated, they are scheduled after the LTCAP was passed by HPEDSB.

- Bayside Secondary School Council happened to find the LTACP in a Board agenda posted online on February 24.
- School Council sent letter of concern February 26
- Board passed LTCAP on February 27

Now, the Community Drop-In information became available May 29. After months of family stress and anxiety caused by the Board's passing of the LTCAP on February 27, the LTCAP's Accommodation Option 4 "Move French Immersion from Bayside SS to Trenton SS" is now deemed as an "Unavailable Option". Instead, "Maintain Bayside SS French Immersion and move Trenton area French Immersion students to Trenton HS" is now presented as an "Option for Consideration".

The current community drop-ins are not asking for feedback on the new Options for Consideration (which have been revised since February to now include seven options), however, are looking for additional solution suggestions.

HPEDSB must allow for public consultation during the preparation of the revised and alternative Accommodations Options and public input *prior to* acceptance by the Board.

HPEDSB has stated the purpose of the May 2023 Community Drop-as follows: "School communities and the public are invited to offer new ideas and suggestions that HPEDSB has not already considered."

Please consider these alternative ideas and suggestions in preparing the revised and alternative Accommodation Options and completing the required enrolment projections and financial analysis:

1. **New or Expanded School Review:** Local municipalities are addressing demographic issues that are neglected in the current LTCAP. The City of Belleville's Loyalist West Secondary Plan growth area projects 6000 new homes in west end Belleville. The City of Belleville's Loyalist West Secondary Plan growth area will affect enrolments at the following home schools who currently attend Bayside French Immersion:
 - a. Park Dale School
 - b. Prince Charles School
 - c. Sir John A. MacDonald School
 - d. Susanna Moodie Elementary

The Province of Ontario has passed the More Homes Built Faster Act which aims to build 1.5 Million homes in the province over the next 10 years.

How does this residential growth and intensification affect enrolment projections? Are additional schools required? Will an application to the next round of the Ministry of Education's Capital Priorities Program be made? How do additional schools affect enrolment projections and utilizations at current schools?

2. **HPEDSB / KPRDSB Boundary Review** as informed by municipal growth areas. City of Quinte West's new Official Plan includes an urban boundary expansion at the west end of Trenton to accommodate 1312 residential units. It only makes sense for these to be included in the Trenton School Group's catchment area. A boundary review is required between our neighbouring KPRDSB and HPEDSB to ensure value for taxpayer dollars.
3. **Other Solutions** - We are curious about a recent proposal submitted by BSS staff regarding an investigation of altering bus boundaries for FPS. We are also curious to hear what other additional solutions arise from the Community Drop-ins.

Again, HPEDSB must allow for public consultation during the preparation of the revised and alternative Accommodations Options and input *prior to acceptance by the Board.*

We look forward to further consultation and engagement when the revised recommendations are available, as informed by appropriate enrolment projections, with consideration to family decision making, and complete with a financial analysis.

Sincerely,

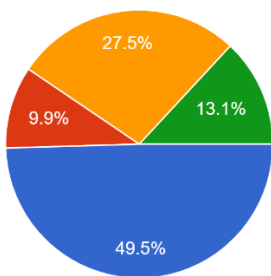
Bayside Secondary School Council

Attached: Previous Correspondence
Survey Results

In a recent survey conducted by School Council over only a 48-hour window, due to a tight timeline, with a reply rate of over 60% of our school population.

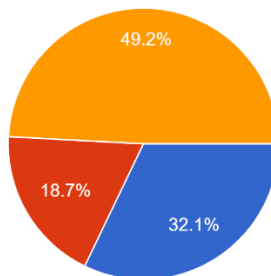
1. Response from those currently involved in the French Immersion program.

If the HPEDSB grades 7-12 French Immersion program was removed from Bayside Secondary School and placed at Trenton High School what would you do?



- Leave the public school system and attend the Catholic School Board or another French program outside HPE...
- Follow French Immersion to Trenton High School
- Stay at BSS and join the English programming stream (BSS is my home school)
- Leave French Immersion and enroll at my assigned home school

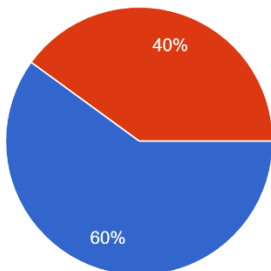
As a French Immersion student, If French Immersion remains status quo at BSS but bussing is no longer provided what would you do?



- Leave the public school system and attend the Catholic School Board or another School Board outside HPEDSB
- Accept HPEDSB transportation to my assigned home school and leave French Immersion
- Make my own transportation arrangements to continue at BSS in the FI program

2. Responses from those currently involved in the English program.

If the home school boundaries were changed resulting in your student's assigned school being changed, what would you do?



- I would remain enrolled in my home school even if that meant a change of schools
- Leave the public school system and attend the Catholic School Board or another program outside HPEDSB

Mr. Ernie Parsons
Trustee
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board
156 Ann St
Belleville, ON
K8N 3L3

February 26, 2023

Re: 2023 Long Term Capital and Accommodation Plan (LTCAP)
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board

Dear Mr. Parsons,

We are writing to you on behalf of Bayside Secondary School, School Council with respect to the February 27th Public Board Meeting agenda that includes the plan noted above. As the elected Trustee and representative for Sidney and Frankford for Hastings Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB), we are reaching out to you for more clarity regarding the process and content of this report.

As parents, we understand and applaud the HPEDSB commitment to transparency and good governance as stated in the HPEDSB Strategic Plan, specifically, "responsible communications which includes improving public relations by providing information that is timely, transparent and accessible for all". This letter is intended to provide you with information about concerns that family stakeholders have with respect to this planning document.

Process

We have concerns that the process by which this information has been brought forward does not lend itself to being timely, transparent and accessible for all. Please see below for specific concerns:

1. School Council chair first became aware of the updated LTCAP on February 22, 2023 during a Parent Involvement Committee meeting where the HPEDSB Director of Education advised of the document, as part of the DOE update. The agenda package for the February 27th Public Board Meeting, which includes the LTCAP, was posted to the HPEDSB website February 24th. This is when we first learned that the LTCAP, as a draft version, had been presented at the February 13th, 2023 Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting. This document was presented at both meetings without any opportunity for public consultation nor any inclusion of affected constituents. We were also surprised to learn the LTCAP was updated since the January 2021 document, the last one that was publicly disclosed. Of concern to our School Council is the lack of transparency and disregard for public input.

2. The LTCAP document is a planning document including a significant volume of details, statistics and demographics. Digesting this type of content is time consuming and is of great importance as significant board wide planning decisions rely on this information. How many business days ahead of the February 13th, 2023 Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting and the Regular Board Meeting scheduled for February 27th, 2023 did participants receive the document? Were all trustees in attendance at the February 13th, 2023 Physical Planning, Finance and Building Committee Meeting when the draft document was passed?
3. LTCAP Changes Between PPFB Cttee and Public Board Meeting: The February 27, 2023 Public Board Meeting Report 10(c)i advises the LTCAP was reviewed at the Physical Planning, Finance, and Building Committee meeting held on February 13, 2023. Some notable changes were made to the document in between meetings. Is it proper process to make changes to an approved document?

Content

We have concerns and questions about the content of the LTCAP listed below:

1. School Group Overview, 7.6-7.11.2: Utilization rates are very prominent in the charts entitled Summary Capacity, Enrolment, and Renewal. These details are misleading when looking at Secondary School facilities that include grade 7 and 8 students. The actual on the ground capacity (OTG) is reduced to exclude the grade 7 and 8 data, thus the utilization percentage, enrolment numbers and surplus capacity only includes the secondary level grades for a facility that houses grade 7-12. The grade 7 and 8 details are included under separate charts found in the Elementary School Summary Capacity, Enrolment, and Renewal charts. When OTG, enrollment, surplus capacity and utilization data are used to make such significant HPEDSB decisions, the data should not mislead the reader.
2. School Group Overview, 7.6-7.11.2: Only Eastside Elementary School Group and PECl School Group Elementary school groups have charts which provide illustrations titled Summary, Capacity, Enrollment and Renewal. These are very useful for the reader and we are wondering why they have not been created for all of the school groups?
3. APPENDIX C: On the Ground Capacity, Gross Floor Area and Age of HPEDSB Schools, page 87: We have questions regarding the square footage calculation and how it might impact decisions within this document? (e.g. Is there a usable floor space requirement for school aged children which could be made more transparent?)
4. APPENDIX D: Renewal Needs Over Five Years and Facility Condition Index, page 89: What difference would an update to our School Board's FCI make in planning and decision making. 34% of the school's listed have an assessment year of greater than 5

years. Have we not completed significant renewals at many of these schools and would that not greatly impact the FCI?

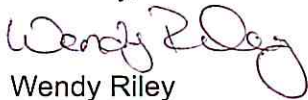
5. APPENDIX F: Accommodation Options, pages 107-121: The maps included in this section are of great importance when making decisions on school boundaries and programs. We do not find the details large enough for maximum readability.
6. APPENDIX F: Accommodations Options, page 120: The data supporting the map entitled "FI Students In the Trenton Family of Schools Area", is not included. Why not?

Unfortunately, over the past 9 years of the Long Term Capital and Accommodation Planning reports published by HPEDSB, there have been conflicting enrolment projections and changes in details without explanation. Since 2015, Bayside Secondary School OTG has changed from 2015-723, 2016-851, 2017-849 to 2023-810. It is confusing to understand what is behind these changes and therefore difficult to trust the data. There is evidence of significant historical errors of declining enrolment projections and families question whether these errors have contributed to overcrowding issues at both Harmony Public School and Stirling Public School since their rebuilds. Parents also wonder if the document has properly captured recent local population growth and communicated with the City planning departments for projections.

One of the several questions we bring to this document is whether an option has been researched to address boundaries between HPEDSB and Kawartha Pine Ridge specific to Trenton High School boundaries. Students 1.2km west of THS (west of Tripp Blvd) are transported to Brighton HS.

We understand that Trustees need the most accurate data and supportive processes possible in order to make good decisions to support HPEDSB student achievement and well-being. On behalf of Bayside families, I look forward to receiving your timely response which will provide clarity about the above questions and concerns. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Wendy Riley
Bayside Secondary School
School Council-Chair



Brad Beale
Bayside Secondary School
School Council-Community Representative

Cc: Ruth Ellen Cummings, Principal, Bayside Secondary School
Stacey Dunning, Vice Principal, Bayside Secondary School
Mike McKeown, Vice Principal, Bayside Secondary School
Katherine McIver, Director of Education
Ken Dostaler, Superintendent Student Services, Bayside Family of Schools
Shannon Binder, Southeast Hastings Trustee
Erica Charlton, Belleville/Thurlow Trustee
Kandis Hambly, Trenton and CFB Trenton Trustee
Kari Kramp, Central Hastings Trustee
Stacey Lewis, South Prince Edward Trustee

Sandra Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Trustee
Rachael Prinzen, North Prince Edward Trustee
Amanda Robertson, Belleville/Thurlow Trustee
Ron Speck, North Hastings Trustee
Lawson Hung, Trenton High School, Student Trustee HPEDSB
Shoshannah Spencer, Centennial Secondary School, Student Trustee HPEDSB
Julia Webster, Eastside Secondary School, Student Trustee HPEDSB

01 March 2023

Ms. Wendy Riley and Mr. Brad Beal
Bayside Secondary School
Parent Council

Dear Parent Council representatives:

Although I cannot profess to being an expert on school board matters, I believe I now have an understanding of the *2023 Long-Term Capital and Accommodation Plan* which was accepted by the Board at its meeting on 27 February 2023.

First of all, I cannot overemphasize that this is a document which precipitates no actions or decisions by the Board. This is, in fact, an up-dating of information which the Ministry of Education requires each School Board to complete on a regular basis in order to have the most accurate data available in the event of future decisions being required. It is not a document containing proposed plans, in spite of the somewhat misleading title of the document. It contains data.

It presents the most accurate enrolment projections possible at this time, and quite naturally contains numbers which differ from previous reports. Future populations at best are an educated guess, and reflect changes in a community. The vast majority of numbers in this report are obtained from municipal staff.

One important piece of information for school planning is the actual physical condition and capacities of our school buildings. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Education which provides this evaluation to the various school boards, has placed a moratorium on the evaluations, and we believe it could be several years before our building conditions assessments are made current.

The consulting firm retained by the Board has identified what it believes could present future operational challenges, and has at times suggested various options for the Board to deal with these issues. The suggestions provided are not complete, and are in some cases not even possible. (e.g., the MOE has placed a moratorium on school closures, and that option is therefore not realistic at this time.)

The most important point I wish to make is the plan is intended to start discussions, and not to commence any action. If in the future the Board determines that decisions may be required, I can assure you that extensive consultations with our communities will be undertaken, and the Board will be as transparent as possible in presenting the issues and data to you, and will seek your input regarding options to be considered.

I hope that this letter addresses your concerns as shared with me in your letter. I truly appreciate your commitment to supporting education in our community.

Ernie Parsons
Trustee
Sidney/Frankford Wards