

## **New Findlay Creek Elementary School Public Consultation – Q&A's**

**Meeting commenced at 7:05pm**

**Q: What happens if construction timelines are not met? How certain are you in these timelines.**

A: Our facilities department is confident in our September 2024 timing. If something truly unanticipated occurs we will reach out to the community in the spring.

**Q: Will the boundary maps be available online? Will they be higher resolution?**

A: Yes, we will place these boundaries on our webpage. Since they are high quality it will be easier to zoom in.

**Q: With respect to boundaries, it appears that there is a section north of Miikana that appears to be misplaced. Can you expand on this delineation?**

A: This dividing line was chosen as it appeared to be a good geographical division between the neighbouring communities. Did not choose Miikana Road as a dividing line because then students would be directed away from New Findlay Creek when the school is located directly across the street. We are open to comments and feedback about the boundary lines, however.

**Q: Are students coming in from outside the boundary to attend EFI?**

A: The boundary for EFI is binary. There could be a very limited number of transfer students previously accepted based the transfer policies. These students are a very small percentage of the school population.

**Q: When would you expect the final report?**

A: We are taking comments for the next two weeks, so we would appreciate any comments/feedback in the next few weeks. Final decisions are to be made in January.

**Q: Are there projections for what would occur with the proposed scenario that take into account the growth scheduled for the area? Is there flexibility for cross boundary transfers?**

A: We have included projections (5 years) in the information package. We take into consideration housing, growth, retention, and many other factors. The projections are under 100% utilization within the next five years.

**Q: Do the projections take into consideration the new OCSB elementary school?**

A: We have taken this school into consideration, we generally soften our year-over-year retention rates to accommodate the potential loss of students as a result of a coterminous board opening.

**Q: What happens to the students utilizing the interim accommodation measures?**

A: The interim accommodation measures were only to be in place until the New Findlay Creek Elementary School opens. Since these students are within the Findlay Creek community, we saw it fit to bring them back to the community. We are open to feedback and comments.

**Q: What grades will the OCSB elementary school be.**

A: We believe it is a JK-6. Please consult with the OCSB.

**Q: With respect to boundaries, is there an option area/grey zone where students can apply?**

A: Students within the attendance boundary must attend their designated school. Students can apply for cross boundary transfers to attend another school. Principals review cross boundary transfers and accept/decline the application based upon the board's cross boundary transfer's policies.

**Q: Is the new school part of the Catholic school boards purview?**

A: The proposed school is OCDSB, and there is a new OCSB school being constructed in 2024 as well.

**Q: What happens with students already approved for cross boundary transfers?**

A: We can speak more to specifics after the meeting. Once a student is accepted on a cross boundary transfer, you do not have to reapply.

**Q: Will childcare be provided? Is there a waitlist?**

A: Yes, we are constructing childcare in the new elementary school. There may be a waiting list, though we are not certain at this time. More information regarding will be Extended Day Program is available on the Board website.

**Q: How is French immersion handled at the new school.**

A: We are proposing English with core French and Early French Immersion programs.

**Q: What will the hours be?**

A: OSTA determines the bell times, and they will provide them to us in the next few months.

**Q: Some community members attend the French catholic school. Does the late French immersion program compare?**

A: The OCSB offers a slightly different immersion and extended French program than the OCDSB. We offer EFI at both Findlay Creek schools, and MFI is available at Blossom Park PS. For more information about all programs and eligibility, we encourage you to contact the appropriate school.

**Q: How will bussing work?**

A: They would need to be living within the appropriate bussing distance, within the boundary.

**Q: When the new elementary school opens, is there any consistency between teachers?**

A: Teachers are bounded by a collective agreement and are hired based on seniority. A staffing process takes place each spring and we are mindful that some teachers from Vimy Ridge PS may wish to apply/transition to the New Findlay Creek School – staffing however is it's own process outside of the Planning review.

**Q: Is there feedback on the opening grade structure?**

A: We are open to feedback on the opening structure, but the ultimate structure will be K-6. Since the Riverside South Secondary School is opening as a grade 7-12 school in 2025 and includes the Vimy Ridge boundary, both the Findlay Creek elementary schools will be JK-6.

**Q: Is there a planned secondary school for Findlay Creek?**

A: At this time, we do not have a planned secondary school in the Findlay Creek area.

**Q: Can a student transfer in next year, as a grade 7, from the Catholic school.**

A: They are welcome to attend given that they reside within the attendance boundary for Vimy Ridge PS, though please note that in grade 8 (2025) they will be moved to the Riverside South Secondary School.

**Q: How confident are you in being able to staff the school.**

A: We are confident that we will fully staff the school.

**Q: Will there be changes to after school programs/extra curriculums as a result of the new school? Are there any extra curriculums proposed at the new school?**

A: This will be assessed at a later time.

**Q: How will grand-parenting of students occur for those that utilized the interim measures?**

A: Right now staff have proposed a block move of students who were directed to Robert Bateman PS and Robert Bondar PS based on the interim measures to their respective schools (Vimy Ridge PS or the New Findlay Creek Elementary School) We seek your comments on grandparenting these students.

**Q: Would you move a cohort in the middle of the year, should the new school not be ready for occupancy in September 2024.**

A: At the time of answering this query the school is on schedule for opening in September.

**Q: Is bussing considered when the boundary is created?**

A: Bus routes are prepared by OSTA, and they will review the maps once they are approved. OSTA chooses what method of transportation will be provided.

**Q: Can you expand on the boundary line east of Albion road?**

A: This is a starting point, and we will likely need to revisit the boundary down the road. We have chosen the boundaries to deal with the bulk of enrollment in Findlay Creek at the present time.

**Q: When is registration occurring for the new school, how will it occur for those in the interim measures area.**

A: Registration notification will be forwarded to impacted families once approval of the attendance boundary, program offering, and grade structure is provided. Families with JK's in September of 2024 are welcome to attend the Vimy Ridge Public School JK registration night to receive information on the new school with regards to registration.

**Q: Is there any consideration for traffic/community safety.**

A: The City of Ottawa is responsible for road safety, although we are certainly concerned about ensuring we have safe school zones. The City is made aware of school openings.

**Q: What happens with the grade 5 kids this year?**

A: It depends on how we want to open the school, and what opening grade structure the Board decides on. Our preference is to open the new school as a full JK-6 compliment to have the interim measures students return to their communities.

**Q: Expresses a preference for the students impacted by the interim measures to be brought back to the Findlay Creek neighbourhoods.**

A: Noted.

**Q: What happens to grade 7 students in 2025?**

A: The new school is opening in September 2024. In 2025, they would be redirected to the new Riverside South Secondary School, which offers a grade 7-12 compliment.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm**