



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Report No.19-078

15 October 2019

New Stittsville Secondary School Study – Approval of Timeline and Consultation Plan

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PURPOSE:

1. To seek approval of a timeline and consultation plan for a study to determine the program, attendance boundary, and opening grade structure for the new Stittsville secondary school, and make other associated changes.

CONTEXT:

2. The requirement for the construction of a secondary school to serve students within Stittsville dates back to capital planning under the former Carleton Board of Education. The project was identified in the District's 2006 Capital Plan, and has been included in each capital priorities submission process since that time.

In March 2018, the Board received confirmation of capital funding from the Ministry of Education for the construction of a 1,353 pupil place secondary school to serve grade 7 to 12 students in the Stittsville area. The new school is scheduled to open to students in September 2022.

The site which will accommodate the new secondary school was identified by the District as part of the City's Fernbank Community Design Plan (CDP) process in 2008. This development area is expected to contain almost 11,000 new homes at full build-out. As part of that CDP process, four elementary school sites were also reserved for the District.

The District acquired the land for the new secondary school in May 2019. The site is 6.54 hectares in size or just over 16 acres. It is located at the southwest corner of Robert Grant Avenue and Cope Drive in the western portion of the Fernbank area (see General Location Map attached as Appendix A).

Site planning and building design work for the new Stittsville secondary school is now almost complete.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

3. Commencing a study process at this time will enable relevant information to be communicated to impacted students and families in a timely fashion.

The proposed study will examine the attendance boundary, program, and opening grade structure options for the new secondary school. These options will take into consideration updated student enrolment and school-age population trends, residential development patterns, and student distribution data. It will also take into account the approved recommendations in the recently-completed new Fernbank elementary school study.

As part of the study process, current local attendance boundaries and school feeding patterns will be reviewed in an effort to ensure that logical alignments are put in place, and a balancing of school enrolments is achieved. Where possible, the location of future residential development and planned new school openings will be taken into consideration.

A unique consideration for this study concerns what assumptions should be made around the share of enrolment the new school will experience upon opening. Given the District's lack of local secondary accommodation in Stittsville, it is anticipated that the school may receive a significantly higher number of students than might otherwise be expected based on current trends.

4. Grade 7 and 8 Current Student Accommodation

Intermediate (grade 7 and 8) students residing in the Stittsville area, excluding the portion located east of Robert Grant Avenue within the Fernbank CDP lands, are directed to either A. Lorne Cassidy Elementary School (ES) or Goulbourn Middle School (MS) depending on their program and home address.

In October 2018 there were:

- 98 intermediate students attending A. Lorne Cassidy ES; and
- 82 attending Goulbourn MS.

Intermediate students residing within the Fernbank CDP lands located east of Robert Grant Avenue are directed to Glen Cairn Public School (PS).

In October 2018 there were 31 intermediate students attending Glen Cairn PS from the Fernbank area.

5. Grade 9 to 12 Current Student Accommodation

Secondary (grade 9 to 12) students residing in the Stittsville area, excluding the that portion located east of Robert Grant Avenue within the Fernbank CDP lands, are currently directed to South Carleton High School (HS) in the Village of Richmond.

In October 2018 there were 483 students from the Stittsville area attending South Carleton HS.

Secondary students residing in the area located east of Robert Grant Avenue within the Fernbank CDP lands are directed to A.Y. Jackson Secondary School (SS).

In October 2018 there were 55 secondary students attending A.Y. Jackson SS from the Fernbank area.

6. Associated Attendance Boundary Revision

A. Lorne Cassidy ES is the only Stittsville area school that serves kindergarten to grade 8 students. In October 2018 enrolment at the school was 585 students, resulting in a 98% utilization rate and requiring four portables on site for instruction. There is little new residential development potential within the school's current English Program with Core French (ENG) and Early French Immersion (EFI) attendance boundaries.

With the opening of the new Stittsville secondary school grade 7 and 8 students directed to A. Lorne Cassidy ES would likely be redirected to the new school resulting in a significant surplus of instructional space at A. Lorne Cassidy ES. As a part of the study, consideration should be given to enlarging the school's attendance area to make better use of available instructional space and balance enrolment between schools.

Stittsville PS is the receiving school for a large amount of new residential development including the Potter's Key subdivision and the majority of the Kanata west CDP lands. Enrolment at the kindergarten to grade 6 school in October 2018 was 672 with a 107% utilization rate and required 4 portables on site for instruction.

A boundary adjustment between A. Lorne Cassidy ES and Stittsville PS could be considered to redistribute new and future residential development while considering future schools openings within the Fernbank and Kanata west CDP lands. The OCDSB has a secondary school site and two elementary school sites reserved within the Kanata west area.

Enrolment at Westwind PS has been decreasing over the past few years, however, this is expected to change as new residential development within its attendance boundary area continues to progress. The school has a significant amount (over 4,800 units) of new and future residential growth within its attendance boundary. Construction of the new Westwood community located within the Fernbank CDP lands (west of Robert Grant Avenue) has recently begun, and other new developments are expected to commence over the next few years. Westwind PS is expected to begin receiving new students from the Westwood area during the 2019-2020 school year; a revision to its current attendance boundary in order to increase enrolment is not required.

7. Future Development Area Redirection

An attendance boundary realignment should also be considered for the future residential development areas located east of Huntmar Road (estimate of 1,825 new homes) within the Stittsville area. These developments currently fall within the attendance boundaries of various Kanata schools - Castlefrank ES (K-3),

Katimavik ES (4-8), Glen Cairn PS (7-8 MFI), and Earl of March SS (9-12). This potential change would instead, redirect students to Stittsville area schools in future.

In anticipation of this future redirection, the recently-completed new Fernbank elementary school study approved an MFI attendance boundary change in this area of the District. Grade 4 to 6 MFI attendance boundaries were revised to redirect these new development areas from Bridlewood Community ES to A. Lorne Cassidy ES. The change will come into effect upon the opening of a new Fernbank elementary school. The opening of a new Fernbank elementary school is the OCDSB's highest ranked capital priority.

The alignment of school feeding patterns in this part of the District should also be examined with the intent to establish a consistent (family) feeding pattern for Stittsville area students. This could be achieved by directing all current and future Stittsville area intermediate and secondary students to the new Stittsville secondary school.

8. Future Study

South Carleton HS will be the school most significantly impacted by the opening of the new Stittsville secondary school. In October 2018 the enrolment at the school was 1,124 with a utilization rate of 84% in a 1,344 pupil place school. It is likely that after full implementation of the 7 to 12 grade structure at the new school, approximately 500 students from the Stittsville area who would have attended South Carleton would be directed to the new school. A future study to examine the attendance boundaries, grade structure and program offerings of South Carleton HS and its feeder schools should be undertaken.

The study would take into consideration the significant amount of new residential development that is underway in the Village of Richmond. This new development is expected to double the total number of residential units in the village. In anticipation of the new homes and the resulting increase in school age population the OCDSB, through the City's CDP process, has reserved an elementary school site within the new development lands.

9. Formal Pupil Accommodation Review Not Required

A formal Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) under Policy P.118.PLG, Public Accommodation Review is not required for this process. The study will follow a public consultation process which is typically used by the Board when establishing a program, attendance boundary, and grade structure for a new school.

Policy P.118.PLG states that a PAR is not required when the Board is planning the relocation of grades and programs in which the enrolment constitutes less than 50% of a 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. Staff does not foresee any accommodation plans which would result in the movement of more than 50% of a particular school's enrolment.

In accordance with OCDSB policy, affected schools and communities are to be informed about the proposed study before a decision is made by the Board to

exempt a school from a PAR. An information flyer and a web link to this report will be sent to affected schools and their respective communities when this report becomes public, in advance of the Committee of the Whole meeting on 15 October 2019, where it will be presented.

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

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

10. The cost of conducting the proposed study will be managed within existing departmental budgets.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

11. The recommended timeline and consultation plan for the study are attached as Appendix B and C to this report.

As part of the consultation process, a local working group will be formed in November 2019 and will meet on several occasions throughout the 2019-2020 school year. The working group is anticipated to consist of two representatives from each of the following schools: (nine in total):

- A. Lorne Cassidy ES;
- Goulbourn MS;
- South Carleton HS;
- Glen Cairn PS;
- A.Y. Jackson SS;
- Stittsville PS;
- Castlefrank ES;
- Katimavik ES; and
- Earl of March SS.

The first five schools listed above are schools which serve grade 7 to 12 students residing in the Stittsville area. The boundaries and/or grade structures of these schools are expected to be impacted by the opening of the new school. The attendance boundaries of the four remaining schools contain future residential development areas located within the Stittsville area. The direction of these development areas will be examined as part of this study.

In addition to those listed above, other area schools could be invited to provide representatives to the working group meetings if options considered serve to impact their school communities.

The working group would provide localized input and advice with regard to proposed options, community and neighborhood alignments, and parental and family preferences as they relate to student movement. Representatives will also update their school councils regarding the study process and its progress.

Community associations which contain schools that serve grade 7 to 12 students residing within the Stittsville area would be invited to send one representative each to participate on the working group.

The consultation process would include a minimum of four working group meetings, and one Public Consultation Meeting tentatively scheduled for April 2020. Additional meetings of the working group would be scheduled as necessary.

A staff recommendation report would be submitted for consideration to Committee of the Whole in June 2020. A final decision regarding the study is scheduled to be made by Board at the end of that month.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

12. The opening of a secondary school within the developing Fernbank CDP area will provide the District with the ability to serve Stittsville area students locally.

The addition of a school within its own caring community is consistent with the objectives of the strategic plan by improving equity of access to a choice of high quality programs in an environment which fosters innovation and creativity. The provision of additional new school facilities within a growth area of the District provides opportunity for each of the Strategic Plan's three key priority areas to be addressed; creating a culture of innovation, caring and social responsibility.

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. THAT the Board affirm that a pupil accommodation review under OCDSB Policy P.118.PLG, Pupil Accommodation Review, is not required for this study; and
- B. THAT the timeline and consultation plan, attached as Appendix B and C to Report 19-078, for a study to determine the program, attendance boundary, and opening grade structure for the new Stittsville secondary school, and other associated changes, be approved.

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

APPENDICES

- Appendix A General Location Map – New Stittsville Secondary School Study
- Appendix B New Stittsville Secondary School Study Timeline
- Appendix C New Stittsville Secondary School Study Consultation Plan