



OTTAWA-CARLETON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

East Urban Community Elementary School Public Consultation Meeting Minutes *January 27, 2026*

Meeting Start at 7:07pm

Introductions

- The meeting commenced with a general welcome from Karyn Ostafichuk.
- The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the attendance boundary, program offering, opening grade structure for the new elementary school, as well as intermediate feeding pattern options for those graduating the new school.

Land Acknowledgement

Overview

- We hope to answer all of your questions with respect to the new school
- We have already answered questions through the working group meetings
 - We have tried to narrow down some of the issues, but we are open to feedback
- We are open to answer individual questions
- New elementary school under construction at this moment
- Capacity of 674 pupil places
- Scheduled to open in September 2026
 - We note that portables may be occurring the short-term since schools are planned for the 20 year planning horizon
 - Some minor things (landscaping) may not be finished, but we are on track

Map

- Karyn provided a summary of the general location of the school, located at 700 Spring Valley Drive in Mer Bleue / Orleans

Under Construction

- We are happy that it is under construction and progressing nicely
- We hope that there are no delays before September

Impacted Schools

- There are a number of schools impacted
 - Convent Glen Elementary School
 - Henry Larsen Elementary School
 - Emily Carr Middle School
 - Glen Ogilvie Public School
 - Dunning-Foubert Elementary School
- We plan schools for where there are overcapacity concerns
 - In this case, Dunning-Foubert ES is the most overcrowded school
 - Glen Ogilvie PS is experiencing high numbers as well

Working Group

- We sat down and discussed some of the issues with members of the community
- We met with principals, community associations, and parent council representatives
 - We developed preliminary feedback, and discussed different options
 - Although we have some recommendations, we can still discuss other options

New East Urban Community Boundary

- Demonstrate proposed boundary
 - The proposed boundary shows the major roads adjacent to the boundary

Proposed Opening Grade Structure and Program

- The OCDSB is proposing a dual tracked school
 - ENG and EFI
- Proposing it to open as a JK-5 school and then transitioning it to a JK-6 school
- Our aim it to try and have a transition for students through the final year

Proposed Feeding Pattern 1

- After going through the new school and graduating grade 6
 - Purple area goes to Emily Carr Elementary School
 - Green goes to Dunning-Foubert ES Elementary School
 - Golden area goes to Henry Larsen Elementary School

Alternatively Feeding Pattern 2

- After going through the new school and graduating grade 6
 - Green and gold areas go to Henry Larsen Elementary School
 - We are looking at development, and housing starts throughout the proposed boundary

- For instance, Dunning Foubert Elementary School's existing boundary is pretty built out with respect to development
- One of the reasons we went for K-6 is that we have a high school (7-12) site on Esprit Drive
 - We want to ensure that we have the ability to build the proposed high school in the future and having East Urban Community go to 8 would hinder this
- We have a great deal of growth in the south, and funding for high schools from the Ministry is difficult

Timeline and Next Steps

- Feedback will be gathered until February 13th, 2026
- We are looking at one-time options for siblings to ensure they can stay together
 - We will be undertaking this exercise to see if it's feasible
 - We note that the OCDSB is under financial constraints, and transportation is not guaranteed for any student choosing a one-time option
 - There may be granting of a few years of transportation, but this is not guaranteed
 - This is further complicated, as the few kids won't be on yellow busses, which further increases costs
- We have received questions about the start time at the new school
 - This is determined by bussing
 - The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority determines the bell times - we need to wait for the study to be completed before we can confirm
- Next Steps
 - As we are under supervision, we will be providing a report with recommendations to the supervisor for his approval
 - Feedback from the public is to be submitted through Engage OCDSB
 - The full package, with all numbers, charts, and information will be available on Engage OCDSB
 - The handout at the public meeting is an abridged version of the material
 - The staff report to the supervisor, with the recommendations, will be available on Engage OCDSB
 - We need a decision from the supervisor by the March Break
 - This is to allow the OCDSB time to properly staff the school

Open Question Period

- Onboarding of staff at the new school - how will the identity of the school be fostered?
 - In general, staffing of the new school is subject to the teacher union rules
 - There are generally a number of teachers in an area that follow the students to the new school
 - We want to ensure open communication between sending and receiving schools to ensure a smooth transition
 - Opening a brand new school is generally a positive experience, which helps start a school identity
- Are there any grandparenting of students?
 - This is handled through transfer applications
 - In general, these are accepted through personal circumstances
 - Transfers can be applied for late, given the study timelines
 - Transfer applications are handled in the summer
- Will there be any consideration for students on the EDP waitlist
 - Applications are handled through the City
 - The toddler and preschool will be available at the school, though it may not open immediately
- Will there be any considerations for personal circumstances with respect to childcare pickup?
 - We are currently trying to determine the start times/childcare provisions
 - Personal circumstances are handled through transfer applications
 - More information will be provided before the end of the school year
- Is there any possibility of changing the proposed grade structure
 - No, the school will be a K-6 school
- How are feeding patterns determined? Is there flexibility in these options?
 - We encourage everyone to provide feedback of their preferred feeding pattern option
 - Please note that siblings will likely be grandparented at their existing schools to keep kids together
 - We still need to determine the transportation costs
- When will the new secondary school be provided?

- It is indeterminate at the moment
- Can you please provide more rationale for this grade structure?
 - 7-8 students take up more room at the new school
 - If we expand the grade structure to include 7-8 students, the school would be well over capacity
- The changing of schools frequently can have negative effects on students? Has there been thoughts on speeding up the timeline for transfers?
 - We understand the uncertainty, and we are reviewing the timelines
 - However, the Ministry wants the new school to be filled
 - We want the new school to be welcoming, and have resources in place for students
 - We review individual circumstances for all transfer applications
 - We also review the sending schools capacity and resources
- There are concerns with providing stability to schools as well as concerns with Emily Carr having multiple entrances.
 - In this scenario we encourage all transfer applications to detail all individual circumstances that warrant the transfer.
- Is there any consideration for large families that scale multiple grades? How do we handle this request? There is uncertainty with respect to childcare.
 - These scenarios can be discussed after the meeting as it is individual.
- Will the school have MFI?
 - We are currently phasing out Middle French Immersion
 - The MFI school in this area is either Trillium, or Convent Glen/Henry Larsen - depending on where the student lives
 - There is also the option for fluid entry into EFI
- Will the new elementary school have a language school?
 - Language schools are a “Community Use of School” project, at this time we are uncertain.
 - Please contact us and we can provide you with their information.
- What features are available at the new school?
 - This information is available online on our FAQ. Please note that we do not share floorplans of the school with the general public.
 - We will also have HVAC.

- The project will be a rebuild of many of the new schools that we have constructed recently in Riverside South/Kanata.
- How do we further encourage/lobby for a new secondary school?
 - We are unsure as to when the province prepares a Capital Call
 - In general, Capital Calls occur annually
 - In general, we have a lower yield in Orleans compared to the other school boards
 - We are hoping to argue with Geography in this case, as the secondary numbers are not currently viable for a new school
 - We encourage you to discuss your excitement for a new secondary school with your local MPP
- Is this eastern boundary area set in stone?
 - Please provide suggestions on Engage OCDSB
- When does OSTA make a decision on the bus routes?
 - They will be preparing the bus routes after they receive the attendance boundary
 - We work closely with the Ontario School Transportation Network to provide different options for getting students to school
 - There are also certain hazards that are recognized by OSTA that are taken into account
 - You can contact OSTA for more information
- Will sidewalks be constructed for the school?
 - This is a City of Ottawa question.
 - Questions with respect to road improvements are to be directed to the City of Ottawa.
- Can transfers be submitted for any other schools?
 - Yes, transfers can be submitted to any of the schools in the district.
 - Please note that space available does not necessarily mean a transfer will be approved.
- Has there been a transportation impact assessment to get into this community?
 - The City of Ottawa is well aware of the development in this area and we are hoping that they pay attention to improvements that need to be made.

- When will we know about the teachers and staff at the new school?
 - We need to determine the boundary first and other impacts of the new school, before we can proceed with staffing options
- What activities will be made available to intermediate students at the new school?
 - Part of opening a new school is welcoming students and we will have many options for students
 - The staggered opening grade structure will offer a greater chance for younger students to participate in extracurricular activities
- When will bus routes be made available?
 - Bus routes may take until August, but bell times will be established earlier than August

The presentation finished at 8:12pm, followed by a one-on-one question and answer sessions from staff, principal, and superintendent.