

Working Group Meeting #1 Notes

Schools/school councils and community associations in attendance:

Dunning-Foubert ES (DFES)
Emily Carr MS (ECMS)
Glen Ogilvie PS (GOPS)
Henry Larsen ES (HLES)
Bradley Estates Community Association (BECA)

Convent Glen ES (CGES) was invited to the meeting but representatives were unable to attend.

One member of the public attended as an observer. Board staff were also present.

Welcome/Introductions

Overarching goals:

- Set a boundary for the New East Urban Community ES (EUCES) to reflect the provincial investment in this area
- Address overcrowding at DFES

Primarily require Working Group input and feedback regarding staff proposals pertaining to the following issues regarding EUCES:

- 1) Program offering
- 2) Opening grade structure
- 3) Attendance boundary

Other Working Group information:

- Looking for initial community feedback regarding proposed feeding patterns and to narrow options to present at a future Public Consultation meeting
- Usually consensus basis
- The public is welcome to attend and observe Working Group meetings. Participation is limited to members of the Working Group.

Information Package

Introduction:

- Need to address growth at schools serving East Urban Community and Mer Bleue area
- Overview of impacted schools (CGES, DFES, ECMS, GOPS and HLES) and their current utilization levels
- Explanation of study process/timeline:
 - two Working Group meetings (December 9, 2025, January 8, 2026)
 - one Public Consultation meeting (tentatively scheduled for late January 2026)
 - written recommendation report (late February 2026)
 - final approval of program offering, opening grade structure and attendance boundary by OCDSB Supervisor (mid March 2026)

- Study information/resources will be posted to [OCDSB Engage](#)
- Opportunities for public feedback will be available throughout the process on [OCDSB Engage](#)

1) Information regarding proposed program offering:

- Dual track English with Core French and Early French Immersion programming is proposed
- This is the standard programming in our new schools
- Projected enrolments for the new school and study schools support dual track programming in this geographic area of the District

Working Group feedback regarding proposed program offering:

Comment: French is valued in this geographic area, so French Immersion is appreciated.

After group discussion, support was expressed for the proposed English with Core French and Early French Immersion program offering.

2) Information regarding proposed opening grade structure:

- JK to Grade 5 is proposed for 2026-2027, moving to JK-Grade 6 in 2027-2028
- This opening grade structure prevents students from attending 3 different schools in 3 years:
 - grade 5 at original school in 2025-2026
 - grade 6 at EUCES in 2026-2027
 - grade 7 at a different school in 2027-2028

Working Group feedback regarding proposed opening grade structure:

Q - At one time, the grade structure was announced as JK-8. Is this correct?

A - No, the grade structure is JK-6.

Q - If the new school is going to have a JK-6 grade structure, could GOPS also extend its grade structure from JK-5 to JK-6?

A - Board staff will consider this feedback and discuss it at the next meeting.

Q - Should the final grade structure be JK-5 instead of JK-6 to manage/decrease projected enrolment growth? Other elementary schools in this area have a JK-5 grade structure.

A - No, the Ministry of Education is expecting a JK-6 grade structure.

After group discussion, support was expressed for the proposed opening grade structure of JK-5.

3) Information regarding proposed attendance boundary:

- Location of EUCES school site in comparison to designated schools
- Future residential development in EUC and Mer Bleue area (approximately 11,265 units still to be built)
- The proposed attendance boundary addresses three issues and has three components:
 - Accommodation pressure at Dunning-Foubert ES (DFES component)
 - Mer Bleue area attendance boundary areas of Convent Glen ES and Henry Larsen ES that are separated geographically from these two school sites (CGES/HLES component)
 - The need to create a local attendance boundary around the EUCES school site, which is currently directed to Glen Ogilvie PS and Emily Carr MS (GOPS/ECMS component)
- Five year enrolment projections were discussed for the proposed EUCES boundary and all affected schools.

Working Group feedback regarding proposed attendance boundary:

Q - Forest Valley ES (FVES) is located close to the study area. Should it be included?

A - The FVES attendance boundary is not impacted by the proposed EUCES attendance boundary, so Board staff did not invite the school to join the Working Group. Given the question was raised by the Working Group, Board staff will consider this feedback and discuss it at the next meeting.

Q - The projected enrolment for EUCES increases rapidly and there are 18 portables shown on the site plan. Should the proposed attendance boundary be adjusted to lessen these impacts?

A - 18 portables are shown on the site plan for future planning purposes and to avoid additional approvals with the City in the future. Our new schools are often designed to accommodate additions in the future. Also, we have additional elementary school sites reserved in the proposed attendance boundary, which we would hope to develop in the future to manage projected enrolment growth in this area. Our new schools are designed to accommodate long-term community population, not the “bulge” in population that happens as new communities are initially established and growing.

Q - The projected JK numbers at the new school are large in the future. Will the school be able to accommodate those numbers of students?

A - The school has 7 kindergarten rooms.

Q - Should the attendance boundary be changed (ie made smaller) to lessen projected enrolment in future years?

A - We designed the boundary to address three specific issues:

- Alleviate accommodation pressure at DFES
- Provide more local access to a school that's geographically closer to the Mer Bleue area portion of the CGES and HLES attendance boundaries
- Provide a local geographic boundary around EUCES

If we want to change the proposed boundary, which of the above areas should we consider?

Q - Could the DFES and CGES/HLES components of the proposed boundary be directed to Avalon PS (APS) and/or Summerside PS (SPS) instead? These schools are located closer to these components than EUCES. Students living in this area could walk or bike to these schools, but they won't walk/bike to EUCES.

A - We need to populate EUCES. We are also concerned that adding additional boundary area to APS and/or SPS would cause accommodation pressure in the future, given there is future residential development proposed in this area.

Q - Could the DFES Mer Bleue portion of the proposed boundary be directed to HLES instead?

A - HLES does not offer the English with Core French program in grades 1-5. Additionally, this redirection would complicate high school feeding patterns, as DFES and HLES feed to different high schools.

Q - The future enrolment projections for the new school show high enrolment. How receptive will the Ministry of Education be to a future request for an additional elementary school in this area of the District?

A - The Ministry's Capital Project process is typically an annual exercise. We submit business cases to request new schools/additions to schools. Accommodation pressure at existing schools helps support the business case for additional schools the OCDSB requires.

Q - Will bussing be a concern with this proposed attendance boundary?

A - OSTA determines the hazards and bussing routes. Students currently living in the proposed boundary area are eligible for busing to existing schools.

Q - Do we know which area of future residential development will occur next in this area?

A - We believe EUC Phase 2 will be the next to be developed.

Q - There is a small area south of the Mer Bleue area that is not included in the proposed boundary. Should it be?

A - This area is part of the Heritage PS boundary. We felt it should remain directed to Heritage PS.

Q - You do not want to direct the DFES and CGES/HLES components of the proposed boundary to Avalon PS or Summerside PS due to possible future enrolment pressure at these schools. Could you perform the analysis of directing this area to the above-mentioned schools? We would like to see the projected enrolment numbers.

A - Yes, we will do this analysis and present the information at the next Working Group meeting.

Q - There is a dangerous intersection in proximity to the school (Navan Road and Renaud Road). Safety concerns may be expressed. Is there anything we can do about this intersection?

A - OSTA will establish the hazards for the attendance boundary. It would be prudent to reach out to your City councillor and express your concerns. The Ottawa Safety Council is also a resource.

Comment: It's hard for people who live in proximity to Avalon PS/Summerside PS not to have access to these schools.

Comment: Overall, the proposed boundary makes sense. It alleviates enrolment pressure at DFES.

Comment: DFES is experiencing enrolment pressure which needs to be reduced.

After group discussion, support was expressed for the proposed attendance boundary. Board staff will explore a suggestion regarding the implications of directing portions of the proposed boundary to Avalon PS/Summerside PS instead. This information will be presented at the next Working Group meeting.

Information regarding proposed grade 7 to 8 feeding patterns:

When discussing the proposed boundary, questions were raised regarding grade 7 and 8 feeding patterns (ie after students complete grade 6 at EUCES, what school(s) will they be directed to for grade 7 and 8? It was felt that having additional information on this topic might further inform the conversation about the proposed boundary.

Three options were discussed:

Option 1 - Status Quo Feeding Pattern

This option would leave the current feeding patterns in place:

- The area previously directed to DFES will return to DFES for grade 7 and 8.
- The area previously directed to CGES/HLES will go to HLES for grade 7 and 8.
- The area previously directed to GOPS will go to Emily Carr MS for grade 7 and 8.

Students currently attending these schools would be redirected to EUCES, then return to their originally designated schools for grades 7 and 8.

Working Group feedback regarding Option 1:

Comment: DFES enrolment would be reduced, but it would still operate at full capacity. It is a small school, with a challenging layout, small gym, etc. It would be preferable to reduce enrolment further. The intermediate experience is different than at larger schools with more space available to them.

Comment: Support for this option was also expressed. DFES is seen as the closest “neighbourhood school” and there is interest to return to it for grades 7 and 8. Would like to continue to attend a school that feeds to Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS.

After group discussion, support was expressed for considering Option 1 at the next Working Group meeting.

Option 2 - Streamlined High School Feeding Pattern

This option would direct grade 7 and 8 students to either DFES, or HLES, depending on their designated grade 9 secondary school.

- The area previously directed to DFES will return to DFES for grade 7 and 8. After they graduate from DFES, they will go to Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS for grades 9-12 along with all of the DFES cohort.
- The area previously directed to CGES/HLES and GOPS will go to HLES for grade 7 and 8. After they graduate from HLES, they will go to Cairine Wilson SS for grades 9-12 along with all of the HLES cohort.

Working Group feedback regarding Option 2:

Comment: BECA would probably be OK with this option.

Comment: HLES seems far away, prefers current direction to ECMS.

Comment: DFES has accommodation pressure which should be reduced.

Comment: In the Mer Bleue area, the preferred route of travel is north right now.

Comment: Concern heard from families about children split amongst various schools.

After group discussion, the Working Group decided to remove this option from consideration moving forward.

Option 3 - Streamlined East Urban Community Feeding Pattern

This option would direct all grade 7 and 8 students to ECMS after they graduate from EUCES.

Working Group feedback regarding Option 3:

Comment: The grade 8 cohort will feed to three high schools. Currently, it feeds to two high schools.

Comment: Enrolment at ECMS will increase to a point where it could be challenging to operate smoothly as an open concept school. Portable classrooms would probably be required. They have been used in the past. Currently, with a lower enrolment than is projected under this option, all classrooms are in use.

Comment: The grade 6 cohort at ECMS would be smaller than grade 7 and 8. This is not a concern.

Comment: If ECMS experiences enrolment pressure with this option, GOPS could expand its grade structure to JK-6. Forest Valley ES would also need to be considered for a similar change.

Comment: The eastern edge of the proposed EUCES boundary is Tenth Line Road. This is a long distance away from ECMS and it would feel like a long distance to travel.

After group discussion, the Working Group decided to remove this option from consideration moving forward.

The Working Group requested that two additional options be researched and presented at the next Working Group meeting:

Additional Option 1

- The area previously directed to DFES is directed to HLES
- The areas previously directed to HLES and ECMS is directed to ECMS

Working Group feedback regarding Additional Option 1:

Q - Could ECMS feeding schools change their grade structure from JK-5 to JK-6 so ECMS could have a grade 7-8 grade structure?

A - Board staff will consider this feedback and discuss it at the next meeting.

Q - Current DFES boundary feeds to Sir Wilfrid Laurier HS. HLES feeds to Cairine Wilson SS. Could the DFES area be directed to a different school that feeds to Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS?

A - No, the other schools that feed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS are not part of this study.

Q - Where is the CGES/HLES component directed for high school?

A - Cairine Wilson SS

Q - Could GOPS change its grade structure from JK-5 to JK-6? Forest Valley ES would have to change too.

A - Board staff will consider this feedback and discuss it at the next meeting.

Comment: HLES is closer to the redirected area of DFES than ECMS.

Additional Option 2

- The areas previously directed to DFES and HLES are directed to HLES
- The area previously directed to ECMS is directed to ECMS

Working Group feedback regarding Additional Option 2:

Comment: Interested in this option.

Additional Discussion Regarding When To Split Cohorts

The above options regarding proposed grade 7 and 8 feeding patterns generated discussion regarding the preferred time to split cohorts as they move towards grade 9:

- 1) Split after grade 6 when students transition to middle school
- 2) Split after grade 8 when students transition to high school

Comment: Doesn't want to pick. The choice depends on what students/their families think is best. There are pros and cons to both options.

Comment: The decision depends on students/their families. The decision is student/family specific.

Comment: It makes more sense to split after grade 8 than grade 6.

Comment: Better after grade 8. These types of transitions are harder for younger students.

Next Steps

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2026 in the Library at Glen Ogilvie PS. We will present the requested options regarding grade 7 to 8 feeding patterns and additional information at that time.

At the meeting, we will also develop a plan for what information to present at the Public Consultation meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for the end of January 2026.

We will post the meeting information to the [OCDSB Engage](#) website shortly. We will advise you when the information is posted. Please feel free to inform your school communities that information is available at that time.

We will also post FAQs to the [OCDSB Engage](#) website in the near future.

Feel free to reach out to us via email (neweuces.study@ocdsb.ca) if you have any questions prior to the next Working Group meeting.