

EAST OXFORD ATTENDANCE AREA REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 29, 2026

6:00 PM

1. Welcome & Attendance

The meeting was officially started by Andrew Warboys

Attendees:

Andrea Ormston, Janice Pullin, Allie Murray, Michael Visser, Rose Jackman, Jessica Beecraft, Coby Sullivan, Andrew Warboys, Brian Way, Kellie Way, Linday Tribe. Alanda Murray, Nicole Collet, Sarah Wright, Markus Ryan, additional parents and community members

2. Overview of Attendance Area Review

Summary of the Attendance Area Review report from Thames Valley was presented. The discussion focused on potential boundary changes and their implications for EO and surrounding communities.

3. Key Concerns

- **Impact on rural families** - Potential disruptions to rural households and transportation challenges.
- **Student pathways** – Concerns about continuity and disruption due to changes in high school locations
- **Cost vs Value** – Comparison between the cost of portable classrooms versus maintaining enrollment at EO.

4. Goals & Proposed Solutions (AARC)

- **Maintain Current Boundaries for EO:**
 - Avoid implementation of Option 1 or Option 2
 - Lower risk approach
 - Respects family choice
 - Supports community values
- **Delay Decision-Making:**
 - Postpone until accurate enrollment numbers are available
- **Targeted Boundary Adjustments:**
 - Focus on moving students within Woodstock or north of Highway 401

- **Septic System Review:**
 - Current system operating close to capacity
 - Consider future upgrades
 - Explore the cost of replacement

5. Research & Finding

- **Community Survey:**
 - Door-to-door survey underway to determine actual enrollment in EO boundary (public vs. Private/Catholic schools)
 - Additional volunteers required
- **Enrollment Trends:**
 - Projected decline for 2026/27 (28 JK students currently enrolled vs 49 graduating students)
- **Boundary & Growth Concerns:**
 - Current boundary assumptions may not reflect slowing housing growth
- **Potential Student Loss:**
 - 81 out of 101 students in Sweaburg area indicated they may leave Thames Valley if boundary changes are implemented
 - Significant potential loss to other school systems

6. Perspective and Discussion Points

- **Key Discussion Themes**
 - Annual growth estimated at 1.6% in Oxford County
 - Importance of working constructively with Thames Valley
 - Need to understand both short-term and long-term planning
 - Lack of trustees and governance concerns
 - Consideration of a formal letter to the MPP and Ministry of Education
 - Possibility of requesting a delay until the next school board election
 - Importance of documenting unanswered questions and information gaps
 - Media involvement deemed unlikely to influence decision-making under administration
- **Financial Considerations**
 - Rural schools incur additional infrastructure costs (e.g., septic, well systems)

- Estimated \$20,000 required for a formal septic system quote
- Fundraised or donated money cannot legally be used for septic upgrades
- Emphasis on presenting cost-effective alternatives rather than disputing board data
- Highlight that retaining students keeps funding within Thames Valley

7. Communications

- Plan to provide updates via the EO Facebook page regarding the Review Committee's progress

8. Questions, Concerns & Suggestions

- Suggestion to maintain transparent and regular communication with the community
- Emphasis on a positive, solution-oriented approach in all efforts

9. Closing

- Andrew Warboys closed the meeting, confirming the updates will continue to be shared with parts via the Facebook group.