

REPORT TO:	☐ Administrative Council ☐ Program and School Services Advisory Committee ☐ Policy Working Committee ☒ Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee ☐ Board ☐ Other:
	For Board Meetings: ☐ PUBLIC ☐ IN-CAMERA
TITLE OF REPORT:	Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review – Final Attendance Area Review Report
PRESENTER(S): <i>(list ONLY those attending the meeting)</i>	Linda Nicholls, Associate Director Geoff Vogt, Superintendent of Facility Services and Capital Planning Ben Puzanov, Manager of Planning
REPORT AUTHOR(S):	Ben Puzanov, Manager of Planning Cassandra Harms, Planner
PRESENTED FOR:	☒ Approval ☐ Input/Advice ☐ Information
Recommendation(s): <i>(only required when presented for approval)</i>	THAT the attendance areas for Delaware Central PS and Parkview PS as shown in Appendix A to the May 14, 2024, report title “Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review – Final Attendance Area Review Report” be approved and that this take effect for September 2025; and THAT students who will be in Grade 8 in the year of implementation of the attendance area change and their siblings at Delaware Central PS be provided with the “legacy agreement option” to remain at their current school, with transportation (if eligible), for the duration of the school year of implementation.
Purpose:	The purpose of this report is to provide the final recommendations for the Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review. The final attendance area review report is included in Appendix B.
Content:	Background Enrolment at Delaware Central PS has been steadily growing due to housing development taking place in a portion of its attendance area that is in Komoka-Kilworth. Delaware Central PS is no longer able to accommodate the continued enrolment growth because of site and servicing constraints. The goals of this review were to: • Address the capacity challenges at Delaware Central PS and continue providing students with optimal learning environments; • Use available capacity at Parkview PS and designate students who live in Komoka-Kilworth but attend Delaware Central PS to a more proximal school; and • Better position TVDSB to pursue Capital Priorities Program funding from the Ministry of Education and improve places to learn in Middlesex County. This attendance area review is critical to continuing to provide students with the best learning environments for them to thrive, ensuring that TVDSB can seek future funding for permanent accommodations for students in the Municipality of Middlesex Centre, and providing enrolment pressure relief to

Delaware Central PS. The current Provincial capital funding model requires that existing space at schools be used efficiently before funding is made available for new schools and additions to existing schools. To secure funding for permanent accommodations in this area, it is recommended that the boundary change is made as soon as possible.

This review considers an attendance area change between Delaware Central PS and Parkview PS. After undertaking a student distribution analysis for the two schools, it was found that most of the enrolment pressure at Delaware Central PS was being generated by the portion of the attendance area located north of the Thames River in Komoka-Kilworth. This is due to the active housing developments in the area.

Community Feedback

An Attendance Area Review Committee meeting for this review was held on November 27, 2023. The Attendance Area Review Committee is comprised of parent and guardian volunteers from both school communities involved in this review. After the meeting, each school held their own meetings to gather feedback from their school communities, which was then used to prepare school-level reports to inform the final recommendations for this review.

The following key themes were found throughout the subcommittee reports:

- Subcommittees expressed concerns over student movement and wellbeing, specifically for students that may have recently moved into the community and had to attend a new school.
- The Delaware Central PS community expressed concerns related to availability of programming, extra-curriculars, and before and after school care if school enrolment decreases if the recommendations from this review are approved. The Parkview PS community expressed concerns around access to programming at the school if the school population were to grow significantly because of this review.
- The Parkview PS subcommittee expressed concerns about relying on several portables to accommodate students until funding for permanent accommodations can be secured.
- The Parkview PS subcommittee recommended the use of alternate schools in Middlesex Centre and Strathroy-Caradoc to accommodate the growing student population in Middlesex in place of Parkview PS.
- Both subcommittees recommended maintaining the existing enrolment cap at Delaware Central PS that is currently designating new families to Parkview PS in place of approving a permanent boundary change at this time.

In preparing the initial attendance area review report, Administration considered including additional schools. However, given the location and concentration of development pressure in a specific area of Komoka-Kilworth, designating students to schools in Coldstream or Strathroy-Caradoc was not practical and would significantly inconvenience families. In addition, some of the schools in Strathroy-Caradoc are experiencing their own enrolment pressure already.

Given the site constraints at Delaware Central PS and the need to ensure TVDSB continues to support the growth of Middlesex Centre, completing the boundary change at the earliest opportunity is necessary. Programming and

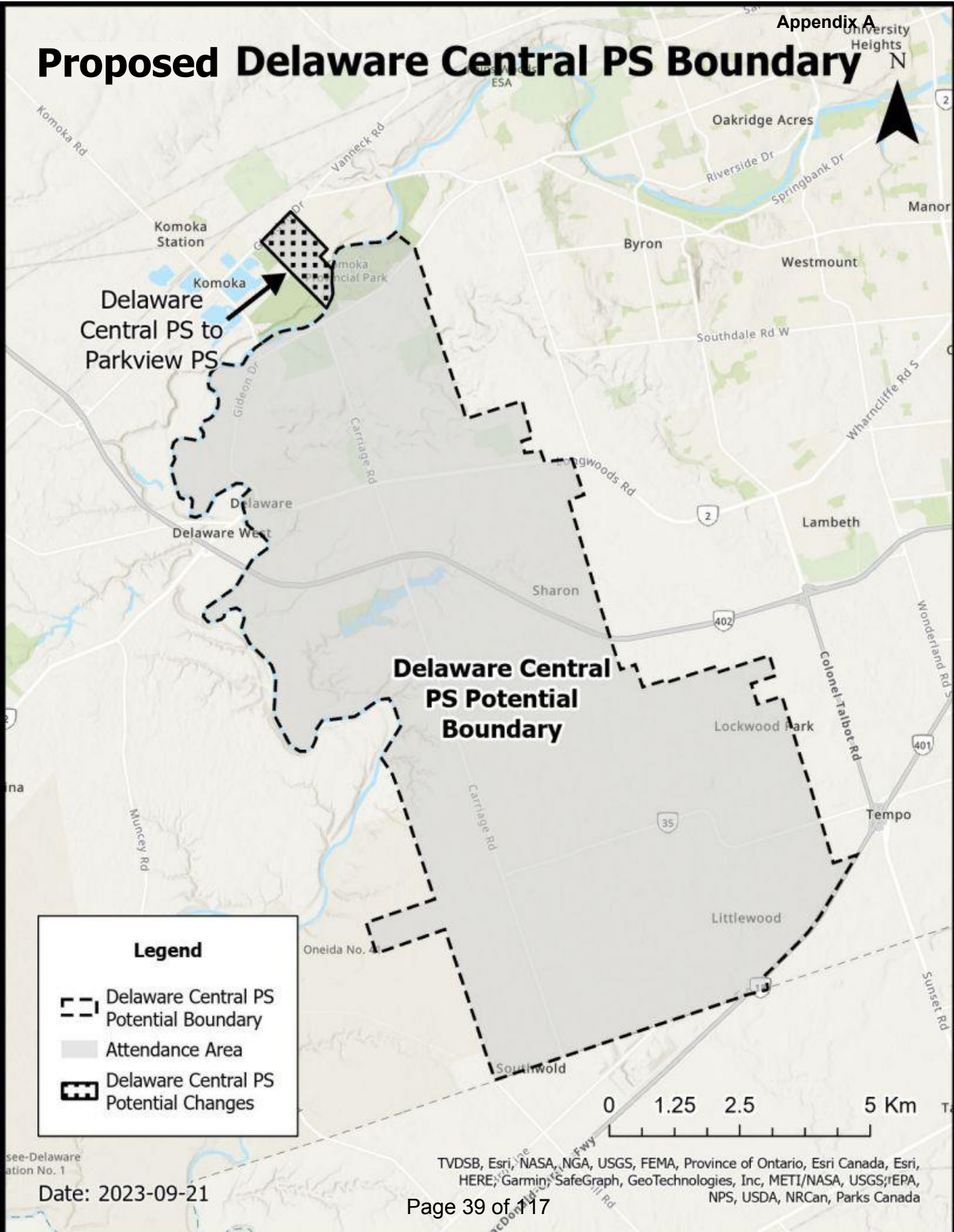
	extracurriculars at Delaware Central would not be adversely impacted because of the proposed boundary change as the school's enrolment would remain at an appropriate level to continue offering students exceptional educational and extracurricular opportunities.
Financial Implications:	If approved, the recommended boundary change would result in a net reduction of one bus.
Timeline:	The Final Attendance Area Review Report will be presented to the Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee Meeting on May 14, 2024. Public delegations are scheduled to be received on June 11, 2024. The process for requesting public delegation status is found on the TVDSB website. Applications for delegation status will be received between May 15, 2024, and June 5, 2024. The Board of Trustees is scheduled to deliberate and make a decision regarding the Final Attendance Area Review Report on June 25, 2024.
Communications:	The Final Attendance Area Review Report as well as the process for requesting public delegation status to address the Board of Trustees regarding the recommendations has been circulated to the attendance area review committee as well as all the school communities involved in the review via School Messenger.
Appendices:	<u>Appendix A:</u> Recommended Attendance Areas <u>Appendix B:</u> Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review – Final Attendance Area Review Report <u>Appendix C:</u> School Subcommittee Reports

Strategic Priority Area(s):

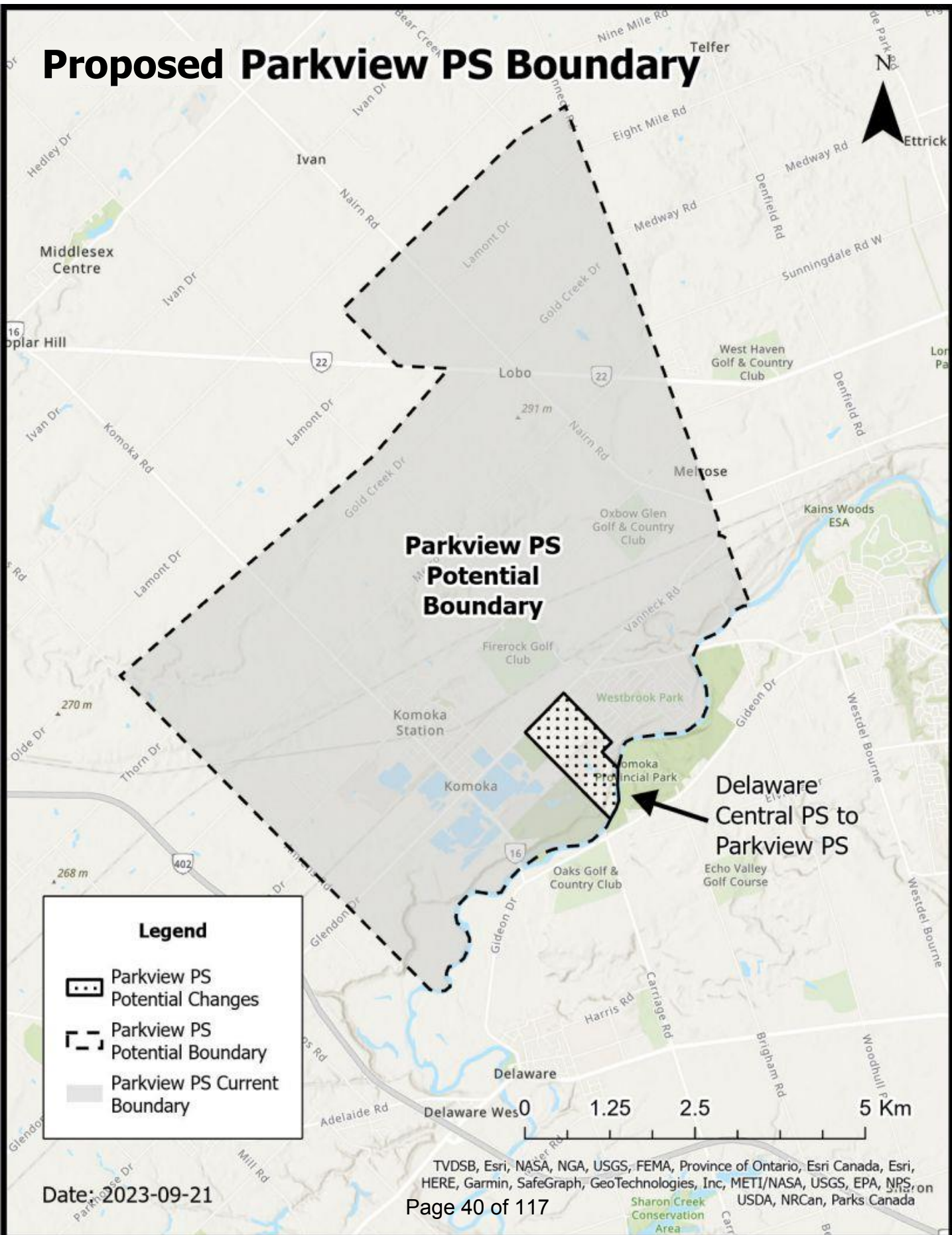
Relationships:	☒ Students, families and staff are welcomed, respected and valued as partners. ☐ Promote and build connections to foster mutually respectful communication among students, families, staff and the broader community. ☒ Create opportunities for collaboration and partnerships.
Equity and Diversity:	☒ Create opportunities for equitable access to programs and services for students. ☒ Students and all partners feel heard, valued and supported. ☐ Programs and services embrace the culture and diversity of students and all partners.
Achievement and Well-Being:	☐ More students demonstrate growth and achieve student learning outcomes with a specific focus on numeracy and literacy. ☐ Staff will demonstrate excellence in instructional practices. ☒ Enhance the safety and well-being of students and staff.

Form Revised JUNE 2021

Proposed Delaware Central PS Boundary



Proposed Parkview PS Boundary



Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review – 2023

Final Attendance Area Review Report

Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
1.0 Background	3
1.1 Analysis Parameters.....	3
1.2 Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review – 2023.....	3
2.0 Current Situation.....	4
2.1 Komoka-Kilworth and Delaware Study Area.....	4
2.2 Issues Under Review	6
3.0 Current and Projected Residential Growth and Community Trends.....	7
3.1 Current and Projected Residential Development	7
4.0 Proposed Attendance Area Changes.....	7
4.1 Delaware Central PS.....	7
4.1.1 Potential Changes.....	8
4.2 Parkview PS.....	10
4.2.1 Potential Changes.....	10
4.3 Expected Outcomes	12
5. Community Feedback	14
5.1 Key Theme: Student Movement and Wellbeing	14
5.1.1 Addressing Student Movement Concerns	14
5.2 Key Theme: Programming and Extra-Curricular Availability	14
5.2.1 Addressing Programming Concerns	15
5.3 Key Theme: Use of Portables Until a Permanent Addition is Secured	15
5.3.1 Addressing Concerns Related to Portables	15
5.4 Key Recommendation: Consider Using Alternative Schools with Space.....	16
5.4.1 Addressing Recommendation to Use Alternative Schools.....	16
5.5 Key Recommendation: Consider Maintaining the Current Enrolment Cap in Place of a Boundary Change	16
5.5.1 Addressing Recommendation to Maintain Current Enrolment Cap	16
6. Recommended Changes.....	17
6.1 Recommendation	17
6.1.1 Expected Outcomes	18

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of current and projected enrolment at two Middlesex County schools: Delaware Central PS and Parkview PS. The recommendation contained within this report aims to relieve enrolment pressure in the short-term while also helping to better position the Thames Valley District School Board to receive Capital Priorities Program funding for permanent accommodations in Komoka-Kilworth. This report is not intended to be a stand-alone document and should be referenced in conjunction with other Board strategies, policies, and objectives.

The primary goals of this study are to consider short and long-term enrolment and space needs in Middlesex Centre, ensure that students continue to have exceptional learning environments, relieve enrolment pressure at a facility that was not designed for a large student population, and better utilize space at the subject schools to effectively demonstrate a need for additional capital investment from the Ministry of Education. The background analysis for this review included a broader study of current and projected enrolment across Middlesex County, current student distribution, as well as active and planned residential development.

Given the scope of this review, one potential solution is proposed to address the capacity issues at Delaware Central PS. This boundary adjustment not only allows students residing in Komoka-Kilworth currently attending Delaware Central PS to attend a more proximal school but relieves pressure at Delaware Central PS while bolstering a future business case for Komoka-Kilworth. The proposed boundary change was formulated with consideration to natural geographic features and proximity to nearby schools.

Delaware Central PS has experienced increasing enrolment over the past few years primarily due to development activity in the portion of the attendance area located in Komoka-Kilworth. Administration recently implemented an enrolment cap at the school that took effect on January 1, 2024 and designates new families residing in that portion of the attendance area to Parkview PS until permanent accommodations can be provided. This review seeks to pave the way for future capital funding for the community.

The recommendation was made after carefully considering feedback received from school subcommittees and rationale has been provided to address concerns expressed through the reports submitted by those subcommittees.

1.0 Background

TVDSB is a vast district that covers several growing communities in southwestern Ontario. Many municipalities in Middlesex County continue to grow; with increased migration from the Greater Toronto Area several communities have expanded significantly. Delaware Central PS is located within the community of Delaware. It occupies a small site and operates on a private septic system, limiting the number of students that can be accommodated on site.

In 2018, TVDSB undertook an attendance area review, the Western Middlesex Attendance Area Review (WMAAR), to review attendance boundaries of schools located within Middlesex County. As a result of this review, a large area of ongoing housing development was redesignated to Delaware Central PS in order to ease enrolment pressure at Parkview PS. Several years have passed since implementation of the changes from the WMAAR and enrolment trends at TVDSB have changed. With the anticipated growth from ongoing development in Kilworth and the broader Komoka-Kilworth community, TVDSB will be submitting a request for capital funding to the Ministry of Education in order to build an addition at Parkview PS.

1.1 Analysis Parameters

Attendance area reviews are undertaken in order to balance enrolment and optimize the utilization of schools. In doing so, TVDSB is able to continue providing exceptional learning spaces for students and better position itself to receive capital funding from the Ministry of Education, which funds new schools and additions for all school boards across the province. When existing facilities and resources are being used efficiently, it demonstrates to the Ministry that increasing enrolment requires new infrastructure to be accommodated properly.

The schools involved in this review are as follows:

- Delaware Central PS
- Parkview PS

1.2 Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review – 2023

The purpose of this report is to highlight the technical aspects of the current enrolment imbalances between the two subject schools as well as the operational challenges faced at Delaware Central PS. The proposed boundary change provides a solution to better accommodate the growing Komoka-Kilworth community while the TVDSB seeks additional funding from the Ministry of Education for permanent accommodation for the projected student population.

2.0 Current Situation

2.1 Komoka-Kilworth and Delaware Study Area

The impetus for undertaking an attendance area review in this area is the enrolment pressure and site constraints at Delaware Central PS. As a result of WMAAR, a portion of students residing in Komoka-Kilworth attend Delaware Central PS. At the time of that decision, there was available capacity at Delaware Central PS to relieve enrolment pressure at Parkview PS. Now, with housing development continuing at a rapid pace in the new subdivisions in Kilworth, Delaware Central PS has reached its maximum capacity for students. The small school site and limited sanitary capacity prevents the addition of more than three portable classrooms, with two currently on site and more than three projected to be needed by September of 2024. Separate from this attendance area review, TVDSB will be implementing an enrolment cap at the school that will take effect on January 1, 2024 and will designate new families residing in that portion of the attendance area located in Komoka-Kilworth to Parkview PS. The cap would not affect students from First Nations communities.

Parkview PS is currently operating at its on-the-ground capacity, with one portable classroom on site. This school serves a large attendance area and contains some undeveloped land that has been designated for future housing development. Parkview PS is located on a larger site and can accommodate approximately ten portable classrooms.

The attendance areas adjacent to Delaware Central PS and Parkview PS, including Caradoc PS, Caradoc North PS, Centennial Central PS, Oxbow PS, and Valleyview Central PS are experiencing their own enrolment pressure and housing development and/or are serviced by private sewage disposal systems. In addition, all listed schools have large attendance areas, making it difficult to permanently accommodate students from Komoka-Kilworth nearby.

Figure 1 below shows the current utilization of the schools involved in this review as of September 2023.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of students within the Parkview PS and Delaware Central PS attendance areas. There is a large concentration of students within the portion of the current Delaware Central PS attendance area north of the Thames River located in Komoka-Kilworth.

Figure 1: Utilization Rates by School

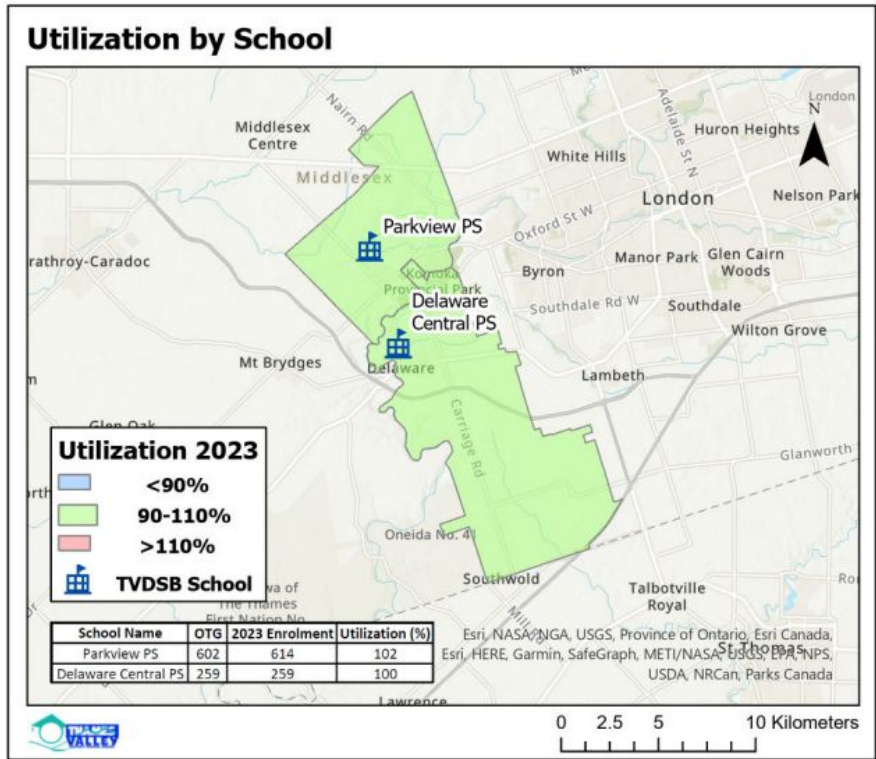
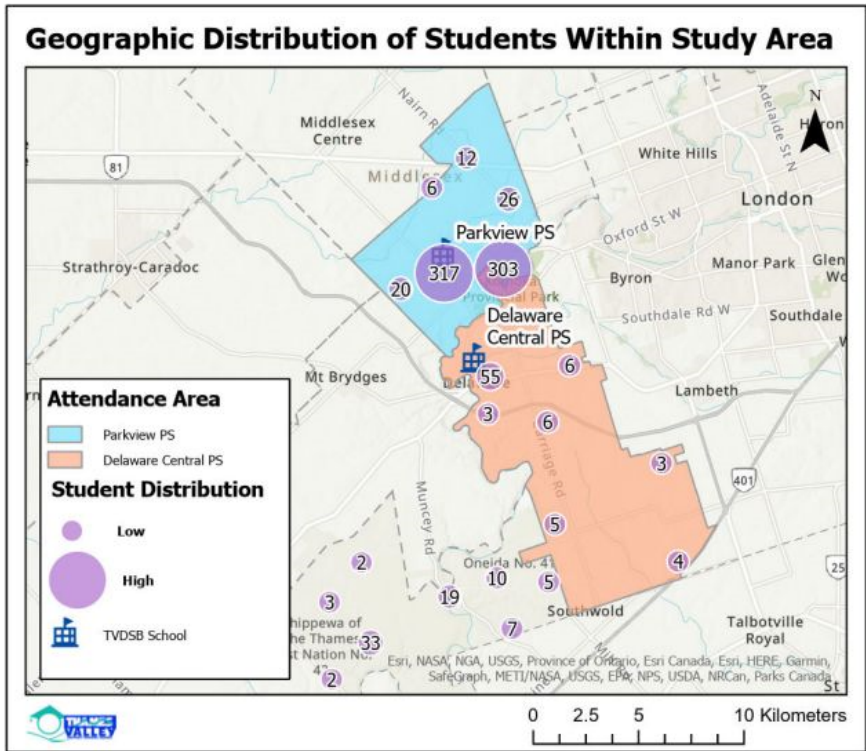


Figure 2: Geographic Distribution of Students Within Study Area



2.2 Issues Under Review

Preliminary enrolment figures as of September 2023 were used for this review as this is the most recent data available. Because of the portion of Komoka-Kilworth currently designated to attend Delaware Central PS, enrolment at this school is projected to increase significantly over the coming years in a status quo scenario. Delaware Central PS does not operate on municipal sanitary services and therefore has limited capacity to accommodate enrolment growth. In addition, the school site is small and has limited space for portable classrooms. The maximum number of portables that can be accommodated on site is three; with two on site currently. The maximum number of portables is projected to be exceeded by September 2024.

Parkview PS has sanitary capacity to accommodate additional students. TVDSB will submit a business case to support an addition at this school while redesignating local students to their more proximal school and relieving enrolment pressure at Delaware Central PS.

Table 1 illustrates the current and projected utilization for the two schools involved in this review if no intervention is undertaken. As shown in the table both schools continue to grow, primarily due to housing development in Komoka-Kilworth.

Table 1: Status Quo Projected Enrolments and Utilizations

School	Capacity		Portables				Enrolment				Utilization			
	OTG	Current Usage	2023	2025	2027	2032	2023	2025	2027	2032	2023	2025	2027	2032
Delaware Central PS	259	259	2	5	6	6	259	300	333	323	100%	116%	129%	125%
Parkview PS	602	614	1	2	3	5	614	636	661	720	102%	106%	110%	120%

It is important to note that the actual number of portables required to accommodate growth at Delaware Central PS may be higher than what is shown in the table above due to specialized programming located in the school and the space requirements for that program.

Parkview PS is expected to grow on its own without the redesignation of Delaware Central PS students; however, it is better positioned to handle the growth from operational and site perspectives.

3.0 Current and Projected Residential Growth and Community Trends

3.1 Current and Projected Residential Development

There is significant growth taking place in the municipality of Middlesex Centre. As part of the recently approved Middlesex County Official Plan Update, population and housing projections were completed to help guide development in the county until 2046. Under all projected growth scenarios, Komoka-Kilworth is expected to experience moderate to strong growth with a variety of housing types.

Currently, there are 19 active housing development sites and six conceptual proposals of varying size within Komoka-Kilworth that will continue to contribute to growth at Parkview PS. There is significantly less development activity in Delaware as the community is serviced by private septic systems.

4.0 Proposed Attendance Area Changes

The following section outlines the recommended boundary adjustment between Parkview PS and Delaware Central PS. This boundary adjustment was developed based on the imminent need to provide relief at Delaware Central PS. This recommendation was developed by following logical geographic features to create the boundary as well as designating new neighbourhoods to their most proximal school.

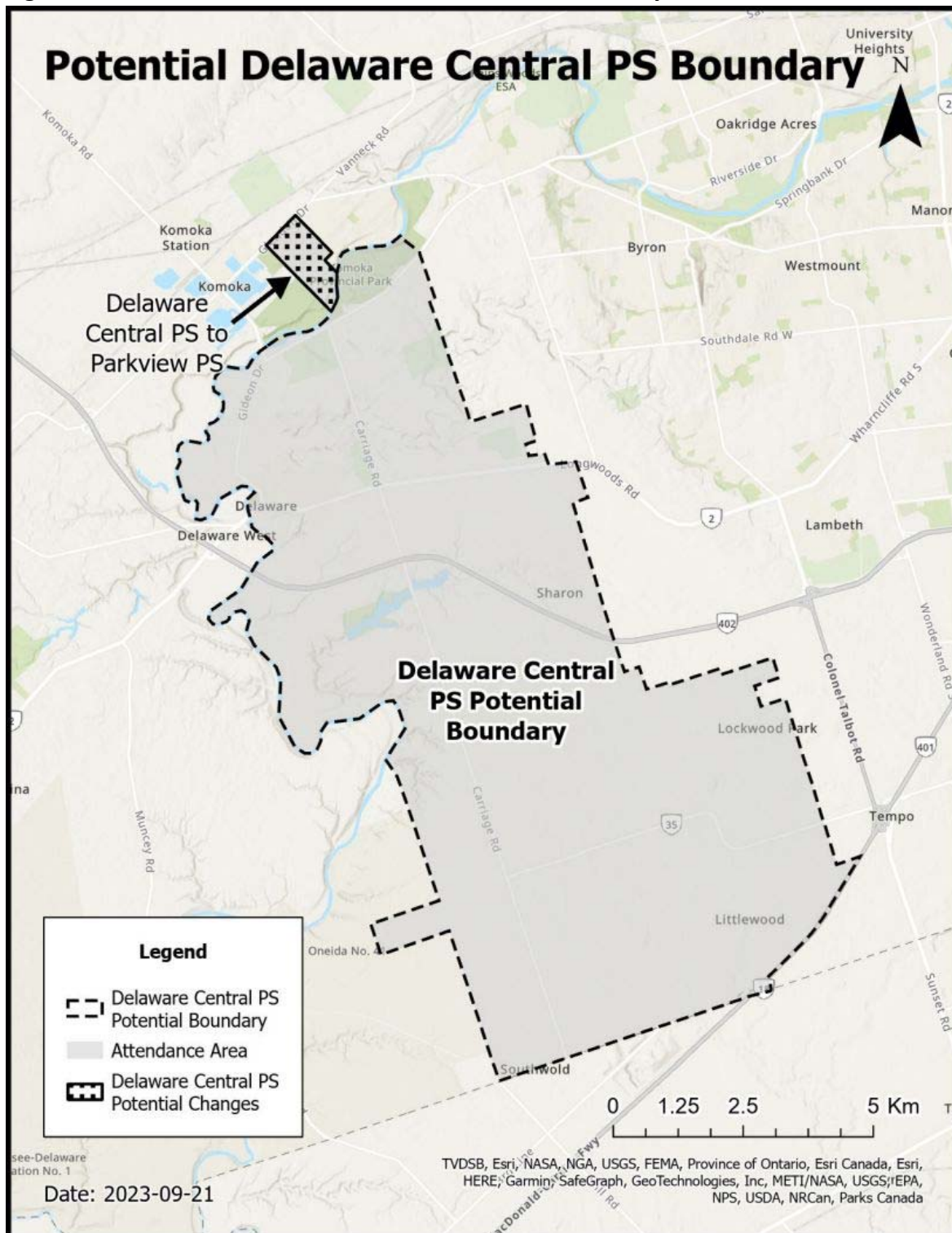
4.1 Delaware Central PS

Delaware Central PS received a portion of the Parkview PS attendance area through WMAAR and is now experiencing enrolment growth due to rapidly developing subdivisions. Given that municipal sanitary services are not available and that only a limited number of portable classrooms can be accommodated on site, Delaware Central PS is not positioned to accommodate the growth projected for the area on a long-term basis. After undertaking a student distribution analysis, it is evident that the majority of growth is concentrated within the Komoka-Kilworth portion of the current attendance area. Delaware Central PS has had an enrolment cap implemented to designate new growth away from the school. In anticipation of this attendance area review, Parkview PS was chosen as the interim accommodation school for all new families residing within the Komoka-Kilworth portion of the Delaware Central PS attendance area.

4.1.1 Potential Changes

As part of this review, it is recommended that the portion of Delaware Central PS attendance area located in Komoka-Kilworth, as per Figure 3, be accommodated at Parkview PS.

Figure 3: Potential Delaware Central PS attendance boundary



Moving From	Students (23/24)	Receiving School
Delaware Central PS	68	Parkview PS

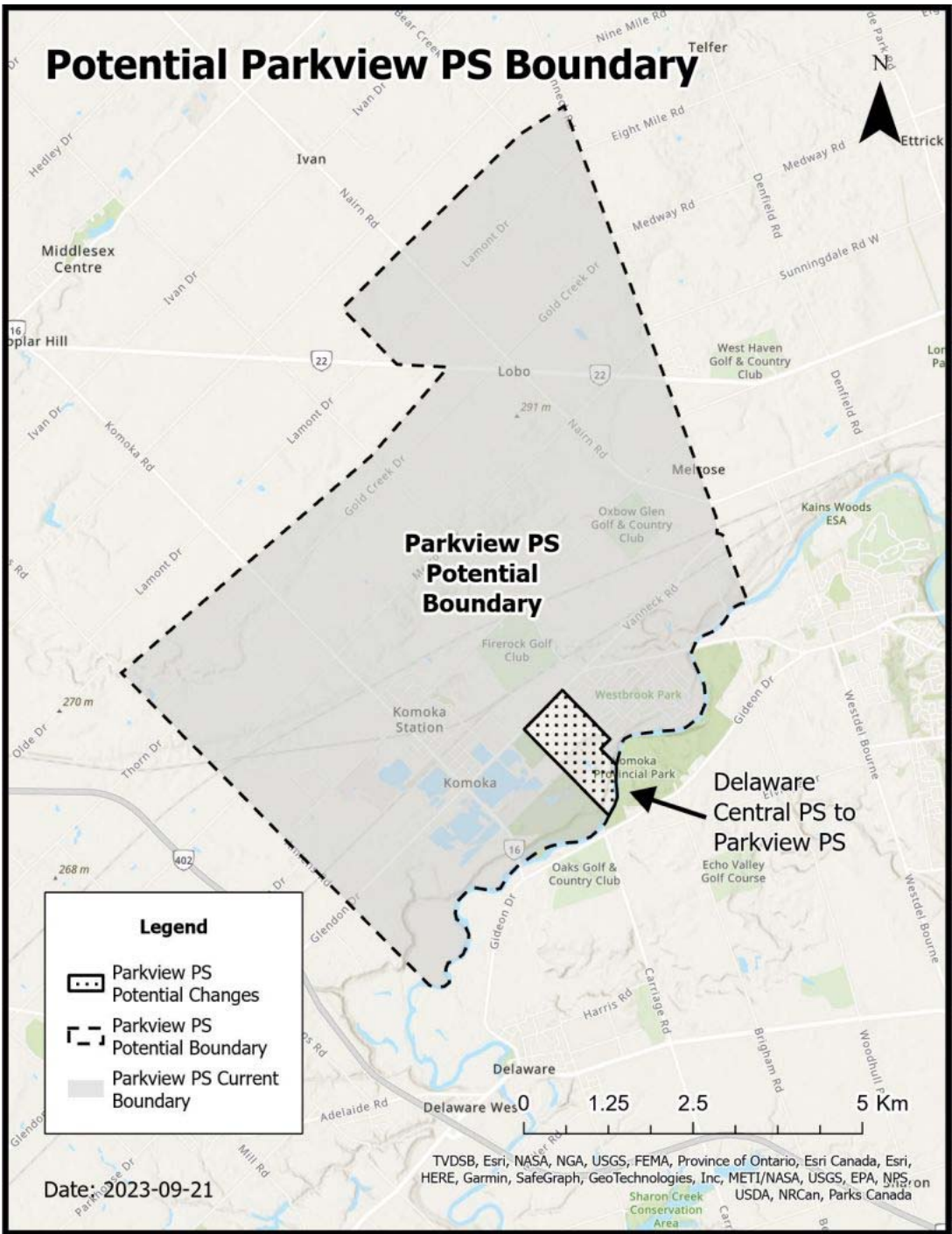
4.2 Parkview PS

Parkview PS is experiencing enrolment growth. Given the development proposed for this area, an addition to the school will be needed. There is also an opportunity to relieve enrolment pressure at neighbouring Delaware Central PS. Parkview PS is located on a larger site with full municipal services and can accommodate the growth resulting from new developments in this area.

4.2.1 Potential Changes

As part of this review, it is recommended that Parkview PS permanently accommodate the portion of the Delaware Central PS boundary located in Komoka-Kilworth. Students currently attending Parkview PS are not proposed to be moved as part of this review.

Figure 4: Potential Parkview PS attendance boundary



Moving From	Students (23/24)	Receiving School
Delaware Central PS	68	Parkview PS

4.3 Expected Outcomes

If the change to permanently accommodate the portion of the Delaware Central PS attendance area in Komoka-Kilworth at Parkview PS is implemented, implementation would occur for September 2025 and enrolment at Delaware Central will decline below the school's capacity, providing relief for the school. Enrolment at Parkview PS will increase from 102% utilization in 2023 to approximately 127% in 2027. Enrolment would be accommodated at the school with portable classrooms until funding is secured for a permanent addition.

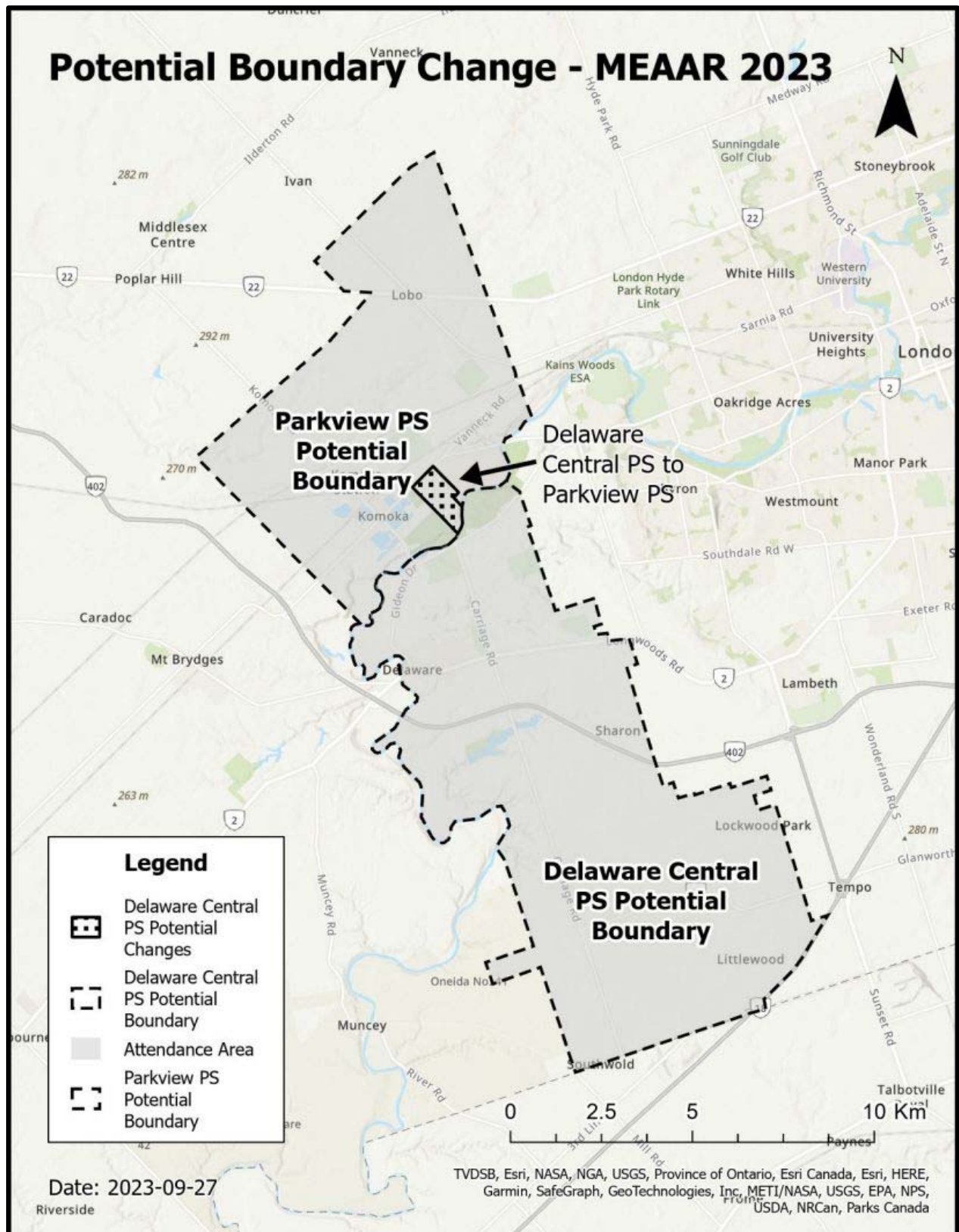
Table 2 illustrates the resulting enrolments and utilizations. Portable counts at Delaware Central PS are approximate given the specialized programming located at the school.

Table 2: Projected Enrolments and Utilizations Resulting from Boundary Change

School	Capacity		Portables				Enrolment				Utilization			
	OTG	Current Usage	2023	2025	2027	2032	2023	2025	2027	2032	2023	2025	2027	2032
Delaware Central PS	259	259	2	0	0	0	259	218	230	220	100%	84%	88%	85%
Parkview PS	602	614	1	5	7	10	614	718	763	823	102%	119%	127%	137%

Figure 5 shows the resulting attendance areas from the potential boundary change.

Figure 5: Potential Boundary Change for the Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review



5. Community Feedback

An Attendance Area Review Committee meeting for this review was held on November 27, 2023. The committee consists of volunteers from both school communities and the purpose of the meeting was to review the process for an attendance area review and the change that was being considered. After this meeting, both the Delaware Central PS and Parkview PS subcommittees hosted their own meetings for their school communities to provide feedback that would be compiled into subcommittee reports. These reports have been reviewed and considered by Administration as part of the preparation of this Final Attendance Area Review Report. The key themes and recommendations from the school communities are summarized below.

5.1 Key Theme: Student Movement and Wellbeing

One key theme raised by subcommittees was related to students changing schools and how it could impact their wellbeing. Subcommittees also raised concerns about utilizing students to secure funding for a permanent addition at Parkview PS.

5.1.1 Addressing Student Movement Concerns

Our district is one of the fastest growing areas in the country and with this growth come many challenges, including accommodating a rapidly growing student population. TVDSB always strives to provide the best spaces for student learning as possible, for both current and future students.

TVDSB is committed to creating strong learning environments for all students across the district and recognizes that change can be a very difficult time for families. The reality of the current funding structure for school boards in Ontario requires that existing resources be used in an efficient way before the Ministry of Education will grant additional funding for new schools and additions.

If a decision is made to approve the recommended changes contained within this report, transition committees will be established at the subject schools to assist students and their families with the changes taking place. Additionally, it has been established as standard practice by TVDSB through previous reviews to recommend legacy agreements for all students entering grade eight in the year of implementation in order to ensure students can graduate with their grade cohort.

5.2 Key Theme: Programming and Extra-Curricular Availability

The Delaware Central PS subcommittee raised concerns around availability of programming and extra-curricular activities if the number of students at the school decreases as a result of this review. Additionally, some families expressed concerns related to the availability of before and after school care.

5.2.1 Addressing Programming Concerns

As noted in section 4.3, if the recommended change were approved, Delaware Central PS would decrease to approximately 85% utilization, which TVDSB considers to be appropriate. Students will maintain access to high quality educational programming and enriching experiences as part of their daily schooling. TVDSB is committed to providing the best educational spaces possible for all students across the district.

Issues related to before and after school care will be addressed on a case-by-case basis with families.

5.3 Key Theme: Use of Portables Until a Permanent Addition is Secured

The Parkview PS subcommittee raised concerns related to the use of portable classrooms until funding can be secured for an addition at the school. Issues mentioned include the school's existing capacity to support up to 10 additional classrooms, impacts of portables on academic performance, and the change in TVDSB's position on portables at Parkview PS since the previously completed Western Middlesex Attendance Area Review (WMAAR).

5.3.1 Addressing Concerns Related to Portables

Portables are one of the few available tools to use in the absence of permanent funding when schools face persistent enrolment pressure.

The number of portables that can be supported by a school and its facilities is determined by a variety of factors, including the Ontario Building Code, operational needs as determined in partnership with school's administration and Superintendent, and unique site conditions at each site. In the case of Parkview PS, 10 portables could be accommodated. Students who may attend school in portables have access to the same educational and extra-curricular programming as those who attend brick and mortar buildings. Across Thames Valley, many students attend school in portables each day as TVDSB continues to pursue funding for more permanent solutions. With 72 school boards across the province competing for the same capital funding, it will take time to reduce reliance on portable classrooms in all Thames Valley communities.

Related to the Western Middlesex Attendance Area Review that was completed in 2019, TVDSB has changed significantly over the previous five years. The level of growth experienced in our communities and schools has been unprecedented. A very active housing market during the COVID-19 pandemic fueled growth across the district and put pressure on many schools. At the time that WMAAR took place, it was uncommon to see four portables at a rural or small-urban school; however, it is now uncommon to see single-school communities across Thames Valley without portables supporting the student population while we await funding for projects. In 2019, the existing student population could comfortably be accommodated within existing facilities, eliminating the need for portables altogether. Today, additional space is needed. Delaware Central PS has limitations for portables that could be accommodate on site based on septic capacity and at the same time there is an opportunity to accommodate students within their own community by designating them to Parkview PS.

5.4 Key Recommendation: Consider Using Alternative Schools with Space

The Parkview PS subcommittee proposed the use of Valleyview Central PS or Caradoc PS to alleviate pressure at Delaware Central PS.

5.4.1 Addressing Recommendation to Use Alternative Schools

During the preliminary stages of this review, Administration explored many options for boundary adjustments in Middlesex Centre and the surrounding area. Valleyview Central PS and Caradoc PS were both discussed as candidates for potential boundary changes; however, each school faces their own challenges that ultimately excluded them from this review and therefore Administration did not include them in the Initial Attendance Area Review Report.

Valleyview Central PS is located in Coldstream on private sanitary services. With the main objective of this review aiming to reduce enrolment pressure at Delaware Central PS, Valleyview Central PS was deemed to not be proximal enough and not a sustainable solution for the level of growth expected, given its lack of municipal wastewater services.

Caradoc PS is located in Mount Brydges and while connected to municipal servicing, it already has six portables on site and is facing continued enrolment pressure from its current attendance area due to the housing development taking place in and around Mount Brydges.

5.5 Key Recommendation: Consider Maintaining the Current Enrolment Cap in Place of a Boundary Change

As of January 1, 2024, an enrolment cap has been in place at Delaware Central PS to designate new families to attend Parkview PS while a more permanent solution for accommodation pressure is arranged. Both school subcommittees asked TVDSB to consider maintaining the current enrolment cap as an alternative to permanently changing the attendance areas of the schools at this time.

5.5.1 Addressing Recommendation to Maintain Current Enrolment Cap

Enrolment caps are meant to be a temporary measure to reduce enrolment pressure at a specific school while a more permanent solution is secured. In this case, maintaining an enrolment cap would mean that the enrolment pressure in Komoka-Kilworth would continue to build. However, this would occur in a dispersed manner and fail to signal to the Ministry of Education that there is an imminent need for additional capital funding. The issue of not having enough space for the growing student population remains. Based on the current grade distribution of students attending Delaware Central PS from the area proposed to be permanently designated to Parkview PS, it would take 10 years to make a change that would not impact any existing students. This timeframe also does not account for any siblings of those existing students that may not be of school age yet.

Addressing the issue now ensures that a business case for a permanent solution can be submitted at the next available opportunity.

All feedback from the subcommittees has been included as an appendix to the Final Attendance Area Review Report for Trustee review.

6. Recommended Changes

6.1 Recommendation

This attendance area review has resulted in the preparation of one recommendation to Trustees after reviewing the feedback received from both school communities. Included within the recommendation is a legacy agreement option to be offered to all students entering grade eight when the changes take effect and their siblings, for the first year of implementation, with transportation (if eligible).

Figure 6: Recommended Attendance Area Change between Delaware Central PS and Parkview PS



6.1.1 Expected Outcomes

After the recommended changes take effect, it is expected that utilization at Delaware Central PS will decrease to below 90% while utilization at Parkview PS will increase to above 120% by 2027.

Table 3: Projected Utilization Following Boundary Change

School	Capacity		Portables				Enrolment				Utilization			
	OTG	Current Usage	2023	2025	2027	2032	2023	2025	2027	2032	2023	2025	2027	2032
Delaware Central PS	259	259	2	0	0	0	259	218	230	220	100%	84%	88%	85%
Parkview PS	602	614	1	5	7	10	614	718	763	823	102%	119%	127%	137%



Thames Valley District School Board
Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

APPENDIX C

CONTENTS

Delaware Central.....	3
Parkview PS.....	8

Middlesex Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review Delaware Central Public School AARC Subcommittee Report

Date: February 15th, 2024

1. SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS & AFFILIATION

Junior: Megan Cole (Subcommittee Chair)
Junior: Joon Park
Primary: Emily Fard Subcommittee Secretary)
Kindergarten: Joshua MacDougall
School Council Chair/Primary: Carrie Parker
Kindergarten: Geoff Yates

2. SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETINGS

MEETING 1

Date: November 27th, 2023
Number of attendees: 10

MEETING 2

Date: January 30th, 2024
Attendees: 7

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a committee, we've discussed the proposed boundary change for Delaware Central PS, gathering feedback from a survey, two in-person/zoom meetings and committee discussions. Families from both the proposed Kilworth area boundary change and those within Delaware proper have shared their concerns and comments during this process.

The findings support students from the proposed Kilworth Boundary Change Area to continue attending Delaware Central PS.

Section 5 of this report lists feedback and concerns collected about switching the Parkview/Delaware school boundary (section5).

Our findings support a variation of the proposed Delaware Central PS to Parkview PS boundary change (see section 6).

3. BRIEF SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROFILE

Delaware Central PS current student population: 260 pupils
Approximately 85 students from the Kilworth/=Komoka boundary area

Delaware Central Public School currently draws students from Delaware, Kilworth/Komoka, Muncey Delaware Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames

We have 11 homeroom classes populating the school with 2 portables on site.

4. FEEDBACK REGARDING PROPOSAL

After reviewing feedback from the survey sent out to families at Delaware Central Public School, the results showed most families in favour of keeping current students from the Kilworth area at Delaware Central PS.

Summary of the feedback received

(Collected from parent survey, in person meetings and discussions)

**Italics below-comments directly from survey feedback*

Well-Being of the children

- 85+ students moved from Delaware Central PS will have a negative impact on class dynamics and disrupt friendships at both schools.
- Parent concern for their children who have been in and out of school and extra-curricular activities over the last few years- now begin to feel stability and it is taken away if they are forced to switch schools
- The Kilworth area consists of new homes. Many of these students have recently switched schools in the past 1-3 years when they moved to this area.
- Students are being used as a pawn to submit a business case for expansion. One school will be under capacity, while another is overpopulated with portables in an attempt to acquire Ministry funding.
- Children have access to sports teams and clubs at Delaware

Effects on Delaware Central Public School

- Concerns raised from Delaware Central PS families about teacher loss, resource allocation, and viability of sports clubs/extracurricular activities with a sharp decline in student population.
- No residential growth/development in Delaware. School can support/accommodate some catchment enrolment from Kilworth/Komoka 5 minutes down the road

Before and After Care

- Concern expressed over the amount of before and after care that will be available at each school. Will Parkview increase the number available spots to accommodate the massive influx of students from the Kilworth boundary change? Will Delaware continue to offer before and after school care? If a student has a spot at Delaware Central PS before and after care, will it be accommodated at Parkview PS? These questions were submitted to the MEARRC website but the answer provided states it is not within the school board control.

Divided Community

- There is a belief that a new school will be built in Kilworth and that this proposed change won't take effect anyway. This is not the case, it has been advised that the held land will be released back to the developer at the end of 2024.
- Parkview Public School Capability- concern about rapid growth of 85+ students at one time. Gym access, sports and clubs, will be affected.
- Concern that Delaware will be under capacity and Parkview PS will be drastically over capacity. Growth and development has slowed in the area over the past year with the economic and market changes.

Neighbourhood to the same school

- Kilworth neighbourhood Proximity to Parkview PS- closer for parents
- Neighbour friends that go to Parkview already and would move their child to Parkview. Bus that already will be going to Parkview because of the new boundary

Parent Comments:

- *A change in the boundaries without before and after care would be very problematic and would affect several families with two parents who work full time*
- *If the Kilworth kids are forced to leave Delaware, my kids will lose friendships that have been established.*
- *My kid is happy and comfortable at their school. Parkview is over crowded and my child benefits from being in such a space that is conducive to their learning*
- *If we loose students from the dotted area, we will loose great teachers from Delaware PS and this will have a huge impact on the school community.*
- *If Delaware were to lose the Kilworth students, what is the plan for Delaware? Future projections put Delaware down several classrooms in a couple years which means several teachers would be lost. Are you going to change boundaries (ie. Campbellville or south Caradoc now coming to Delaware) so that Delaware maintains its size or close to it? It doesn't make sense to have Delaware under-capacity and bordering schools overflowing.*
- *Keep Kilworth students continuing at Delaware. The growth at Delaware has only served to enrich and further diversify our close knit school community.*
- *Kilworth students have so many more opportunities at Delaware (being a smaller school) than they would get at Parkview regarding sport teams and clubs. For example, no cuts were made to the boys volleyball team. Everyone who wanted to play could...this opportunity would never happen at Parkview and students would miss out on such a valuable experience there. Parkview is too big.*
- *Delaware is projected to be down at least 100 students in a couple years. It doesn't make sense for Delaware to be under capacity and neighbouring schools to be jammed and over-flowing*
- *We want our child to go to Parkview. Ideally there will be a new school built in Kilworth/Komoka area.*
- *It brings my kids who are currently going to Delaware come closer to home I'm hoping that this change will ease the enrolment pressures Delaware has faced!*
- *My children switched schools one year ago when we moved into this area. There was no mention this was holding school and possible re-zoning so quickly. I am concerned for their well being if they are forced to switch schools again after finally settling in to a new school. There is a very large divide within the community since these committees were formed. Belittling of areas, schools, populations has been overheard around the community at sport events etc. Leave the children alone and plan moving forward not forcing them to move into portables hoping to quickly overpopulate a school*

3. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of the Delaware Central Public School AARC Subcommittee that all students from the Kilworth proposed boundary change area stay at Delaware Central PS, including their siblings, with new homeowners to the area registering at Parkview. This recommendation also includes the provision of ongoing transportation.

Considerations

- New homeowners to the Kilworth area would register new students to Parkview PS, gradually increasing the student population. This is the current enrollment cap implemented in January 2024.
- Current Delaware Central PS students residing within the proposed Kilworth boundary change district have the option to stay at Delaware Central with transportation provided.
- 70% of parents who responded to the Sub-committee survey expressed they want to keep the Kilworth student population at Delaware Central Public School because it enriches the school and
- Increase Parkview PS with organic growth through enrollment.
- Reduce the drastic shock of moving 85+ students at once
- Delaware Central PS will lose some of its student population if parents are given the option to move their student to Parkview PS at their discretion. This would alleviate the Delaware Central PS capacity issues while maintaining access to full sports teams and clubs.
- With the current slow down in development growth due to economic and market conditions, let the enrolment cap solve the solution

Middlesex Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review
Parkview Public School AARC Subcommittee Report
February 2024

1. SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS & AFFILIATION

Ursula Goudsbloem Chair
Daria Carter Secretary
Jeremy McLellen
Becky Haydon
Zoran Jankovic
Amanda Atwal Parent Council Rep
Jason Pratt Principal

2. SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- a. Date(s): January 29, 2024
- b. Number of attendees at meeting: 26
- c. Number of participants in discussion at meeting: 21

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is well understood that based on the development in the community, there is a shortage of educational space to host the growing number of students. If the proposed boundary change comes into effect, this will cause the student population at Parkview Public School to dramatically increase over the next several years, impacting consistent access to education and learning services.

The committee was developed to collect and discuss concerns presented by the Parkview community. We have come forward with several sustainable solutions to propose to the Trustees and TVDSB for consideration, while focusing on a minimal impact on the students and school community. The solutions identified we believe not only place students first, while being fair and equitable to the needs of the community, but also bolster a business case for an addition at Parkview PS. We hope our report helps the Trustees and TVDSB to effectively demonstrate a need for additional capital investment from the Ministry of Education promptly.

Questions were presented to the TVDSB and responses were received and relayed during the community meeting. For reference:

<https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/our-board/meaar-elementary-questions-and-answers.aspx>

3. BRIEF SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROFILE

Serving the growing communities of Komoka and Kilworth, Parkview Public School is situated in heart of Komoka. It is home to approximately 650 students, each striving for excellence in both their academic and personal pursuits. With a balance of tradition and innovation, Parkview's staff is committed to providing enriching learning experiences that engage and challenge all learners.

Our school has an active and committed School Council comprised of parents, staff, student representatives and community members. Since 1994 Parkview has been designated by Peaceful Schools International as a peaceful school and has been awarded Gold level by Ontario Eco Schools.

Parkview is a school with longstanding traditions and values which are deeply rooted in the community. The community feels very strong about "their" school, holding educational expectations to a high standard. During the 2019 Attendance Area Review, TVDSB was provided with very sincere and strong feedback from the community indicating how deeply rooted our families' values and connection with Parkview area. Furthermore, the feedback provided throughout the 2019 AAR demonstrated both how passionate and dedicated the community feels in regard to prioritizing the maintenance of a high level of education.

4. FEEDBACK REGARDING PROPOSAL

The concerns identified by the committee are as follows:

- Reports presented at the initial MEAARC presentation in November 2023, show Parkview will significantly go over capacity, with the solution to place portables (up to 10) before building an expansion (no given timeline). It is projected that in 2025 Parkview will be operating at a 120% capacity with 5 portables and Delaware to dip to 84% capacity and no portables.
- In 2019 when Parkview had 4 portables, it was deemed that Parkview was at overcapacity. This in turn triggered the MEAAR in 2019 which resulted in the boundary change. There is a vast discrepancy between the 2019 and current MEAAR discussion. No exceptional changes have been made to conclude that an additional 10 portables will fall within Parkview's current capacity guidelines. Based on this cascade, it is challenging to appreciate how Parkview is now able to accommodate a projected 10 portables? What has changed from 2019 to 2024?
- The report indicates that Delaware will go under capacity when the students from Kilworth Heights West will be placed at Parkview. Parkview will grow further over capacity with new students from Kilworth Heights West, the area near the water tower, and the area

- behind the arena and soon Renwick Estates (as listed in your report dated October 10/2023).
- TVDSB was unable to provide any data or research on the connection between school size and academic achievement. Parkview has excellent EQAO scores, and it is in the students/community best interest we to keep this scoring steady or improved. EQAO scores are being considered when families relocate and have factored into their decision making upon choosing this community. Overcrowded portables in excess have been found to hinder academic performance in Ontario (Riveros & Zhou, 2023).
- There are concerns that with the anticipated growth this will lead to an increase in overall class sizes and a reduction in overall access to physical education and music class. As per the Policy/Program Memorandum 138 (2017), all students in Ontario elementary school grades 1-8 are to receive a minimum of 20 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day during instructional time. Considering the lack of allocated space for physical activity each day in an overcrowded school, there are concerns that students will not reach these minimum requirements which may result in negative physical and mental health outcomes.
- Based on the current data and projected growth, we foresee that students and staff will no longer have equitable access to washrooms and sinks on a regular basis. Portables will not provide any additional bathroom facilities or in class access to water needed at times for science and other classes.
- As a result of the above, the mental health and safety of not just students, but also teaching and administrative staff is of serious concern. Chan (2009) has identified varying impacts on the effects of portable classrooms on student behaviour, achievement, and teacher morale. Overtime, this could contribute to more burnouts/sickness amongst staff and teachers. Students' misbehaviours were observed to occur in higher proportions when travelling to and from portables (Chan 2005). It is important to consider how rapid growth with negatively impact access to internal supports that students often require such as SLP and CLST, leading to increased wait times.
- In relation to current students at Delaware Public School, if the boundary is changed, will they be permitted to stay there, or will they eventually need to attend Parkview Public School after an initial grace period? This will contribute to their student population falling under capacity as projected.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

Our suggestions are as follows:

An immediate investment in the facility is required in anticipation of the planned population growth from Kilworth-Komoka. From the TVDSB initial report we learn that *“When existing facilities and resources are being used efficiently, it demonstrates to the Ministry that increasing enrolment requires new infrastructure to be accommodated properly.”* It is welcomed to learn: TVDSB will submit a business case to support an addition at this school while redesignating local students to their more proximal school and relieving enrolment pressure at Delaware Central PS.

- Families are choosing this catchment for the high standards Parkview has historically demonstrated. It is in poor business strategy to jeopardize the quality of learning; therefore, it is in TVDSB’s best interest to seek and attain capital funding by 2025 to facilitate an addition.
- Coordination to address the impending issues mentioned earlier in this report, that will arise because of significant enrolment expansion at Parkview is necessary. We ask the Trustees and TVDSB, provide leadership in making any change a complete success for all students involved; To seek capital funding from the ministry to invest in an addition as soon as 2025, based on the projected growth in the community (forecasted growth to 2027 of nearly 25% in student population).
- It is understood that portables have been earmarked for Parkview to prevent a void, however, the committee highly discourages to spend money on portables when an expansion is required anyway. The long term and expanded use of portables can act as a constant visual and psychological reminder of the divide between students in the actual building and who are not. This investment cannot be delayed and an application for expansion should be made to avoid impending stress on the infrastructure of Parkview. We understand that TVDSB is accountable for proper capital planning to provide appropriate learning spaces and this responsibility cannot be deferred. As Riveros (2023) states, “By normalizing portable structures as permanent buildings, the education system ends up shortchanging students and families in its promise to deliver quality public education opportunities for all students.”
- We request that the students from with the development of Renwick Estates, the area behind the water tower and behind the arena, could be diverted to Valleyview School? Could some of these students be redirected to Caradoc Public School in Mt. Brydges? We understand that students should ideally go to a geographically proximal school, however this would appear to be a reasonable interim solution.
- We ask the Trustees and TVDSB also to consider when the land in Kilworth Heights West, which is currently tendered for TVDSB, expires December 2024, to renew this contract. If this contract is renewed, this could expedite the process when a strong business case is presented to the MOE towards a funding application for a new school.
- Students at both Delaware and Parkview deserve an exceptional educational experience. Alleviating a capacity issue at Delaware cannot jeopardize the all-around educational experience of Parkview students (and vice-versa).

- We request that should the boundary be changed that busing become available for students residing in Kilworth Heights West effective September 2024 (as opposed to September 2025)
- We request that the Trustees also consider a granting an exemption for bussing to continue for 2-3 years for the families that choose to remain at Delaware Public School should the boundary be changed.
- We request that the Trustees allow current families who reside in Kilworth Heights West to continue to attend Delaware Public School for the remainder of their children(s) elementary school duration.
- Adamson and Astrand (2016) found that an overreliance on portable classrooms, specifically in periods of significant demographic growth, highlight the tremendous financial constraints imposed on school boards while reflecting the disinvestment that has shaped the structure and function of the educational system. We ask that the Trustees and TVDSB consider the tight knit, “small town” feeling we have in our community and that we cannot be compared to any other school in in nearby London or any other city within the TVDSB (or any larger communities for that matter when comparing provincially). Many local families have been attending Parkview for multiple generations or have chosen to move into this area to become a member of this wonderful and special community. Parkview School is one of the reasons this community is so desirable.

3. APPENDICES

References

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Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review

Final Attendance Area Review Report
Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee

May 14, 2024





Recommendations

THAT the attendance areas for Delaware Central PS and Parkview PS as shown in Appendix A to the May 14, 2024 report title “Middlesex Elementary Attendance Area Review – Final Attendance Area Review Report” be approved and that this take effect for September 2025; and

THAT students who will be in Grade 8 in the year of implementation of the attendance area change and their siblings at Delaware Central PS be provided with the “legacy agreement option” to remain at their current school, with transportation (if eligible), for the duration of the school year of implementation.

