

East Oxford Attendance Area Review School Council Meetings

2026-01-07 / 2026-01-19

School Council Questions and Feedback

Emily Stowe PS School Council

Capacity, Utilization, and Planning

- If Emily Stowe is already at a high utilization, why would it be considered for additional students?
- What happens if Emily Stowe becomes over capacity?
- Why is Emily Stowe included when other schools (e.g., Central PS) have significantly lower utilization?
- Is the TVDSB only considering immediate surrounding schools? Could enrolment projections for all Woodstock schools be shared to confirm the proposed approach is appropriate?
- During the 2011 Accommodation Review, projections showed declining population, yet schools are now over capacity. How reliable are the current projections?
- What benefits, if any, does Emily Stowe receive by accommodating more students when it is already near capacity?

Portables, Expansion, and Infrastructure

- Are portables the preferred solution; why is an expansion not being pursued?
- How long would portables be required before any permanent expansion is considered?
- Is there a dedicated amount of outdoor/open space required for an increased pupil count? Concerns raised for urban school environment vs. rural school environment.
- The building was originally constructed as a secondary school. Concerns raised regarding safety related to increased enrolment.

Septic, Traffic, and Site Constraints

- Who completed the septic capacity assessment for East Oxford PS. Is there more than one professional opinion?
- Is the septic capacity assessment public record?
- Has TVDSB consulted neighbouring property owners about the potential purchase of adjacent land at East Oxford Central PS?
- There are existing traffic, parking, and drop-off/pick-up concerns; will the County be involved in addressing these issues?

Process and Decision-Making

- Who is the ultimate decision-maker in this process, and what factors carry the most weight (e.g., projections, capacity, community input)?
- Since the removal of Trustees from the process, how is community impact being considered? Is this primarily a Board decision?
- What are the next steps and overall timelines, including the timing of the Initial Report?
- What school year is being considered for any official transition?
- Will there be future meetings to provide updates on progress, details, and timelines?
- How can the community track the progress of the Attendance Area Review?
- Beyond school communities, are other parties involved in the consultation process (e.g., the County)?
- Has TVDSB consulted with other schools included in the Attendance Area Review?
- How is feedback from the Tillsonburg Attendance Area Review influencing the approach for this review?
- Equity is a key consideration: what are the enrolments of other Oxford County schools and what resources or supports typically accompany increased enrolment?
- Does accommodating more students result in increased funding, staffing, or administrative resources for Emily Stowe?

Boundary Options and Student Impact

- Is it possible to implement multiple boundary changes, with students directed to more than one school rather than concentrating enrolment at Emily Stowe PS?
- Why is Central PS included in the review, given its downtown Woodstock location; what is the rationale?
- What impact could this review have on current Emily Stowe PS students who are out-of-area?
- Concerns that Emily Stowe PS students are disadvantaged in terms of high school progression due to attendance area splits and some students choosing to attend out of district schools.

Strategic Direction

- How many business cases for new schools and building additions is TVDSB currently managing, and how are priorities set?
- What is the long-term vision for education and accommodation planning in Oxford County?

Central PS School Council

- Since East Oxford is not located in Woodstock, what is the timeline for busing students into Woodstock?
- There are concerns regarding congestion, traffic, and bus operations.
- There is a desire to remove portables as Central PS has limited yard space.
- Do the enrolment figures in the table reflect the status quo?
- What utilization percentage is projected with the proposed increase in students?
- Why are other schools with available space, such as Northdale, not being considered?
- What is the overall timeline for the review process?

East Oxford PS

Enrolment Trends & Demographics

- Concern about declining TVDSB enrolment board-wide and where students are going and what strategies exist to retain students.
- Belief that projected enrolment does not align with local circumstances; recent years have shown low or declining enrolment, including the loss of a kindergarten class.
- How were enrolment projections developed and what internal or external data sources were used?
- Where can families access the data that will inform this review?
- How are local demographic realities (e.g., family turnover, aging population, community attendance patterns) factored into projections?
- Has historical enrolment data from the past 5–10 years been reviewed and can it be shared?
- Are projected enrolment increases realistic given the lack of major residential development?
- Has the potential for families to leave TVDSB as a result of boundary changes been considered?

Septic System & Infrastructure Limitations

- Why can the existing septic system not be replaced or upgraded?
- When was the septic system last maintained, reviewed, or assessed for efficiency?
- Concern that existing septic system has reportedly been failing for the last few years.
- Has a third-party or independent engineer reviewed a potential expansion of the system?

- How much additional land or space would be required to expand or relocate the septic system?
- Can a secondary septic system be added on-site?
- Has purchasing adjacent land been explored as a solution?
- Is the limitation primarily financial, and are capital funding or other funding options (including school community fundraising) available, particularly to address septic issues?

Boundary Changes & Attendance Area Review (AAR) Process

- Has an initial boundary adjustment plan been drafted?
- When will families be informed of potential boundary change options?
- How is the Attendance Area Review Committee formed and what criteria guide its decisions?
- What strategies or methodologies are used to determine boundaries based on previous reviews?
- Is 2027 the earliest implementation date being considered?
- If growth has historically been limited, why not delay implementation?
- How often are attendance area reviews revisited once boundaries are changed?

Impact on Students, Families, and Rural Schools

- What happens to East Oxford PS if enrolment declines as a result of boundary changes?
- Will legacy agreements be offered for current students at East Oxford Central PS?
- What happens to students who rely on before and after school programs, including those who are waitlisted, if they are required to move schools?
- How is proximity being evaluated, particularly for families in Sweaburg being directed to more distant schools?

Receiving Schools & Capacity Planning

- Are Central PS and Emily Stowe PS the only receiving schools being considered?
- With Emily Stowe PS operating near capacity, at what point would a building addition be considered?
- How is Central PS's future capacity being assessed given Turtle Island PS will open near capacity?
- What are the enrolment projections for Turtle Island PS and are is a decline anticipated?

- Why do enrolment projections show declining numbers at Central PS despite growth in Woodstock?
- Are capacity constraints at receiving schools being fully considered?

Transparency, Feedback, and Decision-Making

- How will feedback received from the community be considered in the Initial Report?
- How much weight does community feedback carry in the final decision?
- Will there be additional opportunities for feedback once boundary options are presented?
- How will the Initial Report be distributed to families?
- What feedback has been received from Emily Stowe PS and Central PS communities?
- When were boundary changes last implemented in this area?
- Do boundary change decisions go to senior administration or trustees, and can the public attend those meetings?
- Who can families contact within TVDSB to raise concerns outside of this review process?