

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AGENDA**

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Catholic Education Centre - Board Room
802 Drury Lane
Burlington, Ontario

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| 1. Call to Order | |
| 1.1 Opening Prayer, National Anthem and Oath of Citizenship (D. Suan) | |
| 1.2 Motions Adopted In-Camera | |
| 1.3 Information Received In-Camera | |
| 2. Approval of the Agenda | |
| 3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest | |
| 4. Presentations | |
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| 4.2 French Programming Consultation (P. Daly) | 3 - 212 |
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| 5.2 French Immersion (F. Okenge) | 217 - 220 |
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| 9.1 Religious Education Resource Selection (A. Prkacin) | 229 - 234 |

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| 10.3 | Construction Report - St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School, Assumption Catholic Secondary School and Bishop P.F. Reding Catholic Secondary School (R. Merrick) | 247 - 249 |
| 11. | Miscellaneous Information | |
| 12. | Correspondence | |
| 13. | Open Question Period | |
| 14. | In Camera | |
| 15. | Resolution re Absentees | |
| 16. | Adjournment and Closing Prayer (M. Duarte) | |



Regular Board Meeting Presentation

Alternative Education Programs and Student Success

Item 4.1

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Alignment to Strategic Plan

This report is linked to our strategic priorities:

Achieving: Meeting the needs of all learners

Believing: Celebrating our Catholic faith & aspiring to be models of Christ

Belonging: Embracing relationships & sustaining safe, welcome schools

Purpose

Share with the board the successes of the Alternative Education Programs as it relates to the unique complex needs of student working through tier 3 mental health issues. To highlight the importance of these programs and potential for continued growth.

Background Information

Alternative Education Programs offer a supportive environment to students who struggle to attend or achieve in their home schools typically because of complex mental health or life challenges. Over the years the needs for this support has increased in its size but also in its complexity. This has challenged us to continuously grow our skills to meet these needs, but we have found that what underlies any approach is a trauma informed lens.

Comments

A PowerPoint will be shared which includes a lived experience of a student around the impact the program has on him.

Conclusion

These programs are small, but they catch some of the most vulnerable in risk youth who when supported, all express having the desire to achieve and improve their lives. Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with the hope that it informs your perspective.



Report Prepared by: Patricia Codner, Chief Social Worker, Special Education Services

Miguel Guayasamin, Social Worker, Special Education Services

Report Submitted by: Camillo Cipriano
Superintendent, Special Education Services

Report Approved by: Pat Daly
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board



Regular Board Meeting

Presentation

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| French Programming Consultation | Item 4.2 |
| Tuesday, February 18, 2020 | |

Alignment to Strategic Plan

This report is linked to our strategic priority of **Achieving: Meeting the needs of all learners.**

Purpose

To provide Trustees with a summary of the feedback received from Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) stakeholders regarding the option to expand the French Immersion Program.

Background Information

At the January 21st Board Meeting, Trustees considered a motion to expand the French Immersion Program beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

Trustees deferred making a decision until the February 18, 2020 Board Meeting, in order to allow time for us to share this information with all parents who may be impacted by this expansion.

#33/20 (AS AMENDED)

Moved by: T. O'Brien

Seconded by: H. Karabela

WHEREAS, Policy V-18 clearly states: "Stakeholders directly impacted by potential changes to existing programs will be notified that the program is under review, and will be provided with the pertinent information as it becomes available, and prior to any decisions being made."

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees give direction to the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board to proceed with expansion of French Immersion programming at the Halton Catholic District School Board with Option A (presented at the December 10, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting) for the 2020-2021 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the January 21, 2020 motion titled "French Expansion" be deferred until the February 18, 2020 Regular Board Meeting with Option A as a focal point.



The Consultation

On January 23, 2020, an email was sent to all HCDSB parents to share information about the potential expansion of the French Immersion Program. The email provided some basic information about the potential expansion of French Immersion Program, and included a link to the [HCDSB website](#) for additional details. The email also provided an invitation to share comments or ask questions.

Feedback was gathered in two (2) ways:

- I. Though an online feedback form
- II. Through email

I. Online Feedback Form

The online feedback form was made available between January 23 and February 6, 2020. A total of 990 comments were submitted.

A summary of the feedback received through the online form is attached as **Appendix A**.

II. Feedback Received Email

Parents were also invited to submit questions or comments via email to a dedicated email account. A total of 35 emails were received.

The emails received have been redacted to exclude personal information, and are attached as **Appendix B**.

Conclusion

The feedback received through this consultation is shared with Trustees to help guide the decision-making process as the Board considers the option to expand the French Immersion Program.

Report Prepared &
Submitted by:

A. Swinden
Manager, Strategic Communications

Report Approved by:

P. Daly
Director of Education & Secretary of the Board



Option to Expand the French Immersion Program

Summary of Stakeholder Feedback

February 18, 2020

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Introduction

This report summarizes feedback received from Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) stakeholders about the current option to expand the French Immersion Program.

Background

At the January 21st Board Meeting, Trustees considered a motion to expand the French Immersion Program beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

Trustees deferred making a decision until the February 18, 2020 Board Meeting, in order to allow time for us to share this information with all parents who may be impacted by this expansion.

Feedback

On January 23, 2020, an email was sent to all HCDSB parents to provide feedback via an online form regarding the potential expansion of the French Immersion Program. The online feedback form remained open until February 6, 2020.

In total, 1027 responses were submitted using the online form, 37 of which did not include a comment, and were therefore deleted. 990 completed responses are included in Appendix A, below.

Because feedback appears as received, the dataset may contain duplicate responses. The online form was anonymous (aside from a field to include name voluntarily), and not password protected, therefore it was not possible to prevent duplicate comments from the same respondent.

Who Responded?

The following table displays respondents' roles:

| Role | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| HCDSB Parent | 956 | 96.6% |
| HCDSB Staff | 13 | 1.3% |
| HCDSB Student | 7 | 0.7% |
| Other | 14 | 1.4% |
| TOTAL | 990 | 100% |

The following table displays the respondents' municipality:

| Municipality | Count | Percentage |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Burlington | 257 | 26.0% |
| Halton Hills | 87 | 8.8% |
| Milton | 240 | 24.2% |
| Oakville | 406 | 41.0% |
| TOTAL: | 990 | 100% |

Feedback Form Results & Themes

The online feedback form invited respondents to provide comments around the option to expand the French Immersion Program. 990 respondents provided a comment.

The responses have been coded into themes. These themes do not account for all opinions expressed but provide a summary of the most frequent comments.

It is worth noting that although the form did not specifically ask respondents for their position on the expansion of the French Immersion Program, 208 respondents indicated their support for the expansion of the FI program and 132 respondents stated they are opposed to the expansion of the FI program.

See Appendix A for the full list of comments.

Theme 1: Boundaries (34%; n = 339)

Approximately one third of respondents provided comments related to the potential boundary reviews. While many comments were generic in nature, there were three (3) main subthemes that emerged around boundaries:

1. Supportive of FI program expansion, but do not want students currently enrolled in FI to have to move schools. (i.e. want grandfathering of existing students in FI Program at the current locations).

Examples:

"It would be very disappointing if the HCDSB decides to uproot students who are already in the F/I Grade 1 program, and move their programming to another school. Parents have already invested in uniforms, and incurred other costs to this point."

"I think its great that there is so much interest in the program and that there's a possibility of more French classes being added. My one issue is the possible school boundary changes. My son already had to switch schools because of boundary reviews so my concern is how many times boundary reviews are going to happen over his elementary school years. I am not committed enough to the French Immersion program to move him from school to school in order to stay in it."

"We support the expansion of EFI 100% but feel currently enrolled in the EFI program should continue at their current school. Children who will be newly enrolled into the expansion phase at Gr.1 should be moved to an underpopulated school."

2. Concerned that boundary reviews that would be disruptive to students and families.

Examples:

"And with regards to adjusting boundaries, many families have chosen to live where they do in great part due to the school within that region. To change boundaries and force students to be relocated to new schools seems terribly unfair."

"Changing boundaries now for the French program would disrupt many children not interested in the French program which is unfair. It is my understanding a new school is going to be built in a couple years. Wouldn't it make more sense to wait for that new school to open to change the French program and do a boundary review? Why do a boundary review and disrupt these children twice???"

"I am all for French immersions and providing the best education for our children. However, boundary changes will be very disruptive to both parents and students. My kids love their current school...and have made many friends. Kids thrive on routine and displacing them to another school and being separated from their friends could be negative to their emotional well-being."

3. Supportive of boundary reviews if they will allow for expansion of the FI program. Many expressed the boundary reviews were happening anyway (not as a result of the potential expansion of the French Immersion Program).

Examples:

"The boundary review mentioned would be happening regardless of French Immersion expansion since the St. Mary's community is growing due to new residential developments; FI should be expanded as there are numerous students on waiting lists"

"I think boundary reviews are being used as a scare tactic so parents from english schools do not support the expansion of french immersion with the fear that their children could be displaced. Instead, education on how this would be done would be a great asset for all parents to know."

"I am in favour of expanding the French Immersion program. The option presented for expansion presented is manageable and pragmatic. Boundary reviews are necessary in all developing Boards and there are many HCDSB schools that are under utilized that could house an expanded program"

Theme 2: Staffing (10%; n = 100)

Many respondents expressed concerns around the Board's ability to adequately staff the expanded French Immersion Program.

Examples:

"I am, however, concerned about how you will find qualified/certified teachers to deliver the program. While I do see the value of a child being able to speak a second language, I feel strongly that the quality of teachers is much more important and am concerned that the board is contemplating hiring unqualified/uncertified teachers."

"This program should not be expanded. My oldest child received an "Incomplete" in core French because the Board could not find a qualified teacher. If our children's minimum education requirements cannot be met, how can you consider expanding the EFI program? Additionally, if this program cannot be offered to all HCDSB elementary students then in my opinion it should not be offered at all."

"My highest priority is the quality of teaching staff. Program expansion should only be done when there are sufficient teaching resources. Reading that there are 5 teachers working in the french program currently without proper accreditation is very concerning as a parent. What's the point in having my kids in the program if the quality is poor? I appreciate the outreach strategy, but until you have a greater pool

of candidates to choose from (and this notes a decline in graduates) why are we even considering expansion? If the quality declines, I'll have to pull my children out of the program and then you'll have another issue all together with low enrollment in the higher grades."

Theme 3: Eliminate Waitlist/Meet Demand (9.4%; n = 93)

A number of respondents addressed the need to meet demand and eliminate the waitlist in the French Immersion Program.

Examples:

"The Board is doing the right thing with trying to accommodate waitlists into a much sought after french immersion program. I commend you for starting the expansion process and ensuring that our Catholic faith, coupled with french immersion is keeping up with high demand and current times. HCDSB is unfortunately lagging behind in comparison to other Catholic school boards that have listened and accommodated the large need and want from parents to offer more french immersion programs."

"With just over 40 spaces available each year, it exists as an exclusive program. For us, the only answer is to eliminate the wait list and expand the Early French Immersion program."

"I do not support the expansion of the French Immersion program. I feel that the 150 person wait list is not a wait list. A wait list is 10-15 students waiting to get in. If there is that much interest, this is a reason to find a separate facility. This would be a solution, not a "quick fix" as you are suggesting."

Theme 4: Portables/School Capacity (7%; n = 74)

Some respondents expressed concerns around overcrowding and the effects of additional portables on a school community.

Examples:

"NO to adding more classes to an already full school."

"Expanding the program to St.Scholastica will put unnecessary strains on a school; that already supports the Early FI Program, that is located in a rapidly developing and growing area, and is the holding school for students from the surrounding developing community, until a new school is built in that catchment."

"Our school already had a boundary change and is bursting at the seams which affects child learning. Because we are so huge, teams are limited (100 kids in the grade and

only 15 make the team), or for track only 4!! 12-14 portables since the influx from the last boundary change. No field to play on. I don't want to see anymore growth at my school. Only a reduction of students."

Theme 5: Siblings (5%; n = 51)

Respondents suggested that consideration should be given to siblings of students currently enrolled in the French Immersion Program.

Examples:

"My youngest daughter was not selected and is in the current waiting list. My elder daughter is in the program in 4th grade. Having siblings without the same opportunities creates challenges as a parent as you want to provide them equal opportunities on their education. This created lots of frustration and anger."

"I'm in support of this change. My one ask is that all siblings stay in the same school to ease logistics for parents. I have two children in the Early French Immersion program and my third child has been denied cross boundary requests to attend the same school in the English stream. I recognize that if it stays a lottery system to be admitted into French Immersion that he may not be admitted into the program when he is in Grade 1 but I am hoping that he is reserved a spot in the English stream at the same school."

"Agreed that expansion is required. Please turn your minds to the following: siblings (and option for siblings to attend the same school whether or not both are enrolled in French), commencement of French class in all schools starting in grade 1."

All Comments Shared

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| <p>*if students are already in the french program they should be able to finish the program in the school where they start- no boundary reviews for the current students it should be phased in .</p> <p>* english stream students should not be bussed to a different location to make room for additional french classes. Students should be able to stay in the home school</p> <p>* parents choose programs and homes for their family and the disruption that this french program is causing halton hills with it moving to st bridged, to st catherines and then maybe moving again! It is becoming ridiculous! The board needs to figure this out and stop piloting ideas that are not working</p> |
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| <p>* why is the french program so high on the priority list? There should be more programs available throughout the board to meet the needs of other learners: Enhanced learning plans with those who score exceptionally high but not enough to be gifted, regional programs for IB, Tech, arts</p> <p>* unqualified teachers for a program to meet the needs of a few is a mistake</p> |
| <p>1. Grandfather children in existing programs into their school. Transitions are difficult and parents have made long term choices based on the acceptance into these program. Stability is paramount.</p> |
| <p>1. The transition to a new school causes a lot of anxiety for children. Having just transitioned to fbe</p> |
| <p>100%</p> <p>Support the expansion of French Program</p> |
| <p>A change in boundaries resulting in regular stream kids changing schools with less than one year notice would be far too disruptive to kids and their families. Changing bus eligibility will also be extremely disruptive for working parents to manage with short notice.</p> |
| <p>A step in the right direction.</p> |
| <p>A welcome addition to Catholic education in Halton.</p> |
| <p>About time</p> |
| <p>Adding 2 more classes each year will only add to the existing problem of overcrowding in an elementary school. There is not enough room for kids to play outdoors due to the increasing number of portables each year. School space cannot support this.</p> |
| <p>Adding a portable or 2 is not a reason to deprive these children the programming they desire. This is their only entry point in our Board. Their only alternative is to move to the Public Board in grade 2. So it's unfathomable that anyone who is not well versed in French programming feels ok to take this opportunity away from these children for selfish reasons. Extended French is not a comparable alternative for those looking for an early start. We are a Catholic community and should behave as such. We have to meet in the middle and Option A is just that. To say that English students are suffering is ridiculous. Children who are starving, terminally ill and living in war torn counties are suffering. Let's put this into perspective.</p> |
| <p>Adding more Frech immersion classes for Grade 1 will reduce the availability of French teachers for the students in the regular stream. Supply teachers are difficult to get and sometimes the "supply French teacher" will have to use Google translator.</p> |
| <p>Adding more students regardless of language compromises the well fair of both the teachers and students. The school was not built to house so many children.</p> |
| <p>Against the expansion</p> |
| <p>Agree in expanding</p> |
| <p>Agreed that expansion is required. Please turn your minds to the following: siblings (and option for siblings to attend the same school whether or not both are enrolled in French), commencement of French class in all schools starting in grade 1</p> |

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| Agreed with the expand the French Immersion program |
| All students should have the opportunity to learn both of Canada's official languages. |
| Although I am happy that the French Immersion may be expanded, I do not agree that the student we are not enroll in the program may result with consequences such may have to be moved from their current schools/friends. |
| Although I fully support the French immersion program, adding up to two more grade 1 classes to the |
| Although I fully support the French immersion program, adding up to two more grade 1 classes to the school will have a huge impact on Schools such as St. Mary that are already bursting at the seams with over population. |
| Amazing program! Please vote for expansion |
| Another school needs to be built to accommodate French immersion. Our school is over capacity already. We cannot compromise our play ground anymore with more portables. |
| Any expansion of French Immersion (FI) is absolutely welcome. I find the existing "lottery" system almost absurd, especially knowing that children who fail the lottery are refused to join FI when there's an opening (to Grade 3), while also considering that the public school board (HDSB) has multiple FI schools in each city. It is difficult to accept that there are so few students who apply for FI in the Catholic board, relative to the public board; perhaps if there will be an expansion, there may be far more students (parents) who'll be willing to apply for FI. |
| Philosophically and on a pedagogical basis, the FI program should be standard in the "normal" curriculum; i.e., the FI curriculum is what all students should be taught. Most countries in the world, especially in Europe, teach multiple languages throughout the elementary grades and children become fluent in multiple languages before high school ends; Canada is officially bilingual and should do the same by teaching fluency & literature in both French & English. |
| As a bilingual Ontarian French is an incredible asset to have. However, if it is hard to fill French teaching positions now it will be a further challenge without significant investment and hiring incentives. No school boundary changes. |
| As a elementary teacher with experience in the primary grades, and specifically grade one, I am very opposed to the plan to expand French Immersion programming. |
| With possible cuts looming to special education, English language learners and vulnerable students needing special supports in our board, how can the expansion of an optional, non-essential program be justified? At a cost of at least \$217,466 for the first year only, with additional costs every year the program runs for staffing and transportation, this specialized programming would be diverting funds from students that are truly at risk in our board. Taking from vulnerable students to fund an advanced program is wrong. |
| From an education standpoint, there is no benefit to starting French instruction in grade one, as opposed to starting French instruction in grade 5, through the extended French program |

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| that is already established in our board. As an educator, I feel that it is important for students to first establish strong literacy skills in English in the formative primary grades, especially if the child is also an English Language Learner. This foundation allows for success in the grade 5 extended program. |
| <p>As a father of 2 kids attending St. Mary (no French immersion) here my concerns:</p> <p>Evacuation & Emergency Risk: the use over capacity (more than double) of the facilities increases the risk in case of potential danger, e.g. fire.</p> <p>Safety in parking lot and adjacent roads: multiple parents driving dangerously when dropping or picking up their kids. This risk has increase exponentially over the past few years due to the over capacity.</p> <p>Less opportunity for school activities: classes are restricted to participate in the school community activities, as the gym has already exceeded its capacity.</p> <p>Unsustainable solution: St. Mary has approx. 300+ students (please confirm). This leaves little room for families within the boundaries. If 2 additional classes are added, St. Mary would end up with 700+ French Immersion students (more than its capacity), leaving NO room for English students within the boundaries.</p> <p>Therefore, the Board must find a permanent solution for the growing French Immersion population, instead of further deteriorating the current challenging situation in St. Mary due to overcapacity. PLEASE think of schools with current lower registration for the French Immersion program</p> |
| As a French educator of French immersion I cannot believe that Halton in not in board with such an expansion when all other boards are expanding these programs due to student interest but also another way to augment enrolment for the Catholic boards |
| As a French Immersion student myself I believe that there needs to be more access to the program especially since there has been such high demand. Not doing so would discriminate these students from the education that they seek. |
| As a French speaker, I want my child to have the opportunity to pursue French Immersion. |
| As a French student in university I would have loved to have had access to the Immersion program. I don't want other students to be waitlisted forever or not have access like I did. |
| <p>As a mother of 2 kids attending St. Mary (no French immersion) here my concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Over capacity - Challenges when responding to a potential danger (fire, evacuation, others), it's different when you have a number of students that overpass the capacity of the building 2. Safety in the parking lot - I have witnessed an increased number of cars coming in and out of the parking lots, and the irresponsibility of some drivers that can't deal with the frustration of an overload parking lot, I have seen parents speeding, traffic issues around main intersections, etc. 3. School activities - Last year, the Christmas concert was limited to some grades. Grades 6, 7 and 8 were excluded and alienated from the concert and couldn't participate, as they have done in years before. I don't think this reflects the inclusion we expect from catholic education. Christmas play didn't include all students |

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| <p>4. Portables - Multiples issues with portables: no working air conditioning, no working heating, not to say that every time these kids have to go the washrooms, they have to do it without supervision, but with a same age peer.</p> <p>PLEASE use schools with low registration for French Immersion classes</p> |
| <p>As a parent I do not support an increase in French Immersion programming. The program at my daughter's school has been very divisive with French Immersion incorrectly being promoted as providing a superior educational platform.</p> |
| <p>As a parent I would like the opportunity to enrol my children in this program without having to wait on a crazy waitlist</p> |
| <p>As a parent of a child in the french Immersion program, it saddens me that I can't provide the same opportunity for my second child because of space limitation. Every child should have an equal option to learn the second official language of Canada.</p> |
| <p>As a parent of a child that is NOT in french immersion, I think it is completely unacceptable to potentially impact the vast majority of students in the English stream to accommodate the desire of those who wish to enroll their children in French.</p> |
| <p>As a parent of a child who has special learning needs I am concerned about boundary changes that will affect our family. My child would be directly disadvantaged by changing school as a result</p> |
| <p>As a parent of both an elementary and secondary school student, I am not interested in the french immersion program and therefore do NOT agree that students not interested in this program should be impacted by the school boundary changes. Parents and children interested in this program should be the ones impacted by it. I would be very disappointed if these changes mean any type of disruption to my children's routine. If parents are interested in this specialized program then they should be the only ones impacted.</p> |
| <p>As a parent of children attending St. Mary in Oakville, we DO NOT support the expansion of EFI at St. Mary. With the continued growth and popularity of the program, a more sustainable solution should be investigated and established that will meet growth demands moving forward. We cannot afford to implement an expansion that will detrimentally effect the learning and well-being of ALL students. You cannot possibly think that uprooting students from their existing catchment and school is in line with or valuing the developmental assets of children's growth. Are you really willing to interfere with the learning and well-being of 95%+ of the student population to accommodate 15-30 students on a waiting list for a program that can be offered at any building? I strongly urge you to consider other options. There are many schools in the board that are underutilized. You can recover costs from a mistake you make but you CANNOT recover lost education opportunities for students or damage to their well-being once you realize the damage you are doing by expanding a program in a school that is already at capacity. Please consider the needs of ALL students not just EFI.</p> |

As a parent of three children attending the regular track program at St. Mary, I am concerned for ALL students with the potential expansion of the EFI program at St. Mary specifically. The proposal to expand at St. Mary is neither feasible nor practical at this time given the large capacity constraints that currently exist. To expand this program at St. Mary would be to completely disregard the learning needs and well-being of ALL students. I am strongly opposing this expansion at St. Mary but I am urging you to strongly consider delaying the expansion of the program to 2021-2022 in order for you to conduct a feasibility and sustainability study that will allow you to develop and implement a long-term expansion plan that considers under-utilized schools such as St. John Paul II. There is NO MORE ROOM AT ST. MARY. You are sacrificing outdoor play space for all students while also reducing programming at the school in order to accommodate an unsustainable plan.

As a parent, I am opposed to the plan to expand the early French Immersion program.

Our schools were not designed to house specialized programs. They were designed to accommodate the needs of growing communities such as St. Scholastica, where French Immersion may not be the first priority of the families in this community. To disrupt the boundaries for ALL families, in order to satisfy the demands of a small vocal parent community, is not equitable.

The expansion of this program would involve great demands on staffing. It is already difficult in our board to hire qualified teachers for this program as it is. Hiring uncertified and unqualified teachers would have a direct impact on the quality of the program. What is the point of expanding a program, only to have the quality of education decrease for the students? Add to this the increase of the number split classes, which is not optimal for student learning or success.

The funds needed to implement this expansion (transportation, staffing, portables etc.) should be used for at risk students in our board, such as those needing targeted literacy support, newcomer students and special needs students.

As a parent, I would definitely like to see the French Immersion program expanded and be more accessible to children/ families. I feel that is an important opportunity that unfortunately is missed by many. We have registered and are currently sitting on the waitlist- and although it is not exactly a "stressful" situation- it would be helpful to find out sooner where my child's placement will be this coming September.

As a parent, there has been much debate about opening up boundary reviews. I'm ok with the boundary review, but parents should be educated that the Board would use smart judgement and put the additional french program into an area that would need more children, and not displace children from english-only schools that are already at capacity. I think boundary reviews are being used as a scare tactic so parents from english schools do not support the expansion of french immersion with the fear that their children could be displaced. Instead, education on how this would be done would be a great asset for all parents to know.

The Board is doing the right thing with trying to accommodate waitlists into a much sought after french immersion program. I commend you for starting the expansion process and ensuring that our Catholic faith, coupled with french immersion is keeping up with high demand and current times. HCDSB is unfortunately lagging behind in comparison to other Catholic school boards that have listened and accommodated the large need and want from parents to offer more french immersion programs.

As an EFI teacher my two main concerns are the lack of portable space for the EFI program to be expanded at St. Mary school and the fact that there is a real shortage of qualified French teachers to fill these new positions. We already have 8 portables on the blacktop and we have staggered recesses to accommodate our significantly large student population. We would therefore not have the space to accommodate the doubling of EFI classes incrementally over the years. The shortage of qualified French-speaking teachers is already an issue as when we call for a supply teacher, more often than not, no one takes the job because it is for a French-speaking role. The school is then left with pulling other full-time staff to cover my EFI class during their planning times or to simply pull someone out of their regular teaching role (usually a French itinerant) and those students are left without French that day.

These are just some of the concerns I have about the sustainability of the growth of the EFI program.

As far as I'm concerned, children who are not registered in the French immersion program should not be affected. I don't see why they should have to switch schools or be affected by the potential boundary switch.

As long as the kids on [REDACTED] get to stay at St. Brigid I am fine with boundary changes. Our street has already been re-zoned and I don't want my kids going to a 3rd school after we JUST changed.

As much as I support increasing the French Immersion (FI) program, my concerns is related to the specialized/gifted programs that may be moved/impacted should the decision to increase the FI program be approved.

Currently I have a son in the gifted program at Canadian Martyrs. Canadian Martyrs is an ideal school for the gifted program as it is small and a very tight community. My biggest fear in moving the gifted program to a bigger school is that the gifted children may be targeted as being "different" resulting to isolation and in a worst case scenario being bullied for being in a specialized program.

Canadian Martyrs being so small doesn't isolate the gifted classes. All children are treated equally and participate in all events. My son is extremely happy not only being in the gifted program but being a student at Canadian Martyrs. He would be devastated if he were to move schools. Also, that may result in his classmates being separated and transferred to different schools which would devastate him as well as he would have to meet new friends / classmates.

Starting a French Immersion school instead of adding classes to current schools should be considered.

As the parent of a child on the wait list for EFI in Burlington, I am excited about the possibility of expanding the program and giving my child the opportunity to learn a second language.

I am, however, concerned about how you will find qualified/certified teachers to deliver the program. While I do see the value of a child being able to speak a second language, I feel strongly that the quality of teachers is much more important and am concerned that the board is contemplating hiring unqualified/uncertified teachers.

Another concern I have is what will happen to the English program at SHOJ. I would like to see the program continue at that school as I feel it is important for children living in the community to be able to attend a Catholic school within their community.

I would like to see the board continue the current EFI program at SHOJ and expand it to include another school, perhaps one with lower enrolment, so that the boundary changes do not negatively affect the current student population and their families. I would like the students who live in the Millcroft neighbourhood to retain the ability to attend a Catholic school in their community.

As the program is permanent, it should be treated as such. I don't recall being notified when the board expands the extended French program. There seems to be no problem adding extended French to other schools, why should it be a problem for FI. A number of schools are under capacity, including ours, so it seems like we should be able to find room for FI. This interim step makes sense to get the ball rolling

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| <p>As this is a great innisiative for the future students and their families,</p> <p>This will definitely bring chaos and potentially a lot of friendships torn.</p> <p>As my son who started grade one FI last year was so excited to have his other two best friends with him. this year seems more difficult as the school separated him from the other class and i can see the impact that it has on him emotionally.</p> <p>going further with this initiative and review all the boundaries will definitely be not a positive solution among fellow parents and their kids, who are forming their friendships.</p> |
| <p>Based on what I see as a Peel teacher at a school with an FI program, I don't agree with an expansion to the FI program in Halton unless it is clear that there are enough qualified FI teachers to meet the demands of an expanded program.</p> |
| <p>Being a french speaking francophone and having had some issues and pulled my son from the french system I believe this opportunity to extend more french immersion classes so that more families could benefit from this opportunity.</p> |
| <p>Being a french speaking francophone and having had some issues and pulled my son from the french system I believe this opportunity to extend more french immersion classes so that more families could benefit from this opportunity.</p> |
| <p>Boundary changes cause issues with uniforms(costly), potential changes in transportation which is unnecessary. Choosing to move people because they are not enrolled in French immersion is an issue and opposite is true for those who are enrolled</p> |
| <p>Boundary review will happen regardless of French immersion expansion. Doesn't make sense to delay expansion of program for something that is happening no matter what. Expand the program</p> |
| <p>Boundary reviews are bound to happen anyways, please expand the program</p> |
| <p>Boundary reviews are necessary in growing cities. Why is FI and adding only 2 classes to the program being blamed for this inevitability? Please expand for 2020.</p> |
| <p>Boundary reviews happen regardless of French programming.. please vote for expansion</p> |
| <p>Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills are all growing areas due to residential expansion/development; these boundary reviews, supposedly due to the expansion of FI, will have to occur at some point anyway due to new residential communities.</p> |
| <p>Changing the school boundaries is unacceptable. As it is, this school allows too many children in that do not live within the borders (this really needs to be looked at). If they need to expand French immersion, stop letting kids from out of bounds as that would make room.</p> <p>If the school cannot accommodate current school borders, this should not be explored.</p> <p>Changing school borders separates friendships and can be traumatic to the kids. Once a child is enrolled in the school, the school boundaries should be guaranteed.</p> |

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| Children and their parents should have the choice of taking French at the catholic board otherwise you risk losing us to the public board where immersion courses are plentiful |
| Children currently enrolled (and future siblings of those currently enrolled need to be grandfathered with the existing boundaries. Early French Immersion should only be offered in schools that are under capacity. |
| Come on HCDSB! Parents do not need this uncertainty thrown into the escalating mess that is already happening with the Province. Did you know that kids need stability? Where is the stability?!?!? |
| Comment space too small. Cont 2... be bilingual. I would be in full support of more classes. It would also be beneficial if they could start in grade 2 and 3. I started French emers in grade 4 and I got my diploma as bilingual. I picked it up quick. |
| Completely against the expansion. 100% NO |
| Completely in favour of having French immersion for our kids in Milton |
| Concerned about potential of change in school boundaries for students not attending French immersion. |
| Concerns regarding boundary lines with influx of students increasing the school size |
| Consideration of the lottery program for parents with multiples should be made. It is possible that parents of multiples are opting out of the application as both individual students need to be accepted. If the program is extended provisions for th |
| Considering the demand for french Immersion, it would be really beneficial to add two additional classes. |
| Considering the demand for the FI and the fact that certain areas have more demand then other and the fact that demand is likely to fluctuate, I believe that parents should be offered an opportunity to take a spot outside of the boundary or city |
| Considering the government might want to merge public and catholic we need to retain our numbers and offer same programming as the other boards. |
| Considering there is not enough staff to successfully deliver the existing programs it is not logica to expand the program. It is time to eliminate one of the French programs. Planning must be done for a long term plan, not a quick reaction. |
| Continued - so that the boundaries didn't change. Even though it was going to cost the Board more money to bus students to Seton, the boundaries were changed. PLEASE do not change the boundaries again in the Orchard because we've already been impacte |
| Could there be Early French Immersion avail per FOS, thereby potentially reducing transp'n/distances and reducing the chance of Reg. Stream families being bumped out of their neighbourhood school which is 2km from home. |
| Creating a French Immersion program at St. Vincent is a fantastic idea. Many children are leaving the school and the Catholic School board simply because there is no French Immersion school option in South East Oakville. |
| Curious to know how this will affect the schools without the French Immersion program |
| Curious to know if this will impact the current locations for the Extended French program offered at St. Nicholas |

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| Current enrollment should not be affected to the students they are not part of the French immersion program |
| <p>Dear Sirs</p> <p>That's a great idea to make possible more students will enter a French immersion classes, our family supports this move as we even moved to Oakville to get our son [REDACTED] enter to French classes from grade 1.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> |
| DISAGREE with the expansion. There's no specs to do it and least at the expense of other kids. |
| Disagree with this proposal if it affects non French immersion children boundaries as we are happy with our current school placement and do not want by any means to move schools. Especially since we do not partake in the French immersion program. |
| Disrupting established friendships, relationships, teaching relationships and communities by potential new boundaries is horrifying. My kids are the only students on our street that go to St.Raphael's, if they were move: |
| do Boundary review first and then implement it after that |
| Do not change the boundaries again. It's very hard on the kids |
| Do not expand the French program! Please consider ALL students equally. It is unfair to displace students and their families to push for a French agenda. Why not build more French emerson schools instead of converting overcrowded schools? |
| Do not expand the program it's not needed |
| Do not expand, we don't need that many French immersion classes, none of my children will be enrolled and we do not need to lose what fee special programs we have. |
| Do not want the boundaries to change |
| Do not want the expansion to occur. Why should non interested french immersion students be impacted to accomodate a demand that stems out of a population growth in Milton that is disproportionate to other regions |
| Does "expansion" mean more opportunities for students to be enrolled in FI? I.e. shorter waitlist? Would more schools be offering FI? Or would the existing school be increasing classes? I suspect it is the latter. Eitherway, this is good, as there is obviously a demand for it. |
| Don't 3... bottom line pls pls pls open more classes. I think you'll find you'll have enough people who would sign up. The lottery is just unfair to someone who really wants it. Pls contact me if you want to have a chat about it. Thanks |
| Don't bother |
| Don't change school boundaries. This will cause unnecessary disruption for our kids. This decision needs to be delayed until a full impact assessment is sent to parents. |
| Don't do it |
| Don't do it, the less French the better. |

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| Each child should have the opportunity based on interest and not merely based on luck. The number of classes should increase. I have enrolled my child but she is on a wait list , I would want my child to have the opportunity to learn the French language early on. |
| English students that live in the boundary of St. Catherine should no have to move to accommodate additional FI classes. The students entering FI in 2020 should stay there until grade 8. the students on the waitlist year this year should not be granted space if it means combined grades, unqualified teachers. Work on the plan and eliminate the waitlist for the following year2021. Halton Hills is different than the rest of the board, not a lot of schools and the decision should be made carefully. |
| Enough with the changes and closures! My son is in grade 1 and already experienced 1 school closure now potentially a boundary change? Not all family's are interested in the French program - Reopen St. John's as a full French or English! |
| Every child should be given a chance to be in the French immersion program if they are interested. There shouldn't be a lottery system to decide there fate. As long as school bus services are provided we are OK with moving schools. Thank you. |
| Every effort should be made to keep families together. If all members are in eng or Fi programs they should not be split between schools. |
| Every year we lose kids to the public board due to programming. If we don't retain the catholic we will eventually lose our catholic schools. Let do what we can now before it too late. |
| Everything about this proposal upsets us. As a family with a child who didn't get into early FI due to a lottery a few years ago and another child about to start FI in the fall we find this proposal absurd. Parents will get over if their child does not get into the FI program. Perhaps, if the lottery isn't working equitably we should be applying for the program based on a variety of critieria: academic achievement in K, behaviour, parent commitment to learning etc. Expanding the FI program to accommodate a few hundred students on a waitlist in a school board of over 30, 000 students is absurd. Do I want my third child to have an option of FI, of course, but not at the cost of English programming, boundary changes etc. The idea of potentially bussing English stream students out of their home school in Halton Hills needs to be removed from the options because there are so many neighbourhoods in Halton Hills without a school in the neighbourhood and families that live in a walking distance to a school chose their home deliberately for that reason and for their children not to have to be bussed to school even if the home was more money. This expansion needs to be withdrawn. |
| Expand FI please |
| Expand French Immersion |
| Expand program. And no need to move program from St.mary on near future.implement interim measure for next year,conduct already scheduled boundary review,expand FI as you have done w EF, kids go to school closest to home.may relieve stmary pressure. |

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| Expand the FI program! The challenges of dealing with accommodation pressures do not outweigh the benefits of providing HCDSB students with access to programming. |
| Expand the French program. You are elected to respect the people that voted you in. The demand for this program is undeniable. Do your job. |
| Expand the program |
| Expand the program and open doors for our kids |
| Expand the program! Boundary reviews are already planned for Milton and Oakville and it has nothing to do with French Immersion. This "notification" is purely a scare tactic |
| Expand the program, too many kids on the waitlist, they deserve to have same opportunities as other kids in the province, other kids in the region who attend the public board. Why do kids in the public board get better opportunities? |
| Expand the program. |
| Expand the program. It's not fair that only 46 kids are accepted into the program. |
| Expand the program. This survey is embarrassing. |
| Expand the program. You're encouraging families to choose public over Catholic education and it's embarrassing that ALL the surrounding boards have figured this out. |
| Expand the program.increased portables for a year or two is no reason to put a hold on the growth of the program.the kids don't care,they don't even mention the portables.the yard is still big enough and many schools have to stagger recess. |
| Expand the program.The boundary review is happening regardless of what happens to FI, it's in the board's long term capital plan. There is a need for more spots |
| Expanding a program at an already over crowded school is insanity. The Board has publicly announced a move to expand without working out the proper logistics first. St Mary's is too full now. We don't need even more students. |
| Why the board was only ever presented with st Mary's as the option for Oakville is beyond unfair and ridiculous. |
| And what will occur - you will continue to overcrowd english classrooms while french classes only have 20 students. It's completely unfair. |
| People spend a great deal of money to purchase a house in Oakville. And now their children go to an overcrowded school because we bus in 75% of the French students. |
| Ask the students - french and English - neither wants more portables. They think the school is too full now. |
| A proper rezoning must be done before an expansion can take place. There is simply not enough space or resources remaining at St Mary's to support even more classes added to the school population. |

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| Expanding the French Immersion program seems like a reasonable consideration in light of the interest in the community and existing waiting list, although I do have major concerns with this proposal. I read over the proposal and my main concern is how this increased allocation of resources to this re-organization will affect resourcing other more pressing needs such as basic school infrastructure maintenance and improvements that affect all our students, as well as resources for special needs children. If there is a limited pool of resources for these competing interests I would hope the Board of Trustees will ensure the future resourcing of these other very important needs is not compromised. Although the French Immersion program is a great opportunity for our community, if the future progress of the more pressing needs that affect our children stagnate or suffer as a result of this re-organization, there will likely be a very public reaction to this initiative. I am also concerned that despite best efforts to estimate the resources needed to complete this project, actual needs and timelines are often greater than planned and overages risk progress in other school priorities. |
| Expanding the program to include more students sounds great but do not add more classes to the existing sites. Already overcrowded. Need another site in south Oakville. |
| Expansion can only benefit our kids. We need to set them up for success early. |
| Expansion is a good idea. We have one child currently in the program and we were lucky to get in because of the long wait list. We would also like to have our ds |
| Expansion is a good idea. We have one child currently in the program and we were lucky to get in because of the long wait list. We would also like to have our daughter in the program next year but it is unlikely based on current demand. Please expand |
| Expansion is fine as long as my child currently in Grade 6 at St Peter does not have to change school next year |
| Expansion is good idea to give more children a chance but changing a boundary will impact both children and parents who will go through the tough time for adjustments. Thank you |
| Expansion is welcome |
| Expansion of French immersion program is such a great idea For all the families who are speaking French as second language and at the same time not qualified at the pure French schools My daughter in the waiting list and this makes us so disappointed , as we want her to speak french and English as all her family especially we are here in a bilingual country . So by discussing this idea (expansion) you gave us a hope |
| Expansion of the FI program in Milton is needed due to a consistent, increasing demand. |
| Expansion of the FI program in Milton is needed due to a consistent, increasing demand. |
| Expansion of the French Immersion program is necessary to meet the existing demand. Too many students who wish to access the EFI program are being denied. We should not and cannot be shortchanging our students by making them choose between a Catholic education or an accessible French program in the public system or to move out of Halton altogether to obtain a comparable level of Catholic and Early FI education that is being offered by |

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| neighbouring Boards. HCDSB students the same, if not better, opportunities to learn French that are enjoyed by other children across the province and country. |
| Expansion of the program is a must. This is a bilingual country. One of the motivations for moving here was to ensure our children were educated bilingually from an early age. Our household is already bilingual, a travesty not to offer it. |
| Expansion please |
| Expansion should have happened year ago! Do right and expand ASAP |
| Expansion would be great! |
| Extended french should be available to ALL students who's skill level is applicable. Limiting student access is WRONG. |
| Families who choose FI change schools by choice. A boarder realignment could disrupt a large number of students and school families, and that is completely irresponsible on the boards part. If expanding FI will do this I am completely against it. |
| FI families have been waiting patiently for expansion for 8 years. Please don't delay |
| FI is clearly the scapegoat here for inevitable boundary reviews. Your survey is very misleading. |
| FI program should be expanded to be more inclusive |
| Finally! |
| First a teacher's strike and now this nonsense. Why would trustees even think this is a good idea and that parents will be happy? Disadvantaging 95% of students to accomodate 5%. What part of this seems like a good idea to the trustees? |
| First the decision to not fund Sick Kids Hospitals & now this nonsense. Who are the trustees making these decisions? If you dont have the resources to run an optional program - Dont run it! |
| For 3 years we've heard that the board can't find French teachers, why on earth would this program expand? It makes no sense. We are not at all supportive. The ensuing disruption would be massive and unwelcome. |
| For children to be able to learn the two languages of Canada, this is a huge accomplishment! Thank you for looking at expanding the early French Immersion program. Thank you for looking at the waitlists and ensuring that the MANY children that are currently on the waitlist, is a top priority. |
| French expansion to be done only after a complete regional boundary review is done in Milton |
| French immersion at St. Mark. Please do not move the gifted program at Canadian Martyrs. |
| French immersion classes offer a wonderful opportunity for students to become bilingual and having more spaces available would extend that opportunity to more students. |
| French immersion is a good opportunity for the children. All efforts should be made to make it available to as many as possible. |
| French Immersion is a permanent program at HCdSB and yet it is accessible to only a very small number of students. It's time for the Board to stop treating it like a pilot program and to start making moves to expand and strengthen the program. |

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| French immersion is a waste of tax payer funds. Allocate it to teaching proper spelling, grammar and math in English. |
| French Immersion is an optional program. I am very strongly against redrawing boundaries to accomodate an optional program. Displacing students from their neighborhood schools is irresponsible & unacceptable. |
| French immersion is having a negative effect on the English program. There aren't enough french teachers as it is to deliver a suitable French program for grade 4-8 students. Have a look at what FI has done to the schools in the Orchard as an example. What a mess. |
| French Immersion is very important and growing in popularity. |
| French Immersion should be a right that students and parents have access to. |
| French immersion should be available to all students. As my daughter was not selected during the lottery you are forcing me to move her to the HDSB school so she can learn French. |
| French Immersion should be expand. Look how many kids are on the waiting list! Why Catholic School Board doesnt want to invest in Kids education? It seems you are pushing kids away from Catholic School bord to Public as Public would accept without any waiting list or lottery game! |
| French Immersion should be expanded as per Option A presented to trustees at Dec 10 2019 board meeting. It has already been identified that a boundary review is require for Milton and Oakville regardless of French Immersion expansion and board staff have already gone the record to state that the short term interim plan will not affect students at this time. More children get into the program and the board has more time to figure out a long term solution. Sounds like an optimal short term solution that meets the needs of all. |
| French Immersion should be mandatory everywhere, not optional. |
| French immersion should be offered in Catholic schools similar to public schools without restriction or special requests |
| French Immersion students enrolment should not cause school boundaries to be affected thus causing students to have to vacate their home school. This will cause students and Families to be impacted negatively. French program should be the one to move |
| French is fun! I like being in the French class, like my older brother. I wish my little brother could go to school with us. It makes me sad he is at a different school. I hope he can learn French one day and come to school with me. |
| French language skills are dramatically improved with French Immersion; core and extended programs, while good, do not compare. Therefore, I believe the program must be expanded. |
| French-language studies are part of our heritage as Canadians, not to mention part of the Federal government's mandate to expand and improve French language skills for the Canadian population. As a Board, we ought to be in line and expand the program also. |
| Full support |
| Fully agreed and supportive to expand the French Immersion program |
| Given considerable housing construction in North East Oakville and as new families are moving into this area, it would be sensible to offer the French immersion program at a school in this area such as the new school St Gregory the Great. Thank you |

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| Given the fact that there is already a surplus of demand with little supply, it is obvious that we should not be divesting in this curriculum, rather investing to grow it. |
| My vote is to expand this bilingual program across the district. |
| Given there is already a lack of FI teachers and Core French teachers in our Board, expanding this program is not feasible for our students at this time. Furthermore, our school has already undergone a boundary review change and having that happen again and affect my children and all children, regardless of English or FI stream, their friends and others in order to add in a program that won't be easily sustained is not an option I would agree to supporting. |
| Go for expansion |
| Go for expansion! Boundary reviews are a natural result of growth |
| Go for it |
| Goo didea to have more students access the french program however this needs to be distributed among more schools. Too much for the designated schools to accommodate. |
| Good afternoon, my wife and I are in full support of the French immersion expansion program. We believe there is a lot of value that can be added to a child that has the opportunity to participate in this program. Learning French in this capacity will open more doors for children. Growing up in a home where our parents enrolled us in this program was very beneficial to both my brother and I. Thank you for your time. |
| Good Day, I believe a decision like this needs to be made with more awareness for the overall student experience. To impact the majority of students through a possible boundary review for the purpose of a french immersion expansion is unfair. The population of those students looking to participate in french immersion is far less than those who do not - particularly in the Catholic Board. While I can appreciate looking at things on a broad level, as well as understanding no decisions have been made - I also hope that there is a sense of what this means to ALL students, Parents and Families should a boundary review be initiated. Being as sensitive as possible to those looking for French Immersion - I would argue once more that it would be much easier and less disruptive to our schools and increasing population for them to explore the options currently available vs. expansion and boundary review considerations. Families already have to juggle so many variables in today's world, so wouldn't it be great if we could just have a little sense of comfort and normalcy with routines that work for the majority. |
| Good interim plan, program should be expanded |
| Great idea to expand given demand. May be challenging to staff with French requirements but if it is possible it would be great! |
| Great idea! |
| Great idea! |
| Great Idea! Students needs more access yo French programs |

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| Great idea. Huge demand for the program. Excellent prospect for future generations. Perfect way of addressing increasing demand for FI program. |
| Great initiative and finally finding a solution to the issue that was not resolved in 2017. As a parent, I participated in the French Committee in 2017 and was upset with the decision of the Trustees in not following the recommendation and not resolving the issue in over 2 years. My youngest daughter was not selected and is in the current waiting list. My elder daughter is in the program in 4th grade. Having siblings without the same opportunities creates challenges as a parent as you want to provide them equal opportunities on their education. This created lots of frustration and anger. Good work and hopefully this time the recommendations are followed and a positive outcome is achieved for the parents willing to provide Catholic-French education for their children. Thank you |
| Great news! The most important is to have our children studying under the same school roof. French is part of our heritage, community and country. Praise the Lord for answering our prayers. |
| Great opportunity. Demand is there let's go for it |
| Great program ! expand it for sure |
| Halton Hills is 85% English speaking and only 1.9% have French as their mother tongue (1135 people at last Census). It is NOT reasonable to displace English speaking kids from their school via a boundary review to accommodate this small French group. |
| Happy to hear about the expansion! My older child was selected for EFI (starting Gr. 1, next year)...and an expansion would mean better chances for my younger child to join her in a couple years. It's unfortunate that lottery is needed due to demand |
| Has the staffing of this expansion been fully considered? With all the difficulties with staffing right now what solutions do you have in place? |
| Have you considered the effect this will have on teachers who are not french qualified. Loss of jobs for unqualified teachers? |
| Having French as early as possible is invaluable for our students. It needs to happen or our kids are going to be behind other regions. |

Having only (1) designated school per City/Town makes it difficult for all parents who live at some distance from that school.

If it is possible, for the expansion, can it mean adding 2 classes in a different school ?

Also, making the online application for the program a random selection, this makes it difficult for parents with multiples who want to make sure their kids are in the same school.

Thank you!

Having read in detail pages 40-70 it seems like the most reasonable expansion is option A. It's going to accommodate twice as many families than what is currently offered. With the least amount of disruption to schools, staff and families. Every student enrolled do not stay in the program in entirety, which this proposal did not include details of. Option C and D do not make any sense and will open the door to those who make not take it seriously that could result higher amount of students dropping out mid course. Between difficultly finding qualified teachers and paying for all aspects involved option A makes the most sense.

Having read the background of the potential expansion of the French Immersion programming, which leaves out any discussions of the positive aspects of expansion, like reducing waiting lists and providing more students with access to programming, I view this "communication" and purported survey as an underhanded and strategic ploy to attempt to defer and potentially extinguish altogether expansion of the French Immersion program by a Board that's been doing its utmost to stifle the program since its inception. The Board's messaging here is highly prejudicial and discriminatory.

Having taken a high-level glance at the materials, I question the basic cost/benefit of such a move. In particular, what difference adding a maximum of two immersion classes is going to make to address the vast supply vs. demand imbalance for French-based education that currently exists. The short answer in my view is it won't. Many parents (myself among them) did not apply under the current 'lottery' system, which (in my view) fundamentally violates the principle that all students should have equal opportunity to an education (i.e. not left to luck of the draw). In all likelihood, allocating more spots will drive up the number of applicants, resulting in continued wait lists/families not being served. In my view, rather than expanding full French immersion in this way, the demand for French language education would be better addressed by offering extended French in more/every school. Children in the public system have far better access to French at an earlier grade than their Catholic counterparts. As a parent, I find this profoundly disappointing.

HCDSB has been dragging its feet on expansion and this "survey" is yet another delay tactic. It's time to start giving your students the programming they want and deserve

HCDSB should be expanding the program and seeking to identify other sites in Oakville. Having one site in the entire city which is so inconveniently located is unfair. Many students are unable to access French Immersion simply because the location is too far and many parents do not want their kids travelling across the city on a bus for 30+minutes at a time. There should be multiple sites - west, central east - to serve ALL families.

HCDSB trustees give your heads a shake! If you do not have the resources to accomodate an optional program, then you simply dont do it.

HCSB already changed the EFI school within a three year span causing all three of my children to go to different schools even though my two eldest are in the EFI program. Familes in the EFI program can not bare another school change.

Hello and Bonjour!

If I have NO other options but only four (4) to choose from - my choice is Option A. Otherwise, please curtail the FI program expansion to ensure quality, sustainability, and not a mass production in portables that serves nobody.

My child will start the Early French Immersion (FI) program in Sep 2020. However, to my surprise the majority of my friends decided NOT to participate in FI program. I was cautioned that:

- My child may acquire neither good speaking French nor high proficiency in English unless I'm willing to pay for private tutoring for both subjects. My recent review of tutoring fees in Oakville confirmed that I would have to pay \$45 to \$60 an hour for a qualified tutor.
- The Board's capacity for extra academic supports for struggling FI students is more limited compare to the regular English stream. And this in spite the fact that FI program is overall more demanding compare to a regular English stream.
- There are teachers in FI program who are FSL speakers themselves. My friends questioned how this fact affects the quality of instruction.
- Acquisition of Math & Science suffers because of time & effort spent on learning French.

Hi

Thank you for the email notification and the opportunity you have allowed for parents to express their questions and concerns.

Having read all the material available, I'm still left with questions as there is no indication whether our school boundary would be affected. Such a change would have significant implications on my family and as a parent, I would ideally like to see these proposed changes before a final decision is made. The information provided so far is unspecific and leaves many outcomes open. It is not possible for anyone affected to take a rational position on this matter with so many unknown variables.

While I appreciate this is a complex decision, I would like to suggest that the proposed changes be accompanied by proposed new boundaries for everyone to consider. I'm sure I would not be alone when I say that our current school boundary was a crucial factor in my family choosing to live in our current neighborhood, which in turn affects many other aspects in our lives.

Thank you for your consideration

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| Hoping that students in older grades will be grandfathered to stay in their current schools and still have transportation provided to them. It can be a difficult adjustment to switch schools after having the same friends for 7 plus years. |
| Hoping the program is expanded |
| Hoping the program is expanded |
| Hoping the program is expanded |
| Hoping the program is expanded |
| How can two additional classes create all the problems you are claiming? |
| How can you consider French immersion when we don't have enough French Teachers - I |
| How dare you consider moving regular students out of their home schools to accomodate an optional program! Shame. Please do not give into the flavor of the month. Students need stability & to be able to remain in their home schools! |
| How much notice will |
| How much notice will be given to parents who are affected? |
| I absolutely support the expansion of the French Immersion programming in the Catholic Board. Our daughter was originally enrolled through the public board's immersion program out of fear that our daughter would be unsuccessful with the one-chance Catholic immersion lottery. Consequently the lack of discipline, unstructured class instruction, and systemic bullying inherent in the public school compelled us to explore the Catholic board again. Fortunately, my daughter managed to secure a vacancy in the Catholic French Immersion program and it was life changing. She excelled in the Catholic environment. We knew we could not relent on the French program as she is very adept in the language. We also recognize that learning the language will provide essential opportunities in a progressively competitive job market. Previously a flight attendant only needed to know English. Now all Air Canada flight attendants require French. Increasingly provincial and federal employment opportunities give preference to applicants with French. Because of the highly restrictive lottery system, we will now be struggling to provide our other two children with the same opportunity as their sister. |
| I actually don't believe the immersion program should be expanded. Instead funds should allocated to Core French so that French instruction can start earlier and reach more children. It would be a more inclusive solution. The Board's decisions are disappointing as such. |
| I agree and would like my daughters to learn French as a second language. It will be a must in a near future for their professional development. |
| I agree that expanding the French immersion program would benefit the Catholic school system in Burlington. The board would lose less students to the public board. I have three, soon to be four children in [REDACTED] including a child with special needs. We are at the edge of the boundary. I do not want my children to have to move particularly as my special needs child is finally doing quite well. Moving could be very traumatic for her. |

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| <p>I agree that French immersion should be an option if children/parents wish to pursue. I do however disagree with relocating kids that are currently within a school not in the French program having to be relocated to another school. The children that do not wish to participate in French immersion should be staying in their original school. This is no different than private school, meaning, if parents want to pursue an optional type of schooling than those parents and children need to be the one's who should be uprooted and relocated. Leave the kids not participating in French immersion alone in their current boundaries, I have not asked for change-the individuals seeking a french program has asked for the change.</p> |
| <p>I agree with expanding the French Immersion Program. My daughter is in FI Grade 2. We wish for our younger daughter to also have a FI learning experience and I worried that the limited number of spots and the lottery system will limit her access to a Catholic FI education. It feels like we are being forced to choose between a catholic education and French education. Families should have greater access to opt into Catholic French Immersion. Having siblings at the same school is an important family experience. I do not appreciate the worry that our youngest daughter may not be granted a lottery entry into Gr1 FI and that this would mean she wouldn't be able to attend the same school as her sister as there is no FI in our home boundary. We have not been granted cross boundary for JK. Again, it feels like the limited FI is forcing a choice- if we want our daughters to grow up at school together, the limited access to FI forces us to choose - which do we value more educationally- FI or Catholic in school learning?</p> |
| <p>I agree with expanding the program.</p> |
| <p>I agree with the expansion however, having seen the lack of French teachers first hand, I would suggest seeing the program through grade 12 before expanding in grade 1.</p> |
| <p>I agree with the plans for expansion of the french immersion program, however, I would like to see it rolled out across multiple schools. It is hard to comprehend why the halton public board can (and has for many years) offer french immersion across multiple schools, yet the Catholic board is struggling to implement such a valuable program.</p> |
| <p>I am</p> |
| <p>I am absolutely not in favor of expansion. WE ARE AN ENGLISH BOARD!!!! Let focus on this and think of ways to improve programming for the majority of the students within our board! French has been a topic for too long now, let's make a final decision that will benefit ALL students not just the French ones.</p> |
| <p>I am against it since I believe it will take resources out of current students and will overfill already full school.</p> |

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| <p>I am all for families and children to be accommodated for their individual needs but in all fairness, My child will be attending Italian school next year. My CHOICE will not affect others or have any ripple affect on any other families. So why does she have to be affected by this French Immersion??</p> <p>Parents who take an interest in changing and specializing in a French programs for their children should then only be considered to move out of boundary if that's what it takes to fulfill their wish. I am outraged by this possibility of my full time English speaking Daughter to have to take a bus to another school out of her neighbourhood. We live 1 minute away from St. Scholastica. We chose to live in this neighbourhood and to be a part of St. Scholastica well before the French program was implemented. You are playing around with something that is not broken only to break it. Don't pull my daughter out of St. Scholastica, She is very well adjusted in her school environment. I chose not to add change to my daughters current education situation by keeping her in the full time as only English and now big changes are happening anyway?? This will have a negative impact not only on my family</p> |
| <p>I am all for French immersions and providing the best education for our children. However, boundary changes will be very disruptive to both parents and students. My kids love their current school (Ascension) and have made many friends. Kids thrive on routine and displacing them to another school and being separated from their friends could be negative to their emotional well-being. If boundaries change, it would be beneficial to consider grandfathering kids already in that school and making the switch to the updated boundary school (if the boundary change affects the family) optional.</p> |
| <p>I am all for it. The earlier we can have our kids in French Immersion, and the more locations we can have, the better!</p> |
| <p>I am all for kids learning more. And I think French is very important. I however, do not think nor want the existing boundaries to be moved as it will affect a lot of kids that are jor in the "FI" program (us for one). Please DO NOT move the boundaries.</p> |
| <p>I am baffled why the HCDSB would even consider this? My kids would be devastated if they had to move schools.</p> |
| <p>I am completely against boundaries changing for all of our children.</p> |
| <p>I am completely opposed to this proposal. It is already hard enough to staff the French positions. The added bussing will be a huge expense and local children may be sent away from their home school. How can you even consider this?</p> |
| <p>I am concern with the expansion it could effect my kids and them not being able to potentially going to Our Lady of Fatima concerns me. If boarder get re adjusted and my kids are not able to go to there current school I will have a big issue.</p> |
| <p>I am concerned about the boarders changing, causing my child to have to switch schools. He is in his year one in junior kindergarten and had made wonderful progress with his peers and teachers. It would be extremely upsetting to have to switch him.</p> |
| <p>I am concerned about capacity at our school. Adding more portables will reduce our play yard which is already too small for the number of child attending our school. The school was not built to house so many students.</p> |

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| I am concerned about what the boundary reviews could mean - moving existing students slightly outside of the boundary to another school to accommodate French Immersion classes |
| <p>I am disappointed that our trustees are succumbing to the lobbying tactics of those parents who want French immersion.</p> <p>First there are not enough teachers now to cover the demand of the current program. Secondly I am very concerned that a majority of students and families would be affected by way of potential boundary changes to appease a minority of the student population. Thirdly the amount of funding that will go to reviewing and expanding this program should not be the focus right now of our tax dollars. We have bigger issues to fight in English -class sizes, e learning etc. Other boards ie Peel are looking to decrease their French immersion programs due to the lack of teachers. Why Our Board thinks this is doable with current resources astounds me. Further the board is really going to undertake a massive task in the boundary review which will cause concern and potentially unfairness to alotnof families.</p> <p>Lastly studies clearly show there is no difference in terms of fluency and comprehension in French at the end of Highschool whether the child started French in grade one or grade five.</p> <p>There are bigger and more important issues to deal with than French immersion.</p> |
| <p>I am extremely concerned that the quality of core English classes will be impeded by expansion of French immersion. My children will likely be re-zoned to another school which will be emotionally difficult for them. I am also concerned however that there is an underlying problem with the system that is not being addressed. I am aware that many parents are putting their children in FI just to avoid their children being placed in classes with special needs or behaviorally challenged children. The core English classes are going to be over-burdened with high needs children and their education will suffer. This is not fair to teachers, or to our English children. I strongly believe that the demand for FI will decrease if the underlying problem is addressed in our classrooms.</p> |
| <p>I am extremely frustrated by the recent up coming changes. We purchased our home so we could be in this catchment and so our children can go to Sacred Heart.</p> <p>One of my children needs special support and transition is not easy for him. I find it VERY UNJUST that kids who are NOT enrolled in FI would be impacted and penalize if they were to change school and boundaries.</p> <p>I think it is the board's responsibility to keep in mind those families who are not enrolled and the major impact this future change would have on them.</p> |
| I am happy with the potential for my children to participate in French immersion! |
| I am happy with the way things are and would prefer to not have a change. |

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| I am in favour of expanding the French Immersion program. The option presented for expansion presented is manageable and pragmatic. Boundary reviews are necessary in all developing Boards and there are many HCDSB schools that are under utilized that could house an expanded program. |
| I am in full support of the expansion of the FI program and plan proposed by the board for the 2020-2021. a boundary review is already planned for Oakville so it isn't really fair to make it sound as if the SBR is solely bc of expansion of FI. |
| I am in grade 3 French Immersion. I think the program should be expanded so my little sister can be in French Immersion too. |
| I am in support of a boundary review. I support this because I believe, and hope, that the result will be increased opportunities for French emersion in school, and in particukar, our school. |
| I am interested to know more and how this would potentially impact the lives of our children. for eg. would they have more children per class size, would they have to change schools if the boundaries are changed...lots of ??? at the moment. |
| I am not a fan of boundaries changing to add more French immersion. |
| I am not for expansion, as I do not wish for a change in school boundaries . Currently my children are not enrolled in French Immersion. |
| I am NOT for the expansion of the program. I am not happy about the boundary adjustments that might occur. There are less kids that would be affected by being on a waitlist for the French Immersion program compared to the many kids that may be forced to switch schools because they are no longer in the boundary of the school they attend. There is more of an effect on a greater number of children. |
| I am not in favor of a possible boundary change AGAIN. My son started at St |
| I am not in favor of a possible boundary change AGAIN. My son started JK at St. John's and as soon as he adjusted he was move to St. Michaels due to the closer. That's 2 moves in 3 years- now another potential change??? Ridiculous. |
| I am not in favour of expansion as I do not believe the board can have the staff to properly support it. |
| I am not in favour of potentially expanding the French immersion program within our board. We don't have the staff to support our current core French program as it stands, how could we possibly staff the expansion of this program with qualified French teachers. There have been many times at our school where students received an incomplete as a result of not having French teachers to teach core french. This simply isn't feasible. And with regards to adjusting boundaries, many families have chosen to live where they do in great part due to the school within that region. To change boundaries and force students to be relocated to new schools seems terribly unfair. Particularly if it is a result of expanding a program we simply can't staff. |
| I am NOT interested in expanding French immersion in the grade 1. I would like to see the Extended French at St Marguerite beginning in grade 5 extended to at least an additional class. |

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| I am not interested in having my kids in the French immersion program, and would not like to have my kids be in a school that has it. I don't like how it creates a "smart class" and a "not-smart class" (even though my kids could do the French) |
| I am not supportive of another boundary change for this school. My family had already been impacted once and made the decision to move homes into the community to keep our children in their school. Many other families have been negatively impacted. |
| I am not supportive of boundary changes |
| I am not sure that the boundaries should be changed at this point. Maybe look at expanding the program to 3 classes instead of 4 to lessen the burden or load while still expanding it slightly. |
| I am on board with there being more French immersion options in south Burlington |
| I am on the waitlist for the program. I am frustrated at the size of the waitlist. Evidently, the program needs to be grown to prevent losing students to the public school board. |
| I am opposed to boundary changes at this time |
| <p>I am quite confused as to how the HCDSB can justify the removal of the Extended French program from St. Matthew (using the excuse of overcrowding, lack of space, and the dependence on portables to sustain the program) and then consider, less than a year later, the expansion of the program and the endorsement of the use of portables to support such an expansion.</p> <p>As a parent and educator, I am wondering if this is 1. an apparent lack of planning on the part of the Board or 2. the deliberate withholding of information regarding the Board's plans for the future of the Extended French program from the St. Matthew community? Either way, your new plan to expand the French program and your approval of the use of portables to facilitate this expansion, aligns with the wishes of the St. Matthew community to keep, at the minimum, one permanent Extended French class at St. Matthew. We look forward to this review, and expect that the Board will amend its plan to remove the Extended French program from St. Matthew and commit to its continuation at St. Matthew.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the future of French Immersion within the HCDSB.</p> |
| I am so glad that the board is considering this expansion. I know how important it is for children to another language and I see how much both of my granddaughters enjoy the early French Immersion and how quickly they learn. Children are like sponges and the earlier they are exposed to another language the faster they learn and retain this language. The waitlist of children to enter this program indicates the need for this expansion and continuation of this Program. Opening up more programs ensure that families will no longer be leaving the Catholic board in search of other highly sought after french programming. Thank you. |
| I am strongly opposed to boundary changes that would impact non French immersion students. We make decisions on our home based on boundaries and do not wanted to impact children education and friendships based on a small population of students. |

I am strongly opposed to this. Expanding our Extended French programming at home schools would be much more equitable.

I am supportive of expanding French Immersion; it is a great program. However, I am not in favour of the the program moving away from Sacred Heart of Jesus where my child is already in the program. If it were to move to another school, it would create a hardship for me to transport him out of our neighbourhood.

I am very concerned about the proposed expansion of the French Immersion program and beg the Trustees to consider the long term sustainability of these decisions. We already struggle with major staffing issues when a Core French or French Immersion Classroom Teacher is absent and often have days with no supply coverage when one of these teachers is sick/away from work. [REDACTED] St. Scholastica, who has the largest wait list for entrance into the Early French Immersion program, there is no way to meet the needs of the children who reside in my catchment area and have a right to access their own local community school if additional French Immersion classes were to be added - even if only two more classrooms per grade. I have 23 available Gr. 1-8 classrooms in my school building. If a decision is made to add two more FI classrooms for each grade level (effective September of 2020) I would be faced with having to use 22 out of 23 of these Gr. 1-8 rooms for French Immersion students alone by September of 2024. Catholic parents of students within the St. Scholastica school community have a right to have their children housed in these interior rooms of the school.

I am very concerned that my daughter who loves her new school and friends may be forced out. I am not okay with this

I am very happy with the idea of the expansion. However, with the current French teacher crisis, I'm worried that there won't be enough teachers to fulfill the expansion. I am also worried that the program may be moved from it's current location.

I am very supportive of expanding the early French program. Learning a new language has been proven to help with many other academic skills including math and logic. I also believe it's important for us to offer French education in our bilingual cou

I am very, very much against any change to boundaries that would force my children to change schools

I appreciate the effort in attending the need of french immersion and we receive with enthusiasm the news of the expansion. I have a child joining the program by 2020/2021 and an older child going to grade 3 on that program.

I do understand that is a complex matter, yet I would like to suggest that the program may be split into 2 different schools in Oakville, covering another area of the town. note that St. Mary is at the far northwest of the town. St. Matthew might be a good option judging by the size of the school and location.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

I attended the board meeting on January 21st and am in full support of the delegation presented by [REDACTED]. My only dispute about the FI program from the start was that it should be accessible to all families in Halton.

Do not think there are no repercussions on the English stream in St. Mary. As an example, my children (in the English stream) did not receive their French lesson because the teacher was pulled into the FI program to cover off. That was an unfair decision that needs to be addressed within the schools who house both English and French streams.

My biggest concern is the location of the expansion. In the delegation provided on January 21st the facts indicate that St Mary cannot take on an expansion based on projected growth in the next 2 years from the current FI program along with the growing community and new development at Bronte and Upper Middle. You need to look at a long term solution and jamming them into St Mary's is not it. I urge you to look at another school to layer the FI program into Oakville. One that is possible more central or even on the other side to allow for less busing needs.

I believe the focus should be more on math, science and computer programming and less on French as a second language. considering only 20% of Canadians speak French. (FYI I'm of French decent)

I believe French immersion should be expanded

I believe it is not necessary to expand the French Immersion program.

I believe it should be expanded- more French immersion classes should be in place

I believe it's an opportunity that should be open to more students who seek catholic education. Both my daughters are in the program but friends were very disappointed when they were placed on a waiting list.

When choosing and developing schools consider school size and capacity. St Benedict is too full. Although there are no new french cohorts they should consider moving some of the classes to St Scholastica. French shouldnt mean being stuck isolated in a portable.

The schools should also consider keeping families together.

I believe staffing is an important concern. I would also be interested to know what the student retention rates are for early french programs as well as the feasibility of beginning core french in grade one in all schools. I would prefer the trustees look into this option. This way students are exposed to the language at a young age and can remain at their home school and still have extended options (in grade 5) when they are old enough to decide whether this is something that is a fit for them. I believe this was brought up in the committee work that was conducted a couple years ago before many of newer trustees began. Staffing was a concern then and continues to be. I believe there were other recommendations from that report as well around how to proceed with extended programs. Of the options presented, if extending early immersion is the plan, then adding an additional site per region makes sense however I don't think it makes sense to implement that for the next school year considering the boundary reviews and hiring that would be needed. Thank you for your consideration

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| I believe that an expansion of French Immersion is unwarranted given the current lack of qualified French Teachers to administer curriculum properly and the further reductions in staff predicted as a result of the current cuts of the PC government. |
| I believe that as a catholic school community, we should be promoting expansion of any and all programs available, especially French immersion. We need to be able to offer our kids opportunities that public schools have. |
| I believe that enrolment in French immersion should be a parent to parent decisions. I believe that introducing French should commence in jk. Through song and simple words and numbers etc. And the. Structured French classes to begin in grade 2. |
| I believe that expanding the French immersion program will benefit the students, school community, and greater community. Having more French immersion classes in schools will allow for a greater awareness and appreciation for the French language. |
| I believe that French immersion expansion is not necessary and will negatively affect the kids in English stream. People treat a French immersion as a 'free private school' and sign up their kids to the French immersion for the wrong reasons. Increased costs of the program is also a consideration especially in today's environment of cost cutting by the province and inability of the (teachers) unions and the Province to sign labour agreements without affecting the students (by school closures). |
| I believe that instead of expanding number of classrooms at existing schools that you should offer French immersion at more schools. I am from Quebec and would love my daughter to Start French now without having to change schools. |
| I believe that the French Emersion in home school of the child would be ideal as it's more convenient for the parents. The expansion should happen in order to allow more kids to learn a second language. Ontario lacks of bilingual (French and English) speakers due to the fact that the school boards did not make French a priority. |
| I believe this to be a bad idea. The board seems to have a hard time finding French teachers. Expanding the program won't solve that problem. It's a quality over quantity issue. |
| I cannot see an negative in making the decision to expand the offering of FI. |
| I can't believe that other students won't have the same choice we had |
| I can't believe this debate is still ongoing, this is absurd, the program should be expanded, like everywhere else in the province |
| I can't believe this wasn't brought up or mentioned the numerous times parent delegations attended board meetings last year. If we as a parent community did not feel ignored and blindsided then, we certainly do now. If this was the plan all along, |

I choose not to expand the French Immersion Program or make any changes that will effect my kids and other kids that have no association in french immersion.

Parents that choose to be in the French Immersion Program should be the only ones effected because that is a change and addition they have chosen and want for their kids and are ok with switching school in the first place to be in the program but other families are not and it should not effect the ones that are not making those choice or want that change.

If I wanted to include my children in the French Immersion Program then I would be understanding to change and would accept it as it wold of been my choice but not for other who are not in the program. I do not think it should effect others who are satisfied with the full time English program and live 20 seconds away from there school and alter young children's lives making them upset and stressed for kids and the parents. This is not fair for many students and families who are not in the program.

Please leave it as it is or just consider moving the ones in the french immersion program.

I consider our kids as a Canadian they should have the option of being bilingual. French immersion shouldn't be a lottery. All schools including St Mathew they should be able to offer French for your current students and avoid split families due to program closure.

Please consider retain French the in our school and allow my other kids have the same opportunity as my older ones who are currently in the program

Canada is a bilingual country why we all do not speak both lenguajes.

Everyone knows the advance of being bilingual why we have to cut this opportunity to our kids? Move to other schools when they are already settled down in their current school could be more price for the government since they may need psychological support in order to adjust to know environment and peers.

These days we are talking about mental health have you ever consider how these schools changes impacts our kids ?

Please allow current schools continue with French (including St Mathew CES) and open boundaries or open more classes in all schools; Our kids as Canadian kids have the right to be bilingual and continue in their current school. Thank you for considering my thoughts
Mom of Mathew CES

I couldn't enroll my daughter in french immersion program because the Burlington school that offers the program is far, if her school will have the program available next year can I enroll her then ?

I currently have 2 daughters in french immersion (grades 3 and 5) and a 3rd daughter in JK that i also want to be included in the french immersion program. With the expansion of 2 additional classes i would have a better chance of that. thank you!

I disagree with it. We don't have the resources. Please do not proceed

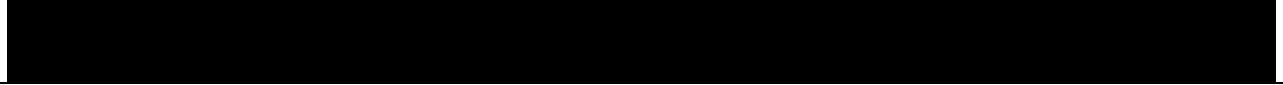
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| I disagree with the expansion as this may affect boundaries my son is finally stabilized and succeeding at his current school an dlocation and travel is crucial; Also classroom sizes and the number of students is important,french is not my #1priority |
| I disagree with the fact that the expansion on French immersion program should impact the other students that are not part of the French program. Current Enrolment and boundaries should remain as is for the students Not included in Frenchi |
| I disagree with this option as the waiting list for the early French immersion is already very long and it wouldn't be fair with the Oakville population not to have access to the program in order to give priority to student from other cities outside |
| I do hope they are not boundaries reviews that affect kids that are not in the french immersion |
| <p>I do NOT advocate for the expansion of the French Immersion program for the following CRITICAL and very simple reason:</p> <p>Lack of qualified Catholic French teachers to teach the program. We are already experiencing a shortage of qualified French teachers in our Board. How can we consider expanding the program when we can not staff it in a way that maintains the integrity and high standards of the program in our Board?</p> <p>We currently run 2 optional programs in HCDSB: French Immersion (FI) and Extended French (EF). Why? We have a French teacher staffing crisis in this Board. Why stretch our existing resources by running TWO optional programs? With FI already set to continue to grade 12, where are the French teachers going to come from?</p> <p>A possible solution might be eliminating the optional EF program. The Board can alleviate the teacher shortage as French teachers from EF can be relocated to FI positions.</p> |
| I do not agree and don't want changes. |
| I do not agree on the potential expansion of the FI program. The St. Scholastica community is rapidly growing, and I believe the expansion would put unnecessary strain on the school. Also, the lack of qualified French teachers on the board would create issues on expanding the program. When French teachers are away and a substitute is required, the jobs are not filled. Students are losing their opportunity to learn in French. |
| I do not agree with expanding this program. I feel that it is incredibly hard to staff these positions with qualified French teachers. Also I wouldn't want my children impacted by the boundary review |
| I do not agree with the expansion of the French Immersion program |
| I do not agree with the French immersion expansion. |
| I do not agree with the program expansion. |
| I do not believe that it is fair to disrupt students who have developed an attachment to their school in order to accommodate one special program. Perhaps a separate school for the French immersion program would be a better idea. |

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| I do not believe this program should be expanded. This program is very difficult to staff and is not mandatory. I do not think it is worth the potential disruption for only a small number of students. |
| I do not feel that it is fair for all children to have boundary changes due to the French programming. Two of my three children went through two boundary changes while attending elementary school and it affected their mental well being. |
| I do not feel that this should be supported, as there is a shortage of resources for students in the main stream programs. It is also difficult to find certified french teachers, and often teachers who are not certified are teaching these programs. Students who attend french immersion are not receiving enough instruction in their core subject areas, and may find gaps in their learning (lack of English instruction). |
| I do not like the fact that expanding French Immersion would trigger a full boundary review. It would not be fair to non French immersion students to have to change schools in order to accommodate this. If French Immersion is being expanded it should be offered in the schools that have the space to accommodate it. It is a option and should be treated as such. |
| I do not like the fact that there will be more boundary changes that could possibly affect my children's place at their existing schools. This motion does not include my children so why should they be made to move schools to benefit others. |
| I do not support an expansion to the French immersion program if it means a boundary review and by extension potential relocation for my kids. French immersion is of no importance to our family. |
| I do not support any action that would result in changing the school boundaries. It is asinine to undertake the expansion of the French immersion program as it would affect the majority of students to satisfy and benefit a minority. |
| I DO NOT support any potential changes to boundaries or changes to any child's placement in an elementary school. We are also not interested in any expansion of the French immersion program. Please keep the status quo and DO NOT interrupt our children's lives! |
| I do not support boundary changes |
| I do not support boundary reviews for elementary schools for the purpose of offering more opportunities for French emersion. I do not feel that the broad majority of families and students should have to be impacted to appease the vocal minority. |
| I do not support expansion of French immersion without the addition of new schools in Milton to meet the current overall growth |
| I do not support French Immersion in English schools. It creates a two tier system for the students and resources are pulled from English only students. French Immersion should only be in a separate school for those interested. French Immersion is not a good use of our tax funding. |
| I do not support the expansion and change of boundaries and specialized program locations |
| I do not support the expansion of the extended French. This would be very costly in a tough education time right now. Having students move schools (and possibly moving special needs students) and purchase new uniforms to accommodate a few classes |

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| I do not support the expansion of the French immersion program |
| I do not support the expansion of the French immersion program and would prefer it to stay at its current size. |
| I do not support the expansion of the French Immersion Program. Expanding the program at St.Scholastica would put unnecessary strains on a school that already supports the Early French Immersion Program, is in a rapidly growing area, and is holding students from the developing community on the other side of Hwy 25 until a school is built in that catchment. In addition the fact that the board cannot guarantee qualified FI teachers in the program defeats the purpose of parents placing their children in it and is shameful that there is even consideration of creating additional classes under these circumstances. Expanding the program in the proposed ways is a "quick fix", reckless and detrimental to the home school and the families that live in the area and rightfully belong to St.Scholastica School. |
| I do not support the expansion of the French Immersion program. I feel that the 150 person wait list is not a wait list. A wait list is 10-15 students waiting to get in. If there is that much interest, this is a reason to find a separate facility. This would be a solution, not a "quick fix" as you are suggesting. Secondly, I do not understand the logic that children in the area that already go to the school may be bussed out to bus in FI students from outside, if the school population gets too large. Not to mention annual busing costs and coordination. The fact that you don't have enough qualified FI teachers to support the expansion but are still considering it is detrimental to the children that end up in a FI classroom with an unqualified teacher. Again if you are looking for a solution, you need to ensure that you have enough qualified FI to support an expansion. For the sake of St. Scholastica students and the FI students, I strongly urge you not to proceed with this expansion. |
| I do not support the review and expansion of the French Immersion Program beginning in the 2020-21 school year if it means that there will be a boundary review. |
| I do not support this. Our children have already affected by one boundary change during their education. The students well being should not suffer due to the potential expansion of the French Immersion program. It is unfair and unnecessary. |
| I do not think it is fair that many students would have to switch schools ... lose friendships and be uprooted just because more parents want their children in French immersion! SK is way too early to decide if your child can handle French Immersion and if they will be able to survive it! Those parents have other options like wait until Grade 5 and put them in extended French or go to the public board or private school if they really want their child in French Immersion! Many parents bought homes in certain areas because they wanted their child to go to a specific school! Furthermore the public board is having issues at their schools where they have several French Immersion classes in a grade and only 1 English class ... that one class often is looked down upon because they are not in the French Immersion program and considered not as elite as their fellow students! |
| I do not think this is equitable or fair on multiple fronts. Do not change from the current model |

I do not understand the impact. my younger son has been accepted at St. Scholastica and our home school is guardian angels. He needs to be bussed etc and I am not sure how this expansion would help us.

Please clarify.



I do not understand why the Board is even considering this motion of expanding the French immersion program as its not in the benefit of the greater good and is in violation of its fiduciary duty.

I do not want an expanded FI program. I do not want the boundaries to be impacted as a result as well. I also do not like that there will be increased transportation costs, more portables, and more split classes. FI segregates students. It is difficult to get the psyched assessments and accommodate students with disabilities or learning challenges as it is, which decreases their participation in FI, and therefore creates segregation. FI becomes the publicly funded 'private school'.

According to the Globe and Mail Education reporter Caroline Alphonso, from the article titled "French immersion causes two-tier school system, data shows": "As parents increasingly choose French immersion, new data from the Ottawa-Carleton school board show that the program is creating a two-tiered system, with new Canadians, children from low-income families and students with special needs overrepresented in English-program elementary schools."

If parents want to further enrich their children with French as second language they should do it on their own time, like done with other languages and extracurriculars.

I do NOT want the boundaries to change

I do NOT want the boundaries to change.

I do not want the boundaries to change. I think consistency is very important to my kids. Along with having to spend money for new uniforms and them making new friends, my kids teachers understand them. Both of my boys are in programs for reading and this program is working great. Changing the school boundaries should not be necessary. There should be other solutions to this problem that does not involve moving kids that do not need to. For those wanting to join the French program they can be bused as it's a program they want for their kids, other should not have to change. Sounds small minded but for the others not asking for a change you have to keep them happy as well

I do not want the expansion

I do not want the expansion of the French immersion program. Build a new school for all the children that wish to have French immersion.

I do not want to change boundaries. You should have the option for French immersion in all schools. Like the Halton public school board.

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| I do not want to find my children having to attend a new school to accommodate this program. |
| I do not wish for the program to expands. All of these changes will impact many families who are not interested in French and will result in changes they never asked for. |
| I don't agree that improving quality of child education will be achieved if unqualified teachers are planned to be hired. I also strongly hope my child's position at his school will continue and that he won't be put in a different school boundary |
| I don't agree that long term students or families who currently live in the area should not be affected by this French immersion expansion. Careful review and choices regarding our English long time students and siblings should not take precedent over our English program. |
| I don't agree with expanding the French immersion program |
| I don't agree with expanding the French Immersion programs. I have had all my children go through St. Brigid for a reason, because of the academics this school offers in the English level (with one subject being French). I agree with the way the system is now; not expanding. The feedback I receive from both parents & students of the French Immersion is they do not find it beneficial the older the students get and the less serious they take it; thus a lack of interest and a decline of grades. If French is their main concern, then there are strictly French schools that cater to these needs. |
| I don't agree with potential expansion of French Immersion programming |
| I don't agree with the boundary changes affecting the non-French immersion kids |
| I don't believe adding 2 FI classes into all schools will deal with the wait list issues. by doing a boundary review for students who are settled in their current schools with pre and post school care/uniforms/extra curricular activities not to mention new siblings coming into those school would a large disruption to the status quo. Additional classes/portables in current FI schools would address the wait list issue. |
| I don't believe the boundaries should be expanded. I would leave it as is. |
| I don't believe this initiative should be undertaken. The french program should remain as is. Expansion and any associated impact to students should not occur. |
| We do not need to spend time and financial resources on the expansion, nor on any studies including boundary re-assignment etc. |
| The French program is a small proportion of the entire school population. The larger school population should not be potentially impacted by the wishes of a small proportion. |
| I don't feel children not looking to move into an FI program should be impacted as this could be detrimental to their learning. A move for some children may have emotional consequences not being considered. For parents wanting to enroll their kids, they should live within boundaries where this is offered |
| I don't feel it's necessary to expand the program. Given the fact that continued interest in the program declines after the first year or two, I feel this would be a giant waste of resources that would only benefit a few. |

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| I don't fully understand what these changes could be because the memo was vague but my concern would be if my daughters school was to become a French immersion offering school, I may wish to change my decision to not enroll in French immersion. |
| I don't see a need for more French immersion programs. From what I have seen students are enrolled in grade one, only to be pulled out later - why cause this much disruption for something that won't have long term impact to the students. |
| I don't think an expansion of the French Immersion program is necessary and think that further boundary changes will have a negative impact on students who have formed relationships and friendships at their school over the years. |
| I don't think french immersion should only exist at certain schools, it should be available at all schools. I'm glad this is being considered. |
| I don't think it needs to be expanded. |
| I don't think it's a good idea |
| <p>I don't think the extension of the program is warranted. In your assessment you indicate that you will have to hire a number more French teachers, which all school boards are already finding difficult. In addition you indicate that in order to accommodate this, You "may need to hire uncertified and/or unqualified teachers". This is completely unacceptable to me. The public school system requires certified and qualified teachers. If there aren't enough to deliver the extra programming then it should not be offered. It's that simple.</p> <p>Increased combined (split) classrooms in primary grades also pose a problem and difficulty for those students who don't learn well in that environment.</p> <p>It is clear that there is not a demand for French immersion in HCDSB as there is in the HD's. In other boards, parents looks to Immersion to get smaller classes and higher functioning students, not Halton.</p> <p>I urge you to not live forward with this. If it isn't broken, don't fix it. Subsequent boundary reviews are not always effective and are disruptive. Our school just went though one last year. No need to do it again. Spend the time and money where it is needed in the schools and existing classes.</p> |
| I don't think the review of the boundary is a good idea |
| I don't think they should expand the program. The kids don't want to move schools. A lot of kids end up dropping out of the French program anyway and end up in the English program as they move up the grades. |
| I don't think this is a good idea. You don't have the space to it and I don't what to potentially change my kid to another school |
| I don't understand why does the board chooses an option like French Immersion that will only impact the less possible number of kids. French should impact more kids at an early age. We have been asking for French Extension at more schools . |
| I don't want my child to have to change schools. This should be a change for new enrollment not current students or students with siblings |

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| I don't want the boundaries changed. So my feedback would be no - don't expand the program if it means changing the boundaries. |
| I don't want the boundaries of my kids school to change which school they attend as they have become members of a great community at their school and wouldn't want to leave |
| I don't want the program expanded. It's already too disruptive and resources for our school are being misallocated to accommodate other jurisdictions kids. |
| I feel changing boundaries to accommodate elective french immersion is wrong. Those that live within current boundaries shouldn't be worried about relocation. |
| I feel french should be offered in all schools as early as grade 1. If not as immersion it should be part of the regular curriculum starting in grade 1 if possible as early as JK. |
| I feel like there has already been many changes to the boundaries as Milton is a fast growing community. I don't think constantly changing boundaries is a good option. Maybe designating a few newer schools as "French" schools would be a better option |
| I feel like you should offer it in all schools or none at all. The bussing and the draw for kids to go and then siblings could be separated is ridiculous. Or just increase the learning of French - can't all jk-8 have a French class 1 time a day?? |
| I feel that expansion is not a reasonable option. Lack of space, overcrowding at schools, long bus commutes and the limited number of qualified French teachers should negate the expansion. |
| I feel that students living in the boundaries surrounding the school should have priority over the EFL program. Also, there is already not enough staff to fill in supply or maternity leaves for French so how is an expansion of this program? |
| I feel that the hcdsb changes its mind frequently without doing research in sustainability or what is best for the education of students. Last year French immersion for grade 1 was cancelled and now you are going to expand. This makes no sense. The constant changing of boundaries is confusing for parents and students. The French immersion program should be based in research of what is best for children's development and hiring of the best teachers. |
| I fully support and would like to see an expansion to the French Immersion program. |
| I fully support french immersion but why propose an option where you would need to hire unqualified/uncertified teachers? This does not sound like a good idea. Also if there will be 4 classes in Halton Hills why not put one in each of the 4 schools? |
| I fully support increasing the opportunity for children to participate in a French Immersion programmes. If that means school boundaries need to be redrawn, that is worth it to me. |
| I fully support the expansion of the FI program. It is quite obviously in high demand with the children attending flourishing. I believe any attempt to stymie this expansion is being done out of self interest and not in the best interest of the kids. |

I fully support the expansion of the FI program. My child is on the waitlist and I'm concerned about her not having enough challenge in the classroom to keep her engaged should she not get a FI spot. I agree with the recommendation of staff that Option A or B are the only viable ones (I personally think Option B is the best choice). The demand for FI in Milton will continue to grow and if the Catholic Board doesn't keep up, we will lose some to the public and French school boards. With that said, growth needs to be responsible and feasible considering the fact that schools are at capacity. With that said, more aggressive growth up front to meet demand should avoid too many boundary changes later. I would also be concerned if boundaries are changed too often, displacing students (especially young ones) who won't transition as easily. I do applaud the Board for considering increases to FI as I believe it will have positive impacts on families and the Region as a whole.

I fully support the expansion of the program as I have had many discussions with other parent that did not have the opportunity to enroll their children due to limited classes. It is a benefit readily accessible in the public system. Other ways to minimize boundary changes could possibly be designated more than one school. Additional classes will need additional resources as the children progress past grade 1 regardless so I think exploring that possibility is an option.

I fully support the potential expansion of the French immersion program as it could open up so many doors for future generations.

I greatly encourage the board to change current practices for French immersion classes. As a French speaking graduate of the French immersion system which existed in Oakville many years ago it is very important for me to send my children to a French immersion school. We now live in the St.Patrick border and are making the decision where to register our daughter who starts school next year. The catholic elementary French immersion track option for our school is unattractive as the school will be much further from our home than the public school option of Pineland. We really want to enroll her in St.Patricks as we love the school, however the possibility of her being accepted through the lottery system to a school which is so much further away has us leaning more towards Pineland. A new plan for the French immersion track in the catholic board would make the decision of her attending St Patrick's in the fall much easier. I hope that the board will consider the amount of children denied entry in the lottery system right now when making the decision, and I would greatly appreciate the effort put into creating a new plan

I guess the actual program is enough.

I hate the idea of the expansion of French in our school. I do not like that my children who live in the neighborhood could possibly have to attend a school outside of their Neighbourhood because of a French program. I feel that if you want your child to know and learn French then they should attend a French school. I do not think my children should have to potentially be in a portable because of French students. There are not enough French teachers as it is and yet the program wants to expand?? Last year the conversation was about ending the program and this year it's about expanding?? No thank you!

I have great concerns into how this will affect:

(A) quality of education for those remaining in the English stream classes

(B) how special education will be affected with spreading resources, and

(C) changing school boundaries - which would be incredibly disruptive.

Likewise I am concerned we are prioritizing parent pressure for French over improving core subjects such as math and English language.

I have also seen how split schools create a demographic, socioeconomic divide between students which I believe to be harmful.

I have major concerns for the program expanding if it stayed at St. Mary - there is simply put no capacity at that school for this. There is a lot of urban growth in this area and the school already has 8 portables -no capacity for this!

I have no comments. Thank you for the update and the information.

I have read the background information. The information provided is limited at best and does not allow me to gain an appropriate understanding of what the implications are of extended early French immersion. My child is a student at St. Nicholas. The school was just built and is already over-capacity. If a border change means more students going to St. Nicholas, I am opposed. But again, you have provided such limited information that asking us for feedback is ridiculous.

I have three children (ages 5, 7 and 8) in SK, grade 2 and grade 3. My oldest two are in the French immersion program at St.Benedict. My son was accepted into the program for the coming school year which will be at St.Scholastica.

My kids love the French program. It is their favourite part of their school day.

I have long wondered about the program and how it could better be served for all involved.

My thoughts always lead me back to the question of why not have a school designated for the French Immersion program? Admittedly I do not have all the details; however I feel this would support the students, the teachers, financial pressures, support staff, etc in so many ways. Of the options put forth my feeling is that Option A makes the most strategic sense until the SBR's are completed and classrooms can be secured.

In conclusion, I completely support the FI program and would love to see it expand and accommodate those who want to participate. The best option in my opinion is a school designated for the FI program.

I wrote so much more but had to cut it down as the survey would not accept all the information I wrote.

Thank you.

I highly recommend the expansion of the French Immersion program. Our children need every opportunity to have doors opened for them in the future and having an additional language, particularly French, is the perfect avenue. The earlier it starts in their educational career, the better. My 2 children, now adults, both secured amazing jobs partly due to their ability to communicate in the French language which is a skill they gained through the Catholic school system. Please keep and even expand your French Immersion programming. There is NO downside.

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| I hope my youngest can get in the program, please vote for expansion |
| I hope the program is expanded soon! |
| I hope this moves forward and goes ahead. French Immersion is an important program and is very beneficial for the children to learn another language properly. Also, it will set them up for success for their future, teaching them many skills, not just the language. |
| I hope to allow crossboundary to let siblings to be in the same school if of is in French immersion & the other is not |
| I hope to allow crossboundary to let siblings to be in the same school if of is in French immersion & the other is not |
| I hope you can make the option of french immersion in every school. |
| I just remarried and had to buy a bigger house to accommodate everybody. The ONLY REASON why I bought it in the same neighbourhood was to keep my daughter at the same school (St Andrews/Oakville). Please take any changes VERY SERIOUSLY. |
| I like French |
| I love French Immersion! I can't wait for my brother to start in grade 1 so I can practice with him 😊 |
| I love the idea of the expansion! |
| I need more information on which families at which schools will be impacted with boundary changes. |
| <p>I oppose any changes being made that will effect other children that are not in the french immersion program. We are not involved in that program and it should not effect my kids and there routine and those that are not registered in it. It is common sense to not effect the kids that are not involved in that program.</p> <p>Those who have enrolled in the program should be the only ones effected and they are the ones that have already switched schools to be in the french program so I am sure they will be ok with moving again. Or just leave it as it is with no changes.</p> |
| I read the French Immersion Programming Information.... it doesn't really say or explain what these changes will be. What are the boundary changes that will be happening? Please give us more detail!! |
| <p>I realize that Early FI has been capped at St. Benedict but I would like to see that re-introduced so that siblings have an opportunity to be in the same school AND I would like to see the lottery removed - other boards provide access based on demand. Forcing us to attempt the lottery process, potentially get a spot and then have our child at a completely different school than the other is not helpful for working parents who cannot accommodate the school times and have to rely on before/after care.</p> <p>I would also like to see a provision that allows siblings of early FI/FI students to be admitted into the non-FI at the same school to again, have an opportunity to be in same school (e.g. my son is in early FI now in grade 2; my younger son will be starting grade 1 in Sept 2021. We live outside of the existing boundary for English). I now need to apply for early FI at another</p> |

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| school that potentially works off a different start/end schedule or go my home school which I know for sure is a different schedule. Based on the current system, my sons will be going to two different schools. This prevents the opportunity for them to have each other as a support system at the same school. |
| I say no to additional French classes |
| I see zero downside to expanding. It can only help our kids. |
| I shall vote in favour of the expansion of French Immersion program. |
| I strongly encourage the board to expedite expansion without further delay. My son currently attends St. Nicholas, and because early FI is simply not available, I will be pulling him so he can benefit from FI at a public school. |
| I strongly oppose this expansion. Children from the English stream should not be displaced from they home school in order to accommodate a specialized program. |
| I strongly support the expansion of the F.I. program. My child is currently enrolled, but the "local" school is quite far, I would very strongly support expansion of the program to my local school. |
| I support expanding the French Immersion Program. I'd like to know if there is a shortage of French teachers or not, and if so, how it'll be handled. |
| I support expansion since my child is on wait list for grade one French program. |
| I support expansion. It will be great to have extra classrooms for more children to learn French. |
| I support FI expansion |
| I support it since my child is on wait list now and if they add more classes he would get in. |
| I support option B |
| I support option B |
| I support the expansion of French immersion program and ask the trustees to consider allowing a second school in each school community the ability to offer the two classes. This would make it more accessible and require less transportation costs. |
| <p>I support the expansion of the French Immersion (FI)program which has been enormously beneficial for our child. Our son is currently in grade 7 at St. Peter in the FI program and was part of first trial of students to start FI in the board. We have seen our son flourish in the program.</p> <p>We would hope that our child is able to continue to stay in St. Peter for his last year of elementary school before heading off to BR if there were to be any boundary reviews. He has been part of the St. Peter community since Junior Kindergarten and all of the staff/teachers have been wonderfully supportive of him during this journey. Thank you kindly,</p> <p>██████</p> |
| I support the expansion of the French immersion program |

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| I support the expansion of the French immersion program if the interest is there. However, I would be deeply unsatisfied if this affected my family in terms of boundaries. I have no interest in having my 4 children switch schools due to boundary changes. We have built a rapport with the teachers, staff, and school community. As well as the inconvenience of having to purchase new uniform pieces if we were affected. I am praying that we are not affected by a boundary review. |
| I support the expansion of the program. There should also be consideration for expanding the grade 5 entry program. |
| I support the expansion, lots of opportunity for students with the future francophone university |
| I support the initiative, and any options to implement the program to more schools. |
| I support this expansion as it provides greater access to an important program even if it means another boundary review. |
| I think expanding French immersion is a great idea and due to the fact that my kids are still young I don't believe we would be greatly affected by this. |
| I think expanding it to a different school in Burlington South would be much more beneficial. Many students are being transported from Aldershot area already to Sacred Heart of Jesus. I feel it would save on cost and transportation conflicts that already exist. |
| In addition it would force students out of their home school which is for most walking distance to have to be bussed to another school. This just does not make any sense. Many families would unfortunately switch to the public Board. Sacred Heart should not be an option to expand the French Immersion Program where a school is nearing likely capacity. Please consider my opinion as well as other Sacred Heart of Jesus families voice. |
| I think expanding the FI program is great, we were on the waiting list for the lottery when my daughter entered grade one so more available spots are needed. One thing to consider is that kids have to have new uniforms when the boundaries change and that is not fair to parents so this needs to be addressed. |
| I think French immersion is a good program for some kids but not for all. Our kids will not participate and I feel that making boundary changes to accomodate this program is problematic. I do not support and do not want to see my kids changing school |
| I think having the option of learning more french is a good option to have |
| I think in order to provide feedback I would want to know what some possible scenarios are...it is hard to understand how widespread these changes may be from the info presented. Saying every student may be affected is very vague. |
| I think it is a great idea to allow more students the opportunity to learn and become proficient at a second language. |
| I think it is a great idea to expand the program and allow more children the opportunity to learn a second language. |
| I think it is a great idea. As it is currently, there is a realistic chance that a sibling will not be chosen to attend the same school. This makes it very difficult for parents. By expanding the program, there is a better chance to have the sibling |

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| I think it is a wonderful idea and cant wait ! |
| I think it is great that you are expanding the French Immersion Program. However, please do not more the Extended French Program from St. Joan of Arc. It just started this year and we do not want to see it leave the school. |
| I think it is imperative that the program is expanded. It is not fair to the children that would like the challenge of adding another language. |
| I think it is important to expand the French immersion program within our community. However I do not agree with |
| I think it is important to understand that expanding the French Immersion classes should not have to impact students who are currently enrolled and are satisfied in their local school. If you want to offer it at other locations or schools, then that |
| I think it is irresponsible that you are considering moving forward with a plan to increase a program where you may need to hire unqualified teachers. We are already skimming the bottom when it comes to French teachers in this part of Ontario - how can we support student achievement with unqualified staff? |
| I think it is ridiculous that you are considering expanding the French Immersion program. There are not enough french teachers in the board as it is. When french teachers go on leave it is very difficult to get another french teacher to fill that role. I also think that redoing the boundaries for the entire board for something that not everyone wants is unfair. Why should the schools that many children have gone to for years be changed because a few want french immersion? I do not support this in any way whatsoever! |
| I think it is unfair for my children to potentially have to change schools because the boundaries have changed. |
| I think it would be crazy for the board to extend the French Immersion. There are currently not enough French teachers so why would you create more vacancies?! |
| I think it would be great for the program to grow and allow more students to take advantage of its potential. |
| I think it would be great to offer more French immersion classes, but hope this does not impact my children's attendance at their home school. |
| I think it would be unfair to my daughter if she had to move to a different school. She has just gotten to know the teachers and students and it would cause her anxiety to have to start in a new environment. |
| I think it's a fantastic idea as the demand for the French immersion is far larger than what it can currently accommodate |
| I think it's a good idea, 2 more classes sounds good |
| I think it's a good idea. |
| I think it's a great idea and students will benefit from it. |
| I think it's a great idea I would love my kids to learn French |

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| I think it's a great idea to expand the availability of French Immersion in Halton Region. We are becoming new residents to Milton, from the Peel District which had far more options to have our daughter enrolled in French Immersion (like her parents were growing up), and to know that there were only 2 classes for grade 1 French Immersion, of which we needed to win a lottery for to give her a better education is ridiculous. This is her first opportunity to get into French Immersion, moving to a new town and school district and she will need to wait until next year grade 2 (provided the expansion of the program still doesn't allow her to enter into grade 1 immersion this year) to try again, with no guarantees. My child's education options should not be relegated to the winning of a lottery. We already pay for her education outside of a system that should be teaching reading and phonics, and now we may have to pay an outside party to teach her French, our country's second language? This is unacceptable. This expansion needs to happen and at a larger scale. |
| I think it's a great idea to expand the FI program. I have one child in G1 FI and would like the opportunity for my youngest to apply and have a good chance of getting in 2 years from now. |
| I think it's a great move to add more French classes. It will distinguish our students and from having 2 kids in the program, I can tell you that it's worth spreading |
| I think it's a great program and the expansion would only help our students reach their potential by giving them a great opportunity to learn another language |
| I think it's a wonderful idea I have had 3 children in the french immersion program and has been a wonderful experience for both my children however my 3 and youngest daughter is wait listed she wants to learn french which we practice at home but at school would reforce her learning. How're she is waitlisted and with the expansion she could have the opportunity. We do have 2 official languages in Canada and I beve we all should have this opportunity if we would like to and not be waitlisted. |
| I think it's a wonderful idea I have had 3 children in the french immersion program and has been a wonderful experience for both my children however my 3 and youngest daughter is wait listed she wants to learn french which we practice at home but at school would reforce her learning. How're she is waitlisted and with the expansion she could have the opportunity. We do have 2 official languages in Canada and I beve we all should have this opportunity if we would like to and not be waitlisted. |
| I think it's an excellent idea and hope it is offered at St. Patrick's School. |
| I think it's good to consider the expansion of French Immersion, however ONLY If it doesn't disuppt or remove any of the existing students. |
| I think its great that there is so much interest in the program and that there's a possibility of more French classes being added. My one issue is the possible school boundary changes. My son already had to switch schools because of boundary reviews so my concern is how many times boundary reviews are going to happen over his elementary school years. I am not committed enough to the French Immersion program to move him from school to school in order to stay in it. |

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| I think it's high time that this program expand to be more inclusive to the students/families interested in pursuing french fluency in our bilingual country. I wholeheartedly support any expansion of this program. |
| I think it's really great to expand the FI program. Would like to see a FI grade 1 track program in a South Burlington (south of the QEW) Catholic School. Boundary reviews and changes are not an issue for me. They're inevitable with population changes in communities. |
| I think it's wonderful |
| I think that the program is great but it would be nice to have one school that could handle all the early and extended French programs. |
| I think the expansion is a good idea if you begin with the kids on the current wait list . It's enough that both siblings won't be in same school, the least the board can do is grant an opportunity for siblings to learn the same language. |
| I think the French immersion programs we have now should stay. I do however have concerns about expanding the program. First, I would not be comfortable if the existing FI schools would be housing the new additional classes as it would take up a lot of resources at the school. Also class ratios are affected by numbers in other classes. There is a lot of evidence of how low the Fi classes get in older grades which would negatively affect the English students and their class sizes. If the additional FI classes are going to be spread out to other schools I would be ok with that or if there were designated only French immersions schools. My children attend school that does have early Fi option and there is a definite divide among the English and French classes as well as the parent council. The idea of having French immersion only schools should be considered. Thank you. |
| I think the school community would be served better by instead of adding 2 more classes to the existing school, adding those classes to a school in the south part of the city (St. Paul, St. John, St. Patrick, Ascension). We would love to send our son to immersion but decided against it as the travel to Sacred Heart is just too far. I think that having an immersion school in both the north and south ends of the city would open up the program to more people. As of now, I feel the north has an unfair advantage. Also it could keep fuel costs for bussing down as routes would be shorter. We would definitely register if the classes went to a school in the south end. Thank you. |
| I think there has been some serious parent shaming going on by the English parents about us parents who want to support and expand the EFI program. The public board is much more supportive of EFI developments than the Catholic. Boundary reviews are inevitable for a school like St.Mary's that remain in growing communities. Perhaps upcoming EFI classes can be moved to a school with less of a school population in a few years (such as St. John Paul II which is very under populated). |
| I think this expansion is long overdue. The current two class situation does not allow for the interest in this program. I also feel that the board should be looking to expand their extended French program and offer it in more than one location. |

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| I think this is a great idea and it would really allow more students to join the French immersion program. I also recommend that the program be moved to St Anne school. |
| I think this is fantastic. The demand is there. I know there are hurdles to overcome but more people should have the opportunity for a French Catholic education in Halton. I have honestly been contemplating moving to the public board (which I don't want to do) since my daughter is on the waiting list for EFL 2020/2021. I have an older daughter in the program already and I want them to have the same opportunities. The only reason I might still consider moving boards is that now that St. Benedict is closed to EFL, my kids will always be at different schools even if my little one does get in. This is a struggle for our family that doesn't exist in the public board. Just something else to consider. Thank you. |
| I think this is great. Giving more opportunities to more kids. How is the teacher recruiting will happen? A few year ago this seems was a problem. How was this fix? The more classes offer the better. But we want to keep the quality. |
| I think this is unacceptable and infuriating. I don't agree with the fact children who are NOT enrolled in French program will have to pay. Why should these kids impacted. As parent I find this very concerning and do NOT support it. |
| I think you need to assess the impact changing schools can have on the younger children. My daughter is finally after 5 months enjoying her school. Moving kids to satisfy a small portion of the community is not in everyone best interest. |
| I thought there was a boundary review already in the works for Oakville because of a new development on bronte. Sounds like it is somehibg that needs to be done regardless, so makes sense to start expanding the French program |
| I totally disagree with this as St Mary is already a school with a large number of students (hence the increasing number of portables) and it wouldn't be fair for the local students to give this opportunity to students from another school area. |
| I under no circumstances will tolerate my child being to a different school for his French Immersion program. He is currntly in grade 7 and this would be extremely disruptive . |
| I understand French is Canada's second language but in this day and age i can't understand the need to offer more programs than are already available? And cause boundary changes that can affect so many families/ situations |
| I understand the situation but I disagree if this decision is going to affect boundaries in the area. This should not be the case. I'm really happy with the school. I proactively found a place close to St Scholastica and my kid loves the school. Hope this can be managed in a different way without affecting the emotional and academic stability of my kid. Thanks |
| I vote for program expansion. Makes sense, other boards have it, we shouldn't be so far behind other school boards |
| I want to learn French |

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| I wanted to add to my previous submission - boundary review should also consider options to include siblings of existing early FI/FI students for entry in either early FI/FI or non-FI (if they happen to live outside the FI catchment). This again allows for the continuation of a sibling support system, sense of family outside the home, and also contributes to a more effective means for parents to support both kids in the same school (transportation to school, participation in events at the school, building sense of community with the teachers). |
| I was concerned with the statement "We may need to hire uncertified and/or unqualified teachers". I believe we would be doing a disservice to the program by using unqualified teachers if the proper interpretation is that their French language teaching skills are not meeting the requirement. I am concerned that this would effectively dilute the value for the French immersion student population and it would be better off to be smaller if that was a constraint. If it was the case the case that it was Public School Board teacher moving to the Catholic Board I do not have an issue. |
| I was shocked when I'm moved to Oakville to find out that the French program was so small. We used to live in Toronto and it felt like every other school offered French. Starting in JK! This is crazy. Please add more classes, I would like my child to have the opportunity to be in French Immersion. |
| I wholeheartedly support the expansion of the French Immersion program. |
| I wholeheartedly support the expansion of the French Immersion program. It is an important program that should be offered in accordance with the bilingual identity of Canada. Interest is obviously high yet spots are limited. |
| I will be very upset if our boundaries change and my daughter is forced to move to a new school. If you are changing boundaries, it should be relevant to new students only. |
| I will have more feedback once I see what the boundaries are changed to and what decision process was made. |
| I will not be happy if my English speaking children are relocated from our HOME school to another due to this change. I will remove my two children from hcdsb and send them to Florence Meares due to location as a result. I am not interested in busing my walking children to another catholic school. |
| I will suggest, before expand the program fix the existing ones where you have been struggle with good French teachers, also our school community have been affect for a lot of changes in the last few years, that I would prefer if you stop the changes |
| I wish it was expanded before, my kid missed out |
| I wish this was done sooner |
| I wish you can add more classes as I have 2 kids in st Benedict school French immigrants and 1 kid in st scholastica school French immigrants and my son is in Sk this year and he got number 80 in the waiting list into the lottery program and I wish for him to have the same education as his siblings. |
| i wish you go through with the expansion because i want my two daughters to have the chance of this unique french immersion program. |

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| I would be against it as it would separate kids from their friends. As lots of kids have trouble in a social environment and making friends is very hard for them, re-doing the boundaries is not a good decision. |
| I would be cautious about changing boundaries. Please remember that as parents/consumers (taxes to Catholic education) that we have a choice. If we are no longer within the boundary of our current school we have a choice to take our children and in essence our monies to the Public board and school in our neighbourhood. That's what I will do. We will move our children over to the Public School in our neighbourhood. |
| I would be concerned with moving my children from their current school to accommodate French.....I'm not sure how great the need is. It would be upsetting for something that is already available at my kids school in grade 4 |
| I would be furious if my child had to change schools because of boundary changes due to the addition of programs for French immersion. |
| I would be happy if more schools provided the program |
| I would be very disappointed to see the program changed (especially if moved from St. M d'Y) as I've had one child go through the program successfully and is thriving in AP French in high school. We live outside the school boundary and currently have another child currently in the program - a child we'd like to see complete her elementary years @ St. M d'Y within the Extended French program. |
| I would definitely be open to an expansion of FI for Grade 1. Opening this up would provide further opportunities to the students who are currently on a wait list. |
| I would definitely expand this program because having bilingual French-English kids will open future doors work-wise. I believe this is beneficial from every stand point. Please do it!! |
| I would hope that any expansion in St. Mary due to French Immersion would be put in schools that have more room and perhaps more central in Oakville. |
| I would like more information. Will my child be required to attend a different school? My son likes the school he is in and we do not want to change school. Will we have a choice to stay in our current school or attend a different school? Please advise [REDACTED] |
| I would like the French Immersion program to be made available at St Anne rather than having to go to a different school. Being bilingual in Canada is important and would provide our children with additional tools to succeed in the future. |
| I would like to avoid as much school boundaries disruption as possible. My son is in an English program, and he will be suffering in the future. |
| I would like to expand the program to more schools in the area because I had to remove my child from a previous acceptance in grade 1 french immersion due to logistics, now I have to wait until grade 5, don't want this to happen to the kid I have in |

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| I would like to express my concerns over the potential requirement to change school boundaries due to expanding the French program. When we moved to Oakville just a year and a half ago we specifically looked in areas that had good school ratings. I would be devastated to learn if we would need to change to a school with lower ratings than the one we are currently enrolled at. I also feel that only a small portion of the HCSB community will benefit from this expansion while potentially many more could be negatively impacted by a board wide boundary change. I also feel that the money that will be spent on expanding this program could be spent on an area that could benefit the entire school community instead of just a small population. |
| I would like to have the program in more than one school |
| I would like to see an expansion of the French Immersion Program |
| I would like to see more French immersion. North of Dundas doesn't have enough. Many of the parents are talking about leaving st Gregory to go to public French immersion. I hope you consider it at st Gregory. |
| I would like to see the French Immersion program expanded at different school sites so that additional students could have access to the program without the worry to the family of having to transport their student outside their school boundary. I feel this would allow the program to be accessed by a wider number of families regardless of socioeconomic status. |
| I would like to see the program expand as I have a child in kindergarten who I would like to enroll in the grade 1 program. The more opportunity for this, the better. |
| I would like to voice my disapproval of the plan to expand the French program. |
| I would like you to consider if the school has the space to add 2 more Grade 1 EFI classrooms. Over time it will require additional classrooms for all grade levels. At St Mary we already have 6 portables so I'm not sure where you plan to put these extra classrooms. Will be build an addition to the school? These things must be carefully considered. |
| I would love an expansion. After some bad info I did not register online in time. It wasn't clear to me that the classes would be at st Catherine's. So I did not enroll her. I think more parents want French than you think. I'd love my daughter to... |
| I would love for FI to be available at St.Elizabeth Seton. Currently the demand is way greater than the supply. As a multi-lingual family we welcome the idea of FI expansion |
| I would love for the HCDSB to take a leadership role and provide an expanded offering to our students. |
| I would love the chance for my son to go to FI, he is currently number 10 in the waitlist in Burlington. We were more than disappointed that he was not picked. If this means he would get in we are all for it |
| I would love to be able to enroll my grade 5 daughter in the French program at her existing school but registration is not available for next year. My other 2 kids are currently in the program, the school is in walking distance and I don't want to separate my kids |
| I would love to see the program expand and open up to more students currently on the wait lists. I think that the opportunity to learn French starting in grade one should be made available to all those who want to take advantage of it, not just a select few. |

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| I would NOT like if the boundary review to affected my children (either directly or indirectly - if it affected their classmates/friends). Please leave as is! Thank you |
| I would not like my child to be registered in a program when I am not sure where he will be located in years to come. Would like to have a boundary review done first, then expand the French program. |
| I would not like to see regular (Non-French Immersion) boundaries changed. Students have established friendships which enhance their development and I would not like to see this disrupted due to programming changes. This is especially important for my son, who like many of his friends, is an only child. My husband and I consider this so important that we have delayed moving until our son finishes school so that he can remain in the school zone. |
| I would not support it |
| I would prefer my child's school did not rearrange boundaries. |
| I would prefer to have more classes for French immersion programs. As We are getting more new houses in Milton, the population is growing and young families are moving to Milton. French is going to be more important for our kids in near future. I would like to put my kids in French immersion program too. Thanks. |
| I would prefer to keep the limit to 2 French immersion classes per school. |
| I would rather not have St. Nicholas affected. I feel that the children who are not enrolled in French Immersion will have a definite negative impact and I do not feel this is fair or equal in any way. |
| I would suggest that you consider the addition of the French Immersion to another school and kept the boundaries as is to the existing schools. Perhaps a school in South Burlington for those who are interested in sending their children into the French Immersion track and for those who are being bused to North Burlington. |
| I know if you change my boundary and my children are affected - 3 affected out of our 5 children. We would enrol them in the public school closest to us. |
| I would support any decision made to accommodate students. As a parent, I am personally invested in my child and would endure small inconveniences such as driving further so that my child would have the opportunity to attend FI. |
| I would support this expansion. I think it's a great idea that would benefit all students. |
| I would very much like to see the French immersion program expanded. |
| I would vote against the expansion. A lot of families picked their homes to go to a specific school or have planned their daily lives around it and a major change can cause a lot of problems |
| I would welcome an expansion of French immersion. Which would increase the possibility of my child being admitted into the programme. |

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| I wouldn't like to see the french immersion program be moved to another school as has happened in the past. This cause families with more than one child to have to go to more than one school to drop off and pick up their kids if they want all of them be in the french program. This is a common concern and complain of many families in Georgetown. Thank you for asking feedback, please keep doing this. God bless. |
| I wouldn't what to change my child from school when not only is convenient to have her there but she has a support system and we've built a community. They should find a different way of doing things. |
| I'd hope that if this goes through, the school board would more openly accept cross boundary applications as my children would not want to leave their current school |
| I'd like it to remain the same as now |
| I'd love for it to expand. I think its a great idea. It might be a little inconvenient for a little time but the idea that my children will have a better chance of being in French Immersion program is worth it. |
| If adding additional French classes will change the boundaries for my non French immersion children then I am against it. Why should a child in Grade 8 have to potentially change schools in their last year to accommodate a few additional French classes? Sorry! |
| If adding french immersion will change any of the current boundaries or services offered at Lumen Chrisit, then I do NOT want it expanded. If it can be done in a way that will not impact the boundary or services offered then I have no concerns. |
| If Halton Catholic does not expand FI, then I will be left with no choice but to choose a Halton Public school instead. |
| If HCDSB does this parents will be angry and switch boards. What the is going on with schools thes days |
| If it is being expanded, it should be available at all schools, not a select few. |
| If my children get forced to go to a different school due to the boundary changes, I'll pull my kids from hcdsb and change my taxes back to public school. |
| If my kids get displaced from their school to make more room for bussing in french immersion kids, the HCDSB is going to hear about every single day!!!! |
| If the board terminates French immersion programs this will mean job loss at the secondary level for the future |
| If the boundaries are changed and we are no longer in the boundaries a school move will affect my child's mental health as she has a very hard time coping with change and just started at st.john last year. |
| If the French Immersion programming is to be expanded, the impacts on boundaries and services should only impact those requesting the expansion. Those not requesting their children to be in French Immersion should not experience any change as a result of an expansion to the program. |

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| <p>If the school boundaries are going to change they should do it keeping in mind proximity to schools. My kids could walk to St. Marguerite in about 5 minutes yet get bused to St. Andrews</p> |
| <p>If there is a greater need for French immersion maybe another school should be built for that. I don't feel it's fair for so many other students to possibly have to change schools due to boundaries set out for French immersion students. We need to think about the majority here.</p> |
| <p>If there is an interest in French Immersion programs, I'd be very disappointed if our children would be forced to move schools. I think having a French Immersion school on it's own would be a better option. Those students could be bused.</p> |
| <p>If there is an interest in French Immersion programs, I'd be very disappointed if our children would be forced to move schools. I think having a French Immersion school on it's own would be a better option. Those students could be bused.</p> |
| <p>If they do a boundary change then we will be taking our kids out of the Catholic board and putting them in the Public school that is walking distance from our house. If they want to expand the program, they should look at doing a school in the south of Burlington to cover the city evenly.</p> |
| <p>If this will not affect the quality of the french immersion program, and there are qualified french teachers for this program, so I am with increasing the no. Of classes, otherwise no</p> |
| <p>If trustees decide to do this, I will definitely move my kids to the public board.</p> |
| <p>I'm a parent with a student in the English stream. Not sure what all the hype is about. Everyone should have a choice in their education. We live in Canada after all. We are bilingual.</p> |
| <p>I'm against expanding the French program at St. Mary's. The addition of 4 classes per year will impact the classroom availability at the school. St. Mary already has 800 plus students which has resulted in several classes being taught in portables.</p> |
| <p>I'm against expanding this program at St. Mary's for the following reasons:</p> |
| <p>I'm fine with the expansion at the school but I'm not ok with the boundary changes. I specifically bought a house close to st scholastica so my daughter can go there. This is her second elementary school and she had a rough time with the switch and I don't want her going through that again.</p> |
| <p>I'm in agreement and support</p> |
| <p>I'm in favour of FI expansion immediately. Too many children have missed this great opportunity due to this board's low enrolment count.it is unfair and doesn't make sense given all other boards are expanding their programs.</p> |
| <p>I'm in support of this change.</p> <p>My one ask is that all siblings stay in the same school to ease logistics for parents. I have two children in the Early French Immersion program and my third child has been denied cross boundary requests to attend the same school in the English stream. I recognize that if it stays a lottery system to be admitted into French Immersion that he may not be admitted into the program when he is in Grade 1 but I am hoping that he is reserved a spot in the English stream at the same school.</p> |

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| Thank you for trying to explore this option - I know it isn't easy! |
| I'm not agree with this this potential expansion because should impact in a negative way for all the students |
| I'm not in favour of expansion if it impacts school boundaries. To think our school community would be impacted, never mind the waste of money, to benefit a small portion of families is ridiculous. |
| I'm not in favour of the possible changes to the current elementary school boundaries if this means that my children will have to moved to another school. They dont need to feel like they're being punished by having to leave the school and friends they have just to make way to expand the program. |
| I'm ok with new boundaries and happy to hear the french iersion |
| I'm very pleased that the board is considering this option. It's giving more future grade one students the opportunity to be included in the French immersion program. |
| I'm very pleased to hear about this potential expansion to the French immersion program as it will be providing more students to learn French starting at garde one. Hope this expansion happens. |
| in addition, many of the children impacted were not able to attend French immersion program without taking on yet another move. Now these students are in older grades and the option for French immersion is no longer an option-negativelyimoactedagain |
| In all honesty it is EXTREMELY unclear what this expansion means....does this affect students in EFI in older grades currently? Would the gr 1 EFI that is assigned to current locations be moving to an entirely different school? |
| In order to have a. Educated opinion we need to have access to exactly which changes will affect school for kids not in the French Immersion. All information available is vague. Thanks |
| In order to provide comments, I need to understand what changes would occur to the boundaries. Would my school boundary be expanded? Please confirm |
| In reviewing the plan for french expansion it does not seem well planned out! Combined grades in an FI program, especially at the primary level is a disaster and will minimize the quality of language instruction. A combined 1/2, as an example is a difficult split as the students are at such different reading levels and language acquisition. In these most formative years with the addition of second language instruction combined grades would be detrimental to the quality of the program. Also, i think that it needs to be clear how the board will be hiring these teachers when other boards in the province i.e. Peel, are decreasing their french program due to a shortage of french teachers in the country. And hiring unqualified teachers who speak french would be disrespectful to the profession and to the students in the program. |

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| Increasing the French Grade 1 program is exactly what Burlington needs. Language education provides our children with valuable life/learning experience that will lay the foundation for character development for the rest of their lives. At the end of the day, this is what early education is all about; developing a child's character and preparing them to be the best Canadian citizens they can be. |
| Education at all levels is a direct investment in our collective future. Expand these programs and we make Burlington, and Canada for that matter, a better place. |
| Is now the right time to be asking about this??? With teachers on rotating strikes. Seems like it's a hard sell to ask for more funding from the government |
| Is this going to impact school size and class size |
| Is this necessary? Could this money go to support a wider range of students, or fund special education programming and support. |
| It about time. |
| it about time. |
| It is a terrible idea. There is already a big shortage of qualified Catholic french teachers in the province/board. There is no point in expanding the program without qualified teachers. |
| It is difficult to have siblings separated now that FI has s at different schools. Having the school bus service allows the siblings to stay together on the bus at least so that it makes logistics a bit easier for parents. However, ideally, siblings would be together at the same school if they are all in FI programs. |
| It is extremely hard to comment on any impact when the impact is not detailed. A blanket statement that this may impact boundaries is not sufficient information to validate any decision making process. We need clear maps with new boundaries first |
| It is extremely valuable to our children to have the possibility to have French Immersion Catholic school as an option. Increasing classes from 2 to 4 classes provides more opportunities to more students. |
| It is great for new students. I just wish this was considered 2 years earlier when my child was trying to get into the program when it was capped at 2 grades, causing my child to not make the cut. |
| It is imperative that we offer such programming to our students so that they may have the same opportunities afforded in other school Boards. |
| It is not clear whether the next council meeting is to: A)decide whether to enter into a comprehensive boundary and program review process in order to plan a long-term solution to the expansion of the French Immersion Program. Or B) make decision on the spot about French program expansion in 20/21 as well as the long term solution. |

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| I would appreciate a phone call to clarify before the February council meeting. My number is [REDACTED]. |
| It is ridiculous that our Board is the only Board that can't seem to get its act together when it comes to French immersion. Every other Board seems to be able to deal with the staffing and accommodation challenges. Is it fair that only 138 kids in all of Halton Region should be able to access this programming? Hamilton, Peel, Brantford, York and Toronto Catholic boards all seem to be able to make it work. The Board needs to expand its recruitment efforts. It's time to strengthen the FSL offerings at HCDSB. |
| It is UNACCEPTABLE to even entertain the idea of boundary changes that will affect and displace ENGLISH speaking children from their HOME school to accomodate a small percentage of parents wanting their children in French Immersion! |
| It should be at two schools in Burlington. Not just one |
| It was briefly noted that unqualified teachers may be needed to provide the French program. This is a very bad idea and has so many faults. The separate school board should have quality and excellence as a top priority. |
| It was short-sighted to have this program at St. Scholastica in the first place. Our school is growing and there will be no room for F.I. in the future. You should still expand the program, but should look at moving it in future years to smaller schools in more established neighbourhoods that have more predictable enrollment. |
| It will be a step forward in the right direction. At least for Milton and Oakville where the demand is higher than the supply. |
| It will be really hard on my children if they have to attend a different school. |
| It would appear that there is once again a potential for families to be impacted by a decision that benefits the few. My school community was negativity impacted by the decision to move our school start time by 10 mins, in order to accommodate busing (which in my viewpoint is unnecessary). This resulted in families leaving our school. I would not want to see any further impacts on the Ascension community with changes to school boundaries only to accommodate a handful of parents who are interested in pursuing French Immersion for their children. |
| It would be great to have an east school. |
| It would be great to have the program run in more than one school so children in the same family are not separated. Having one child get into the FI "lottery" and not others is very stressful and difficult for parents and siblings |
| It would be great to have the programs offered at more schools or for siblings to be allowed to attend the same school |
| It would be great to offer the program at more than one school in our area, so that there is a greater chance that siblings could both attend the same school in the FI program. |
| It would be important to add more locations to the Extended French program, especially in Milton, giving a chance for the students who were not able to access the EFI program, to still have access to another more intensive French Language program. |

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| It would be nice for siblings to be able to go to same French immersion school. Can we keep it in the same place or have the additional classes in different school to provide more options. |
| It would be unfair to ask students not in French immersion to change schools. I see French immersion as an extra and unnecessary program reserved for only a select group of students. It is not for the regular students to accommodate this but rather the other way around. |
| It would be very disappointing if the HCDSB decides to uproot students who are already in the F/I Grade 1 program, and move their programming to another school. Parents have already invested in uniforms, and incurred other costs to this point. |
| It would greatly change my decision on my daughter who's now already in for French immersion for grade 5 next year should she have to change schools. I think that's absolutely ridiculous if that's the case |
| It wrong to deny programming when it is feasible. the students in our board are all English. These student want to learn an official language and we are crucifying them. We should be ashamed |
| It's a dream come true! My husband and I both raised Catholics were debating pulling our kids out of St. Nicholas to put them into French Immersion at a public school near by. That is how important learning FSL is to us. |
| It's a lot of info...too much to go through ALL of it. My question is this... my daughter was waitlisted for this past year 2019/2020 (she is currently in Grade 1). Will she be given an opportunity to enter the program |
| Its about time! For some reason the Catholic board in Halton is always years behind other boards and regions. The demand in Ontario to be bilingual grows every year in the workforce. I wish this was available when I was growing up! |
| It's disheartening that FI is being blamed for inevitable boundary reviews. Please expand for 2020. |
| It's disheartening that the survey will represent 92% of HCDSB's regular track students and only 8% of it's students in Optional French programming... |
| It's great that the French Immersion program is expanding. But I certainly do not think it would be fair to move around the boundaries. My son started JK in September, he loves his school St. brigid, he loves his classmates. To think he would basically be starting over terrifies me. As most kids his age change isn't a good thing. We are blessed that he has found his 'home' away from home. Please to do not impact these little beings who find change so difficult. Thank you. |
| It's outrageous that you are suggesting to the entire HCDSB population that they are going to be moved from their schools because of a 2-class expansion at 4 Regional sites. For shame!! |
| It's time to expand like every other Board in the province |
| It's time yo take this small step towards expansion. Adding a maximum of 46 spots per city is better than nothing. |

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| I've heard it's a great program, |
| Just don't force my kids to change schools. They are both in walking distance from home, we chose to live where we are because it is close the elementary and secondary school. You will get a lot of angry parents if you force them to switch schools. Did you even ask parents if French Immersion is that important to them? |
| Just keep it the way it is. Teach french from grade 4 to 8 |
| Keep as status quo. Expansion at this time would mean that schools would be beyond capacity in some areas and impact class sizes, boundaries, over capacity on school community, school dynamics and school climate. Until renovations to schools happen to accommodate all the extra students and staff, things should be left status quo. Don't put the wagon before the horse. Implement safe schools that can accomodate for the changes before moving students into already over crowed schools. Safety of students and staff should be considered before making and implementing such changes. Schools for example like St. Gabriel for example already have ridiculously large class sizes in the English panel for those students who are in the catchment area who have chosen not to go into French Immersion. This impacts greatly on quality of education for the English stream who have an upward of 36:1 ratio in the upper grades because of kids who begin in the FI program and then all of sudden drop out of the program and end up back in the English stream again, thus putting a strain on teachers and class sizes and quality of education for these students. |
| Keep the status quo in all french programs. We do not have enough qualified French Teachers to cover the number of classes we have now. Don't spend the money and time on this issue. |
| Let expand the program, give each child an opportunity to speak french!!! |
| Let not deny kids of opportunities |
| Like many parents enrolled in the EFI program at St. Mary, it is also our home school. (changing the boundary will not affect us) We are in favor of expanding the program as long as it stays at St. Mary. I understand that there are some parents that are not happy with the french program as it increases the numbers at the school, and they are asking to move the program to another school. We are not in favor of that. We have two kids in the EFI program (we were lucky) however I understand that if you have two children and one does not get into the program it can be challenging. Both our kids have formed friendships with both the English and French students at the school and we feel that moving the program would be detrimental to their social, emotional and academic development. Therefore if expanding the program means that it will move to another school then we would not be in favor of expanding the program, unless it is grandfathered in. |
| Thank you for all your hard work on this program. [REDACTED] |
| Looking forward to applying for my son next year, more spots would make it less stressful. Please expand |

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| Milton needs a second FSL elementary school. The new designated school is just not practical away the complete south west end of town. Doesn't help parents at the north east side of Milton. |
| Milton parents want FI. The waitlist proves this. This 'Boundary Review' sure looks like a scare tactic to make English parents speak out against FI. We're talking about 40 more students at 4 schools, and 7 new teachers. These aren't big numbers. With a little bit of work, these students can be accommodated for, and teachers can be found. I will be very disappointed in the HCDSB if they choose not to expand. So much so, that my children may change to the HDSB for their FI needs. |
| More information and details about the actual changes to boundaries should be presented, so parents see how it will impact them. |
| More instability & controversy is the last thing that a Catholic school board needs in this province. Extinction is never far away & is looming. Why would HCDSB even consider risk making parents angry like this? |
| Movement of any students that are entering grade 8 in the 2020/21 school year should be avoided. It would be disruptive in their last year in a school community to transfer and possibly be separated from their known peers. |
| My child has already had to be moved because of French Immersion and boundary changes. She moved in Grade 2 from St Catherine's to St Brigid. We live in Stewart's Mill and I please ask that you do not make students from SM change schools again. |
| My child is on the waitlist. Please give him the opportunity to join FI in September like his siblings by adding 46 spots. Thank you. |
| My children are both in the English program at St. Mary's in SK and Grade 3. We really enjoy the school and we would like our children to remain attending the school. I have a number of concerns with the proposals concerning French school. The first is the expansion of the program which, based on existing enrollment, will result in an increase in portables. The use of portables is less than ideal. Having a class inside the school is the preferred option, especially with younger kids with the need to go in and out of the school for various reasons. Other concerns include no cap on enrolment. If this could result in St. Mary's becoming a French immersion only school, that is a big concern to our family. We do not want our children sent to other schools in the area, likely resulting in friends being split up with children at various schools in the area. We also want to continue attending a school close to our home. A boundary review would put that in jeopardy. Our children may be separated from their friends and forced to attend another school. We hope that the concerns of the school community are taken into consideration when making this decision. |
| My children are enrolled in grades 3 and 7 and would not be affected. However, I would support additional French immersion so long as it does not negatively affect teacher to student ratios for non-French immersion classes. |
| My children are not in the French program. They are settled in their school and would be devastated if they were forced to change school. We do not support a boundary review for existing children in the school. Major disruption |

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| My children have adjusted really well to the school. I want them to keep going to the same school until grade 8. They really enjoy the French immersion program and do really well. |
| my children have experienced having French taught to them by a teacher who doesn't speak French. How is this possible for a required subject? Why do all of the French speaking teachers get placed in the optional immersion program? So inequitable |
| My children will not be attending the French Immersion program and as such I do NOT like the idea of them potentially being moved from their home schools to accommodate this program. |
| My child's boundaries shave changed many times since they have been enrolled at St. Brigid. It's ridiculous and the boundaries should be left alone! Student's are being bounced around and is not fair! My child's school is already at capacity! |
| My child's boundaries shave changed many times since they have been enrolled at St. Brigid. It's ridiculous and the boundaries should be left alone! Student's are being bounced around and is not fair! My child's school is already at capacity! |
| My comment is don't do it, if anything it should be Mandarin not French being taught and my kid has great friends you may end up splitting her from with the new boundaries. This is a stupid idea and shouldn't be done. |
| My concern is if they don't allow the program to phase out at St Peter school like they promised when they moved it to St Benedict's. there are two more years left to phase it out and I would not be happy if my child has to move to another school. |
| My concern is the before and after school care for students who are currently registered at their home school; should the boundaries change are they guaranteed a space at the "new" school? |
| My concern is the long term capacity to an ever growing school population. |
| My concern with expanding the program lies with the ongoing issue of finding French teachers both long term and on an LTO basis for various types of teacher leaves. This is an issue with the current number of classes, not to mention the problem will be compounded if the program is expanded. What can the Board do to secure French teachers- can hiring occur earlier before teachers are done teacher's college with an intent to hire letter for candidates? When hiring is left too late candidates have been secured by other Boards. Can current French teachers be examined across the system- with applicable candidates deployed by human resources based on education and training to the best suited programs based on their training/education? There is no point to expand the program if a hiring and staffing allocation plan is not undertaken at the Board level with regards to French teachers. |
| my Concern would be if my two daughters were to be separated due to boundaries changing. Currently I have one in the grade 5 French program at st Marguerite, but my youngest is in grade 1 Ans won't be doing it til grade 5 either. |
| My daughter currently attends the gifted program at Canadian Martyrs. Consideration should be given not to move students already enrolled in the program to a different school to avoid undue stress and disruptions. |

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| My daughter currently attends the gifted program at Canadian Martyrs. Consideration should be given not to move students already enrolled in the program to a different school to avoid undue stress and disruptions. |
| My daughter is a special needs student and I would be very upset if the new boundaries caused her to attend a different school. She's been at st. Timothy's for 3 years and knows everyone. If she potentially had to change schools it would be a huge back |
| My daughter is eleventh on the waiting list so I would like to create another class so that she can attend this program |
| My daughter is not currently enrolled in French in st Johns but if the option was available at St. John I would enroll her. In my opinion if St. John's had more French options that would be a strength to further enhance the school. |
| My daughter, [REDACTED], is a special needs student, if the boundaries were to change and she had to attend a new school, it would be a huge detriment to her progress. She has made so much progress over her last three years at St. Timothy's school. We love the staff and other families that attend, it's a very close community. They created a sensory room at the school which has been a great tool/reward for my daughter. She has special supports set up in the bathroom and staff who are familiar with her needs and always there to help her. I know arrangements will be made wherever she goes, but the staff members and friends she has made will not. I know the emailed stated the vote will be on Feb 18/20, at this point in time do you know which schools will possibly be affected by the boundary change? Or when this information will become available? There are many factors that need to be taken into consideration. Registration for the YMCA before and after school program will be starting soon. If boundaries change and I cannot get a spot at a new school that is a huge problem for our family as both parents work full time. Will there be some sort of compensation for uniforms? |
| my daughters are in extended French. French teachers are already scarce, how does the board propose to find more? earlier core French and the n adequate support of the extended French program would be a better option across all the schools. |
| My family and I are big supporter of the expansion for the French program, we wish to find more French programs in more catholic schools especially in Oakville,thank you for your hard work and continues hard work . |
| My family would be happy to have a French immersion class in our beautiful Canadians Martyrs Catholic school. It will help me to keep my kids at the same location. |

My highest priority is the quality of teaching staff. Program expansion should only be done when there are sufficient teaching resources. Reading that there are 5 teachers working in the french program currently without proper accreditation is very concerning as a parent. What's the point in having my kids in the program if the quality is poor? I appreciate the outreach strategy, but until you have a greater pool of candidates to chose from (and this notes a decline in graduates) why are we even considering expansion? If the quality declines, I'll have to pull my children out of the program and then you'll have a another issue all together with low enrollment in the higher grades

Currently, I have 2 kids in the FI program at 2 different schools. Is there was a possibility of one school dedicated to the french programs, could you find savings? Since most kids are out of boundary already & transportation costs are high already, is a single, dedicated school for french learning where the program could be more fulsome (ie: french assemblies, announcements, etc).

If there comes a point where my children are learning in split grades year over year, I will pull them from the program

My kid is out of boundary and attends a non-FI school. I'm not clear how will this impact her continues acceptance at St Matthew.

My kids come from a bilingual school in Montreal, when we moved to Oakville last year, we were particularly happy to find St Mary , knowing that not only our children will continue to learn both French and English but that they will do so in a Christian environment . My oldest girl's class is in a portable and I never even once heard her complain about that, because for her it is her classroom and she find it quite fun to be the first one outside for recess. Being bilingual I can truly say that learning a second language can only benefit the children, so I hope that the board would make the right decision and expand the French immersion program .

My kids have already had their boundries switched due to the french program. It amazes me how a small percentage of the student population can effect changes to other schools. How about the needs of the other children be considered for a change?

My kids love their school. all of the there friends are at there. Please do not do this.

My kids will be Grade 6 and 8. Does this expansion affect kids who are near the end of their Primary school years? I would not be happy to have to move my children in the final couple of years due to boundary changes. While I support giving parents the option of choosing English or French instruction for their children, I don't want the English students forgotten or negatively affected in the process.

My only concern is for students. Those who are already in an extended French program should be left at the school they are currently attending and not be affected by the boundary review. The boundary review should apply to incoming students only.

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| My only concern is the impact on the core French program teachers as there is lack of teachers to fill current French LTO positions. When the regular French teacher was on maternity leave at my child's school this position was not filled for two months. There was many different supply teachers but the students did not receive French instruction until a French teacher was hired two months later. This was a planned, known absence. Not sure if this is a HR issue, re: supply teachers or just a French issue??? |
| My only concern is the impact on the core French program teachers as there is lack of teachers to fill current French LTO positions. When the regular French teacher was on maternity leave at my child's school this position was not filled for two months. There was many different supply teachers but the students did not receive French instruction until a French teacher was hired two months later. This was a planned, known absence. Not sure if this is a HR issue, re: supply teachers or just a French issue??? |
| My only concern is the potential change in boundaries for schools. If there is a change to the boundary lines, I would strongly suggest exempting existing students so that they are allowed to remain in their respective schools until graduation and only enforce the new boundaries on future students. |
| My preference is to keep the French Immersion program at St. Brigid |
| My professional career has been highly involved in talent acquisition, helping to improve Canada's economy. With this experience, and my being a people leader, it is highly advantageous for our children to be bilingual. It will open them up to greater opportunities in their future which in turn will help our economy flourish. Given the fact that there is already a surplus of demand with little supply, it is obvious that we should not be divesting in this curriculum, rather investing to grow it. |
| My vote is to expand this bilingual program across the district. |
| My school has EF. If parents choose an earlier French start for their children then we should give them this opportunity. Please expand FI for September. Our neighbours attend Halton Public and they have unlimited spots. |
| My son deserves the chance to continue his studies in French Immersion to develop his skills. |
| My son has already experienced a boundary change. We were forced to change schools from St. Catharine's to St. Brigid when he was in grade 3. He is now in grade 6 and is very happy. I sincerely hope that he will be permitted to stay at St. Brigid. |
| My son has already experienced a boundary change. We were forced to change schools from St. Catharine's to St. Brigid when he was in grade 3. He is now in grade 6 and is very happy. I sincerely hope that he will be permitted to stay at St. Brigid. |
| My son is accepted to the gr 1 French immersion program. I have been advised that my daughter who starts JK next year almost certainly won't be accepted into sacred heart of Jesus school for JK due to boundaries. Siblings should stay together. |

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| My son is in JK and I do not want the French Immersion program to expand especially with the possibility of the potential boundary changes. My husbands sister had taken French in Immersion throughout elementary and highschool and cannot speak french |
| My son will be entering grade 6 next year. He has an IEP. He has made numerous positive connections with staff and peers. His Dad recently passed away in October 2019, [REDACTED]. I am worried for his emotional well-being if he's moved |
| My understanding is that there are not enough qualified French language teachers to fulfill the needs of the existing early and middle immersion programs. Without fluent French teachers who are also primary qualified I don't see how this expansion is a possibility. |
| Neither of my sons are in French immersion (we do not wish them to attend). As a result, I do not support moving existing school boundaries to accommodate French programs. |
| I recommend the board consider all other alternatives before disrupting existing school communities. |
| No changes to the existing boundaries |
| No issue expanding French immersion, but it cannot change existing school boundaries. |
| Stop allowing children in that do not live within the existing boundaries if school population is an issue. |
| No need to expand this program, the school is already over populated for a small school and we risk losing more excellent staff. Not necessary in our opinion. |
| No thank u! My kids do not qualify at St Scholastica. I think if we offer such a program it should be open to all not just some. Children also have a right to education close to their house not happy with a boundary review may be needed. Also French teachers are hard to come by. Not really something we value as our children do not benefit from it. It should be for all or nothing. Money would be better spent in other ways |
| No to expansion and changing boundaries |
| No to expansion of the French Immersion Program |
| no, |
| No. Why is there a limit on comments - embarrassing. If you wanted true responses, there would be no limits on the comment box. Dissappointed. I will be considering removal of my 3 children from the HCDSB system if 4 classes/year are + to St.Mary |
| No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No & No. HCDSB please do not go down this road. Leave kids in their home schools & with their friends where they belong. |
| None, I think it is overdue |
| Not a great choice for Sacred Heart of Jesus. It's difficult to find replacement French teachers should staff go on a leave to fill the positions. We are already facing challenges with this. Why add another class to a school that is already having difficulty with this? You would displace MANY families who already live so close to their home school. Consistency is key and by uprooting a child who had spent years trying to get accustomed to Staff and friends who may have difficulties transitioning to school would be sad. |

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| Not a wise choice. There is certainly demand for more French program but you can't staff the programs you currently have. |
| Not in favour of the proposal |
| Not interested in French Immersion program. Half the students enrolled in this program do not do well. They need to learn to read and write English |
| Not interested in French Immersion when my daughter could not even get a teacher to teach French at St. Elizabeth Seton for months when she was there. Have already gone through a boundary change with my child currently in elementary school |
| Not interested in French Immersion, I do not want the friendships and community that we have built with other families taken away from us if school boundaries are changed. |
| Nothing pertaining to French Immersion. I feel all school boundaries should be reconsidered as I'm being forced to take my child to a farther school for no reason. |
| Oakville is growing and more French Immersion options is a must. The boundary review should be a part of it as my kid commutes to school by an hour bus trip, when the kid across the street walks to his school same program. |
| Offering French Immersion programming is wonderful, however if it causes a boundary review that would move children out of their school community, it shouldn't be done. It is not right to move students just for new French programs. |
| Oh yes, I think it's a great idea to enlarge the coast and give more children this opportunity to be bilingual. |
| Asides grade 1, how can older children benefit from this opportunity? |
| Thank you so much for this thoughtful idea. |
| OLF had a french immersion program which was cancelled and now it's expanding again? If children have to move to another school because of boundary reviews it is not always positive. Some children don't like change and it impacts their attitudes. |
| Opening up as much space as possible for all FI students who want to attend would be my preference |

Option A: "grandfathering out students is too expensive" - the cost seems to override the needs of families and students well being and it doesn't seem fair to those programs they should be able to. Especially if the board is willing to spend \$200k the first year on portables and bussing! This option also has combined FI grades not acceptable for a specialized program.

Option B: negatives - combined grades, extraordinary cost, unqualified teachers, no real plan to recruit teacher, schools can't hold the students which means lots of students will be uprooted.

OPTION C: Completely unrealistic.

OPTION D: unrealistic and expensive

With a shortage of qualified of french teachers none of these options are sustainable for the 2020 school year.

Suggestion: Hire french teachers (with the understanding that they are in a holding pattern for future FI) for regular programs and when you have enough to sustain an expansion reallocate the teachers to the french program.

Expand the program starting in 2021 when the teachers are hired and the locations sorted out so parents understand where and how long the students will be at the school. They deserve full disclosure

Our Board is an English board. In a time of scarce resources, where children are not getting the supports they need, it should focus on offering education to students in English in their home schools. French Immersion does not benefit the many children with special needs who are usually advised not to attempt the additional challenge of learning in French.

Given the scarcity of truly qualified French Catholic teachers, it would be best to scrap French Immersion and put additional resources into Core French. It is not acceptably to purport to offer a French Immersion program and then have teachers who cannot properly teach in French.

If there is to be an expansion of the French Immersion program, it absolutely should not result in boundary reviews for the English program. Students should be able to attend the school closest to their home without it being overpopulated due to children coming in to attend an optional program.

Our Board's FI program is only 2% of its total population. It's time to expand for 2020.

Our child will be entering Grade 7 in the 2020/2021 school year. He has attended SJPII since JK. If any boundary review would require him to move schools, we would be vehemently opposed to same. Our reasons for which are numerous but likely obvious to any parent.

Our concerns stem from keeping siblings in the same schools. Our eldest started the Grade 1 Extended French Immersion program in the 2017-2018 school year, at St. Brigid's.

The program has since been moved to St. Catherine's, where in 2020-2021 our youngest child will start the Grade 1 Extended French Immersion program.

We have learned that we are not the only family affected by this change, having multiple children in different schools.

We would like to see a change that would allow for the program to be offered at one school only.

We like sibling to be kept together.

Thank you.

Our family does NOT support the expansion of the FI Program to St.Scholastica.

Expanding the program to St.Scholastica will put unnecessary strains on a school; that already supports the Early FI Program, that is located in a rapidly developing and growing area, and is the holding school for students from the surrounding developing community, until a new school is built in that catchment.

Lets not forget the fact that the board cannot gaurantee qualified FI teachers in the program, which defeats the purpose of parents placing their children in the program to begin with and is completely shameful that there is even consideration for creating additional classes within the FI program under these circumstances!

Expanding the program in the proposed ways is a "quick fix", that is reckless and detrimental to the home school and the families that live in the area and rightful belong to St.Scholastica's School geographical area.

STOP disrupting so many families lives over insufficiently supported programming! Families take a lot of consideration into school location when purchasing their homes, only for the board to consistently make ridiculously lousy boundary changes!!!!

Our family is not enrolled in an FI program and does not care to be. As a result, we would be very upset if any of these options were to change to boundaries in such a way that our children could not attend St. Andrew (or Holy Trinity) in the future

Our school already had a boundary change and is bursting at the seams which affects child learning. Because we are so huge, teams are limited (100 kids in the grade and only 15 make the team), or for track only 4!! 12-14 portables since the influx from the last boundary change. No field to play on. I don't want to see anymore growth at my school. Only a reduction of students. Plus it's not fair to the kids who have already had to move, to be

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| forced to move again. Any change should only impact Grade 1 and earlier. Should be a graduated change. |
| Our school just got EF this year and it has been a blessing. Families interested in FI deserve expansion so their kids have a better chance of getting into the program. |
| Our students are inadequately served in South Burlington. Programs, money, tech all goes to Milton students. It is extremely and blatantly inequitable. Shocking and stark. |
| Our students are inadequately served in South Burlington. Programs, money, tech all goes to Milton students. It is extremely and blatantly inequitable. Shocking and stark. |
| Over the past number of years there have not been enough French teachers to support the other French programs (extended). How will the trustees guarantee teachers in all French programs and covering leaves. Hire before opening classes. |
| Page 72-79 you see all the edits |
| Parents should stop wining about boundary reviews, my older kids got transferred from one school to another due to the previous boundary review and we survived it |
| Parents who are pushing for French immersion enrolment to be unlimited are delusional and don't understand the reality that there simply aren't enough French qualified teachers to staff the program. The board needs to stop buckling under pressure to these parents. Back in 2017 the board presented all the reasons why extended French was a more feasible program for the board to continue and recommended that the French immersion program be discontinued. However, trustees went against this solid recommendation and here we are today with many French immersion classes not having French a qualified catholic teachers. Please don't continue down this downward spiral. Out of all the options presented, choose the most conservative one of only increasing the program by another class, not the unlimited enrolment option. I guarantee you will not be able to find enough French qualified teachers for that, let alone anything beyond that. |
| Part of the problem, which drives the request for FI higher is that the English schools don't start French instruction until grade 4! Would be much more efficient to fix this first! |
| Perhaps before expanding the French program at the elementary level you should consider fixing the existing program you have in place. There are not enough decent French teachers available as is. Kids are dropping out because of the teaching. |
| Please keep French immersion program in our school. Thanks |
| Please allow families the option to remain in any school their children attended prior to any adjustments, thank you. |
| Please consider offering/moving the extended French immersion program to current FI schools. Specifically moving the extended French immersion (Gr 5-) program currently at St Gabriel to Sacred Heart of Jesus. So many of the French programs and educators are in one school. This benefits my family as currently I have children in two different schools. Thank you |
| Please consider students' needs first. Hopefully, adding classes will lower overall class sizes all around. |

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| Please consider that the FI community only represents 2% of our Board when reviewing the comments in this survey. This tiny step towards expansion is well overdue and it is perplexing that adding a maximum of 46 spots per city has caused such chaos. |
| Please consider the boundary review impact on non-french immersion students. I do not support other children having to leave a community that have established relationships so that the french immersion program can be expanded. |
| Please consider the impact of a French program on those who want to keep their kids in the English stream. We believe French programming doesn't add without taking away a whole lot too. The unintended consequence of French programming is that special needs are being segregated primarily to the English stream, adding even more classroom disruptions and violence in English classrooms. Until the board tackles this issue (reduce the incidents of disruption and violence in the class, require assessments before violent children return to the class and increase funding for kids who require extra support) then adding French just exacerbates an already glaring problem. We have loads of data from the public board that French programming has significantly fewer children with behaviour difficulties. Added to this "two tiered" system is a very real lack of qualified French teachers, school capacity restrictions, class size restrictions and added administration work. The system simply cannot handle the added complexity of adding French. Even if it could, the inequities it creates in the English stream is glaring. We strongly oppose adding further French programming. |
| Please do not change boundaries where the English kids will be sent to a new school to accommodate more French kids. Please open a south school in Burlington to accommodate an expansion. It is completely unfair to kick out English kids in their own neighborhood for this especially since last year the board wanted to stop the program and this year you can't even get French teachers to fill in for a sick leave. If you do change the boundaries for the English kids I will remove my kids from our board and send them to the public school within walking distance. From what I know and see as a parent who volunteers a lot of time in the school the French program is not the best run program and I do not want my English kids who actually live in the neighborhood to suffer. Open another school south or leave the program as is. |
| Please do not change school boundaries! As parents, we make real estate and life decisions based on school zones. This is a huge impact and not fair to the kids. Please do not do this! |
| Please do not expand French immersion program in Milton, after yearly boundary-reviews, this is our third school in 4 years. Please leave the status-quo. I oppose any changes. |
| Please don't change boundaries or expand the program. Especially for st. John. |
| Please don't deprive 46 students this opportunity of FI. It's time to expand. |
| Please don't do this! This is a mistake! |
| Please don't move the Gifted Programme from Canadian Martyrs |
| Please expand |
| Please expand for 2020 so our waitlist of 108 is reduced. Even with option a 46 spots are a step in the right direction! |
| Please expand for 2020! |

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| Please expand for September 2020. |
| Please expand the FI program! We feel very lucky that my son was chosen for the Early FI program. We hope to be able to provide the same wonderful opportunity to my four year old in a few years. |
| Please expand the French Immersion programme! I am an elementary school French teacher in Peel and am devastated that my daughter didn't get accepted into the program in Halton where we live. We are absolutely loving the Catholic education she is receiving at St.Scholastica and it feels so unfair that we have to now leave so someone else can have her spot at the school. Putting her in the public board is not what we want but we are being forced to in order for her to attend French Immersion. It's so sad that a family like ours (who values French education and that is willing and able to provide support to our daughter) is being "punished" and/or forced to enroll our daughter in a school or program that we don't even want. Parents should never have to choose between FAITH vs. FRENCH but you are making us do that. Expanding the programme will only have benefits for our children and our community. Merci. |
| Please expand the French program |
| Please expand the program |
| Please expand the program for 2020-21 and beyond like every school board is doing (Catholic and |
| Please expand the program for 2029-21@ |
| Please expand the program!! It's best for the school board |
| Please expand the program, we require greater certainty that our youngest child can join his older siblings in the FI program at St Mary.this interim plan makes sense,show board commitment to program. |
| Please expand the program, would love to have my youngest enrolled in it |
| Please expand! |
| Please expand! I'd love to not have to move my kiddos to another school |
| Please expand! It's best for the students to make their own choice! |
| Please expand! The students on the waitlist are eagerly awaiting this opportunity. |
| Please expand, love to have my kids enrolled in French |
| Please expand. A mere 46 FI spots per city are not enough. |
| Please expand. Why is FI being blamed for scheduled boundary reviews? |
| Please give HCDSB students greater access to French Immersion. The demand is high and right now there are too many children being left out. This is publicly funded education and the opportunity to learn in French should be available to all. |
| Please have at st Gregory. |
| Please have at st Gregory. |

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| Please have this program at Lumen Christi and other individual schools. This will present a fair opportunity for each child and avoid any displacement. I have met parents having to do multiple pick ups and drop offs as a result. Other kids have to bus it to their new school. There must be some savings in extending the program to more schools- instead of a selected few. Please correct me if it is not the case. |
| Please keep the FI program at St. B. |
| Please leave things as they are. My son is within close walking distance to the school. I would be upset if this changed. |
| Please let me know asap if my Son will be forced into French speaking classes. We do NOT have any interest in [REDACTED] learning to speak French. Thank you. |
| Please reconsider NOT doing this. Rezoning boundaries for students causes so much havoc for our children. New uniforms that have to be purchased are added extra expense to parents. Additionally ripping apart children from communities that they have been apart of for years. This is a terrible idea!!! |
| Please vote for expansion |
| Potential boundary changes should NOT affect children that are not part of the French Immersion program! |
| Prefer the Boundary Review for French Program. |
| Preference for boundaries to remain the same and have those in the immersion program bused |
| Program is great, should be expanded. Good interim plan |
| Program should be expanded. |
| Program should be expanded. boundary reviews are inevitable especially in the city of Oakville. Not fair to make FI the scapegoat for all population and boundary issues faced by the board. |
| Program should have been expanded a long time ago and perhaps there could be one school in each area covered by the trustees. This may cause less impact to the schools and the students |
| Put all the French immersion classes at one school. I don't like having students from all areas of Burlington in our school. Extreme variance in SES causes for tension. Many behaviour issues brought in. Make one big French school. |
| Put all the French immersion classes in ONE school. I would |
| redrawing boundaries to expand French immersion hardly seems fair to a large group of parents. restrict the number that can enroll from sacred heart. too many parents sign up for the fun of it because it's easy. |
| Reject the proposal to expand. This is an english board. The french program is a complement to, not replacement for, the excellent english and religious programming of the HCDSB. Boundary changes impacting ALL students must be the result of programming that impacts ALL students. Classmates and friends who have cultivated their education together create an environment of support and comfort...boundary changes that result in students transferring schools is detrimental to students social health, learning curve, and overall feeling of community attachment and pride. Bullying, mental health, and violence can all be |

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| <p>disrupted negatively by large changes in daily routine, student population, teacher familiarity, and building familiarity, particularly so when the student sees no necessary reason for the change (I.e. the english stream students who comprise the large majority of the student body).</p> <p>In addition, there is inconsistency in programming across all HCDSB elementary schools at present. Resources must be spent to equalize the opportunities for ALL students in the board before enhancing a french program that benefits a minority. For ex., a proper music band program.</p> |
| <p>Removing the wait list is a great idea. Allowing siblings to be enrolled and not part of the lottery would be helpful for families already with a child in a French program</p> |
| <p>Schools are already at a maximum capacity in Milton. Changing boundaries now for the French program would disrupt many children not interested in the French program which is unfair. It is my understanding a new school is going to be built in a couple years. Wouldn't it make more sense to wait for that new school to open to change the French program and do a boundary review? Why do a boundary review and disrupt these children twice???</p> |
| <p>Schools should accommodate English programs first</p> |
| <p>Schools with two French immersion classes does not have capacity. Adding 2 more class rooms makes the situation worse. In this instance why not just have a full in French school. That might make better sense</p> |
| <p>Siblings should be automatically accepted into the program once an older sibling is in.</p> |
| <p>Since my child attends Gr4 French immersion program and Gad been studying with his classmates for 4 years, I do not want him to be transferred to another school as a result of the FE program expansion</p> |
| <p>Sorry for my language but it about F time for expansion</p> |
| <p>Sounds like a good interim plan- I'm sure there are other locations that could accommodate the expansion in future years. Our school has pretty low numbers, could accommodate additional French classes. Should be doable, other boards can do it, why can't we?</p> |
| <p>Spilt classes</p> |
| <p>St Elizabeth Seton and St Christopher was already involved in a boundary change around six years ago. At the meeting it was recommended that Seton take in French Immersion to make up the loss of the students to St Anne's so that the boundaries didn'</p> |
| <p>St Mary is really far, are there any thoughts about moving that to centre not so west. Like st Gregory the great? My child just got registered to JK but I don't want to switch schools in 2 years if I don't have to</p> |
| <p>St. Brigid has gone though a lot of change with families being forced to have children in different schools or children not attend the French program for this reason. Please consider that when changing the boundaries again.</p> |
| <p>Stop expanding French Immersion!!</p> |
| <p>Stop the war on French immersion and expand the program please</p> |

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| Strongly disagree with expansion.. lack of qualified teachers for French program as well as not fair to students in the area in the English stream who might have to move. |
| Better to do a pilot at another school in the south not add more to shoj |
| Strongly disagree with this expansion as classrooms are already overcrowded thus compromising children learning and performance. The French immersion program should be kept only within the boundaries of Oakville . Schools in those towns should open their own French programs in order to increase learning French as second language. Thanks |
| Students already give up part of their lunch recess because they can only let half the school outside at a time. There are so many portables in their play area that the entire school cannot fit safely in the space. What do you think adding 4 more portables will be like? The students will suffer. Not acceptable for our kids. I will be the first to switch my kids to the public board. |
| Students currently in a school should not have to change schools to accommodate a new program. |
| Students in Halton Catholic must be competitive with other Boards as well as other provinces. |
| Students should have the opportunity to learn the official language of Canada. Language acquisition is so important at a young age and this should be open to way more students than it is now |
| Supportive of boundary review, would want to raise consideration of siblings having priority in gaining entry into French program |
| Taking into consideration at first that having two more classes for the French Immersion Program is great news for the big pool of parents who do want to enrol their kids on it, we also have to face the reality and is the shortage of French teacher |
| Terrible idea! Too many students, numbers are increasing too quickly each year as it is. Do not add more classes PLEASE. |
| Thank you for considering expansion to the grade one french immersion program. The program is important both for children, the community and canada as a whole. |
| Thank you for looking into the expansion of the early french immersion program. We are so, so, SO thrilled that this excellent program is going to be made available for more children. We currently have 2 kids in the program and couldn't say enough about the amazing teachers and the profound knowledge of another language that my kids currently have. |
| This expansion, although small in comparison to all the Public school boards that offer the french program, is much needed and will allow the 180 students that are on the waitlist to experience learning a new language. This will also mean that 180 students will be able to learn the language within a Catholic setting and aren't looking into alternative schooling (ie. Public board, all day french schools...etc.) in order to receive the french language they so desire. |

Thank you again for your diligence and for looking into this matter for what it is - many parents' desire for their kids to learn our two national languages surrounded within a beautiful Catholic environment.

Thank you for realizing what parents have been asking for in the Halton District Catholic area. Expansion of the program was necessary due to the waiting lists.

Thank you for the update. I would like to request that students are not forced to change schools if they are already enrolled and are subject to the boarder change. We sold our home to move into our School boundary due to my youngest not being enroll.

Thank you. Thank you very much for allowing us to be informed by sharing with us This important information which will impact our families. Furthermore, a big thanks for asking for our input. We see this matter is truly important to you and all the stakeholders as you carefully assess different aspects and involve the community.
We THANK YOU for doing This!

We would like to contribute with our input by saying that this is an exciting news!
And that what matters to us the most is the opportunity to have all our children studying under the same school roof. Please ensure accessibility to each family for all the same household children to attend the same school while also accessing the French Immersion program regardless of the grade.

We pray, God will lead our community leaders and all the decision makers to do what's right and best for our families. May all the decisions bless our children, bless our families, bless our schools and our communities.

God bless you all.

Thank you very much in advance for reading and taking these humble words into consideration.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Thanks for reviewing the waitlists and ensuring that the 180 children who are currently waitlisted, is a top priority. I support expansion of the Gr.1 program

That will be terrific

The background is sparse. I'd like to understand what implications this has for high school once the current grade 1 class is ready to graduate grade 8.

The Board needs to accept the decision of the Board of Trustees in 2017 to make FI permanent at HCDSB. They are mandated to provide the programming to their students. They are not fulfilling their mandate by capping the program at 138 students

The board needs to focus on hiring qualified french teachers to accommodate the existing programs (core extended and immersion) before it considers expansion. My child should not have to learn French from an English teacher and by watching movies in french.

The Board should expand the French Immersion program. The program has been offered by HCDSB since 2012 and has been a permanent program for more than 2 years now. Neighboring Boards, both Catholic and Public, are not only maintaining their programs at a much greater capacity than HCDSB, but are managing to expand them - some with even earlier entry points than Grade 1 - and have been offering French Immersion programming for decades, despite facing the same concerns about staffing and space. It's time for HCDSB to take affirmative action to provide the French language learning opportunities that HCDSB families want and deserve.

The board should stop making excuses and obstacles, hiring French teachers isn't impossible and boundary reviews are a normal part of any developing communities

The boundary review mentioned would be happening regardless of French Immersion expansion since the St. Mary's community is growing due to new residential developments; FI should be expanded as there are numerous students on waiting lists

The choice cannot exist for these students if the board does not expand. The pros of this program would outweigh the displacement.

The choice cannot exist for these students if the board does not expand. The pros of this program would outweigh the displacement.

The current program at [REDACTED] which begins in Grade 5 has been very disappointing for our daughter. Her father is completely fluent in French which should have been a great asset but the real problem is the lack of commitment with the French teacher, [REDACTED], who messed up the school year twice due to maternity leaves. There seems to be a real shortage of French speaking teachers and the substitutes that were brought in to replace her mat leaves were not competent. For the French immersion to work, an investment of better qualified and more committed teachers is necessary.

The expansion should go ahead

The French programming is so much better in other Boards, why are we so far behind the times?

The HCDSB is not keeping up with the learning needs of the 21st century. Our children have been in the board now several years and have not been exposed to 21st century technology and learning practices that include collaboration, critical thinking and the use of technology as there is not enough resources at the school level. Schools need: computers, iPads, laptops, coding programs, robots, etc not spending upwards of \$100 000 per year on bussing and portables for the french program. that will only benefit the few hundred in the board that are interested instead of the vested interest of the other 29 000 (approx) students within the board. Also, the fact the board is entertaining the idea of hiring unqualified teachers for these French roles if they have to is insulting to the profession of qualified teachers and to the students you teach. As a parent of a child who will be starting FI in the fall I would withdraw my child from the program if they were not being taught by a qualified teacher & an exceptional one at that. You are willing to jeopardize the quality of the program to appease a few parents who are upset they are waitlisted. FI is not your Greatest area of need.

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| The host schools would become too crowded. Even with a boundary reviews, the population would be too high. |
| The idea that Halton students are "suffering" because of French Immersion is laughable. The program at HCDSB is not nearly large enough to cause any kind of "hollowing out" of the English streams. Portables are part of school life. I went to school in the late 80s and early 90s. My entire grade 9 and 10 years were spent in a portable. Even with the proposed expansion, the FI program will be relatively small compared to the entire student population. |
| The immersion program is what keeps me employed...this is worrisome that the board does not want to grow like other boards |
| <p>The impact of a boundary change for the children just to accommodate French Immersion is detrimental to so many students.</p> <p>Students have been at Holy Rosary since JK and have to sacrifice leaving their learning environment and life long friends to accommodate French Immersion?</p> <p>Do we not have French schools being built or completed in Milton already that parents have opportunity to enrol their children. Milton also has numerous larger schools in area that accommodate French Immersion opportunities.</p> <p>You are proposing a plan here that will deteriorate the opportunity for future / current Catholic students that want an English education. The language that is actually used in Ontario and rest of Canada.</p> <p>If the demand for French Immersion schools is in that high of a demand, than why is HCDSB not building such schools currently ?</p> <p>Catholic enrolment will be impacted as you force parents to enrol in Public Schools for boundary concerns. Has this concern been addressed?</p> <p>HCDSB mission is to provide a Catholic Faith based education for students in Halton ... It is not to accommodate a language program that by the time kids reach High School is no longer used.</p> |
| <p>The information you have given out is very vague. You have not addressed busing.</p> <p>As my son is in the gifted program at Canadian Martyrs is there any impact to him or the gifted program??</p> |
| The main concern is disrupting children in their current school where they have friends and know the teachers. If boundaries change i strongly feel that they apply only to new registrations or students have the option to stay or go to their new school |
| The most significant concern is the dual system |

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| The most significant concern is the dual system of education that is created via FI programs. The research and literature done in the last 20 years in Canada supports the notion that FI programs are essentially academic streaming. |
| The only reason my kids do to this school is because it is close to the house (& we like the teachers). If my kids get moved to another school, I am putting them in the public board school which is just down the street. |
| The program must be expanded so that all students can have access to French programming. It's only fair. |
| The program should be expanded |
| The program should be expanded for 2020. The trustees specifically denied requests for a sibling rule or cross-boundary priority because expansion was supposed to take care of that need. Now expansion is in question? This is ridiculous. Trustees wanted a way to may expansion possible for 2020 and they got it. Now it's time to move forward. |
| The program should be expanded. It really is a great idea |
| The program should be expanded. There is a waitlist every year in Oakville and many kids get turned away.how is that fair?also,your survey is very misleading.boundary review lan coming regardless and no focus on this being interim measure.more thought should have gone in to messaging.this will create misconceptions. It appears to be a scare tactic to raise alarm amongst English stream parents.very disappointed with the school board. Unable this issue is still being debated. So much anxiety for families who want French education or have children in the program. Would have expected more from a catholic school board. |
| The program should be expanded.it has been permanent for 2 yrs, in existence for 8 yrs,it's time.we have had enough.this survey is a stall tactic,it is biased,and it is a farce. |
| The program will cause a division between english and french students. These programs should be at a dedicated site if the demand is high for it. changing boundaries to accomodate this programming is problematic. My children may need to switch ?? |
| The reason my kids do not want to go to the French immersion program is because they do not want to move to another school. And now, HCDSB is saying they might be forced to move anyway!?? What is going on with HCDSB? |
| The verbiage in your correspondence is intentionally promoting negative feedback. Expansion is well overdue. |
| The waitlist of 108 in Milton speaks for itself. Please expand and at least give an additional 46 students FI. The 46 current spots are not enough. |
| There already seems to be a shortage of good qualified French teachers. How will the board be able to provide good qualified French teachers for even more classes when there already seems to be a shortage? |
| There are so many other programs offered to students, why not have French Immersion offered for those students who are gifted in languages? |
| There definitely needs more FI classes, but as long as students currently enrolled at schools effected by boundary changes can stay at their school |

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| There is a portion of council that are against French language in any form and they are revealing themselves. So unprofessional to have personal agendas. We are taking this to the senior representatives of the Catholic Church provincially and nationally. |
| There is already a culture of elitism with the french immersion students and parents, adding more french and pushing out English in the school will further isolate the english students. The balance of English classes will also be disrupted as there will be less if a mix of grade levels in the class. Leaving level 1 and 2 learners in english and taking away the diversity that is imperative to learning from peers. |
| There is already a shortage of French teachers. How will you get french teachers full time and for replacement during leaves of absence that happen very often. All students should not be re-zoned because a few families did not get into a lottery system program. 46 spots is enough. NO to adding more classes to an already full school. |
| There is always so much concern that there aren't enough French teachers to staff FSL programs. However, HCDSB won't be able to attract qualified teachers by continuing to run a pilot program. the neighbouring catholic boards are all running larger programs than HCDSB and they are expanding. Every year HCDSB does nothing is another year we miss out on recruiting good teachers for the program and they are lost to the other Boards. This expansion is minor in scale and, practically speaking, will only require the recruitment of three additional FI teachers (one for site where expansion will occur - Milton, Burlington, and Oakville, as the waitlist in Halton Hills is not large enough to support an additional class. If the Board can't recruit 3 French teachers in 10 months then there are bigger issues. |
| There is demand for the program so expand it. Follow the HSB or they will be laughing taking our kids, because ppl are leaving our board to give their kids the opportunity. |
| There is not enough French teachers to execute on any of these options. According to your own documents we already have staffing issues with the current program. |
| There may be challenges with the administration of FI but, at the end of the day, FI is a permanent program offering at HCDSB and the Board needs to come up with strategies and find a way to make it available to more than just 138 kids annually. Strong FI programs will mean that more qualified FI teachers will be entering the workforce. |
| There should be consideration of a North and South Oakville site for incoming EFI students as many kids have to travel far on the bus. The EFI program needs to expand based on the need and interest of Catholic parents. It's a wonderful program that |
| There will be confusion with parents interested in enrolling their child in the French program if expansion is done right now. It would be better to have the boundary review done first and then the expansion. |
| They have a hard time filling the spots of the french teachers now so expanding wouldn't be the best idea. Also if there was a boundary change and my kids had to move we would go to the public school down the street. Sacred heart is our home school and my kids used to be in french immersion but I struggled with the fact that my kids weren't actually learning french most of the time because they had LTOs on and off as fill ins. |

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| They should have more classes |
| Think it's great the school board is trying to expand programs, however I do not think that students that are not enrolled in the French Immersion should be affected AT ALL by boundary changes or other reasons. I would be extremely disappointed if my child, currently in walking distance to school, had to be moved to a different school (likely by bus in that case then), due to addition of a new program at her school. What is the change in mentality that the French program was taken away from grades 1-3 for a 40min period every day, to now adding French Immersion starting in grade 1 onward? Perhaps this could be addressed? |
| This expansion would be an excellent idea. |
| This form is not long enough to provide real input. It is upsetting that you are letting French Immersion drive such a drastic change when what people really want is an advanced program which can be easily delivered without such disruption. |
| This is a fabulous idea. Considering that my child is on a wait list to join the French immersion program I would be thrilled if more classes were added. It's so important to begin studying language at a young age. |
| This is a great however I would like to knowing this will change the student teacher ratio? Or changes in current schools with French immersion? |
| This is a horrible idea!!! Does the board have any concept of what is happening currently? My daughter has had three French teachers this year. There aren't enough teachers to fill the current program. Do NOT expand the program? Ill conceived on many |
| This is a program i am on a waitlist for. It is heartbreaking to have to be put in a position to choose between religion or language. Please stop having parents make this choice and offer the same opportunities around us. |
| This is a program we are considering next year. Please don't deny parents this choice |
| This is an extremely biased survey. It is creating divide in our community and absurd media coverage. i thought I sent my kids to the catholic board for a feeling of community and inclusiveness. I have never felt so ostracized, I can't believe this is what it has come to. |
| This is awful. Would the HCDSB really uproot regular program kids from their communities & home schools simply to accomodate an optional program!? What is going on with HCDSB?? |
| This is fantastic news! Much needed in the growing community of Milton |
| This is going to negatively affect the English stream kids. If my kids have to switch schools to attend a catholic school in another neighbourhood I will pull them out of catholic and put them in public. Wouldn't the better option be to add another French immersion program at a school south to prevent boundary changes to English stream and kids in the neighbourhood . |
| This is ludicrous! Extended French is hard enough to find qualified French teachers and regular teachers are filling in for them! Keep the gr 1 immersion as is! Changing boundaries of the whole board to cater to a few and the cost is unacceptable! |
| This is mis leading |
| This is misleading . We have the gifted program a boundary review in our school would be due to this and north dundas |

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| This is ridiculous. How about spending more time and attention on the "majority" and a little less on the "squeaky wheel" elite? Didn't the board learn from the last EFI review? Enough! Please direct your focus to ALL students! |
| This is simply unacceptable. If the HCDSB thinks they are going to move kids from their neighborhood schools to make more room for French Immersion, they will have a fight coming with angry parents. Mass exodus to Non Catholic boards? |
| This needs to be offered at more schools! I was very disappointed when I found out only 1 school offers it and we unfortunately did not get accepted. |
| This program needs to be expanded to schools other than Sacred Heart in Burlington. This leaves the option for French immersion non-existent for those living in most other areas of the city due to transportation issues among other things. |
| This program should be allowed for expansion, if sort of teachers are an issue then teachers should be hired 1 year prior they finished their program with condition to finish their Teacher program with great results. |
| This program should not be expanded. My oldest child received an "Incomplete" in core French because the Board could not find a qualified teacher. If our children's minimum education requirements cannot be met, how can you consider expanding the EFI program? Additionally, if this program cannot be offered to all HCDSB elementary students then in my opinion it should not be offered at all. |
| This request is worded to bring divide in the community. How is a catholic board pushing divide? |
| This school was not built to be a "French" school - it was built to provide a Catholic, English education to the students who live in this community. It will not be fair to them to see such a large number of students being bussed into their home school community. In addition, there is already a shortage of qualified French teachers. It is not feasible to increase the program by this proposal in such a short period of time. With all the cutbacks being proposed, why are we considering this expansion? The bussing alone will be a huge expense. |
| This seems mis leading . Would this really affect boundary for St Dominic |
| This should be available to all students. End of story |
| This sounds like a terrible idea that has not been thought out thoroughly. Please come up with a plan first and then act. |
| This survey is intentionally biased to scare people into rejecting expansion. You are only adding a maximum of 2 classes per city. It's time to move forward with expansion. |
| This will be the second time that the boundary for st Christopher's school will be changed since my daughter has been attending elementary school |
| This would be incredible. We applied to the program for 2020/21 and my son is #42 on the list. We have a high interest in French immersion and since we were not accepted we will likely leave the board and enroll our son into Munns public school FI starting in grade 2. This is unfortunate as we are practicing Catholics and our property taxes go to the Halton catholic board. Without a doubt our preference is to keep our son in the catholic system but without competitive programming like FI we will have to leave the board. |

To deprive students of such a choice goes against everything the halton board says they stand for.

To whom it may concern.

I have two daughters [REDACTED] and they are enrolled on the Early French Immersion program at St. Mary. Please note that [REDACTED] is on 5th grade and [REDACTED] is on 7th grade.

My concerns is if they will be affected by the reviewed boundaries. They are very comfortable at St Mary and they are bilingual in French and English. I think it is not convenient that they change school at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

If you require further details, you could contact me; my mobile number is [REDACTED].

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Totally agree as I an in waiting list for my SK

Unfair to have our children going through a change of school. We don't support this.

Until HCDSB solves its staffing challenges with all French programs (the EFI program in particular), expanding the program makes little sense. All stakeholders would end up with more frustrations as pre-existing needs are not met, particularly since the program has not yet reached its full elementary capacity (i.e. next year will be the first year with grade 8 EFI students).

I'm in favour of hiring uncertified teachers (qualified in other jurisdictions, but not yet recognized by OCT) to fill the needs, but I doubt there are enough of those to solve staffing problems. I do have other ideas which may help HCDSB make more efficient use of the resources allocated to the EFI program which I would be happy to discuss, but in the past the HCDSB has been uninterested, repeatedly saying that these ideas are not in the scope/the mandate of the committees I have sat in on.

With regards to split classes: while my children have been lucky to benefit from the absence of them, the fact that the board seems unwilling to combine students in the EFI cohorts into larger junior/intermediate single/split classes - which English stream students have - contradicts the equity policies around EFI.

Uprooting children from their home schools, neighborhoods & friends to accomodate an optional program is unacceptable. If our kids were displaced, we would certainly consider another school board.

Very happy about it, fully support expansion.

Vote for expansion!

Wanting to know of the possible boundary changes and if there is eligibility to those students near FI schools but not in catchment area.

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| Wanting to know of the possible boundary changes and if there is eligibility to those students near FI schools but not in catchment area. |
| Wasn't a boundary review already due? Seems mis leading this communication piece |
| Wasn't the board already planning a boundary review for Milton and Oakville? You make it sound like the boundary review is specifically for The expansion. Extremely misleading. You should conduct a review of your surveys, not very accurate. |
| We already have had unqualified French teachers supplying for extended periods of time! The quality of just core French alone is suffering. Students say they aren't leaning because of unqualified French teachers. We can't provide the quality we need. |
| We are excited to hear of the program's expansion as we have been planning to put our children in a French program. Ideally it would have been better if more schools offered it and not just the one but this is the next best thing and we are happy with it. |
| We are excited to read about the potential expansion of French Immersion. As a parent/educator we want what's best for our children/students. When there currently is a very limited space it is limiting children out of a great growing opportunity for their future. Other school boards have found a way to make this program easily accessible so we are hoping the catholic board finds a way to make it easier for children to join as well. It currently is very stressful waiting to hear whether or not your child can have the opportunity to attend the French immersion program and thinking about what the next step is for us as a family if they do not get it. We are praying for an expansion so our son can attend since our daughter is already in the program. We beleive all students should have a fair opportunity and at the moment they do not. The love for French is growing and the program needs to grow with that in mind. Thank you! |
| We are in a new subdivision I'm assuming boundary review is something we can't control . If there a demand for a program we should not deny it. The public school in the area here as 18 portables there obviously a demand for this program. If the public board is doing this successfully we should also . |
| We are looking for more EFI classes to be opened at our home school |
| We can not change the current system! We're going to effect the English track students for more early French immersion! We already have extended French and that has been going well for years. We're already at a crisis with government cuts, we already have unqualified supply teachers teaching French as fillins! The French program is already suffering with French teacher shortages! The idea is unrealistic and catering to a small group while threatening to effect EVERY school is unfathomable! The proposal states that unqualified teacher may be needed? Who wants their kids being taught by unqualified teachers? The extended program was enough! We're trying to keep up with the public board, point blank. The few people on the waiting list is not enough to change the whole system. Early French shouldn't have even been offered in the first place. The split classes are hard enough but the unbalanced classes are worse. Classes aren't blended and usually the 'stronger kids' are in French. This is challenging for regular classes. Especially if the government lifts class size caps! This option needs to be eliminated. Keep extended French only or the current early immersion model! |

We certainly need to stop the expansion! We're facing cutbacks for our vulnerable students already. If we do this we create a 2 tier system of education which goes against all our Gospel values! How can we cut services to those students who need extra support and spend all this time on extra resources for a program that can be utilized in gr 5? Split classes, unbalanced classes with the "higher achievers" in french immersion, unqualified teachers, extra money on buses, portables, changing all school boundaries? Why are we even discussing this?? It seems obvious that keeping the status quo is what we need to do. This is not the time to do this. 2 tiered education is already being pushed by the government and should not be pushed by the school board as well. How will this be "education for all?" Maybe the "squeaky wheel always gets the grease" as in these parents pushing extra early immersion classes. Who's speaking for the vulnerable kids? This is a hierarchical, self-centered approach to our education. If we go forward with it then student's education will be inequitable in our own Catholic board! Aren't we supposed to be different from the public?

We currently have 2 children in the programme and have seen first-hand how beneficial it is for their developing minds. With the amount of applicants on the wait list, I feel very strongly that the Board should consider expanding the scope of the programme. This is a great opportunity to enrich and challenge the minds of the children in our community and to continue to build on the high quality of education in our district. The high demand of interested applicants clearly shows that there is a definitive need in our community for this type of education and an expansion of this programme would help to enrich the quality of education for a great number of children in our community. Please consider the expansion.

We do not agree with the expansion of French Immersion programming because it will affect the special classes, Gifted Program.

We as a family have gone through great changes to accommodate our children and it would not be fair to have them switch schools again.

Thank you for your understanding

We do not support boundary changes that will affect children having to move schools. This will impact my children's social and academic well being

We do not want the boundaries changed. This would greatly impact our family in a negative way.

We have a child in French immersion. More children should be able to be in French immersion. At the end of the day, if my child has to take a bus due to a boundary change, that's fine.

We have been waiting for the expansion of French immersion for four years. Additional spots would make the process less stressful and reduce parental anxiety. My understanding of the boundary review for St Mary is that it would result in a change of school for a new development that hasn't even commenced. Furthermore, this sounds like an interim step, affects should not be long standing/lasting. Please expand the program

We have been waiting for this program to be expanded since 2016, why is this still being debated. We have lived with the uncertainty of what our 3 children will get I learn and where for 4 years. This is absurd. And so is this survey.

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| We have no issues with the French program. School does have many kids but kids are happy, have a lot of opportunities, participate in lots of activities- no need to detrimentally affect the program. Expansion makes sense. Too many disappointed kids and families with limited spots. Not fair |
| We have problems with the program. The school is no busier than other schools in the board that are capacity. Children don't complain, never mentioned any concerns. Program is beneficial, should be expanded |
| We lose student every year to forest trail if the demand is there as catholic we shouldn't deny it as it would be selfish . Let keep catholic to ensure we retain our catholic schools |
| We moved to this area because we wanted our child to attend a community school. Our older son was able to enjoy a positive experience. Unfortunately the introduction of the immersion program at SHOJ has turned the experience to be less positive for our younger son. He is not in the immersion program. The school is not equipped to handle the amount of buses coming in and out. I invite you to come one morning to experience the chaos in the parking lot and on the street. Each year we look forward to our son to be taught by certain teachers just to find out that the "best" have been scooped into the French program. This has had a negative impact on academics. I welcome you to look at SHOJ's EQAO scores which are alarmingly low. My son had to spend the first 5 years in a split class. After much campaigning by parents this is the first year that he has not been in a split. Also there is an unfortunate divide because the French kids taunt the kids in the English program. If the desire is to have an immersion program then I suggest that you designate a specific school. The decision to add the program to what was meant to be a community school has been detrimental for our son. |
| We must be able to hire qualified French teachers before offering this program. We do not currently have enough qualified teachers and there is no certainty that the govt will give us more money for this when they are cutting costs everywhere. |
| We need a potential map for the boundaries in review to provide an accurate comment. |
| We need expansion. Boundary reviews have to occur regardless so why are you blaming FI??? |
| We need the program expanded (french in grade 1) so we don't have to send our three children to three different schools... starting french in grade 5 is too late for the average student (straight a student seem to do OK), bussing kids, building and tearing down down portables, ramming schools, etc. negatively impacts the environment, kids wellbeing and stresses parents, etc. |
| We need to keep the program as is! With government cuts how can we justify the expenditure? We can't service the minority of families. The domino effect is too substantial. Go to extended French. It works and keeps the cost down. |
| We need to see the boundary changes before you can ask us if we are ok with this. Is this necessary? Is there demand for this? Will this force my school to close? |
| We need to strengthen our Core French and ensure all student have the proper instruction with qualified teachers first. English stream students should not have boundaries impacted due to this new program, how does that make sense? |

We purposely moved not only into the Millcroft Community but also 2.0km from the neighbourhood school of Sacred Heart. Suggestion: place early french immersion classrooms in each FOS vs. clustering in 1 school putting family's school location at risk despite being in the exact neighbourhood of the school and only 2.0km away from the school. Would this not lessen transportation costs of students as well if they are more local to their FOS vs. for example from the west end of Burlington all the way up to Millcroft?

We recently moved and prioritized staying in our neighborhood so our son would not have to change schools. I would be very disappointed if the school boundary changes resulted in excluding our sons from attending St Benedict

We recently switched our child from HDSB into HCDSB. Since arriving at St Bernadette he has thrived in a way he never did in his old school. I have dealt with HDSB for 10 years and watched as it mishandled the FI program. Boundary changes, program changes, constant chaos and uncertainty. Part of the reason we moved our son is because of the negative way HDSB handled FI and how English students with reading difficulties were completely ignored. I understand the pressure by parents to increase the FI program but I urge you to be thoughtful and careful when increasing the FI program. Please be aware of all the cases of students with learning difficulties who are overlooked by FI and end up shuffled around to different programs and schools.

We should NOT expand the immersion program. It would be ridiculous to change school boundaries for this.

We shouldn't even be talking about spending this kind of money when we're already cutting services, increasing class sizes. Extra split classes in primary grades is an unnecessary outcome when we favor a particular learning group or please particular parents. Unqualified teachers will have zero effect on student learning. We have the extended french program in place and we can keep the early immersion as is. I think parents just want to compete with the public board's model. This model doesn't work for us. Why can't we introduce CORE french a grade or two earlier? Some boards have earlier CORE french and that would expose kids to the language to see if they're truly interested in it. With french immersion, the classes are so unbalanced because many of those students are strong academically, so that leaves the English class balanced, which is not fair to the English stream learners. We need to leave early immersion as is. They'll still succeed and become 21 century learners.

We support the expansion of EFI 100% but feel currently enrolled in the EFI program should continue at their current school. Children who will be newly enrolled into the expansion phase at Gr.1 should be moved to an underpopulated school.

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| <p>We support the expansion of the Early French Immersion program in the Halton Catholic District School Board. We have been very fortunate to enrol three of our children in the program (two with the first come/first serve enrolment, and one with the present lottery system). Our eldest child is in grade six, and so we have witnessed the life of this program from almost its beginnings. We see the success in learning another language, while keeping up with English learning skills. We celebrate EFI!</p> <p>The flaw, however, lies in its size. With just over 40 spaces available each year, it exists as an exclusive program. For us, the only answer is to eliminate the wait list and expand the Early French Immersion program.</p> <p>We presently have one daughter on the waitlist (position number 70). It is our sincere hope that we can offer her the same French AND religious education as her older siblings.</p> <p>We urge you to vote toward expanding the program.</p> |
| <p>We welcome French Immersion expansion but would be disappointed if our boundary changed and had to be moved if our child did not excel in the program.</p> |
| <p>We welcome the expansion</p> |
| <p>We will appreciate the expansion of French Immersion programming. new classes are needed. The French is a substancial, part of this Country. without it, I am afraid, we could loosing a big opportunity for our kids. Best Regards.</p> |
| <p>We will not be using the FI program, and my biggest concern is my child being relocated from his home school because the FI program is too large and pushing him out. It's happening in other school boards and I do not want it here.</p> |
| <p>We would be happy to have French offered in our school, as long as the children do not have to change schools and friends due to boundary changes</p> |
| <p>We would be upset if the boundary for our school changed and we would have to switch to a different school, even though we would not be participating in French immersion.</p> |
| <p>We would like our children to attend this program.</p> |
| <p>What happens with the other grades? The message mentioned Grade 1 only</p> |
| <p>Whatever happens I must insist on keeping the FI program at sacred heart because I have two boys in the FI program already registered and this is the reason why my husband and I moved to Millcroft (to be close to the school). I still have a third child that I need to get into the program once her time comes and I can't have my three children in different schools.</p> |
| <p>When considering the changes, no child outside the French program should have to change schools because of the changes. If parents want a child in the French program, then they may need to change schools but that is a factor they can consider when deciding whether to enter their child into the program. So no parent is forced to change schools, it will ultimately be their decision</p> |
| <p>When the extended program was placed at our school we weren't consulted . Why is there a public consultation for early French immersion ? What is the difference?</p> |
| <p>When will the final decisions regarding new school boundaries be provided</p> |
| <p>Where are you gonna put more kids? Keep the school as is so it can function as it should.</p> |

While I am not opposed to expanding the FI program, I believe that any changes to the children St Nicholas would be detrimental. The boundaries were recently changed to accommodate the merging of St Joseph & St James which was very difficult for the students. In fact, the schools are still adjusting to the merger & now to the physical new school. Modifying the make up of this particular school, especially the removal of any existing streams/programs would only result in added chaos and negative repercussions for all St Nicholas students & families. Please consider excluding this particular school from any changes as the families have already endured significant issues over the last 3 years.

While I fully support the fact that families that want their children to be in French Immersion should have the opportunity to do so, I do not think it should come at the expense of other families that currently have children in a given school. Therefore, I think that any plan to expand the FI program should be done in such a way that families with children currently attending a school should be "grandfathered" and given the option to remain part of that school community regardless of boundary changes until all their children graduate - making the new boundaries applicable only to new families or families that wish to change schools. You cannot underestimate the impact of changing schools to kids that have formed strong friendships and have become part of a community, including getting used to routines, before/after school care, extra curricular activities, etc. Thank you.

While I understand that these are difficult decisions please consider the well being of the students currently enrolled in the FI program as well as the students in the regular stream. I have kids that fall into both of these categories. These are their schools, their friends, all they have known for the last few years. Yes, the program needs to be expanded but start things off fresh at a new school without disrupting the EXISTING student base. I DO NOT agree with having a school that just has FI, the program should be offered at various schools and kids should be in school with kids that are in English stream or FI, there shouldn't be a perception that these kids are different. I have two kids in FI and one in English, they are now completely scared of what is going to happen, if they will be split, if they will have to go to different schools. They are upset, sad, angry as am I that the board can't figure this out. My kids are thriving in the FI program, they are excellent performers and I hope that all these uncertainties does not affect their well-being. Expand the program to schools that are not as populated but DO NOT impact current students, they did not ask for this.

While it sound good to expand the option for early French immersion I also would like that it can be sustainable from a teacher standpoint first and also the number of students at these specific schools that have this program.consider School capacity

While this is great for those students that have won the "lottery" it does place those not in the program at a disadvantage. If the program is offered, it should be available to all those that choose to participate i.e. offer the option at more schools in the Region. If that is not an option - offer the program firstly to those in the appropriate school zones. We purchased our home specifically to be close to our daughter's school yet this expansion may result in us having to move schools - that is not ok! If space is an issue due to the program demands, those children out of the school zone should be displaced, not families that specially purchased housing within the zones.

Our daughter is in grade 1 and is 1 of 5 girls out of 18 children in her class, that is a ratio of nearly 3-1. We were told that "it's just one of those years" however, we know that many of the girls from her kindergarten class "won" the lottery for the french program which in our opinion, threw off the ratios in the G1 classes for girls to boys.

Wholeheartedly disagree. Why would you make changes that impact all families just to accommodate a certain percentage of families looking for French Immersion. Please reconsider this idea, as it is rather unappealing.

Why are we even considering a program with additional costs when we have schools like St Doms giving messages to kids over paper shortages (ie lack of funding)? This will also impact bussing (requiring more) when every year we already struggle with lack of availability.

Why are we even talking about boundary reviews, they were due next year anyways. So stop treating drama. Do an expansion in EFI, otherwise you will loose more kids to public board! I can't believe in 2020 we are asking parents what do they think. Yo

Why are we even talking about boundary reviews, they were due next year anyways. So stop treating drama. Do an expansion in EFI, otherwise you will loose more kids to public board! I can't believe in 2020 we are asking parents what do they think.

Why are you expanding the program in halton hills when the demand is less there.

Why do the trustees believe expanding the French Immersion program is beneficial for our children. None of my children, I have 3, ever expressed interest and most of their friends dropped it after a year. I just don't understand the reasoning.

Why don't you invest in an all French school like Oakville rather than being an inconvenience to parents having to switch kids. Will you pay for their new uniforms if that child needed to move.?

Why expand french (when children can learn it outside school) at the cost of others how's been there and the don't want to potentially change schools

Why is this open to the whole community to comment if this is not a program they are not interested in? You are opening the door to discrimination and attacking a small minority which have rights in this country

Why is this program not being expanded into other schools? It is ridiculous that FI is not offered at more schools. If it were, parents wouldn't have to send their kids out of their boundary for FI, and the lottery system could be removed.

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| <p>Why not expand the program to additional schools that do not currently have french immersion programs?</p> <p>Wouldn't it make more sense to create a program in an existing school that to over burden the current schools?</p> <p>I suspect the costs would be the same no matter where they were expanded to so why not consider that? Are all schools over capacity with student enrolment? If not, there is an opportunity there. Why does it have to remain with the current four schools? It doesn't seem practical or logical.</p> <p>One additional item I would like to add. Why was the meeting that told place on January 21 not advertised to the parents. I was not aware of this meeting until it was over. No mention of it in the St. Mary's newsletter. Transparency is key.</p> |
| Why not just put French in more schools instead of changing boundaries? |
| Will my son have to attend another school? What will this mean for him? |
| Will pull my kids if boundaries change for English program and place them in public board |
| Will the Board ensure that there are qualified French teachers teaching this program? It's difficult enough to find qualified French teachers for the current Immersion/Extended/Core French Program. |
| Will these changes result in any school being closed/amalgamated ? |
| Wish have French classes start at Grade 1 or even earlier age in the school. |
| With 108 on Milton's waitlist it is incomprehensible that anyone would contest allowing 46 students to join the program |
| with change you ruin families and plans. people buy houses to make sure their kids go the the school they want. kids make friends and hard on them. bad decision and unethical. |
| With more classes available it would be nice to have some system to help siblings attend the program together and not be dividing between multiple schools if they do not get in. |
| With my child entering final year at next fall this would be a huge impact acedemic and with possibility of changing schools. There is no need to make any futher changes to school prgrams especially considering distrupcion of school striking this ye |
| With the shortage of French teachers this expansion does not sound like there will be success. Also, my children are not In the FI program so I would be disappointed to be effected by such changes. |
| Would be a good opportunity to address the small size of Holy Family and bring some extra students into the school |
| Would be absolutely ridiculous to change boundaries to expand the French Immersion program - especially if it were to impact children who are not even in the program. The board needs to think about this logically - the parents won't tolerate this. |
| Would like to see the purposed boundary changes for st Catherine. We are about 500m from the school and walk most of the year. Would be upset if they boundaries are changed and my children would need to be bused to another school. |
| Would love expansion of the program as well as possibility of adding the program in my home school of St Elizabeth set. |

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| Would love our school to have this opportunity! |
| Would not like to see boundary change impact Child already enrolled in extended french. |
| Wouldn't boundary reviews have to occur in growing cities regardless of Optional French programming? Please expand. The current 46 spots per city is incompressible. |
| Yes |
| Yes |
| Yes |
| Yes |
| Yes |
| Yes I have read. I think that option A will give the kids the best avenues for success as it would be easier to find a smaller # number highly trained teachers. I also feel that french immersion offered at multiple schools is better than just one school for (transportation and community building with Parents and classmates). If full french immersion cannot be accommodated , maybe more schools with late immersion may be a better option. I am interested in enrolling my child in french immersion. They are currently in JK and would prefer to stay closer to home. |
| Yes - if an expansion can be accommodated and is properly staffed then I think the location should be separate from the existing location. This will create an opportunity for shorter bus rides and to help the school population. Sacred heart does not have room for additional French classes and if the English classes are moved out parents will just switch to the public board so you will be losing more families. |
| Until the staffing issue is sorted you should not be extending the program |
| Yes I am in full support of the expansion of the french immersion program. I believe that more children should have access to the benefits of a french immersion program. This would be a valuable asset to our students and our community. Learning french in this capacity is extremely valuable. Thank you for your time. |
| Yes I do not believe this should impact boundaries. |
| Yes I do want more expansion and if possible to enhance the french at the school I want so much my kids to know french and learn and it s hard to get I. French Emersion one |
| Yes I have concerns about how this will affect my child and the rest of the St Mark community. I do not believe it is fair to change and shake up the majority for the sake of the minority. The expansion of the program should not affect the majority. |
| Yes I have. If the demand is there from the parents, the HCDSB should work to meet this demand. |
| Yes please expand the program. Boundary reviews are part of the natural evolution of our neighbourhoods. St Joan of Arc for example one school over from St Mary is well below capacity. If we do not expand the program they leave for HDSB |
| Yes Really hoping this will not effect our school . Do not want my child to be relocated to another school. |

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| Yes, and you should not do it. There are not enough French qualified teachers in the current program, so you need to fill those needs first. |
| Yes, Enough with the French Immersion Expansion.....you are changing boundaries, our students getting effected as we have schools walking distance but we have to take buses. Furious |
| Yes, I don't think having to do a boundary review of each school is |
| yes, I feel that our school is already at capacity with 6 or so portables. To expand would mean more portables. If required, i suggest implementing more french immersion classes in school which can accommodate more students and having these students bused instead of moving boundaries again if 2 additional classes in each school is not the long term plan. |
| Yes, I have no problem with the program expanding. However, it would be terrible if it affected students that were not in the program and have to change school because of boundary changes. |
| Yes, it's not clear to me the impact that it'll have on current EF students. Could you please clarify? |
| Yes, Leave the school boundaries alone. |
| Yes, please expand the Grade 1 French Immersion. Perhaps by only 1 additional class. My son entered FI in the 2019-2020 school year. I was sad to learn that 19 students were turned down. One additional class could have met this capacity. |
| Yes. The boundaries need to be reviewed regardless of the French Immersion programming. If our family moves to Timberlea we have to go to Holy Rosary which is way further than St. Peter. Traffic bad; travel dangerous. 6+ public schools enroute! |
| You are mis leading the community as a boundary review is already due for Oakville. |
| You can't expect us to comment if you don't have an idea |
| You need more spots, expand program |
| You need to provide the actual changes to parents and then ask for feedback. No-one can give constructive feedback if the changes are not disclosed. |
| You provide a comment box that does not provide sufficient room for more than one sentence? Speaks to the intelligence of the Board. |
| You should expand. Everyone has their own choice to a challenging education! It's good for the schools, teachers, the district, the city and most of all the children! |
| You should have more spots. Program should be bigger |

Comments Sorted by Municipality

BURLINGTON

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| Agreed with the expand the French Immersion program |
| All students should have the opportunity to learn both of Canada's official languages. |

Although I am happy that the French Immersion may be expanded, I do not agree that the student we are not enroll in the program may result with consequences such may have to be moved from their current schools/friends.

Any expansion of French Immersion (FI) is absolutely welcome. I find the existing "lottery" system almost absurd, especially knowing that children who fail the lottery are refused to join FI when there's an opening (to Grade 3), while also considering that the public school board (HDSB) has multiple FI schools in each city. It is difficult to accept that there are so few students who apply for FI in the Catholic board, relative to the public board; perhaps if there will be an expansion, there may be far more students (parents) who'll be willing to apply for FI.

Philosophically and on a pedagogical basis, the FI program should be standard in the "normal" curriculum; i.e., the FI curriculum is what all students should be taught. Most countries in the world, especially in Europe, teach multiple languages throughout the elementary grades and children become fluent in multiple languages before high school ends; Canada is officially bilingual and should do the same by teaching fluency & literature in both French & English.

As a parent, I would definitely like to see the French Immersion program expanded and be more accessible to children/ families. I feel that is an important opportunity that unfortunately is missed by many. We have registered and are currently sitting on the waitlist- and although it is not exactly a "stressful" situation- it would be helpful to find out sooner where my child's placement will be this coming September.

As a parent, there has been much debate about opening up boundary reviews. I'm ok with the boundary review, but parents should be educated that the Board would use smart judgement and put the additional french program into an area that would need more children, and not displace children from english-only schools that are already at capacity. I think boundary reviews are being used as a scare tactic so parents from english schools do not support the expansion of french immersion with the fear that their children could be displaced. Instead, education on how this would be done would be a great asset for all parents to know.

The Board is doing the right thing with trying to accommodate waitlists into a much sought after french immersion program. I commend you for starting the expansion process and ensuring that our Catholic faith, coupled with french immersion is keeping up with high demand and current times. HCDSB is unfortunately lagging behind in comparison to other Catholic school boards that have listened and accommodated the large need and want from parents to offer more french immersion programs.

As much as I support increasing the French Immersion (FI) program, my concerns is related to the specialized/gifted programs that may be moved/impacted should the decision to increase the FI program be approved.

Currently I have a son in the gifted program at Canadian Martyrs. Canadian Martyrs is an ideal school for the gifted program as it is small and a very tight community. My biggest fear

in moving the gifted program to a bigger school is that the gifted children may be targeted as being "different" resulting to isolation and in a worst case scenario being bullied for being in a specialized program.

Canadian Martyrs being so small doesn't isolate the gifted classes. All children are treated equally and participate in all events. My son is extremely happy not only being in the gifted program but being a student at Canadian Martyrs. He would be devastated if he were to move schools. Also, that may result in his classmates being separated and transferred to different schools which would devastate him as well as he would have to meet new friends / classmates.

Starting a French Immersion school instead of adding classes to current schools should be considered.

As the parent of a child on the wait list for EFI in Burlington, I am excited about the possibility of expanding the program and giving my child the opportunity to learn a second language.

I am, however, concerned about how you will find qualified/certified teachers to deliver the program. While I do see the value of a child being able to speak a second language, I feel strongly that the quality of teachers is much more important and am concerned that the board is contemplating hiring unqualified/uncertified teachers.

Another concern I have is what will happen to the English program at SHOJ. I would like to see the program continue at that school as I feel it is important for children living in the community to be able to attend a Catholic school within their community.

I would like to see the board continue the current EFI program at SHOJ and expand it to include another school, perhaps one with lower enrolment, so that the boundary changes do not negatively affect the current student population and their families. I would like the students who live in the Millcroft neighbourhood to retain the ability to attend a Catholic school in their community.

Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills are all growing areas due to residential expansion/development; these boundary reviews, supposedly due to the expansion of FI, will have to occur at some point anyway due to new residential communities.

Children currently enrolled (and future siblings of those currently enrolled need to be grandfathered with the existing boundaries. Early French Immersion should only be offered in schools that are under capacity.

Concerns regarding boundary lines with influx of students increasing the school size

Considering the government might want to merge public and catholic we need to retain our numbers and offer same programming as the other boards.

Continued - so that the boundaries didn't change. Even though it was going to cost the Board more money to bus students to Seton, the boundaries were changed. PLEASE do not change the boundaries again in the Orchard because we've already been impacte

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| Could there be Early French Immersion avail per FOS, thereby potentially reducing transp'n/distances and reducing the chance of Reg. Stream families being bumped out of their neighbourhood school which is 2km from home. |
| Curious to know how this will affect the schools without the French Immersion program |
| Disrupting established friendships, relationships, teaching relationships and communities by potential new boundaries is horrifying. My kids are the only students on our street that go to St.Raphael's, if they were move: |
| Do not change the boundaries again. It's very hard on the kids |
| Do not expand the program it's not needed |
| Do not want the boundaries to change |
| Don't bother |
| Don't change school boundaries. This will cause unnecessary disruption for our kids. This decision needs to be delayed until a full impact assessment is sent to parents. |
| For children to be able to learn the two languages of Canada, this is a huge accomplishment! Thank you for looking at expanding the early French Immersion program. Thank you for looking at the waitlists and ensuring that the MANY children that are currently on the waitlist, is a top priority. |
| French immersion at St. Mark. Please do not move the gifted program at Canadian Martyrs. |
| French immersion classes offer a wonderful opportunity for students to become bilingual and having more spaces available would extend that opportunity to more students. |
| French immersion is having a negative effect on the English program. There aren't enough french teachers as it is to deliver a suitable French program for grade 4-8 students. Have a look at what FI has done to the schools in the Orchard as an example. What a mess. |
| French Immersion is very important and growing in popularity. |
| French Immersion should be expand. Look how many kids are on the waiting list! Why Catholic School Board doesnt want to invest in Kids education? It seems you are pushing kids away from Catholic School bord to Public as Public would accept without any waiting list or lottery game! |
| French Immersion should be mandatory everywhere, not optional. |
| French immersion should be offered in Catholic schools similar to public schools without restriction or special requests |
| Given there is already a lack of FI teachers and Core French teachers in our Board, expanding this program is not feasible for our students at this time. Furthermore, our school has already undergone a boundary review change and having that happen again and affect my children and all children, regardless of English or FI stream, their friends and others in order to add in a program that won't be easily sustained is not an option I would agree to supporting. |
| Go for it |
| Good Day, I believe a decision like this needs to be made with more awareness for the overall student experience. To impact the majority of students through a possible boundary review for the purpose of a french immersion expansion is unfair. The population of those |

students looking to participate in french immersion is far less than those who do not - particularly in the Catholic Board.

While I can appreciate looking at things on a broad level, as well as understanding no decisions have been made - I also hope that there is a sense of what this means to ALL students, Parents and Families should a boundary review be initiated.

Being as sensitive as possible to those looking for French Immersion - I would argue once more that it would be much easier and less disruptive to our schools and increasing population for them to explore the options currently available vs. expansion and boundary review considerations.

Families already have to juggle so many variables in today's world, so wouldn't it be great if we could just have a little sense of comfort and normalcy with routines that work for the majority.

Having only (1) designated school per City/Town makes it difficult for all parents who live at some distance from that school.

If it is possible, for the expansion, can it mean adding 2 classes in a different school ?

Also, making the online application for the program a random selection, this makes it difficult for parents with multiples who want to make sure their kids are in the same school.

Thank you!

Having taken a high-level glance at the materials, I question the basic cost/benefit of such a move. In particular, what difference adding a maximum of two immersion classes is going to make to address the vast supply vs. demand imbalance for French-based education that currently exists. The short answer in my view is it won't. Many parents (myself among them) did not apply under the current 'lottery' system, which (in my view) fundamentally violates the principle that all students should have equal opportunity to an education (i.e. not left to luck of the draw). In all likelihood, allocating more spots will drive up the number of applicants, resulting in continued wait lists/families not being served. In my view, rather than expanding full French immersion in this way, the demand for French language education would be better addressed by offering extended French in more/every school. Children in the public system have far better access to French at an earlier grade than their Catholic counterparts. As a parent, I find this profoundly disappointing.

Hi

Thank you for the email notification and the opportunity you have allowed for parents to express their questions and concerns.

Having read all the material available, I'm still left with questions as there is no indication whether our school boundary would be affected. Such a change would have significant implications on my family and as a parent, I would ideally like to see these proposed changes before a final decision is made. The information provided so far is unspecific and leaves many outcomes open. It is not possible for anyone affected to take a rational position on this matter with so many unknown variables.

While I appreciate this is a complex decision, I would like to suggest that the proposed changes be accompanied by proposed new boundaries for everyone to consider. I'm sure I would not be alone when I say that our current school boundary was a crucial factor in my family choosing to live in our current neighborhood, which in turn affects many other aspects in our lives.

Thank you for your consideration
[REDACTED]

How much notice will be given to parents who are affected?

I absolutely support the expansion of the French Immersion programming in the Catholic Board. Our daughter was originally enrolled through the public board's immersion program out of fear that our daughter would be unsuccessful with the one-chance Catholic immersion lottery. Consequently the lack of discipline, unstructured class instruction, and systemic bullying inherent in the public school compelled us to explore the Catholic board again. Fortunately, my daughter managed to secure a vacancy in the Catholic French Immersion program and it was life changing. She excelled in the Catholic environment. We knew we could not relent on the French program as she is very adept in the language. We also recognize that learning the language will provide essential opportunities in a progressively competitive job market. Previously a flight attendant only needed to know English. Now all Air Canada flight attendants require French. Increasingly provincial and federal employment opportunities give preference to applicants with French. Because of the highly restrictive lottery system, we will now be struggling to provide our other two children with the same opportunity as their sister.

I agree that expanding the French immersion program would benefit the Catholic school system in Burlington. The board would lose less students to the public board. I have three, soon to be four children in [REDACTED] including a child with special needs. We are at the edge of the boundary. I do not want my children to have to move particularly as my special needs child is finally doing quite well. Moving could be very traumatic for her.

I agree with expanding the French Immersion Program. My daughter is in FI Grade 2. We wish for our younger daughter to also have a FI learning experience and I worried that the limited number of spots and the lottery system will limit her access to a Catholic FI education. It feels like we are being forced to choose between a Catholic education and French education. Families should have greater access to opt into Catholic French Immersion. Having siblings at the same school is an important family experience. I do not appreciate the worry that our youngest daughter may not be granted a lottery entry into Gr1 FI and that this would mean she wouldn't be able to attend the same school as her sister as there is no FI in our home boundary. We have not been granted cross boundary for JK. Again, it feels like the limited FI is forcing a choice- if we want our daughters to grow up at school together, the limited access to FI forces us to choose - which do we value more educationally- FI or Catholic in school learning?

I agree with the expansion however, having seen the lack of French teachers first hand, I would suggest seeing the program through grade 12 before expanding in grade 1.

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| I agree with the plans for expansion of the french immersion program, however, I would like to see it rolled out across multiple schools. It is hard to comprehend why the halton public board can (and has for many years) offer french immersion across multiple schools, yet the Catholic board is struggling to implement such a valuable program. |
| I am absolutely not in favor of expansion. WE ARE AN ENGLISH BOARD!!!! Let focus on this and think of ways to improve programming for the majority of the students within our board! French has been a topic for too long now, lets make a final decision that will benefit ALL students not just the French ones. |
| I am all for French immersions and providing the best education for our children. However, boundary changes will be very disruptive to both parents and students. My kids love their current school (Ascension) and have made many friends. Kids thrive on routine and displacing them to another school and being separated from their friends could be negative to their emotional well-being. If boundaries change, it would be beneficial to consider grandfathering kids already in that school and making the switch to the updated boundary school (if the boundary change affects the family) optional. |
| I am all for it. The earlier we can have our kids in French Immersion, and the more locations we can have, the better! |
| I am all for kids learning more. And I think French is very important. I however, do not think nor want the existing boundaries to be moved as it will affect a lot of kids that are jor in the "FI" program (us for one). Please DO NOT move the boundaries. |
| I am completely against boundaries changing for all of our children. |
| I am extremely frustrated by the recent up coming changes. We purchased our home so we could be in this catchment and so our children can go to Sacred Heart. One of my children needs special support and transition is not easy for him. I find it VERY UNJUST that kids who are NOT enrolled in FI would be impacted and penalize if they were to change school and boundaries. |
| I think it is the board's responsibility to keep in mind those families who are not enrolled and the major impact this future change would have on them. |
| I am NOT for the expansion of the program. I am not happy about the boundary adjustments that might occur. There are less kids that would be affected by being on a waitlist for the French Immersion program compared to the many kids that may be forced to switch schools because they are no longer in the boundary of the school they attend. There is more of an effect on a greater number of children. |
| I am not in favour of expansion as I do not believe the board can have the staff to properly support it. |
| I am not in favour of potentially expanding the French immersion program within our board. We don't have the staff to support our current core French program as it stands, how could we possibly staff the expansion of this program with qualified French teachers. There have been many times at our school where students received an incomplete as a result of not having French teachers to teach core french. This simply isn't feasible. And with regards to |

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| adjusting boundaries, many families have chosen to live where they do in great part due to the school within that region. To change boundaries and force students to be relocated to new schools seems terribly unfair. Particularly if it is a result of expanding a program we simply can't staff. |
| I am not interested in having my kids in the French immersion program, and would not like to have my kids be in a school that has it. I don't like how it creates a "smart class" and a "not-smart class" (even though my kids could do the French) |
| I am on board with there being more French immersion options in south Burlington |
| I am so glad that the board is considering this expansion. I know how important it is for children to another language and I see how much both of my granddaughters enjoy the early French Immersion and how quickly they learn. Children are like sponges and the earlier they are exposed to another language the faster they learn and retain this language. The waitlist of children to enter this program indicates the need for this expansion and continuation of this Program. Opening up more programs ensure that families will no longer be leaving the Catholic board in search of other highly sought after french programming. Thank you. |
| I am strongly opposed to this. Expanding our Extended French programming at home schools would be much more equitable. |
| I am supportive of expanding French Immersion; it is a great program. However, I am not in favour of the the program moving away from Sacred Heart of Jesus where my child is already in the program. If it were to move to another school, it would create a hardship for me to transport him out of our neighbourhood. |
| I am very concerned that my daughter who loves her new school and friends may be forced out. I am not okay with this |
| I am very happy with the idea of the expansion. However, with the current French teacher crisis, I'm worried that there won't be enough teachers to fulfill the expansion. I am also worried that the program may be moved from it's current location. |
| I am very supportive of expanding the early French program. Learning a new language has been proven to help with many other academic skills including math and logic. I also believe it's important for us to offer French education in our bilingual cou |
| I believe the focus should be more on math, science and computer programming and less on French as a second language. considering only 20% of Canadians speak French. (FYI I'm of French decent) |
| I believe that French immersion expansion is not necessary and will negatively affect the kids in English stream. People treat a French immersion as a 'free private school' and sign up their kids to the French immersion for the wrong reasons. Increased costs of the program is also a consideration especially in today's environment of cost cutting by the province and inability of the (teachers) unions and the Province to sign labour agreements without affecting the students (by school closures). |
| I believe that instead of expanding number of classrooms at existing schools that you should offer French immersion at more schools. I am from Quebec and would love my daughter to Start French now without having to change schools. |

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| I believe this to be a bad idea. The board seems to have a hard time finding French teachers. Expanding the program won't solve that problem. It's a quality over quantity issue. |
| I couldn't enroll my daughter in french immersion program because the Burlington school that offers the program is far, if her school will have the program available next year can I enroll her then ? |
| I disagree with it. We don't have the resources. Please do not proceed |
| I do not agree with expanding this program. I feel that it is incredibly hard to staff these positions with qualified French teachers. Also I wouldn't want my children impacted by the boundary review |
| I do not believe this program should be expanded. This program is very difficult to staff and is not mandatory. I do not think it is worth the potential disruption for only a small number of students. |
| I DO NOT support any potential changes to boundaries or changes to any child's placement in an elementary school. We are also not interested in any expansion of the French immersion program. Please keep the status quo and DO NOT interrupt our children's lives! |
| I do not support boundary changes |
| I do not support boundary reviews for elementary schools for the purpose of offering more opportunities for French emersion. I do not feel that the broad majority of families and students should have to be impacted to appease the vocal minority. |
| I do not support the expansion and change of boundaries and specialized program locations |
| I do not support the expansion of the French immersion program and would prefer it to stay at its current size. |
| I do not think it is fair that many students would have to switch schools ... lose friendships and be uprooted just because more parents want their children in French immersion! SK is way too early to decide if your child can handle French Immersion and if they will be able to survive it! Those parents have other options like wait until Grade 5 and put them in extended French or go to the public board or private school if they really want their child in French Immersion! Many parents bought homes in certain areas because they wanted their child to go to a specific school! Furthermore the public board is having issues at their schools where they have several French Immersion classes in a grade and only 1 English class ... that one class often is looked down upon because they are not in the French Immersion program and considered not as elite as their fellow students! |
| I do not think this is equitable or fair on multiple fronts. Do not change from the current model |
| I do not want an expanded FI program. I do not want the boundaries to be impacted as a result as well. I also do not like that there will be increased transportation costs, more portables, and more split classes. FI segregates students. It is difficult to get the psyched assessments and accommodate students with disabilities or learning challenges as it is, which decreases their participation in FI, and therefore creates segregation. FI becomes the publicly funded 'private school'. |
| According to the Globe and Mail Education reporter Caroline Alphonso, from the article titled |

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| <p>"French immersion causes two-tier school system, data shows": "As parents increasingly choose French immersion, new data from the Ottawa-Carleton school board show that the program is creating a two-tiered system, with new Canadians, children from low-income families and students with special needs overrepresented in English-program elementary schools."</p> |
| <p>If parents want to further enrich their children with French as second language they should do it on their own time, like done with other languages and extracurriculars.</p> |
| <p>I do NOT want the boundaries to change</p> |
| <p>I do NOT want the boundaries to change.</p> |
| <p>I do not want the boundaries to change. I think consistency is very important to my kids. Along with having to spend money for new uniforms and them making new friends, my kids teachers understand them. Both of my boys are in programs for reading and this program is working great. Changing the school boundaries should not be necessary. There should be other solutions to this problem that does not involve moving kids that do not need to. For those wanting to join the French program they can be bused as it's a program they want for their kids, other should not have to change. Sounds small minded but for the others not asking for a change you have to keep them happy as well</p> |
| <p>I do not want to change boundaries. You should have the option for French immersion in all schools. Like the Halton public school board.</p> |
| <p>I do not want to find my children having to attend a new school to accommodate this program.</p> |
| <p>I don't agree that improving quality of child education will be achieved if unqualified teachers are planned to be hired. I also strongly hope my child's position at his school will continue and that he won't be put in a different school boundary</p> |
| <p>I don't agree with expanding the French immersion program</p> |
| <p>I don't believe adding 2 FI classes into all schools will deal with the wait list issues. by doing a boundary review for students who are settled in their current schools with pre and post school care/uniforms/extra curricular activities not to mention new siblings coming into those school would a large disruption to the status quo. Additional classes/portables in current FI schools would address the wait list issue.</p> |
| <p>I don't believe this initiative should be undertaken. The french program should remain as is. Expansion and any associated impact to students should not occur.</p> |
| <p>We do not need to spend time and financial resources on the expansion, nor on any studies including boundary re-assignment etc.</p> |
| <p>The French program is a small proportion of the entire school population. The larger school population should not be potentially impacted by the wishes of a small proportion.</p> |
| <p>I don't fully understand what these changes could be because the memo was vague but my concern would be if my daughters school was to become a French immersion offering school, I may wish to change my decision to not enroll in French immersion.</p> |

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| I don't think it needs to be expanded. |
| I don't think the extension of the program is warranted. In your assessment you indicate that you will have to hire a number more French teachers, which all school boards are already finding difficult. In addition you indicate that in order to accommodate this, You "may need to hire uncertified and/or unqualified teachers". This is completely unacceptable to me. The public school system requires certified and qualified teachers. If there aren't enough to deliver the extra programming then it should not be offered. It's that simple. Increased combined (split) classrooms in primary grades also pose a problem and difficulty for those students who don't learn well in that environment. |
| It is clear that there is not a demand for French immersion in HCDSB as there is in the HD's. In other boards, parents looks to Immersion to get smaller classes and higher functioning students, not Halton. |
| I urge you to not live forward with this. If it isn't broken, don't fix it. Subsequent boundary reviews are not always effective and are disruptive. Our school just went through one last year. No need to do it again. Spend the time and money where it is needed in the schools and existing classes. |
| I don't think they should expand the program. The kids don't want to move schools. A lot of kids end up dropping out of the French program anyway and end up in the English program as they move up the grades. |
| I don't want the boundaries changed. So my feedback would be no - don't expand the program if it means changing the boundaries. |
| I don't want the program expanded. It's already to disruptive and resources for our school are being misallocated to accomodate other jurisdictions kids. |
| I feel like you should offer it in all schools or none at all. The bussing and the draw for kids to go and then siblings could be separated is ridiculous. Or just increase the learning of French - can't all jk-8 have a French class 1 time a day?? |
| I feel that expansion is not a reasonable option. Lack of space, overcrowding at schools, long bus commutes and the limited number of qualified French teachers should negate the expansion. |
| I feel that students living in the boundaries surrounding the school should have priority over the EFL program. Also, there is already not enough staff to fill in supply or maternity leaves for French so how is an expansion of this program? |
| I fully support and would like to see an expansion to the French Immersion program. |
| I fully support the potential expansion of the French immersion program as it could open up so many doors for future generations. |
| I greatly encourage the board to change current practices for French immersion classes. As a French speaking graduate of the French immersion system which existed in Oakville many years ago it is very important for me to send my children to a French immersion school. We now live in the St.Patrick border and are making the decision where to register our daughter who starts school next year. The catholic elementary French immersion track option for our |

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| <p>school is unattractive as the school will be much further from our home than the public school option of Pineland. We really want to enroll her in St.Patricks as we love the school, however the possibility of her being accepted through the lottery system to a school which is so much further away has us leaning more towards Pineland. A new plan for the French immersion track in the catholic board would make the decision of her attending St Patrick's in the fall much easier. I hope that the board will consider the amount of children denied entry in the lottery system right now when making the decision, and I would greatly appreciate the effort put into creating a new plan</p> |
| <p>I hate the idea of the expansion of French in our school. I do not like that my children who live in the neighborhood could possibly have to attend a school outside of their Neighbourhood because of a French program. I feel that if you want your child to know and learn French then they should attend a French school. I do not think my children should have to potentially be in a portable because of French students. There are not enough French teachers as it is and yet the program wants to expand?? Last year the conversation was about ending the program and this year it's about expanding?? No thank you!</p> |
| <p>I have great concerns into how this will affect: (A) quality of education for those remaining in the English stream classes (B) how special education will be affected with spreading resources, and (C) changing school boundaries - which would be incredibly disruptive. Likewise I am concerned we are prioritizing parent pressure for French over improving core subjects such as math and English language. I have also seen how split schools create a demographic, socioeconomic divide between students which I believe to be harmful.</p> |
| <p>I need more information on which families at which schools will be impacted with boundary changes.</p> |
| <p>I shall vote in favour of the expansion of French Immersion program.</p> |
| <p>I strongly oppose this expansion. Children from the English stream should not be displaced from they home school in order to accommodate a specialized program.</p> |
| <p>I strongly support the expansion of the F.I. program. My child is currently enrolled, but the "local" school is quite far, I would very strongly support expansion of the program to my local school.</p> |
| <p>I support expanding the French Immersion Program. I'd like to know if there is a shortage of French teachers or not, and if so, how it'll be handled.</p> |
| <p>I support option B</p> |
| <p>I support option B</p> |
| <p>I support the expansion of French immersion program and ask the trustees to consider allowing a second school in each school community the ability to offer the two classses. This would make it more accessible and require less transportation costs.</p> |
| <p>I think expanding it to a different school in Burlington South would be much more beneficial. Many students are being transported from Aldershot area already to Sacred Heart of Jesus. I feel it would save on cost and transportation conflicts that already exist.</p> |

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| In addition it would force students out of their home school which is for most walking distance to have to be bussed to another school. This just does not make any sense. Many families would unfortunately switch to the public Board. Sacred Heart should not be an option to expand the French Immersion Program where a school is nearing likely capacity. Please consider my opinion as well as other Sacred Heart of Jesus families voice. |
| I think it is a great idea to allow more students the opportunity to learn and become proficient at a second language. |
| I think it is a great idea to expand the program and allow more children the opportunity to learn a second language. |
| I think it is irresponsible that you are considering moving forward with a plan to increase a program where you may need to hire unqualified teachers. We are already skimming the bottom when it comes to French teachers in this part of Ontario - how can we support student achievement with unqualified staff? |
| I think it would be crazy for the board to extend the French Immersion. There are currently not enough French teachers so why would you create more vacancies?! |
| I think it would be great for the program to grow and allow more students to take advantage of its potential. |
| I think it would be great to offer more French immersion classes, but hope this does not impact my children's attendance at their home school. |
| I think it's a great idea and students will benefit from it. |
| I think it's an excellent idea and hope it is offered at St. Patrick's School. |
| I think it's really great to expand the FI program. Would like to see a FI grade 1 track program in a South Burlington (south of the QEW) Catholic School. Boundary reviews and changes are not an issue for me. They're inevitable with population changes in communities. |
| I think the school community would be served better by instead of adding 2 more classes to the existing school, adding those classes to a school in the south part of the city (St. Paul, St. John, St. Patrick, Ascension). We would love to send our son to immersion but decided against it as the travel to Sacred Heart is just too far. I think that having an immersion school in both the north and south ends of the city would open up the program to more people. As of now, I feel the north has an unfair advantage. Also it could keep fuel costs for bussing down as routes would be shorter. We would definitely register if the classes went to a school in the south end. Thank you. |
| I think this is a great idea and it would really allow more students to join the French immersion program. I also recommend that the program be moved to St Anne school. |
| I think this is unacceptable and infuriating. I don't agree with the fact children who are NOT enrolled in French program will have to pay. Why should these kids impacted. As parent I find this very concerning and do NOT support it. |
| I think you need to assess the impact changing schools can have on the younger children. My daughter is finally after 5 months enjoying her school. Moving kids to satisfy a small portion of the community is not in everyone best interest. |

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| I wholeheartedly support the expansion of the French Immersion program. |
| I wholeheartedly support the expansion of the French Immersion program. It is an important program that should be offered in accordance with the bilingual identity of Canada. Interest is obviously high yet spots are limited. |
| I will be very upset if our boundaries change and my daughter is forced to move to a new school. If you are changing boundaries, it should be relevant to new students only. |
| I will not be happy if my English speaking children are relocated from our HOME school to another due to this change. I will remove my two children from hcdsb and send them to Florence Meares due to location as a result. I am not interested in busing my walking children to another catholic school. |
| I would be against it as it would separate kids from their friends. As lots of kids have trouble in a social environment and making friends is very hard for them, re-doing the boundaries is not a good decision. |
| I would be cautious about changing boundaries. Please remember that as parents/consumers (taxes to Catholic education) that we have a choice. If we are no longer within the boundary of our current school we have a choice to take our children and in essence our monies to the Public board and school in our neighbourhood. That's what I will do. We will move our children over to the Public School in our neighbourhood. |
| I would be happy if more schools provided the program |
| I would like the French Immersion program to be made available at St Anne rather than having to go to a different school. Being bilingual in Canada is important and would provide our children with additional tools to succeed in the future. |
| I would like to see the French Immersion program expanded at different school sites so that additional students could have access to the program without the worry to the family of having to transport their student outside their school boundary. I feel this would allow the program to be accessed by a wider number of families regardless of socioeconomic status. |
| I would like to voice my disapproval of the plan to expand the French program. |
| I would love for FI to be available at St.Elizabeth Seton. Currently the demand is way greater than the supply. As a multi-lingual family we welcome the idea of FI expansion |
| I would love the chance for my so to go to FI, he is currently number 10 in the waitlist in Burlington. We were kore than disspointment that he was not picked. If this means he would get in we are all for it |
| I would NOT like if the boundary review to affected my children (either directly or indirectly - if it affected their classmates/friends). Please leave as is! Thank you |
| I would suggest that you consider the addition of the French Immersion to another school and kept the boundaries as is to the existing schools. Perhaps a school in South Burlington for those who are interested in sending their children into the French Immersion track and for those who are being bused to North Burlington. |
| I know if you change my boundary and my children are affected - 3 affected out of our 5 children. We would enrol them in the public school closest to us. |

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| If the boundaries are changed and we are no longer in the boundaries a school move will affect my child's mental health as she has a very hard time coping with change and just started at st.john last year. |
| If there is an interest in French Immersion programs, I'd be very disappointed if our children would be forced to move schools. I think having a French Immersion school on it's own would be a better option. Those students could be bused. |
| If there is an interest in French Immersion programs, I'd be very disappointed if our children would be forced to move schools. I think having a French Immersion school on it's own would be a better option. Those students could be bused. |
| If they do a boundary change then we will be taking our kids out of the Catholic board and putting them in the Public school that is walking distance from our house. If they want to expand the program, they should look at doing a school in the south of Burlington to cover the city evenly. |
| If trustees decide to do this, I will definitely move my kids to the public board. |
| <p>I'm in support of this change.</p> <p>My one ask is that all siblings stay in the same school to ease logistics for parents. I have two children in the Early French Immersion program and my third child has been denied cross boundary requests to attend the same school in the English stream. I recognize that if it stays a lottery system to be admitted into French Immersion that he may not be admitted into the program when he is in Grade 1 but I am hoping that he is reserved a spot in the English stream at the same school.</p> <p>Thank you for trying to explore this option - I know it isn't easy!</p> |
| I'm not in favour of expansion if it impacts school boundaries. To think our school community would be impacted, never mind the waste of money, to benefit a small portion of families is ridiculous. |
| I'm not in favour of the possible changes to the current elementary school boundaries if this means that my children will have to moved to another school. They dont need to feel like they're being punished by having to leave the school and friends they have just to make way to expand the program. |
| In order to provide comments, I need to understand what changes would occur to the boundaries. Would my school boundary be expanded? Please confirm |
| <p>Increasing the French Grade 1 program is exactly what Burlington needs. Language education provides our children with valuable life/learning experience that will lay the foundation for character development for the rest of their lives. At the end of the day, this is what early education is all about; developing a child's character and preparing them to be the best Canadian citizens they can be.</p> <p>Education at all levels is a direct investment in our collective future. Expand these programs and we make Burlington, and Canada for that matter, a better place.</p> |

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| Is now the right time to be asking about this??? With teachers on rotating strikes. Seems like it's a hard sell to ask for more funding from the government |
| It is a terrible idea. There is already a big shortage of qualified Catholic french teachers in the province/board. There is no point in expanding the program without qualified teachers. |
| It is extremely valuable to our children to have the possibility to have French Immersion Catholic school as an option. Increasing classes from 2 to 4 classes provides more opportunities to more students. |
| It should be at two schools in Burlington. Not just one |
| It would appear that there is once again a potential for families to be impacted by a decision that benefits the few. My school community was negativity impacted by the decision to move our school start time by 10 mins, in order to accommodate busing (which in my viewpoint is unnecessary). This resulted in families leaving our school. I would not want to see any further impacts on the Ascension community with changes to school boundaries only to accommodate a handful of parents who are interested in pursuing French Immersion for their children. |
| It's disheartening that FI is being blamed for inevitable boundary reviews. Please expand for 2020. |
| It's time yo take this small step towards expansion. Adding a maximum of 46 spots per city is better than nothing. |
| Just don't force my kids to change schools. They are both in walking distance from home, we chose to live where we are because it is close the elementary and secondary school. You will get a lot of angry parents if you force them to switch schools. Did you even ask parents if French Immersion is that important to them? |
| Just keep it the way it is. Teach french from grade 4 to 8 |
| Keep as status quo. Expansion at this time would mean that schools would be beyond capacity in some areas and impact class sizes, boundaries, over capacity on school community, school dynamics and school climate. Until renovations to schools happen to accommodate all the extra students and staff, things should be left status quo. Don't put the wagon before the horse. Implement safe schools that can accomodate for the changes before moving students into already over crowed schools. Safety of students and staff should be considered before making and implementing such changes. Schools for example like St. Gabriel for example already have ridiculously large class sizes in the English panel for those students who are in the catchment area who have chosen not to go into French Immersion. This impacts greatly on quality of education for the English stream who have an upward of 36:1 ratio in the upper grades because of kids who begin in the FI program and then all of sudden drop out of the program and end up back in the English stream again, thus putting a strain on teachers and class sizes and quality of education for these students. |
| My children have adjusted really well to the school. I want them to keep going to the same school until grade 8. They really enjoy the French immersion program and do really well. |
| My concern is the before and after school care for students who are currently registered at their home school; should the boundaries change are they guaranteed a space at the "new" school? |

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| My daughter currently attends the gifted program at Canadian Martyrs. Consideration should be given not to move students already enrolled in the program to a different school to avoid undue stress and disruptions. |
| My daughter currently attends the gifted program at Canadian Martyrs. Consideration should be given not to move students already enrolled in the program to a different school to avoid undue stress and disruptions. |
| My daughter is a special needs student and I would be very upset if the new boundaries caused her to attend a different school. She's been at st. Timothy's for 3 years and knows everyone. If she potentially had to change schools it would be a huge back |
| My daughter is not currently enrolled in French in st Johns but if the option was available at St. John I would enroll her. In my opinion if St. John's had more French options that would be a strength to further enhance the school. |
| My daughter, [REDACTED], is a special needs student, if the boundaries were to change and she had to attend a new school, it would be a huge detriment to her progress. She has made so much progress over her last three years at St. Timothy's school. We love the staff and other families that attend, it's a very close community. They created a sensory room at the school which has been a great tool/reward for my daughter. She has special supports set up in the bathroom and staff who are familiar with her needs and always there to help her. I know arrangements will be made wherever she goes, but the staff members and friends she has made will not. I know the emailed stated the vote will be on Feb 18/20, at this point in time do you know which schools will possibly be affected by the boundary change? Or when this information will become available? There are many factors that need to be taken into consideration. Registration for the YMCA before and after school program will be starting soon. If boundaries change and I cannot get a spot at a new school that is a huge problem for our family as both parents work full time. Will there be some sort of compensation for uniforms? |
| My family would be happy to have a French immersion class in our beautiful Canadians Martyrs Catholic school. It will help me to keep my kids at the same location. |
| My only concern is the impact on the core French program teachers as there is lack of teachers to fill current French LTO positions. When the regular French teacher was on maternity leave at my child's school this position was not filled for two months. There was many different supply teachers but the students did not receive French instruction until a French teacher was hired two months later. This was a planned, known absence. Not sure if this is a HR issue, re: supply teachers or just a French issue??? |
| My only concern is the impact on the core French program teachers as there is lack of teachers to fill current French LTO positions. When the regular French teacher was on maternity leave at my child's school this position was not filled for two months. There was many different supply teachers but the students did not receive French instruction until a French teacher was hired two months later. This was a planned, known absence. Not sure if this is a HR issue, re: supply teachers or just a French issue??? |
| My only concern is the potential change in boundaries for schools. If there is a change to the boundary lines, I would strongly suggest exempting existing students so that they are allowed |

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| to remain in their respective schools until graduation and only enforce the new boundaries on future students. |
| My son is accepted to the gr 1 French immersion program. I have been advised that my daughter who starts JK next year almost certainly won't be accepted into sacred heart of Jesus school for JK due to boundaries. Siblings should stay together. |
| My son will be entering grade 6 next year. He has an IEP. He has made numerous positive connections with staff and peers. His Dad recently passed away in October 2019, [REDACTED]. I am worried for his emotional well-being if he's moved |
| My understanding is that there are not enough qualified French language teachers to fulfill the needs of the existing early and middle immersion programs. Without fluent French teachers who are also primary qualified I don't see how this expansion is a possibility. |
| No to expansion and changing boundaries |
| No to expansion of the French Immersion Program |
| Not a great choice for Sacred Heart of Jesus. It's difficult to find replacement French teachers should staff go on a leave to fill the positions. We are already facing challenges with this. Why add another class to a school that is already having difficulty with this? |
| You would displace MANY families who already live so close to their home school. Consistency is key and by uprooting a child who had spent years trying to get accustomed to Staff and friends who may have difficulties transitioning to school would be sad. |
| Not in favour of the proposal |
| Not interested in French Immersion when my daughter could not even get a teacher to teach French at St. Elizabeth Seton for months when she was there. Have already gone through a boundary change with my child currently in elementary school |
| Oh yes, I think it's a great idea to enlarge the coast and give more children this opportunity to be bilingual. |
| Asides grade 1, how can older children benefit from this opportunity? |
| Thank you so much for this thoughtful idea. |
| Opening up as much space as possible for all FI students who want to attend would be my preference |
| Our Board is an English board. In a time of scarce resources, where children are not getting the supports they need, it should focus on offering education to students in English in their home schools. French Immersion does not benefit the many children with special needs who are usually advised not to attempt the additional challenge of learning in French. |
| Given the scarcity of truly qualified French Catholic teachers, it would be best to scrap French Immersion and put additional resources into Core French. It is not acceptably to purport to offer a French Immersion program and then have teachers who cannot properly teach in French. |

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| If there is to be an expansion of the French Immersion program, it absolutely should not result in boundary reviews for the English program. Students should be able to attend the school closest to their home without it being overpopulated due to children coming in to attend an optional program. |
| Our students are inadequately served in South Burlington. Programs, money, tech all goes to Milton students. It is extremely and blatantly inequitable. Shocking and stark. |
| Our students are inadequately served in South Burlington. Programs, money, tech all goes to Milton students. It is extremely and blatantly inequitable. Shocking and stark. |
| Part of the problem, which drives the request for FI higher is that the English schools don't start French instruction until grade 4! Would be much more efficient to fix this first! |
| Please allow families the option to remain in any school their children attended prior to any adjustments, thank you. |
| Please consider offering/moving the extended French immersion program to current FI schools. Specifically moving the extended French immersion (Gr 5-) program currently at St Gabriel to Sacred Heart of Jesus. So many of the French programs and educators are in one school. This benefits my family as currently I have children in two different schools. Thank you |
| Please consider students' needs first. Hopefully, adding classes will lower overall class sizes all around. |
| Please consider that the FI community only represents 2% of our Board when reviewing the comments in this survey. This tiny step towards expansion is well overdue and it is perplexing that adding a maximum of 46 spots per city has caused such chaos. |
| Please do not change boundaries where the English kids will be sent to a new school to accommodate more French kids. Please open a south school in Burlington to accommodate an expansion. It is completely unfair to kick out English kids in their own neighborhood for this especially since last year the board wanted to stop the program and this year you can't even get French teachers to fill in for a sick leave. If you do change the boundaries for the English kids I will remove my kids from our board and send them to the public school within walking distance. From what I know and see as a parent who volunteers a lot of time in the school the French program is not the best run program and I do not want my English kids who actually live in the neighborhood to suffer. Open another school south or leave the program as is. |
| Please do not change school boundaries! As parents, we make real estate and life decisions based on school zones. This is a huge impact and not fair to the kids. Please do not do this! |
| Please don't change boundaries or expand the program. Especially for st. John. |
| Please don't move the Gifted Programme from Canadian Martyrs |
| Please expand for 2020! |
| Please expand for September 2020. |
| Please expand! |
| Please let me know asap if my Son will be forced into French speaking classes. We do NOT have any interest in [REDACTED] learning to speak French. Thank you. |

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| Please reconsider NOT doing this. Rezoning boundaries for students causes so much havoc for our children. New uniforms that have to be purchased are added extra expense to parents. Additionally ripping apart children from communities that they have been apart of for years. This is a terrible idea!!! |
| Potential boundary changes should NOT affect children that are not part of the French Immersion program! |
| Preference for boundaries to remain the same and have those in the immersion program bused |
| Program should have been expanded a long time ago and perhaps there could be one school in each area covered by the trustees. This may cause less impact to the schools and the students |
| Put all the French immersion classes at one school. I don't like having students from all areas of Burlington in our school. Extreme variance in SES causes for tension. Many behaviour issues brought in. Make one big French school. |
| Put all the French immersion classes in ONE school. I would |
| redrawing boundaries to expand French immersion hardly seems fair to a large group of parents. restrict the number that can enroll from sacred heart. too many parents sign up for the fun of it because it's easy. |
| Reject the proposal to expand. This is an english board. The french program is a complement to, not replacement for, the excellent english and religious programming of the HCDSB. Boundary changes impacting ALL students must be the result of programming that impacts ALL students. Classmates and friends who have cultivated their education together create an environment of support and comfort...boundary changes that result in students transferring schools is detrimental to students social health, learning curve, and overall feeling of community attachment and pride. Bullying, mental health, and violence can all be disrupted negatively by large changes in daily routine, student population, teacher familiarity, and building familiarity, particularly so when the student sees no necessary reason for the change (I.e. the english stream students who comprise the large majority of the student body). |
| In addition, there is inconsistency in programming across all HCDSB elementary schools at present. Resources must be spent to equalize the opportunities for ALL students in the board before enhancing a french program that benefits a minority. For ex., a proper music band program. |
| Removing the wait list is a great idea. Allowing siblings to be enrolled and not part of the lottery would be helpful for families already with a child in a French program |
| Since my child attends Gr4 French immersion program and Gad been studying with his classmates for 4 years, I do not want him to be transferred to another school as a result of the FE program expansion |
| St Elizabeth Seton and St Christopher was already involved in a boundary change around six years ago. At the meeting it was recommended that Seton take in French Immersion to make up the loss of the students to St Anne's so that the boundaries didn' |

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| Strongly disagree with expansion.. lack of qualified teachers for French program as well as not fair to students in the area in the English stream who might have to move. |
| Better to do a pilot at another school in the south not add more to shoj |
| Supportive of boundary review, would want to raise consideration of siblings having priority in gaining entry into French program |
| Thank you for considering expansion to the grade one french immersion program. The program is important both for children, the community and canada as a whole. |
| Thank you for looking into the expansion of the early french immersion program. We are so, so, SO thrilled that this excellent program is going to be made available for more children. We currently have 2 kids in the program and couldn't say enough about the amazing teachers and the profound knowledge of another language that my kids currently have. |
| This expansion, although small in comparison to all the Public school boards that offer the french program, is much needed and will allow the 180 students that are on the waitlist to experience learning a new language. This will also mean that 180 students will be able to learn the language within a Catholic setting and aren't looking into alternative schooling (ie. Public board, all day french schools...etc.) in order to receive the french language they so desire. |
| Thank you again for your diligence and for looking into this matter for what it is - many parents' desire for their kids to learn our two national languages surrounded within a beautiful Catholic environment. |
| Thank you for realizing what parents have been asking for in the Halton District Catholic area. Expansion of the program was necessary due to the waiting lists. |
| Thanks for reviewing the waitlists and ensuring that the 180 children who are currently waitlisted, is a top priority. I support expansion of the Gr.1 program |
| The background is sparse. I'd like to understand what implications this has for high school once the current grade 1 class is ready to graduate grade 8. |
| The board needs to focus on hiring qualified french teachers to accommodate the existing programs (core extended and immersion) before it considers expansion. My child should not have to learn French from an English teacher and by watching movies in french. |
| The information you have given out is very vague. You have not addressed busing. As my son is in the gifted program at Canadian Martyrs is there any impact to him or the gifted program?? |
| The main concern is disrupting children in their current school where they have friends and know the teachers. If boundaries change i strongly feel that they apply only to new registrations or students have the option to stay or go to their new schoo |
| The verbiage in your correspondence is intentionally promoting negative feedback. Expansion is well overdue. |
| There definitely needs more FI classes, but as long as students currently enrolled at schools effected by boundary changes can stay at their school |

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| There is not enough French teachers to execute on any of these options. According to your own documents we already have staffing issues with the current program. |
| They have a hard time filling the spots of the french teachers now so expanding wouldn't be the best idea. Also if there was a boundary change and my kids had to move we would go to the public school down the street. Sacred heart is our home school and my kids used to be in french immersion but I struggled with the fact that my kids weren't actually learning french most Of the time because they had LTOs on and off as fill ins. |
| This is going to negatively affect the English stream kids. If my kids have to switch schools to attend a catholic school in another neighbourhood I will pull them out of catholic and put them in public. Wouldn't the better option be to add another French immersion program at a school south to prevent boundary changes to English stream and kids in the neighbourhood . |
| This is ridiculous. How about spending more time and attention on the "majority" and a little less on the "squeaky wheel" elite? Didn't the board learn from the last EFI review? Enough! Please direct your focus to ALL students! |
| This is simply unacceptable. If the HCDSB thinks they are going to move kids from their neighborhood schools to make more room for French Immersion, they will have a fight coming with angry parents. Mass exodus to Non Catholic boards? |
| This program needs to be expanded to schools other than Sacred Heart in Burlington. This leaves the option for French immersion non-existent for those living in most other areas of the city due to transportation issues among other things. |
| This program should not be expanded. My oldest child received an "Incomplete" in core French because the Board could not find a qualified teacher. If our children's minimum education requirements cannot be met, how can you consider expanding the EFI program? Additionally, if this program cannot be offered to all HCDSB elementary students then in my opinion it should not be offered at all. |
| This request is worded to bring divide in the community. How is a catholic board pushing divide? |
| This sounds like a terrible idea that has not been thought out thoroughly. Please come up with a plan first and then act. |
| This will be the second time that the boundary for st Christopher's school will be changed since my daughter has been attending elementary school |
| Wanting to know of the possible boundary changes and if there is eligibility to those students near FI schools but not in catchment area. |
| Wanting to know of the possible boundary changes and if there is eligibility to those students near FI schools but not in catchment area. |
| We are excited to hear of the program's expansion as we have been planning to put our children in a French program. Ideally it would have been better if more schools offered it and not just the one but this is the next best thing and we are happy with it. |
| We currently have 2 children in the programme and have seen first-hand how beneficial it is for their developing minds. With the amount of applicants on the wait list, I feel very strongly that the Board should consider expanding the scope of the programme. This is a great opportunity to enrich and challenge the minds of the children in our community and to |

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| continue to build on the high quality of education in our district. The high demand of interested applicants clearly shows that there is a definitive need in our community for this type of education and an expansion of this programme would help to enrich the quality of education for a great number of children in our community. Please consider the expansion. |
| <p>We do not agree with the expansion of French Immersion programming because it will affect the special classes, Gifted Program.</p> <p>We as a family have gone through great changes to accommodate our children and it would not be fair to have them switch schools again.</p> <p>Thank you for your understanding</p> |
| <p>We moved to this area because we wanted our child to attend a community school. Our older son was able to enjoy a positive experience. Unfortunately the introduction of the immersion program at SHOJ has turned the experience to be less positive for our younger son. He is not in the immersion program. The school is not equipped to handle the amount of buses coming in and out. I invite you to come one morning to experience the chaos in the parking lot and on the street. Each year we look forward to our son to be taught by certain teachers just to find out that the "best" have been scooped into the French program. This has had a negative impact on academics. I welcome you to look at SHOJ's EQAO scores which are alarmingly low. My son had to spend the first 5 years in a split class. After much campaigning by parents this is the first year that he has not been in a split. Also there is an unfortunate divide because the French kids taunt the kids in the English program. If the desire is to have an immersion program then I suggest that you designate a specific school. The decision to add the program to what was meant to be a community school has been detrimental for our son.</p> |
| <p>We must be able to hire qualified French teachers before offering this program. We do not currently have enough qualified teachers and there is no certainty that the govt will give us more money for this when they are cutting costs everywhere.</p> |
| <p>We need to see the boundary changes before you can ask us if we are ok with this. Is this necessary? Is there demand for this? Will this force my school to close?</p> |
| <p>We need to strengthen our Core French and ensure all student have the proper instruction with qualified teachers first. English stream students should not have boundaries impacted due to this new program, how does that make sense?</p> |
| <p>We purposely moved not only into the Millcroft Community but also 2.0km from the neighbourhood school of Sacred Heart. Suggestion: place early french immersion classrooms in each FOS vs. clustering in 1 school putting family's school location at risk despite being in the exact neighbourhood of the school and only 2.0km away from the school. Would this not lessen transportation costs of students as well if they are more local to their FOS vs. for example from the west end of Burlington all the way up to Millcroft?</p> |
| <p>We should NOT expand the immersion program. It would be ridiculous to change school boundaries for this.</p> |
| <p>Whatever happens I must insist on keeping the FI program at sacred heart because I have two boys in the FI program already registered and this is the reason why my husband and I</p> |

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| <p>moved to Millcroft (to be close to the school). I still have a third child that I need to get into the program once her time comes and I can't have my three children in different schools.</p> |
| <p>While it sound good to expand the option for early French immersion I also would like that it can be sustainable from a teacher standpoint first and also the number of students at these specific schools that have this program.consider School capacity</p> |
| <p>Wholeheartedly disagree. Why would you make changes that impact all families just to accommodate a certain percentage of families looking for French Immersion. Please reconsider this idea, as it is rather unappealing.</p> |
| <p>Why are you expanding the program in halton hills when the demand is less there.</p> |
| <p>Will pull my kids if boundaries change for English program and place them in public board</p> |
| <p>Wish have French classes start at Grade 1 or even earlier age in the school.</p> |
| <p>With more classes available it would be nice to have some system to help siblings attend the program together and not be dividing between multiple schools if they do not get in.</p> |
| <p>With the shortage of French teachers this expansion does not sound like there will be success. Also, my children are not in the FI program so I would be disappointed to be effected by such changes.</p> |
| <p>Would be absolutely ridiculous to change boundaries to expand the French Immersion program - especially if it were to impact children who are not even in the program. The board needs to think about this logically - the parents won't tolerate this.</p> |
| <p>Would love expansion of the program as well as possibility of adding the program in my home school of St Elizabeth set.</p> |
| <p>Would love our school to have this opportunity!</p> |
| <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Yes - if an expansion can be accommodated and is properly staffed then I think the location should be separate from the existing location. This will create an opportunity for shorter bus rides and to help the school population. Sacred heart does not have room for additional French classes and if the English classes are moved out parents will just switch to the public board so you will be losing more families.</p> |
| <p>Until the staffing issue is sorted you should not be extending the program</p> |
| <p>Yes I do not believe this should impact boundaries.</p> |
| <p>Yes I do want more expansion and if possible to enhance the french at the school I want so much my kids to know french and learn and it s hard to get I. French Emersion one</p> |
| <p>Yes I have concerns about how this will affect my child and the rest of the St Mark community. I do not believe it is fair to change and shake up the majority for the sake of the minority. The expansion of the program should not affect the majority.</p> |
| <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Really hoping this will not effect our school . Do not want my child to be relocated to another school.</p> |

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| Yes, and you should not do it. There are not enough French qualified teachers in the current program, so you need to fill those needs first. |
| Yes, please expand the Grade 1 French Immersion. Perhaps by only 1 additional class. My son entered FI in the 2019-2020 school year. I was sad to learn that 19 students were turned down. One additional class could have met this capacity. |
| You can't expect us to comment if you don't have an idea |
| expansion is encouraged. Even more so than expansion, sibling rights for cross boundary attendance is strongly encouraged. I have children in 2 schools because of this and having them in a single school would make life a lot easier on us. |

HALTON HILLS

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| <p>*if students are already in the french program they should be able to finish the program in the school where they start- no boundary reviews for the current students it should be phased in .</p> <p>* english stream students should not be bussed to a different location to make room for additional french classes. Students should be able to stay in the home school</p> <p>* parents choose programs and homes for their family and the disruption that this french program is causing halton hills with it moving to st bridged, to st catherines and then maybe moving again! It is becoming ridiculous! The board needs to figure this out and stop piloting ideas that are not working</p> <p>* why is the french program so high on the priority list? There should be more programs available throughout the board to meet the needs of other learners: Enhanced learning plans with those who score exceptionally high but not enough to be gifted, regional programs for IB, Tech, arts</p> <p>* unqualified teachers for a program to meet the needs of a few is a mistake</p> |
| As a French student in university I would have loved to have had access to the Immersion program. I don't want other students to be waitlisted forever or not have access like I did. |
| As far as I'm concerned, children who are not registered in the French immersion program should not be affected. I don't see why they should have to switch schools or be affected by the potential boundary switch. |
| As long as the kids on [REDACTED] get to stay at St. Brigid I am fine with boundary changes. Our street has already been re-zoned and I don't want my kids going to a 3rd school after we JUST changed. |
| Based on what I see as a Peel teacher at a school with an FI program, I don't agree with an expansion to the FI program in Halton unless it is clear that there are enough qualified FI teachers to meet the demands of an expanded program. |
| Changing the school boundaries is unacceptable. As it is, this school allows too many children in that do not live within the borders (this really needs to be looked at). If they need to expand French immersion, stop letting kids from out of bounds as that would make room. |

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| If the school cannot accommodate current school borders, this should not be explored. |
| Changing school borders separates friendships and can be traumatic to the kids. Once a child is enrolled in the school, the school boundaries should be guaranteed. |
| Children and their parents should have the choice of taking French at the catholic board otherwise you risk losing us to the public board where immersion courses are plentiful |
| Comment space too small. Cont 2... be bilingual. I would be in full support of more classes. It would also be beneficial if they could start in grade 2 and 3. I started French emers in grade 4 and I got my diploma as bilingual. I picked it up quick. |
| Concerned about potential of change in school boundaries for students not attending French immersion. |
| Don't 3... bottom line pls pls pls open more classes. I think you'll find you'll have enough people who would sign up. The lottery is just unfair to someone who really wants it. Pls contact me if you want to have a chat about it. Thanks |
| English students that live in the boundary of St. Catherine should no have to move to accommodate additional FI classes. The students entering FI in 2020 should stay there until grade 8. the students on the waitlist year this year should not be granted space if it means combined grades, unqualified teachers. Work on the plan and eliminate the waitlist for the following year2021. Halton Hills is different than the rest of the board, not a lot of schools and the decision should be made carefully. |
| Every effort should be made to keep families together. If all members are in eng or Fi programs they should not be split between schools. |
| Everything about this proposal upsets us. As a family with a child who didn't get into early FI due to a lottery a few years ago and another child about to start FI in the fall we find this proposal absurd. Parents will get over if their child does not get into the FI program. Perhaps, if the lottery isn't working equitably we should be applying for the program based on a variety of critieria: academic achievement in K, behaviour, parent commitment to learning etc. Expanding the FI program to accommodate a few hundred students on a waitlist in a school board of over 30, 000 students is absurd. Do I want my third child to have an option of FI, of course, but not at the cost of English programming, boundary changes etc. The idea of potentially bussing English stream students out of their home school in Halton Hills needs to be removed from the options because there are so many neighbourhoods in Halton Hills without a school in the neighbourhood and families that live in a walking distance to a school chose their home deliberately for that reason and for their children not to have to be bussed to school even if the home was more money. This expansion needs to be withdrawn. |
| Expansion is welcome |
| Expansion of the program is a must. This is a bilingual country. One of the motivations for moving here was to ensure out children were educated bilingually from an early age. Our household is already bilingual, a travesty not to offer it. |

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| Extended french should be available to ALL students who's skill level is applicable. Limiting student access is WRONG. |
| Finally! |
| Great idea! |
| Great idea! |
| Great news! The most important is to have our children studying under the same school roof. French is part of our heritage , community and country. Praise the Lord for answering our prayers. |
| Great opportunity. Demand is there let's go for it |
| Halton Hills is 85% English speaking and only 1.9% have French as their mother tongue (1135 people at last Census). It is NOT reasonable to displace English speaking kids from their school via a boundary review to accommodate this small French group. |
| Having French as early as possible is invaluable for our students. It needs to happen or our kids are going to be behind other regions. |
| Hoping that students in older grades will be grandfathered to stay in their current schools and still have transportation provided to them. It can be a difficult adjustment to switch schools after having the same friends for 7 plus years. |
| I am baffled why the HCDSB would even consider this? My kids would be devastated if they had to move schools. |
| I am interested to know more and how this would potentially impact the lives of our children. for eg. would they have more children per class size, would they have to change schools if the boundaries are changed...lots of ??? at the moment. |
| I am very, very much against any change to boundaries that would force my children to change schools |
| I believe it should be expanded- more French immersion classes should be in place |
| I can't believe that other students won't have the same choice we had |
| I don't agree with expanding the French Immersion programs. I have had all my children go through St. Brigid for a reason, because of the academics this school offers in the English level (with one subject being French). I agree with the way the system is now; not expanding. The feedback I receive from both parents & students of the French Immersion is they do not find it beneficial the older the students get and the less serious they take it; thus a lack of interest and a decline of grades. If French is their main concern, then there are strictly French schools that cater to these needs. |
| I don't agree with the boundary changes affecting the non-French immersion kids |
| I don't think the review of the boundary is a good idea |
| I don't want the boundaries of my kids school to change which school they attend as they have become members of a great community at their school and wouldn't want to leave |
| I fully support french immersion but why propose an option where you would need to hire unqualified/uncertified teachers? This does not sound like a good idea. Also if there will be 4 classes in Halton Hills why not put one in each of the 4 schools? |

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| I fully support increasing the opportunity for children to participate in a French Immersion programmes. If that means school boundaries need to redrawn, that is worth it to me. |
| I like French |
| I see zero downside to expanding. It can only help our kids. |
| I think having the option of learning more french is a good option to have |
| I think it is a great idea. As it is currently, there is a realistic chance that a sibling will not be chosen to attend the same school. This makes it very difficult for parents. By expanding the program, there is a better chance to have the sibling |
| I think it is a wonderful idea and cant wait ! |
| I think its great that there is so much interest in the program and that there's a possibility of more French classes being added. My one issue is the possible school boundary changes. My son already had to switch schools because of boundary reviews so my concern is how many times boundary reviews are going to happen over his elementary school years. I am not committed enough to the French Immersion program to move him from school to school in order to stay in it. |
| I think this is great. Giving more opportunities to more kids. How is the teacher recruiting will happen? A few year ago this seems was a problem. How was this fix? The more classes offer the better. But we want to keep the quality. |
| I understand French is Canada's second language but in this day and age i can't understand the need to offer more programs than are already available? And cause boundary changes that can affect so many families/ situations |
| I was concerned with the statement "We may need to hire uncertified and/or unqualified teachers". I believe we would be doing a disservice to the program by using unqualified teachers if the proper interpretation is that their French language teaching skills are not meeting the requirement. I am concerned that this would effectively dilute the value for the French immersion student population and it would be better off to be smaller if that was a constraint. If it was the case the case that it was Public School Board teacher moving to the Catholic Board I do not have an issue. |
| I would love an expansion. After some bad info I did not register online in time. It wasn't clear to me that the classes would be at st Catherine's. So I did not enroll her. I think more parents want French than you think. I'd love my daughter to... |
| I would love to be able to enroll my grade 5 daughter in the French program at her existing school but registration is not available for next year. My other 2 kids are currently in the program, the school is in walking distance and I don't want to separate my kids |
| I wouldn't like to see the french immersion program be moved to another school as has happened in the past. This cause families with more than one child to have to go to more than one school to drop off and pick up their kids if they want all of them be in the french program. This is a common concern and complain of many families in Georgetown. Thank you for asking feedback, please keep doing this. God bless. |

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| If the board terminates French immersion programs this will mean job loss at the secondary level for the future |
| In reviewing the plan for french expansion it does not seem well planned out! Combined grades in an FI program, especially at the primary level is a disaster and will minimize the quality of language instruction. A combined 1/2, as an example is a difficult split as the students are at such different reading levels and language acquisition. In these most formative years with the addition of second language instruction combined grades would be detrimental to the quality of the program. Also, i think that it needs to be clear how the board will be hiring these teachers when other boards in the province i.e. Peel, are decreasing their french program due to a shortage of french teachers in the country. And hiring unqualified teachers who speak french would be disrespectful to the profession and to the students in the program. |
| It is difficult to have siblings separated now that FI has s at different schools. Having the school bus service allows the siblings to stay together on the bus at least so that it makes logistics a bit easier for parents. However, ideally, siblings would be together at the same school if they are all in FI programs. |
| It is great for new students. I just wish this was considered 2 years earlier when my child was trying to get into the program when it was capped at 2 grades, causing my child to not make the cut. |
| It is UNACCEPTABLE to even entertain the idea of boundary changes that will affect and displace ENGLISH speaking children from their HOME school to accomodate a small percentage of parents wanting their children in French Immersion! |
| It will be really hard on my children if they have to attend a different school. |
| It's great that the French Immersion program is expanding. But I certainly do not think it would be fair to move around the boundaries. My son started JK in September, he loves his school St. brigid, he loves his classmates. To think he would basically be starting over terrifies me. As most kids his age change isn't a good thing. We are blessed that he has found his 'home' away from home. Please to do not impact these little beings who find change so difficult. Thank you. |
| My child has already had to be moved because of French Immersion and boundary changes. She moved in Grade 2 from St Catherine's to St Brigid. We live in Stewart's Mill and I please ask that you do not make students from SM change schools again. |
| My children are enrolled in grades 3 and 7 and would not be affected. However, I would support additiona French immersion so long as it does not negatively affect teacher to student ratios for non-french immersion classes. |
| my children have experienced having French taught to them by a teacher who doesn't speak French. How is this possible for a required subject? Why do all of the French speaking teachers get placed in the optional immersion program? So inequitable |
| My child's boundaries shave changed many times since they have been enrolled at St. Brigid. It's ridiculous and the boundaries should be left alone! Student's are being bounced around and is not fair! My child's school is already at capacity! |

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| My child's boundaries have changed many times since they have been enrolled at St. Brigid. It's ridiculous and the boundaries should be left alone! Student's are being bounced around and is not fair! My child's school is already at capacity! |
| My daughter is eleventh on the waiting list so I would like to create another class so that she can attend this program |
| My kids have already had their boundaries switched due to the french program. It amazes me how a small percentage of the student population can effect changes to other schools. How about the needs of the other children be considered for a change? |
| My kids love their school. all of the there friends are at there. Please do not do this. |
| My preference is to keep the French Immersion program at St. Brigid |
| My son has already experienced a boundary change. We were forced to change schools from St. Catharine's to St. Brigid when he was in grade 3. He is now in grade 6 and is very happy. I sincerely hope that he will be permitted to stay at St. Brigid. |
| My son has already experienced a boundary change. We were forced to change schools from St. Catharine's to St. Brigid when he was in grade 3. He is now in grade 6 and is very happy. I sincerely hope that he will be permitted to stay at St. Brigid. |
| My son is in JK and I do not want the French Immersion program to expand especially with the possibility of the potential boundary changes. My husbands sister had taken French in Immersion throughout elementary and highschool and cannot speak french |
| No issue expanding French immersion, but it cannot change existing school boundaries. Stop allowing children in that do not live within the existing boundaries if school population is an issue. |
| <p>Option A: "grandfathering out students is too expensive" - the cost seems to override the needs of families and students well being and it doesn't seem fair to those programs they should be able to. Especially if the board is willing to spend \$200k the first year on portables and bussing! This option also has combined FI grades not acceptable for a specialized program.</p> <p>Option B: negatives - combined grades, extraordinary cost, unqualified teachers, no real plan to recruit teacher, schools can't hold the students which means lots of students will be uprooted.</p> <p>OPTION C: Completely unrealistic.</p> <p>OPTION D: unrealistic and expensive</p> <p>With a shortage of qualified of french teachers none of these options are sustainable for the 2020 school year.</p> <p>Suggestion: Hire french teachers (with the understanding that they are in a holding pattern for future FI) for regular programs and when you have enough to sustain an expansion reallocate the teachers to the french program.</p> <p>Expand the program starting in 2021 when the teachers are hired and the locations sorted out so parents understand where and how long the students will be at the school. They deserve full disclosure</p> |

Our concerns stem from keeping siblings in the same schools. Our eldest started the Grade 1 Extended French Immersion program in the 2017-2018 school year, at St. Brigid's.

The program has since been moved to St. Catherine's, where in 2020-2021 our youngest child will start the Grade 1 Extended French Immersion program.

We have learned that we are not the only family affected by this change, having multiple children in different schools.

We would like to see a change that would allow for the program to be offered at one school only.

We like sibling to be kept together.

Thank you.

Our school already had a boundary change and is bursting at the seams which affects child learning. Because we are so huge, teams are limited (100 kids in the grade and only 15 make the team), or for track only 4!! 12-14 portables since the influx from the last boundary change. No field to play on. I don't want to see anymore growth at my school. Only a reduction of students. Plus it's not fair to the kids who have already had to move, to be forced to move again. Any change should only impact Grade 1 and earlier. Should be a graduated change.

Please leave things as they are. My son is within close walking distance to the school. I would be upset if this changed.

St. Brigid has gone through a lot of change with families being forced to have children in different schools or children not attend the French program for this reason. Please consider that when changing the boundaries again.

Students currently in a school should not have to change schools to accommodate a new program.

Thank you. Thank you very much for allowing us to be informed by sharing with us This important information which will impact our families. Furthermore, a big thanks for asking for our input. We see this matter is truly important to you and all the stakeholders as you carefully assess different aspects and involve the community.

We THANK YOU for doing This!

We would like to contribute with our input by saying that this is an exciting news! And that what matters to us the most is the opportunity to have all our children studying under the same school roof. Please ensure accessibility to each family for all the same household children to attend the same school while also accessing the French Immersion program regardless of the grade.

We pray, God will lead our community leaders and all the decision makers to do what's right

and best for our families. May all the decisions bless our children, bless our families, bless our schools and our communities.

God bless you all.

Thank you very much in advance for reading and taking these humble words into consideration.

Respectfully,

The HCDSB is not keeping up with the learning needs of the 21st century. Our children have been in the board now several years and have not been exposed to 21st century technology and learning practices that include collaboration, critical thinking and the use of technology as there is not enough resources at the school level. Schools need: computers, iPads, laptops, coding programs, robots, etc not spending upwards of \$100 000 per year on bussing and portables for the french program. that will only benefit the few hundred in the board that are interested instead of the vested interest of the other 29 000 (approx) students within the board. Also, the fact the board is entertaining the idea of hiring unqualified teachers for these French roles if they have to is insulting to the profession of qualified teachers and to the students you teach. As a parent of a child who will be starting FI in the fall I would withdraw my child from the program if they were not being taught by a qualified teacher & an exceptional one at that. You are willing to jeopardize the quality of the program to appease a few parents who are upset they are waitlisted. FI is not your Greatest area of need.

The immersion program is what keeps me employed...this is worrisome that the board does not want to grow like other boards

This form is not long enough to provide real input. It is upsetting that you are letting French Immersion drive such a drastic change when what people really want is an advanced program which can be easily delivered without such disruption.

This is a fabulous idea. Considering that my child is on a wait list to join the French immersion program I would be thrilled if more classes were added. It's so important to begin studying language at a young age.

This is awful. Would the HCDSB really uproot regular program kids from their communities & home schools simply to accomodate an optional program!? What is going on with HCDSB??

We would be upset if the boundary for our school changed and we would have to switch to a different school, even though we would not be participating in French immersion.

We would like our children to attend this program.

Why do the trustees believe expanding the French Immersion program is beneficial for our children. None of my children, I have 3, ever expressed interest and most of their friends dropped it after a year. I just don't understand the reasoning.

Will the Board ensure that there are qualified French teachers teaching this program? It's difficult enough to find qualified French teachers for the current Immersion/Extended/Core French Program.

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| Will these changes result in any school being closed/amalgamated ? |
| With my child entering final year at next fall this would be a huge impact academic and with possibility of changing schools. There is no need to make any further changes to school programs especially considering disruption of school striking this year |
| Would like to see the proposed boundary changes for St Catherine. We are about 500m from the school and walk most of the year. Would be upset if they boundaries are changed and my children would need to be bused to another school. |
| Yes, Leave the school boundaries alone. |

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| Yes I have. If the demand is there from the parents, the HCDSB should work to meet this demand. |
| 1. Grandfather children in existing programs into their school. Transitions are difficult and parents have made long term choices based on the acceptance into these programs. Stability is paramount. |
| 1. The transition to a new school causes a lot of anxiety for children. Having just transitioned to FBE |
| 100% |
| Support the expansion of French Program |
| A step in the right direction. |
| Agreed that expansion is required. Please turn your minds to the following: siblings (and option for siblings to attend the same school whether or not both are enrolled in French), commencement of French class in all schools starting in grade 1 |
| As an elementary teacher with experience in the primary grades, and specifically grade one, I am very opposed to the plan to expand French Immersion programming. |
| With possible cuts looming to special education, English language learners and vulnerable students needing special supports in our board, how can the expansion of an optional, non-essential program be justified? At a cost of at least \$217,466 for the first year only, with additional costs every year the program runs for staffing and transportation, this specialized programming would be diverting funds from students that are truly at risk in our board. Taking from vulnerable students to fund an advanced program is wrong. |
| From an education standpoint, there is no benefit to starting French instruction in grade one, as opposed to starting French instruction in grade 5, through the extended French program that is already established in our board. As an educator, I feel that it is important for students to first establish strong literacy skills in English in the formative primary grades, especially if the child is also an English Language Learner. This foundation allows for success in the grade 5 extended program. |

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| As a French speaker, I want my child to have the opportunity to pursue French Immersion. |
| As a parent of a child in the french Immersion program, it saddens me that I can't provide the same opportunity for my second child because of space limitation. Every child should have an equal option to learn the second official language of Canada. |
| As a parent of a child who has special learning needs I am concerned about boundary changes that will affect our family. My child would be directly disadvantaged by changing school as a result |
| As a parent, I am opposed to the plan to expand the early French Immersion program. Our schools were not designed to house specialized programs. They were designed to accommodate the needs of growing communities such as St. Scholastica, where French Immersion may not be the first priority of the families in this community. To disrupt the boundaries for ALL families, in order to satisfy the demands of a small vocal parent community, is not equitable. The expansion of this program would involve great demands on staffing. It is already difficult in our board to hire qualified teachers for this program as it is. Hiring uncertified and unqualified teachers would have a direct impact on the quality of the program. What is the point of expanding a program, only to have the quality of education decrease for the students? Add to this the increase of the number split classes, which is not optimal for student learning or success. The funds needed to implement this expansion (transportation, staffing, portables etc.) should be used for at risk students in our board, such as those needing targeted literacy support, newcomer students and special needs students. |
| Being a french speaking francophone and having had some issues and pulled my son from the french system I believe this opportunity to extend more french immersion classes so that more families could benefit from this opportunity. |
| Boundary changes cause issues with uniforms(costly), potential changes in transportation which is unnecessary. Choosing to move people because they are not enrolled in French immersion is an issue and opposite is true for those who are enrolled |
| Boundary reviews are necessary in growing cities. Why is FI and adding only 2 classes to the program being blamed for this inevitability? Please expand for 2020. |
| Come on HCDSB! Parents do not need this uncertainty thrown into the escalating mess that is already happening with the Province. Did you know that kids need stability? Where is the stability?!?!? |
| Completely against the expansion. 100% NO |
| Completely in favour of having French immersion for our kids in Milton |
| Consideration of the lottery program for parents with multiples should be made. It is possible that parents of multiples are opting out of the application as both individual students need to be accepted. If the program is extended provisions for th |

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| Considering the demand for the FI and the fact that certain areas have more demand than other and the fact that demand is likely to fluctuate, I believe that parents should be offered an opportunity to take a spot outside of the boundary or city |
| do Boundary review first and then implement it after that |
| Do not want the expansion to occur. Why should non interested french immersion students be impacted to accomodate a demand that stems out of a population growth in Milton that is disproportionate to other regions |
| Does "expansion" mean more opportunities for students to be enrolled in FI? I.e. shorter waitlist? Would more schools be offering FI? Or would the existing school be increasing classes? I suspect it is the latter. Eitherway, this is good, as there is obviously a demand for it. |
| Each child should have the opportunity based on interest and not merely based on luck. The number of classes should increase. I have enrolled my child but she is on a wait list , I would want my child to have the opportunity to learn the French language early on. |
| Every child should be given a chance to be in the French immersion program if they are interested. There shouldn't be a lottery system to decide there fate. As long as school bus services are provided we are OK with moving schools. Thank you. |
| Expansion is fine as long as my child currently in Grade 6 at St Peter does not have to change school next year |
| Expansion is good idea to give more children a chance but changing a boundary will impact both children and parents who will go through the tough time for adjustments. Thank you |
| Expansion of the FI program in Milton is needed due to a consistent, increasing demand. |
| FI families have been waiting patiently for expansion for 8 years. Please don't delay |
| FI is clearly the scapegoat here for inevitable boundary reviews. Your survey is very misleading. |
| First a teacher's strike and now this nonsense. Why would trustees even think this is a good idea and that parents will be happy? Disadvantaging 95% of students to accomodate 5%. What part of this seems like a good idea to the trustees? |
| First the decision to not fund Sick Kids Hospitals & now this nonsense. Who are the trustees making these decisions? If you dont have the resources to run an optional program - Dont run it! |
| French expansion to be done only after a complete regional boundary review is done in Milton |
| French Immersion is an optional program. I am very strongly against redrawing boundaries to accomodate an optional program. Displacing students from their neighborhood schools is irresponsible & unacceptable. |
| French Immersion should be a right that students and parents have access to. |
| French immersion should be available to all students. As my daughter was not selected during the lottery you are forcing me to move her to the HDSB school so she can learn French. |

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| French Immersion students enrolment should not cause school boundaries to be affected thus causing students to have to vacate their home school. This will cause students and Families to be impacted negatively. French program should be the one to move |
| French language skills are dramatically improved with French Immersion; core and extended programs, while good, do not compare. Therefore, I believe the program must be expanded. |
| French-language studies are part of our heritage as Canadians, not to mention part of the Federal government's mandate to expand and improve French language skills for the Canadian population. As a Board, we ought to be in line and expand the program also. |
| Full support |
| Great idea to expand given demand. May be challenging to staff with French requirements but if it is possible it would be great! |
| Great Idea! Students needs more access yo French programs |
| Great idea. Huge demand for the program. Excellent prospect for future generations. Perfect way of addressing increasing demand for FI program. |
| Happy to hear about the expansion! My older child was selected for EFI (starting Gr. 1, next year)...and an expansion would mean better chances for my younger child to join her in a couple years. It's unfortunate that lottery is needed due to deman |
| Has the staffing of this expansion been fully considered? With all the difficulties with staffing right now what solutions do you have in place? |
| Having read in detail pages 40-70 it seems like the most reasonable expansion is option A. It's going to accommodate twice as many families than what is currently offered. With the least amount of disruption to schools, staff and families. Every student enrolled do not stay in the program in entirety, which this proposal did not include details of. Option C and D do not make any sense and will open the door to those who make not take it seriously that could result higher amount of students dropping out mid course. Between difficultly finding qualified teachers and paying for all aspects involved option A makes the most sense. |
| HCDSB trustees give your heads a shake! If you do not have the resources to accomodate an optional program, then you simply dont do it. |
| HCSB already changed the EFI school within a three year span causing all three of my children to go to different schools even though my two eldest are in the EFI program. Familes in the EFI program can not bare another school change. |
| How dare you consider moving regular students out of their home schools to accomodate an optional program! Shame. Please do not give into the flavor of the month. Students need stability & to be able to remain in their home schools! |
| I actually don't believe the immersion program should be expanded. Instead funds should allocated to Core French so that French instruction can start earlier and reach more children. It would be a more inclusive solution. The Board's decisions are disappointing as such. |
| I agree with expanding the program. |

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| <p>I am all for families and children to be accommodated for their individual needs but in all fairness, My child will be attending Italian school next year. My CHOICE will not affect others or have any ripple affect on any other families. So why does she have to be affected by this French Immersion??</p> <p>Parents who take an interest in changing and specializing in a French programs for their children should then only be considered to move out of boundary if that's what it takes to fulfill their wish. I am outraged by this possibility of my full time English speaking Daughter to have to take a bus to another school out of her neighbourhood. We live 1 minute away from St. Scholastica. We chose to live in this neighbourhood and to be a part of St. Scholastica well before the French program was implemented. You are playing around with something that is not broken only to break it. Don't pull my daughter out of St. Scholastica, She is very well adjusted in her school environment. I chose not to add change to my daughters current education situation by keeping her in the full time as only English and now big changes are happening anyway?? This will have a negative impact not only on my family</p> |
| <p>I am concern with the expansion it could effect my kids and them not being able to potentially going to Our Lady of Fatima concerns me. If boarder get re adjusted and my kids are not able to go to there current school I will have a big issue.</p> |
| <p>I am concerned about the borders changing, causing my child to have to switch schools. He is in his year one in junior kindergarten and had made wonderful progress with his peers and teachers. It would be extremely upsetting to have to switch him.</p> |
| <p>I am happy with the way things are and would prefer to not have a change.</p> |
| <p>I am in support of a boundary review. I support this because I believe, and hope, that the result will be increased opportunities for French emersion in school, and in particukar, our school.</p> |
| <p>I am not supportive of another boundary change for this school. My family had already been impacted once and made the decision to move homes into the community to keep our children in their school. Many other families have been negatively impacted.</p> |
| <p>I am not supportive of boundary changes</p> |
| <p>I am not sure that the boundaries should be changed at this point. Maybe look at expanding the program to 3 classes instead of 4 to lessen the burden or load while still expanding it slightly.</p> |
| <p>I am on the waitlist for the program. I am frustrated at the size of the waitlist. Evidently, the program needs to be grown to prevent losing students to the public school board.</p> |
| <p>I am opposed to boundary changes at this time</p> |
| <p>I am very concerned about the proposed expansion of the French Immersion program and beg the Trustees to consider the long term sustainability of these decisions. We already struggle with major staffing issues when a Core French or French Immersion Classroom Teacher is absent and often have days with no supply coverage when one of these teachers is sick/away from work. [REDACTED] St. Scholastica, who has the largest wait list for entrance into the Early French Immersion program, there is no way to meet the needs of the children who reside in my catchment area and have a right to access their own local community school if additional French Immersion classes were to be added - even if only two</p> |

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| <p>more classrooms per grade. I have 23 available Gr. 1-8 classrooms in my school building. If a decision is made to add two more FI classrooms for each grade level (effective September of 2020) I would be faced with having to use 22 out of 23 of these Gr. 1-8 rooms for French Immersion students alone by September of 2024. Catholic parents of students within the St. Scholastica school community have a right to have their children housed in these interior rooms of the school.</p> |
| <p>I believe French immersion should be expanded</p> |
| <p>I believe it's an opportunity that should be open to more students who seek catholic education. Both my daughters are in the program but friends were very disappointed when they were placed on a waiting list.</p> <p>When choosing and developing schools consider school size and capacity. St Benedict is too full. Although there are no new french cohorts they should consider moving some of the classes to St Scholastica. French shouldnt mean being stuck isolated in a portable.</p> <p>The schools should also consider keeping families together.</p> |
| <p>I believe that an expansion of French Immersion is unwarranted given the current lack of qualified French Teachers to administer curriculum properly and the further reductions in staff predicted as a result of the current cuts of the PC government.</p> |
| <p>I believe that expanding the French immersion program will benefit the students, school community, and greater community. Having more French immersion classes in schools will allow for a greater awareness and appreciation for the French language.</p> |
| <p>I believe that the French Emersion in home school of the child would be ideal as it's more convenient for the parents. The expansion should happen in order to allow more kids to learn a second language. Ontario lacks of bilingual (French and English) speakers due to the fact that the school boards did not make French a priority.</p> |
| <p>I cannot see an negative in making the decision to expand the offering of FI.</p> |
| <p>I choose not to expand the French Immersion Program or make any changes that will effect my kids and other kids that have no association in french immersion.</p> <p>Parents that choose to be in the French Immersion Program should be the only ones effected because that is a change and addition they have chosen and want for their kids and are ok with switching school in the first place to be in the program but other families are not and it should not effect the ones that are not making those choice or want that change.</p> <p>If I wanted to include my children in the French Immersion Program then I would be understanding to change and would accept it as it wold of been my choice but not for other who are not in the program. I do not think it should effect others who are satisfied with the full time English program and live 20 seconds away from there school and alter young children's lives making them upset and stressed for kids and the parents. This is not fair for many students and families who are not in the program.</p> |

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| Please leave it as it is or just consider moving the ones in the french immersion program. |
| I do hope they are not boundaries reviews that affect kids that are not in the french immersion |
| I do not agree on the potential expansion of the FI program. The St. Scholastica community is rapidly growing, and I believe the expansion would put unnecessary strain on the school. Also, the lack of qualified French teachers on the board would create issues on expanding the program. When French teachers are away and a substitute is required, the jobs are not filled. Students are losing their opportunity to learn in French. |
| I do not feel that it is fair for all children to have boundary changes due to the French programming. Two of my three children went through two boundary changes while attending elementary school and it affected their mental well being. |
| I do not like the fact that there will be more boundary changes that could possibly affect my children's place at their existing schools. This motion does not include my children so why should they be made to move schools to benefit others. |
| I do not support expansion of French immersion without the addition of new schools in Milton to meet the current overall growth |
| I do not support the expansion of the extended French. This would be very costly in a tough education time right now. Having students move schools (and possibly moving special needs students) and purchase new uniforms to accommodate a few classes |
| I do not support the expansion of the French immersion program |
| I do not support the expansion of the French Immersion Program. Expanding the program at St.Scholastica would put unnecessary strains on a school that already supports the Early French Immersion Program, is in a rapidly growing area, and is holding students from the developing community on the other side of Hwy 25 until a school is built in that catchment. In addition the fact that the board cannot guarantee qualified FI teachers in the program defeats the purpose of parents placing their children in it and is shameful that there is even consideration of creating additional classes under these circumstances. Expanding the program in the proposed ways is a "quick fix", reckless and detrimental to the home school and the families that live in the area and rightfully belong to St.Scholastica School. |
| I do not support the expansion of the French Immersion program. I feel that the 150 person wait list is not a wait list. A wait list is 10-15 students waiting to get in. If there is that much interest, this is a reason to find a separate facility. This would be a solution, not a "quick fix" as you are suggesting. Secondly, I do not understand the logic that children in the area that already go to the school may be bussed out to bus in FI students from outside, if the school population gets too large. Not to mention annual busing costs and coordination. The fact that you don't have enough qualified FI teachers to support the expansion but are still considering it is detrimental to the children that end up in a FI classroom with an unqualified teacher. Again if you are looking for a solution, you need to ensure that you have enough qualified FI to support an expansion. For the sake of St. Scholastica students and the FI students, I strongly urge you not to proceed with this expansion. |

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| I do not support this. Our children have already affected by one boundary change during their education. The students well being should not suffer due to the potential expansion of the French Immersion program. It is unfair and unnecessary. |
| I do not understand the impact. my younger son has been accepted at St. Scholastica and our home school is guardian angels. He needs to be bussed etc and I am not sure how this expansion would help us. Please clarify. [REDACTED] |
| I do not want the expansion of the French immersion program. Build a new school for all the children that wish to have French immersion. |
| I don't agree that long term students or families who currently live in the area should not be affected by this French immersion expansion. Careful review and choices regarding our English long time students and siblings should not take precedent over our English program. |
| I don't believe the boundaries should be expanded. I would leave it as is. |
| I don't see a need for more French immersion programs. From what I have seen students are enrolled in grade one, only to be pulled out later - why cause this much disruption for something that won't have long term impact to the students. |
| I don't think an expansion of the French Immersion program is necessary and think that further boundary changes will have a negative impact on students who have formed relationships and friendships at their school over the years. |
| I don't think french immersion should only exist at certain schools, it should be available at all schools. I'm glad this is being considered. |
| I don't want my child to have to change schools. This should be a change for new enrollment not current students or students with siblings |
| I feel like there has already been many changes to the boundaries as Milton is a fast growing community. I don't think constantly changing boundaries is a good option. Maybe designating a few newer schools as "French" schools would be a better option |
| I feel that the hcdsb changes it's mind frequently without doing research in sustainability or what is best for the education of students. Last year French immersion for grade 1 was cancelled and now you are going to expand. This makes no sense. The constant changing of boundaries is confusing for parents and students. The French immersion program should be based in research of what is best for children's development and hiring of the best teachers. |
| I fully support the expansion of the FI program. My child is on the waitlist and I'm concerned about her not having enough challenge in the classroom to keep her engaged should she not get a FI spot. I agree with the recommendation of staff that Option A or B are the only viable ones (I personally think Option B is the best choice). The demand for FI in Milton will continue to grow and if the Catholic Board doesn't keep up, we will lose some to the public and French school boards. With that said, growth needs to be responsible and feasible considering the fact that schools are at capacity. With that said, more aggressive growth up front to meet demand should avoid too many boundary changes later. I would also be concerned if boundaries are changed too often, displacing students (especially young ones) who won't |

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| transition as easily. I do applaud the Board for considering increases to FI as I believe it will have positive impacts on families and the Region as a whole. |
| I fully support the expansion of the program as I have had many discussions with other parent that did not have the opportunity to enroll their children due to limited classes. It is a benefit readily accessible in the public system. Other ways to minimize boundary changes could possibly be designated more than one school. Additional classes will need additional resources as the children progress past grade 1 regardless so I think exploring that possibility is an option. |
| I have no comments. Thank you for the update and the information. |
| <p>I have three children (ages 5, 7 and 8) in SK, grade 2 and grade 3. My oldest two are in the French immersion program at St.Benedict. My son was accepted into the program for the coming school year which will be at St.Scholastica.</p> <p>My kids love the French program. It is their favourite part of their school day.</p> <p>I have long wondered about the program and how it could better be served for all involved. My thoughts always lead me back to the question of why not have a school designated for the French Immersion program? Admittedly I do not have all the details; however I feel this would support the students, the teachers, financial pressures, support staff, etc in so many ways.</p> <p>Of the options put forth my feeling is that Option A makes the most strategic sense until the SBR's are completed and classrooms can be secured.</p> <p>In conclusion, I completely support the FI program and would love to see it expand and accommodate those who want to participate. The best option in my opinion is a school designated for the FI program.</p> <p>I wrote so much more but had to cut it down as the survey would not accept all the information I wrote.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
| I hope this moves forward and goes ahead. French Immersion is an important program and is very beneficial for the children to learn another language properly. Also, it will set them up for success for their future, teaching then many skills, not just the language. |
| I hope to allow crossboundry to let siblings to be in the same school if of is in French immersion & the other is not |
| <p>I oppose any changes being made that will effect other children that are not in the french immersion program. We are not involved in that program and it should not effect my kids and there routine and those that are not registered in it. It is common sense to not effect the kids that are not involved in that program.</p> <p>Those who have enrolled in the program should be the only ones effected and they are the ones that have already switched schools to be in the french program so I am sure they will be ok with moving again. Or just leave it as it is with no changes.</p> |
| I realize that Early FI has been capped at St. Benedict but I would like to see that re-introduced so that siblings have an opportunity to be in the same school AND I would like to |

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| <p>see the lottery removed - other boards provide access based on demand. Forcing us to attempt the lottery process, potentially get a spot and then have our child at a completely different school than the other is not helpful for working parents who cannot accommodate the school times and have to rely on before/after care.</p> |
| <p>I would also like to see a provision that allows siblings of early FI/FI students to be admitted into the non-FI at the same school to again, have an opportunity to be in same school (e.g. my son is in early FI now in grade 2; my younger son will be starting grade 1 in Sept 2021. We live outside of the existing boundary for English). I now need to apply for early FI at another school that potentially works off a different start/end schedule or go my home school which I know for sure is a different schedule. Based on the current system, my sons will be going to two different schools. This prevents the opportunity for them to have each other as a support system at the same school.</p> |
| <p>I say no to additional French classes</p> |
| <p>I support expansion since my child is on wait list for grade one French program.</p> |
| <p>I support expansion. It will be great to have extra classrooms for more children to learn French.</p> |
| <p>I support it since my child is on wait list now and if they add more classes he would get in.</p> |
| <p>I support the expansion of the French Immersion (FI) program which has been enormously beneficial for our child. Our son is currently in grade 7 at St. Peter in the FI program and was part of first trial of students to start FI in the board. We have seen our son flourish in the program.</p> |
| <p>We would hope that our child is able to continue to stay in St. Peter for his last year of elementary school before heading off to BR if there were to be any boundary reviews. He has been part of the St. Peter community since Junior Kindergarten and all of the staff/teachers have been wonderfully supportive of him during this journey. Thank you kindly,</p> <p>██████</p> |
| <p>I support the expansion of the French immersion program</p> |
| <p>I support the expansion of the French immersion program if the interest is there. However, I would be deeply unsatisfied if this affected my family in terms of boundaries. I have no interest in having my 4 children switch schools due to boundary changes. We have built a rapport with the teachers, staff, and school community. As well as the inconvenience of having to purchase new uniform pieces if we were affected. I am praying that we are not affected by a boundary review.</p> |
| <p>I support the expansion of the program. There should also be consideration for expanding the grade 5 entry program.</p> |
| <p>I support this expansion as it provides greater access to an important program even if it means another boundary review.</p> |
| <p>I think expanding the FI program is great, we were on the waiting list for the lottery when my daughter entered grade one so more available spots are needed. One thing to consider is</p> |

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| that kids have to have new uniforms when the boundaries change and that is not fair to parents so this needs to be addressed. |
| I think in order to provide feedback I would want to know what some possible scenarios are...it is hard to understand how widespread these changes may be from the info presented. Saying every student may be affected is very vague. |
| I think it is unfair for my children to potentially have to change schools because the boundaries have changed. |
| I think it's a good idea. |
| I think it's a great idea I would love my kids to learn French |
| I think it's a great idea to expand the availability of French Immersion in Halton Region. We are becoming new residents to Milton, from the Peel District which had far more options to have our daughter enrolled in French Immersion (like her parents were growing up), and to know that there were only 2 classes for grade 1 French Immersion, of which we needed to win a lottery for to give her a better education is ridiculous. This is her first opportunity to get into French Immersion, moving to a new town and school district and she will need to wait until next year grade 2 (provided the expansion of the program still doesn't allow her to enter into grade 1 immersion this year) to try again, with no guarantees. My child's education options should not be relegated to the winning of a lottery. We already pay for her education outside of a system that should be teaching reading and phonics, and now we may have to pay an outside party to teach her French, our country's second language? This is unacceptable. This expansion needs to happen and at a larger scale. |
| I think it's a great idea to expand the FI program. I have one child in G1 FI and would like the opportunity for my youngest to apply and have a good chance of getting in 2 years from now. |
| I think it's a great move to add more French classes. It will distinguish our students and from having 2 kids in the program, I can tell you that it's worth spreading |
| I think it's a great program and the expansion would only help our students reach their potential by giving them a great opportunity to learn another language |
| I think it's a wonderful idea I have had 3 children in the french immersion program and has been a wonderful experience for both my children however my 3 and youngest daughter is wait listed she wants to learn french which we practice at home but at school would reforce her learning. How're she is waitlisted and with the expansion she could have the opportunity. We do have 2 official languages in Canada and I beve we all should have this opportunity if we would like to and not be waitlisted. |
| I think it's high time that this program expand to be more inclusive to the students/families interested in pursuing french fluency in our bilingual country. I wholeheartedly support any expansion of this program. |
| I think it's wonderful |
| I think that the program is great but it would be nice to have one school that could handle all the early and extended French programs. |

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| I think the expansion is a good idea if you begin with the kids on the current wait list . It's enough that both siblings won't be in same school, the least the board can do is grant an opportunity for siblings to learn the same language. |
| I think this expansion is long overdue. The current two class situation does not allow for the interest in this program. I also feel that the board should be looking to expand their extended French program and offer it in more than one location. |
| I think this is fantastic. The demand is there. I know there are hurdles to overcome but more people should have the opportunity for a French Catholic education in Halton. I have honestly been contemplating moving to the public board (which I don't want to do) since my daughter is on the waiting list for EFL 2020/2021. I have an older daughter in the program already and I want them to have the same opportunities. The only reason I might still consider moving boards is that now that St. Benedict is closed to EFL, my kids will always be at different schools even if my little one does get in. This is a struggle for our family that doesn't exist in the public board. Just something else to consider. Thank you. |
| I understand the situation but I disagree if this decision is going to affect boundaries in the area. This should not be the case. I'm really happy with the school. I proactively found a place close to St Scholastica and my kid loves the school. Hope this can be managed in a different way without affecting the emotional and academic stability of my kid. Thanks |
| I wanted to add to my previous submission - boundary review should also consider options to include siblings of existing early FI/FI students for entry in either early FI/FI or non-FI (if they happen to live outside the FI catchment). This again allows for the continuation of a sibling support system, sense of family outside the home, and also contributes to a more effective means for parents to support both kids in the same school (transportation to school, participation in events at the school, building sense of community with the teachers). |
| I will have more feedback once I see what the boundaries are changed to and what decision process was made. |
| I wish you can add more classes as I have 2 kids in st Benedict school French immigrants and 1 kid in st scholastica school French immigrants and my son is in Sk this year and he got number 80 in the waiting list into the lottery program and I wish for him to have the same education as his siblings. |
| I would be furious if my child had to change schools because of boundary changes due to the addition of programs for French immersion. |
| I would definitely be open to an expansion of FI for Grade 1. Opening this up would provide further opportunities to the students who are currently on a wait list. |
| I would definitely expand this program because having bilingual French-English kids will open future doors work-wise. I believe this is beneficial from every stand point. Please do it!! |
| I would like more information. Will my child be required to attend a different school? My son likes the school he is in and we do not want to change school. Will we have a choice to stay in our current school or attend a different school? Please advise [REDACTED] |
| I would like to expand the program to more schools in the area because I had to remove my child from a previous acceptance in grade 1 french immersion due to logistics, now I have to wait until grade 5, don't want this to happen to the kid I have in |

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| I would like to have the program in more than one school |
| I would like to see an expansion of the French Immersion Program |
| I would like to see the program expand as I have a child in kindergarten who I would like to enroll in the grade 1 program. The more opportunity for this, the better. |
| I would love to see the program expand and open up to more students currently on the wait lists. I think that the opportunity to learn French starting in grade one should be make available to all those who want to take advantage of it, not just a select few. |
| I would not like my child to be registered in a program when I am not sure where he will be located in years to come. Would like to have a boundary review done first, then expand the French program. |
| I would prefer my child's school did not rearrange boundaries. |
| I would prefer to have more classes for French immersion programs. As We are getting more new houses in Milton, the population is growing and young families are moving to Milton. French is going to be more important for our kids in near future. I would like to put my kids in French immersion program too. Thanks. |
| I would prefer to keep the limit to 2 French immersion classes per school. |
| I would support any decision made to accommodate students. As a parent, I am personally invested in my child and would endure small inconveniences such as driving further so that my child would have the opportunity to attend FI. |
| I would support this expansion. I think it's a great idea that would benefit all students. |
| I would very much like to see the French immersion program expanded. |
| I would vote against the expansion. A lot of families picked their homes to go to a specific school or have planned their daily lives around it and a major change can cause a lot of problems |
| I would welcome an expansion of French immersion. Which would increase the possibility of my child being admitted into the programme. |
| I'd love for it to expand. I think its a great idea. It might be a little inconvenient for a little time but the idea that my children will have a better chance of being in French Immersion program is worth it. |
| If adding french immersion will change any of the current boundaries or services offered at Lumen Chrisit, then I do NOT want it expanded. If it can be done in a way that will not impact the boundary or services offered then I have no concerns. |
| If Halton Catholic does not expand FI, then I will be left with no choice but to choose a Halton Public school instead. |
| If HCDSB does this parents will be angry and switch boards. What the is going on with schools thes days |
| If it is being expanded, it should be available at all schools, not a select few. |
| If my children get forced to go to a different school due to the boundary changes, I'll pull my kids from hcdsb and change my taxes back to public school. |
| If the French Immersion programming is to be expanded, the impacts on boundaries and services should only impact those requesting the expansion. Those not requesting their |

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| children to be in French Immersion should not experience any change as a result of an expansion to the program. |
| If there is a greater need for French immersion maybe another school should be built for that. I don't feel it's fair for so many other students to possibly have to change schools due to boundaries set out for French immersion students. We need to think about the majority here. |
| If this will not affect the quality of the french immersion program, and there are qualified french teachers for this program, so I am with increasing the no. Of classes, otherwise no |
| I'm fine with the expansion at the school but I'm not ok with the boundary changes. I specifically bought a house close to st scholastica so my daughter can go there. This is her second elementary school and she had a rough time with the switch and I don't want her going through that again. |
| I'm ok with new boundaries and happy to hear the french iersion |
| I'm very pleased that the board is considering this option. It's giving more future grade one students the opportunity to be included in the French immersion program. |
| I'm very pleased to hear about this potential expansion to the French immersion program as it will be providing more students to learn French starting at garde one. Hope this expansion happens. |
| in addition, many of the children impacted were not able to attend French immersion program without taking on yet another move. Now these students are in older grades and the option for French immersion is no longer an option-negativelyimoactedagain |
| In all honesty it is EXTREMELY unclear what this expansion means....does this affect students in EFI in older grades currently? Would the gr 1 EFI that is assigned to current locations be moving to an entirely different school? |
| Is this going to impact school size and class size |
| Is this necessary? Could this money go to support a wider range of students, or fund special education programming and support. |
| It is imperative that we offer such programming to our students so that they may have the same opportunities afforded in other school Boards. |
| It was briefly noted that unqualified teachers may be needed to provide the French program. This is a very bad idea and has so many faults. The separate school board should have quality and excellence as a top priority. |
| It was short-sighted to have this program at St. Scholastica in the first place. Our school is growing and there will be no room for F.I. in the future. You should still expand the program, but should look at moving it in future years to smaller schools in more established neighbourhoods that have more predictable enrollment. |
| It would be great to have the program run in more than one school so children in the same family are not separated. Having one child get into the FI "lottery" and not others is very stressful and difficult for parents and siblings |
| It would be important to add more locations to the Extended French program, especially in Milton, giving a chance for the students who were not able to access the EFI program, to still have access to another more intensive French Language program. |

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| It would be nice for siblings to be able to go to same French immersion school. Can we keep it in the same place or have the additional classes in different school to provide more options. |
| It would be very disappointing if the HCDSB decides to uproot students who are already in the F/I Grade 1 program, and move their programming to another school. Parents have already invested in uniforms, and incurred other costs to this point. |
| It's time to expand like every other Board in the province |
| Milton needs a second FSL elementary school. The new designated school is just not practical away the complete south west end of town. Doesn't help parents at the north east side of Milton. |
| Milton parents want FI. The waitlist proves this. This 'Boundary Review' sure looks like a scare tactic to make English parents speak out against FI. We're talking about 40 more students at 4 schools, and 7 new teachers. These aren't big numbers. With a little bit of work, these students can be accommodated for, and teachers can be found. I will be very disappointed in the HCDSB if they choose not to expand. So much so, that my children may change to the HDSB for their FI needs. |
| More information and details about the actual changes to boundaries should be presented, so parents see how it will impact them. |
| More instability & controversy is the last thing that a Catholic school board needs in this province. Extinction is never far away & is looming. Why would HCDSB even consider risk making parents angry like this? |
| Movement of any students that are entering grade 8 in the 2020/21 school year should be avoided. It would be disruptive in their last year in a school community to transfer and possibly be separated from their known peers. |
| My children will not be attending the French Immersion program and as such I do NOT like the idea of them potentially being moved from their home schools to accommodate this program. |
| My concern is if they don't allow the program to phase out at St Peter school like they promised when they moved it to St Benedict's. there are two more years left to phase it out and I would not be happy if my child has to move to another school. |
| My concern is the long term capacity to an ever growing school population. |
| My concern with expanding the program lies with the ongoing issue of finding French teachers both long term and on an LTO basis for various types of teacher leaves. This is an issue with the current number of classes, not to mention the problem will be compounded if the program is expanded. What can the Board do to secure French teachers- can hiring occur earlier before teachers are done teacher's college with an intent to hire letter for candidates? When hiring is left too late candidates have been secured by other Boards. Can current French teachers be examined across the system- with applicable candidates deployed by human resources based on education and training to the best suited programs based on their training/education? There is no point to expand the program if a hiring and staffing allocation plan is not undertaken at the Board level with regards to French teachers. |

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| <p>My highest priority is the quality of teaching staff. Program expansion should only be done when there are sufficient teaching resources. Reading that there are 5 teachers working in the french program currently without proper accreditation is very concerning as a parent. What's the point in having my kids in the program if the quality is poor? I appreciate the outreach strategy, but until you have a greater pool of candidates to chose from (and this notes a decline in graduates) why are we even considering expansion? If the quality declines, I'll have to pull my children out of the program and then you'll have a another issue all together with low enrollment in the higher grades</p> <p>Currently, I have 2 kids in the FI program at 2 different schools. Is there was a possibility of one school dedicated to the french programs, could you find savings? Since most kids are out of boundary already & transportation costs are high already, is a single, dedicated school for french learning where the program could be more fulsome (ie: french assemblies, announcements, etc).</p> <p>If there comes a point where my children are learning in split grades year over year, I will pull them from the program</p> |
| <p>My only concern is for students. Those who are already in an extended French program should be left at the school they are currently attending and not be affected by the boundary review. The boundary review should apply to incoming students only.</p> |
| <p>My son deserves the chance to continue his studies in French Immersion to develop his skills.</p> |
| <p>No changes to the existing boundaries</p> |
| <p>No thank u! My kids do not qualify at St Scholastica. I think if we offer such a program it should be open to all not just some. Children also have a right to education close to their house not happy with a boundary review may be needed. Also French teachers are hard to come by. Not really something we value as our children do not benefit from it. It should be for all or nothing. Money would be better spent in other ways</p> |
| <p>No. No. No. No. No. No. No. No & No. HCDSB please do not go down this road. Leave kids in their home schools & with their friends where they belong.</p> |
| <p>None, I think it is overdue</p> |
| <p>Not a wise choice. There is certainly demand for more French program but you can't staff the programs you currently have. My</p> |
| <p>Offering French Immersion programming is wonderful, however if it causes a boundary review that would move children out of their school community, it shouldn't be done. It is not right to move students just for new French programs.</p> |
| <p>OLF had a french immersion program which was cancelled and now it's expanding again? If children have to move to another school because of boundary reviews it is not always positive. Some children don't like change and it impacts their attitudes.</p> |
| <p>Our family does NOT support the expansion of the FI Program to St.Scholastica.</p> <p>Expanding the program to St.Scholastica will put unnecessary strains on a school; that already supports the Early FI Program, that is located in a rapidly developing and growing</p> |

area, and is the holding school for students from the surrounding developing community, until a new school is built in that catchment.

Lets not forget the fact that the board cannot gaurantee qualified FI teachers in the program, which defeats the purpose of parents placing their children in the program to begin with and is completely shameful that there is even consideration for creating additional classes within the FI program under these circumstances!

Expanding the program in the proposed ways is a "quick fix", that is reckless and detrimental to the home school and the families that live in the area and rightful belong to St.Scholastica's School geographical area.

STOP disrupting so many families lives over insufficiently supported programming! Families take a lot of consideration into school location when purchasing their homes, only for the board to consistently make ridiculously lousy boundary changes!!!!

Parents who are pushing for French immersion enrolment to be unlimited are delusional and don't understand the reality that there simply aren't enough French qualified teachers to staff the program. The board needs to stop buckling under pressure to these parents. Back in 2017 the board presented all the reasons why extended French was a more feasible program for the board to continue and recommended that the French immersion program be discontinued. However, trustees went against this solid recommendation and here we are today with many French immersion classes not having French a qualified catholic teachers. Please don't continue down this downward spiral. Out of all the options presented, choose the most conservative one of only increasing the program by another class, not the unlimited enrolment option. I guarantee you will not be able to find enough French qualified teachers for that, let alone anything beyond that.

Please do not expand French immersion program in Milton, after yearly boundary-reviews, this is our third school in 4 years. Please leave the status-quo. I oppose any changes.

Please expand for 2020 so our waitlist of 108 is reduced. Even with option a 46 spots are a step in the right direction!

Please expand the French Immersion programme! I am an elementary school French teacher in Peel and am devastated that my daughter didn't get accepted into the program in Halton where we live. We are absolutely loving the Catholic education she is receiving at St.Scholastica and it feels so unfair that we have to now leave so someone else can have her spot at the school. Putting her in the public board is not what we want but we are being forced to in order for her to attend French Immersion. It's so sad that a family like ours (who values French education and that is willing and able to provide support to our daughter) is being "punished" and/or forced to enroll our daughter in a school or program that we don't even want.

Parents should never have to choose between FAITH vs. FRENCH but you are making us do that. Expanding the programme will only have benefits for our children and our community. Merci.

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| Please expand! I'd love to not have to move my kiddos to another school |
| Please expand. Why is FI being blamed for scheduled boundary reviews? |
| <p>Please have this program at Lumen Christi and other individual schools. This will present a fair opportunity for each child and avoid any displacement.</p> <p>I have met parents having to do multiple pick ups and drop offs as a result. Other kids have to bus it to their new school. There must be some savings in extending the program to more schools- instead of a selected few. Please correct me if it is not the case.</p> |
| Please keep the FI program at St. B. |
| Prefer the Boundary Review for French Program. |
| Schools are already at a maximum capacity in Milton. Changing boundaries now for the French program would disrupt many children not interested in the French program which is unfair. It is my understanding a new school is going to be built in a couple years. Wouldn't it make more sense to wait for that new school to open to change the French program and do a boundary review? Why do a boundary review and disrupt these children twice??? |
| Siblings should be automatically accepted into the program once an older sibling is in. |
| Sorry for my language but it about F time for expansion |
| Stop expanding French Immersion!! |
| Students in Halton Catholic must be competitive with other Boards as well as other provinces. |
| <p>The current program at [REDACTED] which begins in Grade 5 has been very disappointing for our daughter. Her father is completely fluent in French which should have been a great asset but the real problem is the lack of commitment with the French teacher, [REDACTED], who messed up the school year twice due to maternity leaves. There seems to be a real shortage of French speaking teachers and the substitutes that were brought in to replace her mat leaves were not competent. For the French immersion to work, an investment of better qualified and more committed teachers is necessary.</p> |
| The expansion should go ahead |
| The French programming is so much better in other Boards, why are we so far behind the times? |
| <p>The impact of a boundary change for the children just to accommodate French Immersion is detrimental to so many students.</p> <p>Students have been at Holy Rosary since JK and have to sacrifice leaving their learning environment and life long friends to accommodate French Immersion?</p> <p>Do we not have French schools being built or completed in Milton already that parents have opportunity to enrol their children. Milton also has numerous larger schools in area that accommodate French Immersion opportunities.</p> <p>You are proposing a plan here that will deteriorate the opportunity for future / current Catholic students that want an English education. The language that is actually used in Ontario and rest of Canada.</p> |

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| <p>If the demand for French Immersion schools is in that high of a demand, than why is HCDSB not building such schools currently ?</p> <p>Catholic enrolment will be impacted as you force parents to enrol in Public Schools for boundary concerns. Has this concern been addressed?</p> <p>HCDSB mission is to provide a Catholic Faith based education for students in Halton ... It is not to accommodate a language program that by the time kids reach High School is no longer used.</p> |
| <p>The only reason my kids do to this school is because it is close to the house (& we like the teachers). If my kids get moved to another school, I am putting them in the public board school which is just down the street.</p> |
| <p>The program must be expanded so that all students can have access to French programming. It's only fair.</p> |
| <p>The reason my kids do not want to go to the French immersion program is because they do not want to move to another school. And now, HCDSB is saying they might be forced to move anyway!?? What is going on with HCDSB?</p> |
| <p>The waitlist of 108 in Milton speaks for itself. Please expand and at least give an additional 46 students FI. The 46 current spots are not enough.</p> |
| <p>There are so many other programs offered to students, why not have French Immersion offered for those students who are gifted in languages?</p> |
| <p>There may be challenges with the administration of FI but, at the end of the day, FI is a permanent program offering at HCDSB and the Board needs to come up with strategies and find a way to make it available to more than just 138 kids annually. Strong FI programs will mean that more qualified FI teachers will be entering the workforce.</p> |
| <p>There will be confusion with parents interested in enrolling their child in the French program if expansion is done right now. It would be better to have the boundary review done first and then the expansion.</p> |
| <p>Think it's great the school board is trying to expand programs, however I do not think that students that are not enrolled in the French Immersion should be affected AT ALL by boundary changes or other reasons. I would be extremely disappointed if my child, currently in walking distance to school, had to be moved to a different school (likely by bus in that case then), due to addition of a new program at her school.</p> <p>What is the change in mentality that the French program was taken away from grades 1-3 for a 40min period every day, to now adding French Immersion starting in grade 1 onward? Perhaps this could be addressed?</p> |
| <p>This is fantastic news! Much needed in the growing community of Milton</p> |
| <p>This needs to be offered at more schools! I was very disappointed when I found out only 1 school offers it and we unfortunately did not get accepted.</p> |
| <p>This school was not built to be a "French" school - it was built to provide a Catholic, English education to the students who live in this community. It will not be fair to them to see such a large number of students being bussed into their home school community. In addition, there</p> |

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| is already a shortage of qualified French teachers. It is not feasible to increase the program by this proposal in such a short period of time. With all the cutbacks being proposed, why are we considering this expansion? The bussing alone will be a huge expense. |
| <p>Until HCDSB solves its staffing challenges with all French programs (the EFI program in particular), expanding the program makes little sense. All stakeholders would end up with more frustrations as pre-existing needs are not met, particularly since the program has not yet reached its full elementary capacity (i.e. next year will be the first year with grade 8 EFI students).</p> <p>I'm in favour of hiring uncertified teachers (qualified in other jurisdictions, but not yet recognized by OCT) to fill the needs, but I doubt there are enough of those to solve staffing problems. I do have other ideas which may help HCDSB make more efficient use of the resources allocated to the EFI program which I would be happy to discuss, but in the past the HCDSB has been uninterested, repeatedly saying that these ideas are not in the scope/the mandate of the committees I have sat in on.</p> <p>With regards to split classes: while my children have been lucky to benefit from the absence of them, the fact that the board seems unwilling to combine students in the EFI cohorts into larger junior/intermediate single/split classes - which English stream students have - contradicts the equity policies around EFI.</p> |
| Uprooting children from their home schools, neighborhoods & friends to accomodate an optional program is unacceptable. If our kids were displaced, we would certainly consider another school board. |
| Very happy about it, fully support expansion. |
| <p>We are excited to read about the potential expansion of French Immersion. As a parent/educator we want what's best for our children/students. When there currently is a very limited space it is limiting children out of a great growing opportunity for their future. Other school boards have found a way to make this program easily accessible so we are hoping the catholic board finds a way to make it easier for children to join as well. It currently is very stressful waiting to hear whether or not your child can have the opportunity to attend the French immersion program and thinking about what the next step is for us as a family if they do not get it. We are praying for an expansion so our son can attend since our daughter is already in the program. We beleive all students should have a fair opportunity and at the moment they do not. The love for French is growing and the program needs to grow with that in mind. Thank you!</p> |
| We do not support boundary changes that will affect children having to move schools. This will impact my children's social and academic well being |
| We need expansion. Boundary reviews have to occur regardless so why are you blaming FI??? |
| We recently moved and prioritized staying in our neighborhood so our son would not have to change schools. I would be very disappointed if the school boundary changes resulted in excluding our sons from attending St Benedict |
| We welcome the expansion |

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| We will not be using the FI program, and my biggest concern is my child being relocated from his home school because the FI program is too large and pushing him out. It's happening in other school boards and I do not want it here. |
| What happens with the other grades? The message mentioned Grade 1 only |
| Why don't you invest in an all French school like Oakville rather than being an inconvenience to parents having to switch kids. Will you pay for their new uniforms if that child needed to move.? |
| Will my son have to attend another school? What will this mean for him? |
| With 108 on Milton's waitlist it is incomprehensible that anyone would contest allowing 46 students to join the program |
| Yes |
| Yes I have read. I think that option A will give the kids the best avenues for success as it would be easier to find a smaller # number highly trained teachers. I also feel that french immersion offered at multiple schools is better than just one school for (transportation and community building with Parents and classmates). If full french immersion cannot be accommodated , maybe more schools with late immersion may be a better option. I am interested in enrolling my child in french immersion. They are currently in JK and would prefer to stay closer to home. |
| Yes, I have no problem with the program expanding. However, it would be terrible if it affected students that were not in the program and have to change school because of boundary changes. |
| Yes, it's not clear to me the impact that it'll have on current EF students. Could you please clarify? |
| Yes. The boundaries need to be reviewed regardless of the French Immersion programming. If our family moves to Timberlea we have to go to Holy Rosary which is way further than St. Peter. Traffic bad; travel dangerous. 6+ public schools enroute! |

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| I wish it was expanded before, my kid missed out |
| . I do not understand why the Board is even considering this motion of expanding the French immersion program as its not in the benefit of the greater good and is in violation of its fiduciary duty. |
| A change in boundaries resulting in regular stream kids changing schools with less than one year notice would be far too disruptive to kids and their families. Changing bus eligibility will also be extremely disruptive for working parents to manage with short notice. |
| A welcome addition to Catholic education in Halton. |

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| About time |
| Adding 2 more classes each year will only add to the existing problem of overcrowding in an elementary school. There is not enough room for kids to play outdoors due to the increasing number of portables each year. School space cannot support this. |
| Adding a portable or 2 is not a reason to deprive these children the programming they desire. This is their only entry point in our Board. Their only alternative is to move to the Public Board in grade 2. So it's unfathomable that anyone who is not well versed in French programming feels ok to take this opportunity away from these children for selfish reasons. Extended French is not a comparable alternative for those looking for an early start. We are a Catholic community and should behave as such. We have to meet in the middle and Option A is just that. To say that English students are suffering is ridiculous. Children who are starving, terminally ill and living in war torn countries are suffering. Let's put this into perspective. |
| Adding more French immersion classes for Grade 1 will reduce the availability of French teachers for the students in the regular stream. Supply teachers are difficult to get and sometimes the "supply French teacher" will have to use Google translator. |
| Adding more students regardless of language compromises the well fair of both the teachers and students. The school was not built to house so many children. |
| Against the expansion |
| Agree in expanding |
| Although I fully support the French immersion program, adding up to two more grade 1 classes to the |
| Although I fully support the French immersion program, adding up to two more grade 1 classes to the school will have a huge impact on Schools such as St. Mary that are already bursting at the seams with over population. |
| Amazing program! Please vote for expansion |
| Another school needs to be built to accommodate French immersion. Our school is over capacity already. We cannot compromise our play ground anymore with more portables. |

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| As a bilingual Ontarian French is an incredible asset to have. However, if it is hard to fill French teaching positions now it will be a further challenge without significant investment and hiring incentives. No school boundary changes. |
| <p>As a father of 2 kids attending St. Mary (no French immersion) here my concerns:</p> <p>Evacuation & Emergency Risk: the use over capacity (more than double) of the facilities increases the risk in case of potential danger, e.g. fire.</p> <p>Safety in parking lot and adjacent roads: multiple parents driving dangerously when dropping or picking up their kids. This risk has increase exponentially over the past few years due to the over capacity.</p> <p>Less opportunity for school activities: classes are restricted to participate in the school community activities, as the gym has already exceeded its capacity.</p> <p>Unsustainable solution: St. Mary has approx. 300+ students (please confirm). This leaves little room for families within the boundaries. If 2 additional classes are added, St. Mary would end up with 700+ French Immersion students (more than its capacity), leaving NO room for English students within the boundaries.</p> <p>Therefore, the Board must find a permanent solution for the growing French Immersion population, instead of further deteriorating the current challenging situation in St. Mary due to overcapacity. PLEASE think of schools with current lower registration for the French Immersion program</p> |
| As a French educator of French immersion I cannot believe that Halton in not in board with such an expansion when all other boards are expanding these programs due to student interest but also another way to augment enrolment for the Catholic boards |
| As a French Immersion student myself I believe that there needs to be more access to the program especially since there has been such high demand. Not doing so would discriminate these students from the education that they seek. |
| <p>As a mother of 2 kids attending St. Mary (no French immersion) here my concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Over capacity - Challenges when responding to a potential danger (fire, evacuation, others), it's different when you have a number of students that overpass the capacity of the building 2. Safety in the parking lot - I have witnessed an increased number of cars coming in and out of the parking lots, and the irresponsibility of some drivers that can't deal with the frustration of an overload parking lot, I have seen parents speeding, traffic issues around main intersections, etc. 3. School activities - Last year, the Christmas concert was limited to some grades. Grades 6, 7 and 8 were excluded and alienated from the concert and couldn't participate, as they have done in years before. I don't think this reflects the inclusion we expect from catholic education. |

Christmas play didn't include all students

4. Portables - Multiples issues with portables: no working air conditioning, no working heating, not to say that every time these kids have to go the washrooms, they have to do it without supervision, but with a same age peer.

PLEASE use schools with low registration for French Immersion classes

As a parent I do not support an increase in French Immersion programming. The program at my daughter's school has been very divisive with French Immersion incorrectly being promoted as providing a superior educational platform.

As a parent I would like the opportunity to enrol my children in this program without having to wait on a crazy waitlist

As a parent of a child that is NOT in french immersion, I think it is completely unacceptable to potentially impact the vast majority of students in the English stream to accommodate the desire of those who wish to enroll their children in French.

As a parent of both an elementary and secondary school student, I am not interested in the french immersion program and therefore do NOT agree that students not interested in this program should be impacted by the school boundary changes. Parents and children interested in this program should be the ones impacted by it. I would be very disappointed if these changes mean any type of disruption to my children's routine. If parents are interested in this specialized program then they should be the only ones impacted.

As a parent of children attending St. Mary in Oakville, we DO NOT support the expansion of EFI at St. Mary. With the continued growth and popularity of the program, a more sustainable solution should be investigated and established that will meet growth demands moving forward. We cannot afford to implement an expansion that will detrimentally effect the learning and well-being of ALL students. You cannot possibly think that uprooting students from their existing catchment and school is in line with or valuing the developmental assets of children's growth. Are you really willing to interfere with the learning and well-being of 95%+ of the student population to accommodate 15-30 students on a waiting list for a program that can be offered at any building? I strongly urge you to consider other options. There are many schools in the board that are underutilized. You can recover costs from a mistake you make but you CANNOT recover lost education opportunities for students or damage to their well-being once you realize the damage you are doing by expanding a program in a school that is already at capacity. Please consider the needs of ALL students not just EFI.

As a parent of three children attending the regular track program at St. Mary, I am concerned for ALL students with the potential expansion of the EFI program at St. Mary specifically. The proposal to expand at St. Mary is neither feasible nor practical at this time given the large capacity constraints that currently exist. To expand this program at St. Mary would be to completely disregard the learning needs and well-being of ALL students. I am strongly opposing this expansion at St. Mary but I am urging you to strongly consider delaying the expansion of the program to 2021-2022 in order for you to conduct a feasibility and sustainability study that will allow you to develop and implement a long-term expansion plan that considers under-utilized schools such as St. John Paul II. There is NO MORE ROOM AT ST. MARY. You are sacrificing outdoor play space for all students while also reducing programming at the school in order to accommodate an unsustainable plan.

As an EFI teacher my two main concerns are the lack of portable space for the EFI program to be expanded at St. Mary school and the fact that there is a real shortage of qualified French teachers to fill these new positions. We already have 8 portables on the blacktop and we have staggered recesses to accommodate our significantly large student population. We would therefore not have the space to accommodate the doubling of EFI classes incrementally over the years. The shortage of qualified French-speaking teachers is already an issue as when we call for a supply teacher, more often than not, no one takes the job because it is for a French-speaking role. The school is then left with pulling other full-time staff to cover my EFI class during their planning times or to simply pull someone out of their regular teaching role (usually a French itinerant) and those students are left without French that day. These are just some of the concerns I have about the sustainability of the growth of the EFI program.

As the program is permanent, it should be treated as such. I don't recall being notified when the board expands the extended French program. There seems to be no problem adding extended French to other schools, why should it be a problem for FI. A number of schools are under capacity, including ours, so it seems like we should be able to find room for FI. This interim step makes sense to get the ball rolling

As this is a great initiative for the future students and their families,

This will definitely bring chaos and potentially a lot of friendships torn.

As my son who started grade one FI last year was so excited to have his other two best friends with him. this year seems more difficult as the school separated him from the other class and i

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| can see the impact that it has on him emotionally. |
| going further with this initiative and review all the boundaries will definitely be not a positive solution among fellow parents and their kids, who are forming their friendships. |
| Boundary review will happen regardless of French immersion expansion. Doesn't make sense to delay expansion of program for something that is happening no matter what. Expand the program |
| Boundary reviews are bound to happen anyways, please expand the program |
| Boundary reviews happen regardless of French programming.. please vote for expansion |
| Considering the demand for french Immersion, it would be really beneficial to add two additional classes. |
| Considering there is not enough staff to successfully deliver the existing programs it is not logical to expand the program. It is time to eliminate one of the French programs. Planning must be done for a long term plan, not a quick reaction. |
| Creating a French Immersion program at St. Vincent is a fantastic idea. Many children are leaving the school and the Catholic School board simply because there is no French Immersion school option in South East Oakville. |
| Curious to know if this will impact the current locations for the Extended French program offered at St. Nicholas |
| Current enrollment should not be affected to the students they are not part of the French immersion program |
| <p>Dear Sirs</p> <p>That's a great idea to make possible more students will enter a French immersion classes, our family supports this move as we even moved to Oakville to get our son [REDACTED] enter to French classes from grade 1.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> |
| DISAGREE with the expansion. There's no specs to do it and least at the expense of other kids. |

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| Disagree with this proposal if it affects non French immersion children boundaries as we are happy with our current school placement and do not want by any means to move schools. Especially since we do not partake in the French immersion program. |
| Do not expand the French program! Please consider ALL students equally. It is unfair to displace students and their families to push for a French agenda. Why not build more French emerson schools instead of converting overcrowded schools? |
| Do not expand, we don't need that many French immersion classes, none of my children will be enrolled and we do not need to lose what fee special programs we have. |
| Don't do it |
| Don't do it, the less French the better. |
| Enough with the changes and closures! My son is in grade 1 and already experienced 1 school closure now potentially a boundary change? Not all family's are interested in the French program - Reopen St. John's as a full French or English! |
| Every year we lose kids to the public board due to programming. If we don't retain the catholic we will eventually lose our catholic schools. Let do what we can now before it too late. |
| Expand FI please |
| Expand French Immersion |
| Expand program. And no need to move program from St.mary on near future.implement interim measure for next year,conduct already scheduled boundary review,expand FI as you have done w EF, kids go to school closest to home.may relieve stmary pressure. |
| Expand the FI program! The challenges of dealing with accommodation pressures do not outweigh the benefits of proving HCDSB students with access to programming. |
| Expand the French program. You are elected to respect the people that voted you in. The demand for this program is undeniable. Do your job. |
| Expand the program |
| Expand the program and open doors for our kids |

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| Expand the program! Boundary reviews are already planned for Milton and Oakville and it has nothing to do with French Immersion. This "notification" is purely a scare tactic |
| Expand the program, too many kids on the waitlist, they deserve to have same opportunities as other kids in the province, other kids in the region who attend the public board. Why do kids in the public board get better opportunities? |
| Expand the program. |
| Expand the program. It's not fair that only 46 kids are accepted into the program. |
| Expand the program. This survey is embarrassing. |
| Expand the program. You're encouraging families to choose public over Catholic education and it's embarrassing that ALL the surrounding boards have figured this out. |
| Expand the program.increased portables for a year or two is no reason to put a hold on the growth of the program.the kids don't care,they don't even mention the portables.the yard is still big enough and many schools have to stagger recess. |
| Expand the program.The boundary review is happening regardless of what happens to FI, it's in the board's long term capital plan. There is a need for more spots |
| Expanding a program at an already over crowded school is insanity. The Board has publicly announced a move to expand without working out the proper logistics first. St Mary's is too full now. We don't need even more students. |
| Why the board was only ever presented with st Mary's as the option for Oakville is beyond unfair and ridiculous. |
| And what will occur - you will continue to overcrowd english classrooms while french classes only have 20 students. It's completely unfair. |
| People spend a great deal of money to purchase a house in Oakville. And now their children go to an overcrowded school because we bus in 75% of the French students. |
| Ask the students - french and English - neither wants more portables. They think the school is too full now. |

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| A proper rezoning must be done before an expansion can take place. There is simply not enough space or resources remaining at St Mary's to support even more classes added to the school population. |
| Expanding the French Immersion program seems like a reasonable consideration in light of the interest in the community and existing waiting list, although I do have major concerns with this proposal. I read over the proposal and my main concern is how this increased allocation of resources to this re-organization will affect resourcing other more pressing needs such as basic school infrastructure maintenance and improvements that affect all our students, as well as resources for special needs children. If there is a limited pool of resources for these competing interests I would hope the Board of Trustees will ensure the future resourcing of these other very important needs is not compromised. Although the French Immersion program is a great opportunity for our community, if the future progress of the more pressing needs that affect our children stagnate or suffer as a result of this re-organization, there will likely be a very public reaction to this initiative. I am also concerned that despite best efforts to estimate the resources needed to complete this project, actual needs and timelines are often greater than planned and overages risk progress in other school priorities. |
| Expanding the program to include more students sounds great but do not add more classes to the existing sites. Already overcrowded. Need another site in south Oakville. |
| Expansion can only benefit our kids. We need to set them up for success early. |
| Expansion is a good idea. We have one child currently in the program and we were lucky to get in because of the long wait list. We would also like to have our daughter in the program next year but it is unlikely based on current demand. Please expand |
| Expansion is a good idea. We have one child currently in the program and we were lucky to get in because of the long wait list. We would also like to have our ds |
| Expansion of French immersion program is such a great idea For all the families who are speaking French as second language and at the same time not qualified at the pure French schools My daughter in the waiting list and this makes us so disappointed , as we want her to speak french and English as all her family especially we are here in a bilingual country . So by discussing this idea (expansion) you gave us a hope |
| Expansion of the French Immersion program is necessary to meet the existing demand. Too many students who wish to access the EFI program are being denied. We should not and cannot |

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| be shortchanging our students by making them choose between a Catholic education or an accessible French program in the public system or to move out of Halton altogether to obtain a comparable level of Catholic and Early FI education that is being offered by neighbouring Boards. HCDSB students the same, if not better, opportunities to learn French that are enjoyed by other children across the province and country. |
| Expansion please |
| Expansion should have happened year ago! Do right and expand ASAP |
| Expansion would would be great! |
| Families who choose FI change schools by choice. A boarder realignment could disrupt a large number of students and school families, and that is completely irresponsible on the boards part. If expanding FI will do this I am completely against it. |
| FI program should be expanded to be more inclusive |
| For 3 years we've heard that the board can't find French teachers, why on earth would this program expand? It makes no sense. We are not at all supportive. The ensuing disruption would be massive and unwelcome. |
| French immersion is a good opportunity for the children. All efforts should be made to make it available to as many as possible. |
| French Immersion is a permanent program at HCdSB and yet it is accessible to only a very small number of students. It's time for the Board to stop treating it like a pilot program and to start making moves to expand and strengthen the program. |
| French immersion is a waste of tax payer funds. Allocate it to teaching proper spelling, grammar and math in English. |
| French Immersion should be expanded as per Option A presented to trustees at Dec 10 2019 board meeting. It has already been identified that a boundary review is require for Milton and Oakville regardless of French Immersion expansion and board staff have already gone the record to state that the short term interim plan will not affect students at this time. More children get into the program and the board has more time to figure out a long term solution. Sounds like an optimal short term solution that meets the needs of all. |

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| French is fun! I like being in the French class, like my older brother. I wish my little brother could go to school with us. It makes me sad he is at a different school. I hope he can learn French one day and come to school with me. |
| Fully agreed and supportive to expand the French Immersion program |
| Given considerable housing construction in North East Oakville and as new families are moving into this area, it would be sensible to offer the French immersion program at a school in this area such as the new school St Gregory the Great. Thank you |
| Given the fact that there is already a surplus of demand with little supply, it is obvious that we should not be divesting in this curriculum, rather investing to grow it. |
| My vote is to expand this bilingual program across the district. |
| Go for expansion |
| Go for expansion! Boundary reviews are a natural result of growth |
| Good idea to have more students access the french program however this needs to be distributed among more schools. Too much for the designated schools to accommodate. |
| Good afternoon, my wife and I are in full support of the French immersion expansion program. We believe there is a lot of value that can be added to a child that has the opportunity to participate in this program. Learning French in this capacity will open more doors for children. Growing up in a home where our parents enrolled us in this program was very beneficial to both my brother and I. Thank you for your time. |
| Good interim plan, program should be expanded |
| Great initiative and finally finding a solution to the issue that was not resolved in 2017. As a parent, I participated in the French Committee in 2017 and was upset with the decision of the Trustees in not following the recommendation and not resolving the issue in over 2 years. |
| My youngest daughter was not selected and is in the current waiting list. My elder daughter is in the program in 4th grade. Having siblings without the same opportunities creates challenges as a parent as you want to provide them equal opportunities on their education. This created lots of frustration and anger. |
| Good work and hopefully this time the recommendations are followed and a positive outcome is |

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| achieved for the parents willing to provide Catholic-French education for their children. |
| Thank you |
| Great program ! expand it for sure |
| Have you considered the effect this will have on teachers who are not french qualified. Loss of jobs for unqualified teachers? |
| Having read the background of the potential expansion of the French Immersion programming, which leaves out any discussions of the positive aspects of expansion, like reducing waiting lists and providing more students with access to programming, I view this "communication" and purported survey as an underhanded and strategic ploy to attempt to defer and potentially extinguish altogether expansion of the French Immersion program by a Board that's been doing its utmost to stifle the program since its inception. The Board's messaging here is highly prejudicial and discriminatory. |
| HCDSB has been dragging its feet on expansion and this "survey" is yet another delay tactic. It's time to start giving your students the programming they want and deserve |
| HCDSB should be expanding the program and seeking to identify other sites in Oakville. Having one site in the entire city which is so inconveniently located is unfair. Many students are unable to access French Immersion simply because the location is too far and many parents do not want their kids travelling across the city on a bus for 30+minutes at a time. There should be multiple sites - west, central east - to serve ALL families. |
| <p>Hello and Bonjour!</p> <p>If I have NO other options but only four (4) to choose from - my choice is Option A. Otherwise, please curtail the FI program expansion to ensure quality, sustainability, and not a mass production in portables that serves nobody.</p> <p>My child will start the Early French Immersion (FI) program in Sep 2020. However, to my surprise the majority of my friends decided NOT to participate in FI program. I was cautioned that:</p> <p>-My child may acquire neither good speaking French nor high proficiency in English unless I'm willing to pay for private tutoring for both subjects. My recent review of tutoring fees in Oakville confirmed that I would have to pay \$45 to \$60 an hour for a qualified tutor.</p> <p>-The Board's capacity for extra academic supports for struggling FI students is more limited</p> |

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| <p>compare to the regular English stream. And this in spite the fact that FI program is overall more demanding compare to a regular English stream.</p> <p>-There are teachers in FI program who are FSL speakers themselves. My friends questioned how this fact affects the quality of instruction.</p> <p>- Acquisition of Math & Science suffers because of time & effort spent on learning French.</p> |
| Hoping the program is expanded |
| Hoping the program is expanded |
| Hoping the program is expanded |
| Hoping the program is expanded |
| How can two additional classes create all the problems you are claiming? |
| How can you consider French immersion when we don't have enough French Teachers - I |
| I agree and would like my daughters to learn French as a second language. It will be a must in a near future for their professional development. |
| I agree that French immersion should be an option if children/parents wish to pursue. I do however disagree with relocating kids that are currently within a school not in the French program having to be relocated to another school. The children that do not wish to participate in French immersion should be staying in their original school. This is no different than private school, meaning, if parents want to pursue and optional type of schooling than those parents and children need to be the one's who should be up rooted and relocated. Leave the kids not participating in French immersion alone in their current boundaries, I have not asked for change- the individuals seeking a french program has asked for the change. |
| I am against it since I believe it will take resources out of current students and will overfill already full school. |
| I am completely opposed to this proposal. It is already hard enough to staff the French positions. The added bussing will be a huge expense and local children may be sent away from their home school. How can you even consider this? |
| I am concerned about capacity at our school. Adding more portables will reduce our play yard which is already too small for the number of child attending our school. The school was not built to house so many students. |

I am concerned about what the boundary reviews could mean - moving existing students slightly outside of the boundary to another school to accommodate French Immersion classes

I am disappointed that our trustees are succumbing to the lobbying tactics of those parents who want French immersion.

First there are not enough teachers now to cover the demand of the current program. Secondly I am very concerned that a majority of students and families would be affected by way of potential boundary changes to appease a minority of the student population. Thirdly the amount of funding that will go to reviewing and expanding this program should not be the focus right now of our tax dollars. We have bigger issues to fight in English -class sizes, e learning etc. Other boards ie Peel are looking to decrease their French immersion programs due to the lack of teachers. Why Our Board thinks this is doable with current resources astounds me. Further the board is really going to undertake a massive task in the boundary review which will cause concern and potentially unfairness to alotnof families.

Lastly studies clearly show there is no difference in terms of fluency and comprehension in French at the end of Highschool whether the child started French in grade one or grade five.

There are bigger and more important issues to deal with than French immersion.

I am extremely concerned that the quality of core English classes will be impeded by expansion of French immersion. My children will likely be re-zoned to another school which will be emotionally difficult for them. I am also concerned however that there is an underlying problem with the system that is not being addressed. I am aware that many parents are putting their children in FI just to avoid their children being placed in classes with special needs or behaviorally challenged children. The core English classes are going to be over-burdened with high needs children and their education will suffer. This is not fair to teachers, or to our English children. I strongly believe that the demand for FI will decrease if the underlying problem is addressed in our classrooms.

I am happy with the potential for my children to participate in French immersion!

I am in favour of expanding the French Immersion program. The option presented for expansion presented is manageable and pragmatic. Boundary reviews are necessary in all developing Boards and there are many HCDSB schools that are under utilized that could house an expanded program.

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| I am in full support of the expansion of the FI program and plan proposed by the board for the 2020-2021. a boundary review is already planned for Oakville so it isn't really fair to make it sound as if the SBR is solely bc of expansion of FI. |
| I am in grade 3 French Immersion. I think the program should be expanded so my little sister can be in French Immersion too. |
| I am not a fan of boundaries changing to add more French immersion. |
| I am not for expansion, as I do not wish for a change in school boundaries . Currently my children are not enrolled in French Immersion. |
| I am not in favor of a possible boundary change AGAIN. My son started at St |
| I am not in favor of a possible boundary change AGAIN. My son started JK at St. John's and as soon as he adjusted he was move to St. Michaels due to the closer. That's 2 moves in 3 years- now another potential change??? Ridiculous. |
| I am NOT interested in expanding French immersion in the grade 1. I would like to see the Extended French at St Marguerite beginning in grade 5 extended to at least an additional class. |
| <p>I am quite confused as to how the HCDSB can justify the removal of the Extended French program from St. Matthew (using the excuse of overcrowding, lack of space, and the dependence on portables to sustain the program) and then consider, less than a year later, the expansion of the program and the endorsement of the use of portables to support such an expansion.</p> <p>As a parent and educator, I am wondering if this is 1. an apparent lack of planning on the part of the Board or 2. the deliberate withholding of information regarding the Board's plans for the future of the Extended French program from the St. Matthew community? Either way, your new plan to expand the French program and your approval of the use of portables to facilitate this expansion, aligns with the wishes of the St. Matthew community to keep, at the minimum, one permanent Extended French class at St. Matthew. We look forward to this review, and expect that the Board will amend its plan to remove the Extended French program from St. Matthew and commit to its continuation at St. Matthew.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the future of French Immersion within the HCDSB.</p> |

I am strongly opposed to boundary changes that would impact non French immersion students. We make decisions on our home based on boundaries and do not want to impact children education and friendships based on a small population of students.

I appreciate the effort in attending the need of french immersion and we receive with enthusiasm the news of the expansion. I have a child joining the program by 2020/2021 and an older child going to grade 3 on that program.

I do understand that is a complex matter, yet I would like to suggest that the program may be split into 2 different schools in Oakville, covering another area of the town. note that St. Mary is at the far northwest of the town. St. Matthew might be a good option judging by the size of the school and location.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

I attended the board meeting on January 21st and am in full support of the delegation presented by [REDACTED]. My only dispute about the FI program from the start was that it should be accessible to all families in Halton.

Do not think there are no repercussions on the English stream in St. Mary. As an example, my children (in the English stream) did not receive their French lesson because the teacher was pulled into the FI program to cover off. That was an unfair decision that needs to be addressed within the schools who house both English and French streams.

My biggest concern is the location of the expansion. In the delegation provided on January 21st the facts indicate that St Mary cannot take on an expansion based on projected growth in the next 2 years from the current FI program along with the growing community and new development at Bronte and Upper Middle. You need to look at a long term solution and jamming them into St Mary's is not it. I urge you to look at another school to layer the FI program into Oakville. One that is possible more central or even on the other side to allow for less busing needs.

I believe it is not necessary to expand the French Immersion program.


I believe staffing is an important concern. I would also be interested to know what the student retention rates are for early french programs as well as the feasibility of beginning core french in grade one in all schools. I would prefer the trustees look into this option. This way students are exposed to the language at a young age and can remain at their home school and still have extended options (in grade 5) when they are old enough to decide whether this is something that

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| <p>is a fit for them. I believe this was brought up in the committee work that was conducted a couple years ago before many of newer trustees began. Staffing was a concern then and continues to be. I believe there were other recommendations from that report as well around how to proceed with extended programs. Of the options presented, if extending early immersion is the plan, then adding an additional site per region makes sense however I don't think it makes sense to implement that for the next school year considering the boundary reviews and hiring that would be needed. Thank you for your consideration</p> |
| <p>I believe that as a catholic school community, we should be promoting expansion of any and all programs available, especially French immersion. We need to be able to offer our kids opportunities that public schools have.</p> |
| <p>I believe that enrolment in French immersion should be a parent to parent decisions. I believe that introducing French should commence in jk. Through song and simple words and numbers etc. And the. Structured French classes to begin in grade 2.</p> |
| <p>I can't believe this debate is still ongoing, this is absurd, the program should be expanded, like everywhere else in the province</p> |
| <p>I can't believe this wasn't brought up or mentioned the numerous times parent delegations attended board meetings last year. If we as a parent community did not feel ignored and blindsided then, we certainly do now. If this was the plan all along,</p> |
| <p>I consider our kids as a Canadian they should have the option of being bilingual. French immersion shouldn't be a lottery. All schools including St Mathew they should be able to offer French for your current students and avoid split families due to program closure. Please consider retain French the in our school and allow my other kids have the same opportunity as my older ones who are currently in the program Canada is a bilingual country why we all do not speak both languages. Everyone knows the advance of being bilingual why we have to cut this opportunity to our kids? Move to other schools when they are already settled down in their current school could be more price for the government since they may need psychological support in order to adjust to know environment and peers. These days we are talking about mental health have you ever consider how these schools changes impacts our kids ? Please allow current schools continue with French (including St Mathew CES) and open boundaries or open more classes in all schools; Our kids as Canadian kids have the right to be</p> |

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| bilingual and continue in their current school. Thank you for considering my thoughts Mom of Mathew CES |
| I currently have 2 daughters in french immersion (grades 3 and 5) and a 3rd daughter in JK that i also want to be included in the french immersion program. With the expansion of 2 additional classes i would have a better chance of that. thank you! |
| I disagree with the expansion as this may affect boundaries my son is finally stabilized and succeeding at his current school an dlocation and travel is crucial; Also classroom sizes and the number of students is important,french is not my #1priority |
| I disagree with the fact that the expansion on French immersion program should impact the other students that are not part of the French program. Current Enrolment and boundaries should remain as is for the students Not included in Frenchi |
| I disagree with this option as the waiting list for the early French immersion is already very long and it wouldn't be fair with the Oakville population not to have access to the program in order to give priority to student from other cities outside |
| <p>I do NOT advocate for the expansion of the French Immersion program for the following CRITICAL and very simple reason:</p> <p>Lack of qualified Catholic French teachers to teach the program. We are already experiencing a shortage of qualified French teachers in our Board. How can we consider expanding the program when we can not staff it in a way that maintains the integrity and high standards of the program in our Board?</p> <p>We currently run 2 optional programs in HCDSB: French Immersion (FI) and Extended French (EF). Why? We have a French teacher staffing crisis in this Board. Why stretch our existing resources by running TWO optional programs? With FI already set to continue to grade 12, where are the French teachers going to come from?</p> <p>A possible solution might be eliminating the optional EF program. The Board can alleviate the teacher shortage as French teachers from EF can be relocated to FI positions.</p> |
| I do not agree and don't want changes. |
| I do not agree with the expansion of the French Immersion program |

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| I do not agree with the French immersion expansion. |
| I do not agree with the program expansion. |
| I do not believe that it is fair to disrupt students who have developed an attachment to their school in order to accommodate one special program. Perhaps a separate school for the French immersion program would be a better idea. |
| I do not feel that this should be supported, as there is a shortage of resources for students in the main stream programs. It is also difficult to find certified french teachers, and often teachers who are not certified are teaching these programs. Students who attend french immersion are not receiving enough instruction in their core subject areas, and may find gaps in their learning (lack of English instruction). |
| I do not like the fact that expanding French Immersion would trigger a full boundary review. It would not be fair to non French immersion students to have to change schools in order to accommodate this. If French Immersion is being expanded it should be offered in the schools that have the space to accommodate it. It is a option and should be treated as such. |
| I do not support an expansion to the French immersion program if it means a boundary review and by extension potential relocation for my kids. French immersion is of no importance to our family. |
| I do not support any action that would result in changing the school boundaries. It is asinine to undertake the expansion of the French immersion program as it would affect the majority of students to satisfy and benefit a minority. |
| I do not support French Immersion in English schools. It creates a two tier system for the students and resources are pulled from English only students. French Immersion should only be in a separate school for those interested. French Immersion is not a good use of our tax funding. |
| I do not support the review and expansion of the French Immersion Program beginning in the 2020-21 school year if it means that there will be a boundary review. |
| I do not want the expansion |
| I do not wish for the program to expands. All of these changes will impact many families who are not interested in French and will result in changes they never asked for. |

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| I don't agree with potential expansion of French Immersion programming |
| I don't feel children not looking to move into an FI program should be impacted as this could be detrimental to their learning. A move for some children may have emotional consequences not being considered. For parents wanting to enroll their kids, they should live within boundaries where this is offered |
| I don't feel it's necessary to expand the program. Given the fact that continued interest in the program declines after the first year or two, I feel this would be a giant waste of resources that would only benefit a few. |
| I don't think it's a good idea |
| I don't think this is a good idea. You don't have the space to it and I don't want to potentially change my kid to another school |
| I don't understand why does the board chooses an option like French Immersion that will only impact the less possible number of kids. French should impact more kids at an early age. We have been asking for French Extension at more schools . |
| I feel changing boundaries to accomodate elective french immersion is wrong. Those that live within current boundaries shouldn't be worried about relocation. |
| I feel french should be offered in all schools as early as grade 1. If not as immersion it should be part of the regular curriculum starting in grade 1 if possible as early as JK. |
| I fully support the expansion of the FI program. It is quite obviously in high demand with the children attending flourishing. I believe any attempt to stymie this expansion is being done out of self interest and not in the best interest of the kids. |
| I guess the actual program is enough. |
| I have major concerns for the program expanding if it stayed at St. Mary - there is simply put no capacity at that school for this. There is a lot of urban growth in this area and the school already has 8 portables -no capacity for this! |
| I have read the background information. The information provided is limited at best and does not allow me to gain an appropriate understanding of what the implications are of extended early French immersion. My child is a student at St. Nicholas. The school was just built and is already |

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| over-capacity. If a border change means more students going to St. Nicholas, I am opposed. But again, you have provided such limited information that asking us for feedback is ridiculous. |
| I highly recommend the expansion of the French Immersion program. Our children need every opportunity to have doors opened for them in the future and having an additional language, particularly French, is the perfect avenue. The earlier it starts in their educational career, the better. My 2 children, now adults, both secured amazing jobs partly due to their ability to communicate in the French language which is a skill they gained through the Catholic school system. Please keep and even expand your French Immersion programming. There is NO downside. |
| I hope my youngest can get in the program, please vote for expansion |
| I hope the program is expanded soon! |
| I hope you can make the option of french immersion in every school. |
| I just remarried and had to buy a bigger house to accommodate everybody. The ONLY REASON why I bought it in the same neighbourhood was to keep my daughter at the same school (St Andrews/Oakville). Please take any changes VERY SERIOUSLY. |
| I love French Immersion! I can't wait for my brother to start in grade 1 so I can practice with him  |
| I love the idea of the expansion! |
| I read the French Immersion Programming Information.... it doesn't really say or explain what these changes will be. What are the boundary changes that will be happening? Please give us more detail!! |
| I strongly encourage the board to expedite expansion without further delay. My son currently attends St. Nicholas, and because early FI is simply not available, I will be pulling him so he can benefit from FI at a public school. |
| I support FI expansion |
| I support the expansion, lots of opportunity for students with the future francophone university |
| I support the initiative, and any options to implement the program to more schools. |

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| I think expanding French immersion is a great idea and due to the fact that my kids are still young I don't believe we would be greatly affected by this. |
| I think French immersion is a good program for some kids but not for all. Our kids will not participate and I feel that making boundary changes to accomodate this program is problematic. I do not support and do not want to see my kids changing school |
| I think it is great that you are expanding the French Immersion Program. However, please do not move the Extended French Program from St. Joan of Arc. It just started this year and we do not want to see it leave the school. |
| I think it is imperative that the program is expanded. It is not fair to the children that would like the challenge of adding another language. |
| I think it is important to expand the French immersion program within our community. However I do not agree with |
| I think it is important to understand that expanding the French Immersion classes should not have to impact students who are currently enrolled and are satisfied in their local school. If you want to offer it at other locations or schools, then that |
| I think it is ridiculous that you are considering expanding the French Immersion program. There are not enough french teachers in the board as it is. When french teachers go on leave it is very difficult to get another french teacher to fill that role. I also think that redoing the boundaries for the entire board for something that not everyone wants is unfair. Why should the schools that many children have gone to for years be changed because a few want french immersion? I do not support this in any way whatsoever! |
| I think it would be unfair to my daughter if she had to move to a different school. She has just gotten to know the teachers and students and it would cause her anxiety to have to start in a new environment. |
| I think it's a fantastic idea as the demand for the French immersion is far larger than what it can currently accommodate |
| I think it's a good idea, 2 more classes sounds good |
| I think it's good to consider the expansion of French Immersion, however ONLY If it doesn't disuppt or remove any of the existing students. |

I think the French immersion programs we have now should stay. I do however have concerns about expanding the program. First, I would not be comfortable if the existing FI schools would be housing the new additional classes as it would take up a lot of resources at the school. Also class ratios are affected by numbers in other classes. There is a lot of evidence of how low the FI classes get in older grades which would negatively affect the English students and their class sizes. If the additional FI classes are going to be spread out to other schools I would be ok with that or if there were designated only French immersions schools. My children attend school that does have early FI option and there is a definite divide among the English and French classes as well as the parent council. The idea of having French immersion only schools should be considered. Thank you.

I think there has been some serious parent shaming going on by the English parents about us parents who want to support and expand the EFI program. The public board is much more supportive of EFI developments than the Catholic.

Boundary reviews are inevitable for a school like St.Mary's that remain in growing communities. Perhaps upcoming EFI classes can be moved to a school with less of a school population in a few years (such as St. John Paul II which is very under populated).

I thought there was a boundary review already in the works for Oakville because of a new development on bronte. Sounds like it is somehibg that needs to be done regardless, so makes sense to start expanding the French program

I totally disagree with this as St Mary is already a school with a large number of students (hence the increasing number of portables) and it wouldn't be fair for the local students to give this opportunity to students from another school area.

I under no circumstances will tolerate my child being to a different school for his French Immersion program. He is currntly in grade 7 and this would be extremely disruptive .

I vote for program expansion. Makes sense, other boards have it, we shouldn't be so far behind other school boards

I want to learn French

I was shocked when I'm moved to Oakville to find out that the French program was so small. We used to live and Toronto and it felt

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| Like every other school offered French. Starting in JK! This is crazy. Please add more classes, I would like my child to have the opportunity to be in French Immersion. |
| I will suggest, before expand the program fix the existing ones where you have been struggle with good French teachers, also our school community have been affect for a lot of changes in the last few years, that I would prefer if you stop the changes |
| I wish this was done sooner |
| i wish you go through with the expansion because i want my two daughters to have the chance of this unique french immersion program. |
| I would be concerned with moving my children from their current school to accommodate French.....I'm not sure how great the need is. It would be upsetting for something that is already available at my kids school in grade 4 |
| I would be very disappointed to see the program changed (especially if moved from St. M d'Y) as I've had one child go through the program successfully and is thriving in AP French in high school. |
| We live outside the school boundary and currently have another child currently in the program - a child we'd like to see complete her elementary years @ St. M d'Y within the Extended French program. |
| I would hope that any expansion in St. Mary due to French Immersion would be put in schools that have more room and perhaps more central in Oakville. |
| I would like to avoid as much school boundaries disruption as possible. My son is in an English program, and he will be suffering in the future. |
| I would like to express my concerns over the potential requirement to change school boundaries due to expanding the French program. When we moved to Oakville just a year and a half ago we specifically looked in areas that had good school ratings. I would be devastated to learn if we would need to change to a school with lower ratings than the one we are currently enrolled at. I also feel that only a small portion of the HCSB community will benefit from this expansion while potentially many more could be negatively impacted by a board wide boundary change. I also feel that the money that will be spent on expanding this program could be spent on an area that could benefit the entire school community instead of just a small population. |

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| I would like to see more French immersion. North of Dundas doesn't have enough. Many of the parents are talking about leaving st Gregory to go to public French immersion. I hope you consider it at st Gregory. |
| I would like you to consider if the school has the space to add 2 more Grade 1 EFI classrooms. Over time it will require additional classrooms for all grade levels. At St Mary we already have 6 portables so I'm not sure where you plan to put these extra classrooms. Will be build an addition to the school? These things must be carefully considered. |
| I would love for the HCDSB to take a leadership role and provide an expanded offering to our students. |
| I would not like to see regular (Non-French Immersion) boundaries changed. Students have established friendships which enhance their development and I would not like to see this disrupted due to programming changes. This is especially important for my son, who like many of his friends, is an only child. My husband and I consider this so important that we have delayed moving until our son finishes school so that he can remain in the school zone. |
| I would not support it |
| I would rather not have St. Nicholas affected. I feel that the children who are not enrolled in French Immersion will have a definite negative impact and I do not feel this is fair or equal in any way. |
| I wouldn't what to change my child from school when not only is convenient to have her there but she has a support system and we've built a community. They should find a different way of doing things. |
| I'd hope that if this goes through, the school board would more openly accept cross boundary applications as my children would not want to leave their current school |
| I'd like it to remain the same as now |
| If adding additional French classes will change the boundaries for my non French immersion children then I am against it. Why should a child in Grade 8 have to potentially change schools in their last year to accommodate a few additional French classes? Sorry! |
| If my kids get displaced from their school to make more room for bussing in french immersion kids, the HCDSB is going to hear about every single day!!!! |

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| IF the school boundaries are going to change they should do it keeping in mind proximity to schools. My kids could walk to St. Marguerite in about 5 minutes yet get bused to St. Andrews |
| I'm a parent with a student in the English stream. Not sure what all the hype is about. Everyone should have a choice in their education. We live in Canada after all. We are bilingual. |
| I'm against expanding the French program at St. Mary's. The addition of 4 classes per year will impact the classroom availability at the school. St. Mary already has 800 plus students which has resulted in several classes being taught in portables. |
| I'm against expanding this program at St. Mary's for the following reasons: |
| I'm in agreement and support |
| I'm in favour of FI expansion immediately. Too many children have missed this great opportunity due to this board's low enrolment count. it is unfair and doesn't make sense given all other boards are expanding their programs. |
| I'm not agree with this this potential expansion because should impact in a negative way for all the students |
| In order to have a. Educated opinion we need to have access to exactly which changes will affect school for kids not in the French Immersion. All information available is vague. Thanks |
| It about time. |
| it about time. |
| It is extremely hard to comment on any impact when the impact is not detailed. A blanket statement that this may impact boundaries is not sufficient information to validate any decision making process. We need clear maps with new boundaries first |
| <p>It is not clear whether the next council meeting is to:</p> <p>A) decide whether to enter into a comprehensive boundary and program review process in order to plan a long-term solution to the expansion of the French Immersion Program.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>B) make decision on the spot about French program expansion in 20/21 as well as the long term solution.</p> |

I would appreciate a phone call to clarify before the February council meeting. My number is [REDACTED].

It is ridiculous that our Board is the only Board that can't seem to get its act together when it comes to French immersion. Every other Board seems to be able to deal with the staffing and accommodation challenges. Is it fair that only 138 kids in all of Halton Region should be able to access this programming? Hamilton, Peel, Brantford, York and Toronto Catholic boards all seem to be able to make it work. The Board needs to expand its recruitment efforts. It's time to strengthen the FSL offerings at HCDSB.

It will be a step forward in the right direction. At least for Milton and Oakville where the demand is higher than the supply.

It would be great to have an east school.

It would be great to have the programs offered at more schools or for siblings to be allowed to attend the same school

It would be great to offer the program at more than one school in our area, so that there is a greater chance that siblings could both attend the same school in the FI program.

It would be unfair to ask students not in French immersion to change schools. I see French immersion as an extra and unnecessary program reserved for only a select group of students. It is not for the regular students to accommodate this but rather the other way around.

It would greatly change my decision on my daughter who's now already in for French immersion for grade 5 next year should she have to change schools. I think that's absolutely ridiculous if that's the case

It wrong to deny programming when it is feasible. the students in our board are all English. These student want to learn an official language and we are crucifying them. We should be ashamed

It's a dream come true! My husband and I both raised Catholics were debating pulling our kids out of St. Nicholas to put them into French Immersion at a public school near by. That is how important learning FSL is to us.

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| It's a lot of info...too much to go through ALL of it. My question is this... my daughter was waitlisted for this past year 2019/2020 (she is currently in Grade 1). Will she be given an opportunity to enter the program |
| <p>Its about time!</p> <p>For some reason the Catholic board in Halton is always years behind other boards and regions. The demand in Ontario to be bilingual grows every year in the workforce. I wish this was available when I was growing up!</p> |
| It's disheartening that the survey will represent 92% of HCDSB's regular track students and only 8% of it's students in Optional French programming... |
| It's outrageous that you are suggesting to the entire HCDSB population that they are going to be moved from their schools because of a 2-class expansion at 4 Regional sites. For shame!! |
| I've heard it's a great program, |
| Keep the status quo in all french programs. We do not have enough qualified French Teachers to cover the number of classes we have now. Don't spend the money and time on this issue. |
| Let expand the program, give each child an opportunity to speak french!!! |
| Let not deny kids of opportunities |
| <p>Like many parents enrolled in the EFL program at St. Mary, it is also our home school. (changing the boundary will not affect us) We are in favor of expanding the program as long as it stays at St. Mary. I understand that there are some parents that are not happy with the french program as it increases the numbers at the school, and they are asking to move the program to another school. We are not in favor of that. We have two kids in the EFL program (we were lucky) however I understand that if you have two children and one does not get into the program it can be challenging. Both our kids have formed friendships with both the English and French students at the school and we feel that moving the program would be detrimental to their social, emotional and academic development. Therefore if expanding the program means that it will move to another school then we would not be in favor of expanding the program, unless it is grandfathered in.</p> <p>Thank you for all your hard work on this program.</p> <p>Paul Lamey</p> |

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| Looking forward to applying for my son next year, more spots would make it less stressful. Please expand |
| My child is on the waitlist. Please give him the opportunity to join FI in September like his siblings by adding 46 spots. Thank you. |
| My children are both in the English program at St. Mary's in SK and Grade 3. We really enjoy the school and we would like our children to remain attending the school. I have a number of concerns with the proposals concerning French school. The first is the expansion of the program which, based on existing enrollment, will result in an increase in portables. The use of portables is less than ideal. Having a class inside the school is the preferred option, especially with younger kids with the need to go in and out of the school for various reasons. Other concerns include no cap on enrolment. If this could result in St. Mary's becoming a French immersion only school, that is a big concern to our family. We do not want our children sent to other schools in the area, likely resulting in friends being split up with children at various schools in the area. We also want to continue attending a school close to our home. A boundary review would put that in jeopardy. Our children may be separated from their friends and forced to attend another school. We hope that the concerns of the school community are taken into consideration when making this decision. |
| My children are not in the French program. They are settled in their school and would be devastated if they were forced to change school. We do not support a boundary review for existing children in the school. Major disruption |
| My comment is don't do it, if anything it should be Mandarin not French being taught and my kid has great friends you may end up splitting her from with the new boundaries. This is a stupid idea and shouldn't be done. |
| my Concern would be if my two daughters were to be separated due to boundaries changing. Currently I have one in the grade 5 French program at st Marguerite, but my youngest is in grade 1 Ans won't be doing it til grade 5 either. |
| my daughters are in extended French. French teachers are already scarce, how does the board propose to find more? earlier core French and the n adequate support of the extended French program would be a better option across all the schools. |

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| My family and I are big supporter of the expansion for the French program, we wish to find more French programs in more catholic schools especially in Oakville,thank you for your hard work and continues hard work . |
| My kid is out of boundary and attends a non-FI school. I'm not clear how will this impact her continues acceptance at St Matthew. |
| My kids come from a bilingual school in Montreal, when we moved to Oakville last year, we were particularly happy to find St Mary , knowing that not only our children will continue to learn both French and English but that they will do so in a Christian environment . My oldest girl's class is in a portable and I never even once heard her complain about that, because for her it is her classroom and she find it quite fun to be the first one outside for recess. Being bilingual I can truly say that learning a second language can only benefit the children, so I hope that the board would make the right decision and expand the French immersion program . |
| My kids will be Grade 6 and 8. Does this expansion affect kids who are near the end of their Primary school years? I would not be happy to have to move my children in the final couple of years due to boundary changes. While I support giving parents the option of choosing English or French instruction for their children, I don't want the English students forgotten or negatively affected in the process. |
| My professional career has been highly involved in talent acquisition, helping to improve Canada's economy. With this experience, and my being a people leader, it is highly advantageous for our children to be bilingual. It will open them up to greater opportunities in their future which in turn will help our economy flourish. Given the fact that there is already a surplus of demand with little supply, it is obvious that we should not be divesting in this curriculum, rather investing to grow it. My vote is to expand this bilingual program across the district. |
| My school has EF. If parents choose an earlier French start for their children then we should give them this opportunity. Please expand FI for September. Our neighbours attend Halton Public and they have unlimited spots. |
| Neither of my sons are in French immersion (we do not wish them to attend). As a result, I do not support moving existing school boundaries to accommodate French programs. |

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| I recommend the board consider all other alternatives before disrupting existing school communities. |
| No need to expand this program, the school is already over populated for a small school and we risk losing more excellent staff. Not necessary in our opinion. |
| no, |
| No. Why is there a limit on comments - embarrassing. If you wanted true responses, there would be no limits on the comment box. Dissappointed. I will be considering removal of my 3 children from the HCDSB system if 4 classes/year are + to St.Mary |
| Not interested in French Immersion program. Half the students enrolled in this program do not do well. They need to learn to read and write English |
| Not interested in French Immersion, I do not want the friendships and community that we have built with other families taken away from us if school boundaries are changed. |
| Nothing pertaining to French Immersion. I feel all school boundaries should be reconsidered as I'm being forced to take my child to a farther school for no reason. |
| Oakville is growing and more French Immersion options is a must. The boundary review should be a part of it as my kid commutes to school by an hour bus trip, when the kid across the street walks to his school same program. |
| Our Board's FI program is only 2% of its total population. It's time to expand for 2020. |
| Our child will be entering Grade 7 in the 2020/2021 school year. He has attended SJPII since JK. If any boundary review would require him to move schools, we would be vehemently opposed to same. Our reasons for which are numerous but likely obvious to any parent. |
| Our family is not enrolled in an FI program and does not care to be. As a result, we would be very upset if any of these options were to change to boundaries in such a way that our children could not attend St. Andrew (or Holy Trinity) in the future |
| Our school just got EF this year and it has been a blessing. Families interested in FI deserve expansion so their kids have a better chance of getting into the program. |

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| Over the past number of years there have not been enough French teachers to support the other French programs (extended). How will the trustees guarantee teachers in all French programs and covering leaves. Hire before opening classes. |
| Page 72-79 you see all the edits |
| Parents should stop wining about boundary reviews, my older kids got transferred from one school to another due to the previous boundary review and we survived it |
| Perhaps before expanding the French program at the elementary level you should consider fixing the existing program you have in place. There are not enough decent French teachers available as is. Kids are dropping out because of the teaching. |
| Please keep French immersion program in our school. Thanks |
| Please consider the boundary review impact on non-french immersion students. I do not support other children having to leave a community that have established relationships so that the french immersion program can be expanded. |
| Please consider the impact of a French program on those who want to keep their kids in the English stream. We believe French programming doesn't add without taking away a whole lot too. The unintended consequence of French programming is that special needs are being segregated primarily to the English stream, adding even more classroom disruptions and violence in English classrooms. Until the board tackles this issue (reduce the incidents of disruption and violence in the class, require assessments before violent children return to the class and increase funding for kids who require extra support) then adding French just exacerbates an already glaring problem. We have loads of data from the public board that French programming has significantly fewer children with behaviour difficulties. Added to this "two tiered" system is a very real lack of qualified French teachers, school capacity restrictions, class size restrictions and added administration work. The system simply cannot handle the added complexity of adding French. Even if it could, the inequities it creates in the English stream is glaring. We strongly oppose adding further French programming. |
| Please don't deprive 46 students this opportunity of FI. It's time to expand. |
| Please don't do this! This is a mistake! |
| Please expand |

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| Please expand the FI program! We feel very lucky that my son was chosen for the Early FI program. We hope to be able to provide the same wonderful opportunity to my four year old in a few years. |
| Please expand the French program |
| Please expand the program |
| Please expand the program for 2020-21 and beyond like every school board is doing (Catholic and |
| Please expand the program for 2029-21@ |
| Please expand the program!! It's best for the school board |
| Please expand the program, we require greater certainty that our youngest child can join his older siblings in the FI program at St Mary.this interim plan makes sense,show board commitment to program. |
| Please expand the program, would love to have my youngest enrolled in it |
| Please expand! It's best for the students to make their own choice! |
| Please expand! The students on the waitlist are eagerly awaiting this opportunity. |
| Please expand, love to have my kids enrolled in French |
| Please expand. A mere 46 FI spots per city are not enough. |
| Please give HCDSB students greater access to French Immersion. The demand is high and right now there are too many children being left out. This is publicly funded education and the opportunity to learn in French should be available to all. |
| Please have at st Gregory. |
| Please have at st Gregory. |
| Please vote for expansion |
| Program is great, should be expanded. Good interim plan |
| Program should be expanded. |

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| Program should be expanded.boundary reviews are inevitable especially in the city of Oakville. Not fair to make FI the scapegoat for all population and boundary issues faced by the board. |
| Schools should accommodate English programs first |
| Schools with two French immersion classes does not have capacity. Adding 2 more class rooms makes the situation worse. In this instance why not just have a full in French school. That might make better sense |
| Sounds like a good interim plan- I'm sure there are other locations that could accommodate the expansion in future years. Our school has pretty low numbers, could accommodate additional French classes. Should be doable, other boards can do it, why can't we? |
| Spilt classes |
| St Mary is really far, are there any thoughts about moving that to centre not so west. Like st Gregory the great? My child just got registered to JK but I don't want to switch schools in 2 years if I don't have to |
| Stop the war on French immersion and expand the program please |
| Strongly disagree with this expansion as classrooms are already overcrowded thus compromising children learning and performance. The French immersion program should be kept only within the boundaries of Oakville . Schools in those towns should open their own French programs in order to increase learning French as second language. Thanks |
| Students already give up part of their lunch recess because they can only let half the school outside at a time. There are so many portables in their play area that the entire school cannot fit safely in the space. What do you think adding 4 more portables will be like? The students will suffer. Not acceptable for our kids. I will be the first to switch my kids to the public board. |
| Students should have the opportunity to learn the official language of Canada. Language acquisition is so important at a young age and this should be open to way more students than it is now |
| Taking into consideration at first that having two more classes for the French Immersion Program is great news for the big pool of parents who do want to enrol their kids on it, we also have to face the reality and is the shortage of French teacher |

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| Terrible idea! Too many students, numbers are increasing too quickly each year as it is. Do not add more classes PLEASE. |
| Thank you for the update. I would like to request that students are not forced to change schools if they are already enrolled and are subject to the boarder change. We sold our home to move into our School boundary due to my youngest not being enroll. |
| That will be terrific |
| The Board needs to accept the decision of the Board of Trustees in 2017 to make FI permanent at HCDSB. They are mandated to provide the programming to their students. They are not fulfilling their mandate by capping the program at 138 students |
| The Board should expand the French Immersion program. The program has been offered by HCDSB since 2012 and has been a permanent program for more than 2 years now. Neighboring Boards, both Catholic and Public, are not only maintaining their programs at a much greater capacity than HCDSB, but are managing to expand them - some with even earlier entry points than Grade 1 - and have been offering French Immersion programming for decades, despite facing the same concerns about staffing and space. It's time for HCDSB to take affirmative action to provide the French language learning opportunities that HCDSB families want and deserve. |
| The board should stop making excuses and obstacles, hiring French teachers isn't impossible and boundary reviews are a normal part of any developing communities |
| The boundary review mentioned would be happening regardless of French Immersion expansion since the St. Mary's community is growing due to new residential developments; FI should be expanded as there are numerous students on waiting lists |
| The choice cannot exist for these students if the board does not expand. The pros of this program would outweigh the displacement. |
| The choice cannot exist for these students if the board does not expand. The pros of this program would outweigh the displacement. |
| The host schools would become too crowded. Even with a boundary reviews, the population would be too high. |
| The idea that Halton students are "suffering" because of French Immersion is laughable. The program at HCDSB is not nearly large enough to cause any kind of "hollowing out" of the English |

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| streams. Portables are part of school life. I went to school in the late 80s and early 90s. My entire grade 9 and 10 years were spent in a portable. Even with the proposed expansion, the FI program will be relatively small compared to the entire student population. |
| The most significant concern is the dual system |
| The most significant concern is the dual system of education that is created via FI programs. The research and literature done in the last 20 years in Canada supports the notion that FI programs are essentially academic streaming. |
| The program should be expanded |
| The program should be expanded for 2020. The trustees specifically denied requests for a sibling rule or cross-boundary priority because expansion was supposed to take care of that need. Now expansion is in question? This is ridiculous. Trustees wanted a way to may expansion possible for 2020 and they got it. Now it's time to move forward. |
| The program should be expanded. It really is a great idea |
| The program should be expanded. There is a waitlist every year in Oakville and many kids get turned away.how is that fair?also,your survey is very misleading.boundary review lan coming regardless and no focus on this being interim measure.more thought should have gone in to messaging.this will create misconceptions. It appears to be a scare tactic to raise alarm amongst English stream parents.very disappointed with the school board. Unable this issue is still being debated. So much anxiety for families who want French education or have children in the program. Would have expected more from a catholic school board. |
| The program should be expanded.it has been permanent for 2 yrs, in existence for 8 yrs,it's time.we have had enough.this survey is a stall tactic,it is biased,and it is a farce. |
| The program will cause a division between english and french students. These programs should be at a dedicated site if the demand is high for it. changing boundaries to accomodate this programming is problematic. My children may need to switch ?? |
| There already seems to be a shortage of good qualified French teachers. How will the board be able to provide good qualified French teachers for even more classes when there already seems to be a shortage? |

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| There is a portion of council that are against French language in any form and they are revealing themselves. So unprofessional to have personal agendas. We are taking this to the senior representatives of the Catholic Church provincially and nationally. |
| There is already a culture of elitism with the French immersion students and parents, adding more French and pushing out English in the school will further isolate the English students. The balance of English classes will also be disrupted as there will be less if a mix of grade levels in the class. Leaving level 1 and 2 learners in English and taking away the diversity that is imperative to learning from peers. |
| There is already a shortage of French teachers. How will you get French teachers full time and for replacement during leaves of absence that happen very often. All students should not be re-zoned because a few families did not get into a lottery system program. 46 spots is enough. NO to adding more classes to an already full school. |
| There is always so much concern that there aren't enough French teachers to staff FSL programs. However, HCDSB won't be able to attract qualified teachers by continuing to run a pilot program. The neighbouring Catholic boards are all running larger programs than HCDSB and they are expanding. Every year HCDSB does nothing is another year we miss out on recruiting good teachers for the program and they are lost to the other Boards. This expansion is minor in scale and, practically speaking, will only require the recruitment of three additional FI teachers (one for site where expansion will occur - Milton, Burlington, and Oakville, as the waitlist in Halton Hills is not large enough to support an additional class. If the Board can't recruit 3 French teachers in 10 months then there are bigger issues. |
| There is demand for the program so expand it. Follow the HSB or they will be laughing taking our kids, because ppl are leaving our board to give their kids the opportunity. |
| There should be consideration of a North and South Oakville site for incoming EFI students as many kids have to travel far on the bus. The EFI program needs to expand based on the need and interest of Catholic parents. It's a wonderful program that |
| They should have more classes |
| This expansion would be an excellent idea. |
| This is a great however I would like to know this will change the student teacher ratio? Or changes in current schools with French immersion? |

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| This is a horrible idea!!! Does the board have any concept of what is happening currently? My daughter has had three French teachers this year. There aren't enough teachers to fill the current program. Do NOT expand the program? Ill conceived on many |
| This is a program i am on a waitlist for. It is heartbreaking to have to be put in a position to choose between religion or language. Please stop having parents make this choice and offer the same opportunities around us. |
| This is a program we are considering next year. Please don't deny parents this choice |
| This is an extremely biased survey. It is creating divide in our community and absurd media coverage. i thought I sent my kids to the catholic board for a feeling of community and inclusiveness. I have never felt so ostracized, I can't believe this is what it has come to. |
| This is ludicrous! Extended French is hard enough to find qualified French teachers and regular teachers are filling in for them! Keep the gr 1 immersion as is! Changing boundaries of the whole board to cater to a few and the cost is unacceptable! |
| This is mis leading |
| This is misleading . We have the gifted program a boundary review in our school would be due to this and north dundas |
| This program should be allowed for expansion, if sort of teachers are an issue then teachers should be hired 1 year prior they finished their program with condition to finish their Teacher program with great results. |
| This seems mis leading . Would this really affect boundary for St Dominic |
| This should be available to all students. End of story |
| This survey is intentionally biased to scare people into rejecting expansion. You are only adding a maximum of 2 classes per city. It's time to move forward with expansion. |
| This would be incredible. We applied to the program for 2020/21 and my son is #42 on the list. We have a high interest in French immersion and since we were not accepted we will likely leave the board and enroll our son into Munns public school FI starting in grade 2. This is unfortunate as we are practicing Catholics and our property taxes go to the Halton catholic board. Without a doubt our preference is to keep our son in the catholic system but without competitive programming like FI we will have to leave the board. |

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| To deprive students of such a choice goes against everything the halton board says they stand for. |
| <p>To whom it may concern.</p> <p>I have two daughters ([REDACTED]) and they are enrolled on the Early French Immersion program at St. Mary. Please note that [REDACTED] is on 5th grade and [REDACTED] is on 7th grade.</p> <p>My concerns is if they will be affected by the reviewed boundaries. They are very comfortable at St Mary and they are bilingual in French and English. I think it is not convenient that they change school at this time.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>If you require further details, you could contact me; my mobile number is [REDACTED].</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> |
| Totally agree as I an in waiting list for my SK |
| Unfair to have our children going through a change of school. We don't support this. |
| Vote for expansion! |
| Wasn't a boundary review already due? Seems mis leading this communication piece |
| Wasn't the board already planning a boundary review for Milton and Oakville? You make it sound like the boundary review is specifically for The expansion. Extremely misleading. You should conduct a review of your surveys, not very accurate. |
| We already have had unqualified French teachers supplying for extended periods of time! The quality of just core French alone is suffering. Students say they aren't leaning because of unqualified French teachers. We can't provide the quality we need. |
| We are in a new subdivision I'm assuming boundary review is something we can't control . If there a demand for a program we should not deny it. The public school in the area here as 18 |

portables there obviously a demand for this program. If the public board is doing this successfully we should also .

We are looking for more EFI classes to be opened at our home school

We can not change the current system! We're going to effect the English track students for more early French immersion! We already have extended French and that has been going well for years. We're already at a crisis with government cuts, we already have unqualified supply teachers teaching French as fill-ins! The French program is already suffering with French teacher shortages! The idea is unrealistic and catering to a small group while threatening to effect EVERY school is unfathomable! The proposal states that unqualified teacher may be needed? Who wants their kids being taught by unqualified teachers? The extended program was enough! We're trying to keep up with the public board, point blank. The few people on the waiting list is not enough to change the whole system. Early French shouldn't have even been offered in the first place. The split classes are hard enough but the unbalanced classes are worse. Classes aren't blended and usually the 'stronger kids' are in French. This is challenging for regular classes. Especially if the government lifts class size caps! This option needs to be eliminated. Keep extended French only or the current early immersion model!

We certainly need to stop the expansion! We're facing cutbacks for our vulnerable students already. If we do this we create a 2 tier system of education which goes against all our Gospel values! How can we cut services to those students who need extra support and spend all this time on extra resources for a program that can be utilized in gr 5? Split classes, unbalanced classes with the "higher achievers" in french immersion, unqualified teachers, extra money on buses, portables, changing all school boundaries? Why are we even discussing this?? It seems obvious that keeping the status quo is what we need to do. This is not the time to do this. 2 tiered education is already being pushed by the government and should not be pushed by the school board as well. How will this be "education for all?" Maybe the "squeaky wheel always gets the grease" as in these parents pushing extra early immersion classes. Who's speaking for the vulnerable kids? This is a hierarchical, self-centered approach to our education. If we go forward with it then student's education will be inequitable in our own Catholic board! Aren't we supposed to be different from the public?

We do not want the boundaries changed. This would greatly impact our family in a negative way.

We have a child in French immersion. More children should be able to be in French immersion. At the end of the day, if my child has to take a bus due to a boundary change, that's fine.

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| We have been waiting for the expansion of French immersion for four years. Additional spots would make the process less stressful and reduce parental anxiety. My understanding of the boundary review for St Mary is that it would result in a change of school for a new development that hasn't even commenced. Furthermore, this sounds like an interim step, affects should not be long standing/lasting. Please expand the program |
| We have been waiting for this program to be expanded since 2016, why is this still being debated. We have lived with the uncertainty of what our 3 children will get I learn and where for 4 years. This is absurd. And so is this survey. |
| We have no issues with the French program. School does have many kids but kids are happy, have a lot of opportunities, participate in lots of activities- no need to detrimentally affect the program. Expansion makes sense. Too many disappointed kids and families with limited spots. Not fair |
| We have problems with the program. The school is no busier than other schools in the board that are capacity. Children don't complain, never mentioned any concerns. Program is beneficial, should be expanded |
| We lose student every year to forest trail if the demand is there as catholic we shouldn't deny it as it would be selfish . Let keep catholic to ensure we retain our catholic schools |
| We need a potential map for the boundaries in review to provide an accurate comment. |
| We need the program expanded (french in grade 1) so we don't have to send our three children to three different schools... starting french in grade 5 is too late for the average student (straight a student seem to do OK), bussing kids, building and tearing down down portables, ramming schools, etc. negatively impacts the environment, kids wellbeing and stresses parents, etc. |
| We need to keep the program as is! With government cuts how can we justify the expenditure? We can't service the minority of families. The domino effect is too substantial. Go to extended French. It works and keeps the cost down. |
| We recently switched our child from HDSB into HCDSB. Since arriving at St Bernadette he has thrived in a way he never did in his old school. I have dealt with HDSB for 10 years and watched as it mishandled the FI program. Boundary changes, program changes, constant chaos and uncertainty. Part of the reason we moved our son is because of the negative way HDSB handled FI and how English students with reading difficulties were completely ignored. I understand the |

pressure by parents to increase the FI program but I urge you to be thoughtful and careful when increasing the FI program. Please be aware of all the cases of students with learning difficulties who are overlooked by FI and end up shuffled around to different programs and schools.

We shouldn't even be talking about spending this kind of money when we're already cutting services, increasing class sizes. Extra split classes in primary grades is an unnecessary outcome when we favor a particular learning group or please particular parents.

Unqualified teachers will have zero effect on student learning. We have the extended french program in place and we can keep the early immersion as is. I think parents just want to compete with the public board's model. This model doesn't work for us. Why can't we introduce CORE french a grade or two earlier? Some boards have earlier CORE french and that would expose kids to the language to see if they're truly interested in it.

With french immersion, the classes are so unbalanced because many of those students are strong academically, so that leaves the English class balanced, which is not fair to the English stream learners. We need to leave early immersion as is. They'll still succeed and become 21 century learners.

We support the expansion of EFI 100% but feel currently enrolled in the EFI program should continue at their current school. Children who will be newly enrolled into the expansion phase at Gr.1 should be moved to an underpopulated school.

We support the expansion of the Early French Immersion program in the Halton Catholic District School Board. We have been very fortunate to enrol three of our children in the program (two with the first come/first serve enrolment, and one with the present lottery system). Our eldest child is in grade six, and so we have witnessed the life of this program from almost its beginnings. We see the success in learning another language, while keeping up with English learning skills. We celebrate EFI!

The flaw, however, lies in its size. With just over 40 spaces available each year, it exists as an exclusive program. For us, the only answer is to eliminate the wait list and expand the Early French Immersion program.

We presently have one daughter on the waitlist (position number 70). It is our sincere hope that we can offer her the same French AND religious education as her older siblings.

We urge you to vote toward expanding the program.

We welcome French Immersion expansion but would be disappointed if our boundary changed and had to be moved if our child did not excel in the program.

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| We will appreciate the expansion of French Immersion programming. new classes are needed. The French is a substantial, part of this Country. without it, I am afraid, we could loosing a big opportunity for our kids. Best Regards. |
| We would be happy to have French offered in our school, as long as the children do not have to change schools and friends due to boundary changes |
| When considering the changes, no child outside the French program should have to change schools because of the changes. If parents want a child in the French program, then they may need to change schools but that is a factor they can consider when deciding whether to enter their child into the program. So no parent is forced to change schools, it will ultimately be their decision |
| When the extended program was placed at our school we weren't consulted . Why is there a public consultation for early French immersion ? What is the difference? |
| When will the final decisions regarding new school boundaries be provided |
| Where are you gonna put more kids? Keep the school as is so it can function as it should. |
| While I am not opposed to expanding the FI program, I believe that any changes to the children St Nicholas would be detrimental. The boundaries were recently changed to accommodate the merging of St Joseph & St James which was very difficult for the students. In fact, the schools are still adjusting to the merger & now to the physical new school. Modifying the make up of this particular school, especially the removal of any existing streams/programs would only result in added chaos and negative repercussions for all St Nicholas students & families. Please consider excluding this particular school from any changes as the families have already endured significant issues over the last 3 years. |
| While I fully support the fact that families that want their children to be in French Immersion should have the opportunity to do so, I do not think it should come at the expense of other families that currently have children in a given school. Therefore, I think that any plan to expand the FI program should be done in such a way that families with children currently attending a school should be "grandfathered" and given the option to remain part of that school community regardless of boundary changes until all their children graduate - making the new boundaries applicable only to new families or families that wish to change schools. You cannot underestimate the impact of changing schools to kids that have formed strong friendships and |

have become part of a community, including getting used to routines, before/after school care, extra curricular activities, etc. Thank you.

While I understand that these are difficult decisions please consider the well being of the students currently enrolled in the FI program as well as the students in the regular stream. I have kids that fall into both of these categories. These are their schools, their friends, all they have known for the last few years. Yes, the program needs to be expanded but start things off fresh at a new school without disrupting the EXISTING student base. I DO NOT agree with having a school that just has FI, the program should be offered at various schools and kids should be in school with kids that are in English stream or FI, there shouldn't be a perception that these kids are different. I have two kids in FI and one in English, they are now completely scared of what is going to happen, if they will be split, if they will have to go to different schools. They are upset, sad, angry as am I that the board can't figure this out. My kids are thriving in the FI program, they are excellent performers and I hope that all these uncertainties does not affect their well-being. Expand the program to schools that are not as populated but DO NOT impact current students, they did not ask for this.

While this is great for those students that have won the "lottery" it does place those not in the program at a disadvantage. If the program is offered, it should be available to all those that choose to participate i.e. offer the option at more schools in the Region. If that is not an option - offer the program firstly to those in the appropriate school zones. We purchased our home specifically to be close to our daughter's school yet this expansion may result in us having to move schools - that is not ok! If space is an issue due to the program demands, those children out of the school zone should be displaced, not families that specially purchased housing within the zones.

Our daughter is in grade 1 and is 1 of 5 girls out of 18 children in her class, that is a ratio of nearly 3-1. We were told that "it's just one of those years" however, we know that many of the girls from her kindergarten class "won" the lottery for the french program which in our opinion, threw off the ratios in the G1 classes for girls to boys.

Why are we even considering a program with additional costs when we have schools like St Doms giving messages to kids over paper shortages (ie lack of funding)? This will also impact bussing (requiring more) when every year we already struggle with lack of availability.

Why are we even talking about boundary reviews, they were due next year anyways. So stop treating drama. Do an expansion in EFI, otherwise you will loose more kids to public board! I can't believe in 2020 we are asking parents what do they think.

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| Why are we even talking about boundary reviews, they were due next year anyways. So stop treating drama. Do an expansion in EFI, otherwise you will loose more kids to public board! I can't believe in 2020 we are asking parents what do they think. Yo |
| Why expand french (when children can learn it outside school) at the cost of others how's been there and the don't want to potentially change schools |
| Why is this open to the whole community to comment if this is not a program they are not interested in? You are opening the door to discrimination and attacking a small minority which have rights in this country |
| Why is this program not being expanded into other schools? It is ridiculous that FI is not offered at more schools. If it were, parents wouldn't have to send their kids out of their boundary for FI, and the lottery system could be removed. |
| <p>Why not expand the program to additional schools that do not currently have french immersion programs?</p> <p>Wouldn't it make more sense to create a program in an existing school that to over burden the current schools?</p> <p>I suspect the costs would be the same no matter where they were expanded to so why not consider that? Are all schools over capacity with student enrolment? If not, there is an opportunity there. Why does it have to remain with the current four schools? It doesn't seem practical or logical.</p> <p>One additional item I would like to add. Why was the meeting that told place on January 21 not advertised to the parents. I was not aware of this meeting until it was over. No mention of it in the St. Mary's newsletter. Transparency is key.</p> |
| Why not just put French in more schools instead of changing boundaries? |
| with change you ruin families and plans. people buy houses to make sure their kids go the the school they want. kids make friends and hard on them. bad decision and unethical. |
| Would be a good opportunity to address the small size of Holy Family and bring some extra students into the school |
| Would not like to see boundary change impact Child already enrolled in extended french. |
| Wouldn't boundary reviews have to occur in growing cities regardless of Optional French programming? Please expand. The current 46 spots per city is incompressible. |

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| Yes |
| Yes |
| Yes I am in full support of the expansion of the french immersion program. I believe that more children should have access to the benefits of a french immersion program. This would be a valuable asset to our students and our community. Learning french in this capacity is extremely valuable. Thank you for your time. |
| Yes please expand the program. Boundary reviews are part of the natural evolution of our neighbourhoods. St Joan of Arc for example one school over from St Mary is well below capacity. If we do not expand the program they leave for HDSB |
| Yes, Enough with the French Immersion Expansion.....you are changing boundaries, our students getting effected as we have schools walking distance but we have to take buses. Furious |
| Yes, I don't think having to do a boundary review of each school is |
| yes, I feel that our school is already at capacity with 6 or so portables. To expand would mean more portables. If required, i suggest implementing more french immersion classes in school which can accommodate more students and having these students bused instead of moving boundaries again if 2 additional classes in each school is not the long term plan. |
| You are mis leading the community as a boundary review is already due for Oakville. |
| You need more spots, expand program |
| You need to provide the actual changes to parents and then ask for feedback. No-one can give constructive feedback if the changes are not disclosed. |
| You provide a comment box that does not provide sufficient room for more than one sentence? Speaks to the intelligence of the Board. |
| You should expand. Everyone has their own choice to a challenging education! It's good for the schools, teachers, the district, the city and most of all the children! |
| You should have more spots. Program should be bigger |

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion Questions/Comments Received Through Email

EMAIL #1

Sent: January 23, 2020 10:40 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Boundaries

Although we are not interested in our children taking part in the French Immersion program, I am very interested to know what the new school boundaries look like. My concern would be in 2 areas (finding new child care) and hoping that we would not have to be uprooted from our new school this year. My opinion on the program expanding will differ greatly depending on the above 2 factors. Will more information be shared in the near future about how in school child care would work through the YMCA program? (if students needed to move based on new boundaries).

EMAIL #2

Sent: Jan 23, 2020 10:43 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: School Location

I'm interested in knowing if the 2 new additions will be at a school that is closer to the Ascension school area or at least south of the QEWS? Currently, the school my child would go to is a 45 minute bus ride. So I've been considering putting my daughter in the Public school French program that is 5 minutes from my house. Do you have any information about where the new school locations will be?

EMAIL #3

Sent: January 23, 2020 10:51 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Potential expansion of FI program in HCDSB

I think the expansion of the FI program in HCDSB is a terrible idea. There is already a lack of qualified Catholic French teachers in the district and there is no point in expanding the program if there are not qualified teachers/supply teachers etc.

Also only allowing 46 students/designated FI school yet doing a full boundary review throughout HCDSB and possibly changing boundaries/making non-FI students change schools is unfair especially in older grades when social groups and friendships have been formed.

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion **Questions/Comments Received Through Email**

This would not be a good program to implement due to the lack of qualified staff to run and expand the program.

EMAIL #4

Sent: January 23, 2020 11:03 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: current enrolled

will this affect the current accepted french immersion students?

EMAIL #5

Sent: January 23, 2020 11:55 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: French in all schools

Would this be in all schools?
All schools should have French immersion, and all kids should have the opportunity to participate.

EMAIL #6

Sent: January 24, 2020 1:10 AM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Question – St. Raphael

The news of possible boundary changes are quite upsetting as we have settled into our school nicely. We have a 7yr old and 4yr old and they just love it there.
Question - Will the possible boundary changes affect our children, they attend [REDACTED] elementary school in Burlington? We are a 5 minute walk to that school [REDACTED]. We would like to know ahead of time to alleviate any and all stress regarding this.

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion Questions/Comments Received Through Email

EMAIL #7

Sent: January 24, 2020 2:24 AM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Definition / Clarification

In reference to the email received referencing 'Potential Program Expansion and Boundary Changes' could you please define / clarify what is meant by:

- **Specialized programs may be moved** to other schools.

What are considered specialized programs and where are they currently located?

EMAIL #8

Sent: January 24, 2020 2:53 AM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Definition / Clarification

While filling out the online "Feedback Form", I found that you are limited to 250 characters.

This does not allow the individual sufficient room to express their thoughts on this matter and should be expanded (a minimum of 1,000 characters) to get a proper a full view of the families opinion on this important decision.

There should be a note indicating how much room (characters) you have to type so you can think about what you want to say before you start and have to delete it and start over again.

EMAIL #9

Sent: January 24, 2020 3:46 AM
To: French Expansion
Subject: French Immersion Expansion

I'm thrilled to hear HCDSB is taking steps to expand the FI program for 2020-21. I attended one of the board meetings where members of the school community lobbied to have the early FI pilot

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion Questions/Comments Received Through Email

expanded, so it is wonderful to see this movement forward. Boundary reviews are not a concern for my family, and access to early second language learning takes precedent from my point of view. I understand why this has been flagged for families, but quite frankly the boundary review communication that went out almost feels like another thing that is getting in the way of resolving this ongoing issue that is important to a large community of families looking for access to this program. Impact on boundaries and program changes, without any high level indication to the degree of impact or potential change, comes across as misleading and a little alarmist when the impact in actuality may be much less than parents may assume after reading that communication. Program expansion has lagged for years, so I am hopeful that the movement forward will continue without further setbacks.

I'm also writing to understand more about access to FI at my son's current school, [REDACTED].

He is currently in Gr. 1, so my assumption is if the expansion happens, and is offered at his school for the 2020/21 school year, he will have missed the opportunity for inclusion given he will be starting Gr. 2. He unfortunately placed far down on the list for the Gr 1 FI lottery, so our family has had to decide between prioritizing his access to a bilingual education and keeping him in his current HCDSB school. Given access to the extended French program in Gr. 4 also operates within a lottery program, he will be leaving [REDACTED] and will be attending [REDACTED] next year. This decision weighs heavily on our family, and certainly has not been made lightly, as our desire was to keep him in a full-time Catholic learning environment, but the desire to offer him the learning opportunities and benefits FI offers has taken priority. It has been extremely disappointing to see the HCDSB lag so far behind other Catholic School boards in implementing a widely available early French Immersion program. My younger son begins JK at [REDACTED] next year. My hope is that FI is made available to him in Gr. 1, otherwise he will unfortunately follow the same path as my oldest.

If any part of my understanding of the FI access and availability at [REDACTED] is incorrect, I would very much appreciate if someone could please reach out and clarify any details I may have overlooked or misunderstood.

EMAIL #10

Sent: January 24, 2020 1:10 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Received a survey for feedback

I received a survey to provide feedback and the online form only allows for a small number of characters to be submitted. I am keen on providing my feedback as this decision will GREATLY impact our family. Please adjust this.

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion Questions/Comments Received Through Email

EMAIL #11

Sent: January 24, 2020 1:43 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: St John Burlington Impact?

Can you please tell me how this will directly affect the St John's community in Burlington? We've already lost our busing option. We live quite far from the school. So walking is not an option. This has added so much stress to our family. Now more changes are to come.

I look forward to hearing what could be a direct impact for my son.

EMAIL #12

Sent: January 24, 2020 1:46 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Potential Program Expansion & Boundary Changes

I have reviewed the email and have some questions on the impact to my family. Currently he attend St Scholastica Gr1 French Immersion.

Does this expansion of the boundary mean our son will lose his spot in the program?

EMAIL #13

Sent: January 24, 2020 2:17 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: concerns

I'm sending my concerns regarding the board decision to expand French Immersion. To be honest I don't understand why do you open a survey at this point to make us feel as parents that our opinion matters... it seems you already have a plan put in place and all the other previous concerns presented by parents are constantly dismissed.

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion Questions/Comments Received Through Email

As Parents we had asked in the past for French programs that could reach more kids at an earlier age but the board decides the road that will impact less kids... I always wanted my daughter to do the French Extended program and because of your decisions to move schools now she won't have that option. To be honest I don't understand the reasons behind extending a program that will benefit less kids and you also want to limit the number of students that enroll French Extension in Grade 4.

I'm also curious about how you mention that the possible boundaries reviews might affect kids that are not even in the French program. What do you imply? I would like the board for once to use direct language and not just use "maybe" "when possible" "when feasible" to protect themselves saying that you mentioned possible outcomes.

I'm really disappointed because I don't feel the board is representing my interests and I do hope you make your consultation a real part of your decision making process.

EMAIL #14

Sent: January 24, 2020 2:40 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: French Expansion question

First off, this is great news as I know a lot of families that are interested in French immersion!

My questions are:

- 1) Would this mean the expansion would be at the same school (Scholastica in my case) for 2020/2021?
- 2) Would children be given spots from the current French immersion lottery wait list that took place in November?

EMAIL #15

Sent: January 24, 2020 3:22 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: French Expansion

I do not agree with this expansion as I do believe it will have a negative response to the children who are in the English stream and as a whole will affect their ability and learning. Please respect the students equally in both streams and not just the ones who are looking to have French immersion.

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion Questions/Comments Received Through Email

EMAIL #16

Sent: January 24, 2020 3:26 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Inclusion of student

Regarding the French Immersion Program, I would like to know until which grade is possible to enroll.

Also if there is any restriction for new immigrants to join.
If it is possible to my daughter to enroll in the program, how do I proceed?

We are a family from Brazil, that has been in the country since last September.
I have two kids, a girl in grade 5 and a boy in grade 2.

EMAIL #17

Sent: January 24, 2020 4:10 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: gr 1 french immersion program

My children attend [REDACTED] in Milton ont. My 6 yr old son has been accepted for Gr 1 immersion program for sept 2020 at [REDACTED] in Milton. It is beyond our boundaries and he needs to be bussed to the school. does this new expansion affect him?
Will our boundaries change? Please explain how this will impact as I did not follow what it means.

EMAIL #18

Sent: January 24, 2020 4:14 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: EFI Expansion Information

I have read the correspondence regarding the potential addition of 2 EFI classes for Sept 2020. I have quite a few questions as I feel the information was fairly vague to be honest. I am also a teacher in the Board with knowledge of Board workings and found the info contained confusing. It is very challenging to give feedback without any specifics or possible scenarios being presented.

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion Questions/Comments Received Through Email

1. Will these changes affect a child in the EFI stream currently, whereby all students in that grade and program will potentially move to a new school? Will a child continue to be grandfathered into his current school as was the decision made in the past EFI consultation process?
2. Will the program possibly not be at St. Scholastica next year for Gr 1 EFI? What other sites are being considered?
3. Once a decision is made SHOULD there be changes to program location....how often will consultation take place in future years about the status of this program, moving schools, debate about adding classes or even cancelling the program (as in previous years)? The board recently undertook a long term evaluation of French Immersion and seem to be doing so again- there continues to be uncertainty for these students and families which is in my opinion is unfair. The number of movements of FI students since the Early FI introduction is staggering! Multiple families and multiple schools is challenging to say the least. In addition, the unpredictability of the classes/FI program from year to year is challenging for scheduling, child care and work arrangements for families.
4. Are all programs being considered for possible relocation- Extended FI, Early FI, Gifted, ESC, ST and regular stream or is this just related to Grade 1 students entering EFI? The info contained alludes to all programs but I do know not all parents in the Board received this email today- it seems limited to parents of students in EFI but references all programs and all boundaries to be considered. Will other regular stream students be moved in the boundary review or just EFI students?

If you could please clarify my concerns I would happily be able to respond more accurately to the feedback survey. Thank you for your consideration.

EMAIL #19

Sent: January 24, 2020 2:51 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Inquiry

Hello, I have received your email regarding the potential program expansion of FI within the HCDSB. I currently have a daughter in your Grade 1 FI program at [REDACTED] in Milton, and she receives busing to cross Milton each day. My inquiry is whether there are circumstances within these changes whereby my daughter will be forced to change schools for future delivery of the FI program in years to come?

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion Questions/Comments Received Through Email

EMAIL #20

Sent: January 24, 2020 5:45 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Inquiry

thank you for the prompt reply. It would be very disappointing if my child is forced to move schools in the future. We have spent hundreds of dollars on uniforms, and my daughter has made new friends after already having to move to [REDACTED] from her home school ([REDACTED]) for FI. Hopefully the HCDSB considers grandfathering out the current students who are at a non-home school for FI. Other boards like HDSB allow for continued busing until graduation for students, even after they've finished their specialized programming (Such as ESL).

EMAIL #21

Sent: January 24, 2020 6:17 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Inclusion of Student

Thank for the reply
Unfortunately she doesn't have prior french training.

Is there any other program for learning french?
She has shown interest and we totally support it, specially because she speaks portuguese wich can be a easier way to the french language.

EMAIL #22

Sent: January 24, 2020 6:39 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Extended Frech Program GR.5

Will there be any impact to kids who are part of the Extended Frech Program which started GR. 5.
Meaning that kids are already in the program for a. year or longer?
Please clarify.

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion
Questions/Comments Received Through Email

EMAIL #23

Sent: January 23, 2020 10:56 PM

To: French Expansion

Subject: question about the expansion and boundary review

I'm so happy to hear about the expansion. That's great news!

I'm just trying to figure out if there is any potential impact for my family. Our "home" school is [REDACTED] in Milton, but both of my children are in the extended French program at [REDACTED]. One graduates this year, but the younger one is currently in Grade 5.

From what I can see, there is no proposed changes to the Extended French program. So, I'm assuming no impact to my family – my daughter will be able to continue in the Extended French program. Am I correct?

EMAIL #24

Sent: January 24, 2020 7:56 PM

To: French Expansion

Subject: French Immersion Expansion

My name is [REDACTED], my daughter is a [REDACTED] student at [REDACTED].
I would like to express my concern for the boundary change.

My daughter, [REDACTED], is a special needs student, if the boundaries were to change and she had to attend a new school, it would be a huge detriment to her progress. She has made so much progress over her last three years at [REDACTED] school. We love the staff and other families that attend, it's a very close community. They created a sensory room at the school which has been a great tool/reward for my daughter. She has special supports set up in the bathroom and staff who are familiar with her needs and always there to help her. I know arrangements will be made wherever she goes, but the staff members and friends she has made will not.

I know the emailed stated the vote will be on Feb 18/20, at this point in time do you know which schools will possibly be affected by the boundary change? Or when this information will become available? There are many factors that need to be taken into consideration. Registration for the YMCA before and after school program will be starting soon. If boundaries change and I cannot get a spot

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion Questions/Comments Received Through Email

at a new school that is a huge problem for our family as both parents work full time. Will there be some sort of compensation for uniforms? I've just purchased the next size up which will still fit in September. Will supports be in place for the first day of school?

I think the expansion of the French Immersion program is great, but my family will not be using it and the possible boundary change is very worrisome. We are at the edge of the boarder for [REDACTED] and I am very unsettled by the email I received.

From the information I reviewed it looks like there are no students on the wait list in Burlington and Halton Hills. Just the Oakville and Milton schools have a wait list.

Any additional information you can provide at this time will be very helpful.

EMAIL #25

Sent: January 24, 2020 9:38 PM

To: French Expansion

Subject: St. Marguerite

Just wondering how this would impact the boundary for St. Marguerite and or impact the extended French program at the school?

EMAIL #26

Sent: January 27, 2020 4:22 PM

To: French Expansion

Subject: Extended French Immersion – current students

I am the parent of a current student at [REDACTED] Early French Immersion program. My question is this: will the potential expansion of the FI program and boundary changes impact current EFI students? Will current EFI students be grandfathered in to complete the program at their current school or be given the option to do so? My concern is the potential disruption and consequent impact this may have on her well being.

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion
Questions/Comments Received Through Email

EMAIL #27

Sent: January 23, 2020 11:00 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: St Dominic

We have 2 children that attend [REDACTED] and are not enrolled in French Immersion we live in [REDACTED] (south of [REDACTED], between [REDACTED]).... will we be affected by the changes? We don't have another catholic elementary nearby, so I assume not?

EMAIL #28

Sent: January 27, 2020 5:35 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: St Dominic

Thanks for your reply. It seems odd to me to ask for feedback when we have no idea if/how our family will be effected.

EMAIL #29

Sent: January 29, 2020 6:43 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: French Immersion Expansion

Many thanks for acknowledging my email, and for your response.

EMAIL #30

Sent: January 29, 2020 8:11 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Potential Program Expansion & Boundary Changes

Thank but I don't understand what is meant as optional French programming.

Can you explain what you mean?

**Potential French Immersion Program Expansion
Questions/Comments Received Through Email**

EMAIL #31

Sent: January 30, 2020 6:58 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Question re the program expansion

1. Would the possible expansion to of the program at Sacred Heart open up the registration process to new applicants for the 2020-2021 year or only accommodate those currently on the waiting list?
 2. My child currently attends [REDACTED] - how might the expansion program impact the class sizes or split classes there?
 3. Would current programs at Sacred Heart be at risk of being cut? if so, what are they?
-

EMAIL #32

Sent: February 2, 2020 8:10 PM
To: French Expansion
Subject: Moving into the area

Hi there. My family is currently looking for a home in Georgetown. We are wondering how this French immersion expansion plan will affect main stream children in regards to boundaries, bus eligibility and school start and end times.

I am wondering if the current boundaries of St.Catherine of Alexandria and St.Brigid will change. I also want to know if the times will change, as this greatly impacts our decision of where to move. I am aware that Holy Cross ends the earliest, but if it is going to change times, it may open up a whole different area for us to consider.

We also want to know if the area of Stewarts Mill will continue to be part of St.Brigid and will it continue to receive bussing?

Please forward me any boundary maps you can, and any other information you are allowed to provide at this time. We would greatly appreciate it as it will help us decide where to focus our search for a new home. Thank you for your time.

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion
Questions/Comments Received Through Email

EMAIL #33

Sent: February 4, 2020 5:25 AM

To: French Expansion

Subject: INPUT RE: potential French Immersion Program expansion

Oops, did we miss the deadline to provide input?
Please accept this humble input message:

"Thank you. Thank you very much for allowing us to be informed by sharing with us important information which will impact our families. Furthermore, a big thanks for asking for our input. We see this matter is truly important to you and all the stakeholders as you carefully assess different aspects and involve the community.
We THANK YOU for doing this.

We would like to contribute with our input by saying that this is an exciting news!
And that what matters to us the most is the opportunity to have all our children studying under the same school roof. Please ensure accessibility to each family for all the same household children to attend the same school while also accessing the French Immersion program regardless of the grade.

We pray, God will lead our community leaders and all the decision makers to do what's right and best for our families. May all the decisions bless our children, bless our families, bless our schools and our communities.

God bless you all.

Thank you very much in advance for reading and putting the safety and unity of our families first.

EMAIL #34

Sent: February 5, 2020 4:50 PM

To: French Expansion

Subject: Parent Concerns

I have some concerns regarding the potential for the French expansion program. The first being, are there any unqualified teachers currently supporting the French immersion or core French program through this board? Quite often there are not enough qualified teachers in French to support this

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion Questions/Comments Received Through Email

program. If this is the case, are parents aware that their children are being taught by a non-certified teacher?

Also, we are in a climate where board resources are in crisis. I am concerned that these programs pull resources away from students in the regular stream.

EMAIL #35

Sent: February 11, 2020 1:52 PM

To: French Expansion

Subject: Please forward my concerns to the board meeting

As a parent and Catholic school council member at [REDACTED], I am opposed to expanding the French immersion. I do not believe this is in the best interests of our English speaking students. The potential impact for boundary changes for our English students is unacceptable. Also, putting unqualified teachers in our schools is also detrimental to all student growth and development.

It has been proven that numbers in French Immersion drop over time. Behaviour, social and academic problems push children out of the program and back into the English stream. This leaves the French classes without a balance of students with differing abilities and behaviours, as well as much lower class size numbers than their English counterparts. This essentially creates a two-tiered education system that has no place in our Catholic school system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Good Evening Trustees, Director, and Superintendents. Thank you for affording me the chance to speak this evening. My name is Matthew Salvaterra, and I am an HCDSB parent from Milton. I've come here this evening with other parents from Milton, to speak to the expansion of the French Immersion program for the upcoming school year. I understand that potentially this evening's vote hinges on the result of the survey sent out to parents in late-January. Although it may have been a genuine way to engage parents, this survey and the graphic that accompanied it were both confusing and misleading.

The email I received from HCDSB stated in bold letters **"The option to expand the French Immersion program would require system-wide boundary reviews next year, which may impact many HCDSB elementary students and families"** and was enough to make me jump up out of my weekday evening spot on the couch. Boundaries changing, programs moving, this was serious stuff. Words in the email like "may impact many families". Impact implies negative change. The email came across as a call to action *against* French Expansion. With 98% of parents being English-stream parents who are not stakeholders in FI, there's no doubt that the survey results will be overwhelmingly negative. Moreover, I don't see how adding 46 spaces to a grade 1 class in South-West Milton, will affect a grade 6 class in North-East Milton. People are resistant to change. This is a fact. Threatening change on an entire system to accommodate FI expansion is of course going to illicit negative responses. Since this email came out, I've heard worrisome comments made about FI students overpopulating my daughter's school. Let's remember that every child deserves to be in Halton Catholic Schools.

The reality of expansion is, the vast majority of English-stream students won't be impacted by FI expansion in years to come, and in the first year of expansion there would be no impact on any students, English or French.

Moreover, I said that the email and graphic were confusing and misleading. The expansion that is proposed on the graphic is 2 new classes in Milton, 2 in Oakville, 2 in Burlington, and 1 in Halton Hills. This is 7 classes. The graphic states in bold "7 more FSL teachers" will be needed. How is this correct? 1 FI teacher is needed per location. 1 FI full-time teacher can teach one class in the morning and the other class in the afternoon. So how are 7 teachers needed? Furthermore, the statement on the graphic "we may need to hire uncertified and or unqualified teachers" sounds fairly far-fetched, considering we're talking about 3 teachers, wanting to teach in one of the fastest growing, safest, most prosperous locations is Canada.

Also, this graphic has a piggy bank stating the costs of expanding the program. Costs... again with the negative , but no revenues. What about the FSL allocation money that the Board would receive for expanding the program? And the revenue from families not having to flee to the Public board to access French Immersion.

Overall, this graphic seems to have been created to evoke a negative reaction, and while doing that, it inaccurately tells half the story.

So what are we expecting from the survey results tonight? The facts are that only 2% of parents surveyed are FI parents, 98% are not. French expansion has been painted in an unflattering light, and French expansion has been tied into a

boundary review that would happen regardless. This should not inform our decisions.

What we do know is that there are 108 parents on the waiting list in Milton. This is data. Parents want this program. This is a fact. The demand is growing. This is a fact. The board deemed the feasibility of this expansion. Look at your countless delegations supporting this program.

Other Boards may have over extended themselves with colossal programs & are dealing with the ramifications. Some also underutilize FI teachers by having them teach the English component of the day. Halton Catholic has had a slow & steady approach, and allocates FI teachers to their maximum potential.

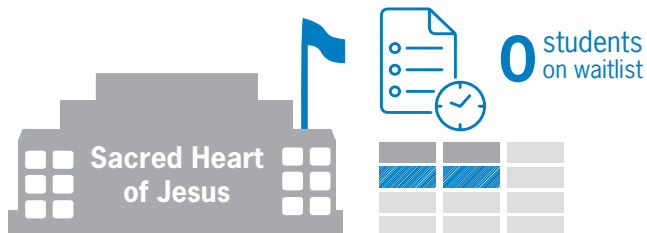
Thank you for your time. Please don't deprive these students the opportunity to this program for 2020.

Potential French Immersion Program Expansion

- Add two (2) more Grade 1 French Immersion classes per designated school for 2020-21
- Limit student enrolment to four (4) Grade 1 French Immersion classes per municipality moving forward

How Will This Look In 2020-21?

Burlington



Milton



Halton Hills



Oakville



Key Considerations



2020-21 Additional Costs

\$105,466 transportation

\$112,000 for portables



Staffing Needs

7 more FSL teachers for 2020-21

50.4 FSL teachers for 2020-21

82 FSL teachers by 2028

We may need to hire uncertified and/or unqualified teachers



School Boundary Reviews

4 municipal school boundary reviews



Other Considerations

Increased combined (split) classrooms in primary grades

French Immersion

Good evening,

I am a mom of three who recently move from Quebec to Oakville . My kids went to a bilingual school in Montreal so we were very happy to find a French Immersion school where they will be able to continue to learn and be exposed to both English and French. The transition to the new school went smoothly for my girls at St Mary, my oldest in grade 6, has her class in a portable and find it particularly fun and I can truly say that I never heard her complaining in regard to that.

I am bilingual and truly understand the value of speaking a second language .

I would like to focus on how French immersion will benefit not only our children but also our schools and finally our community .

The children

Children love to learn , I have 3 kids at home and I see how eager they are to discover and learn new things. We all want the best for our children and we work hard to prepare them for life . Being bilingual, as I can see first hand, the benefits it brings not only career wise but to the personal life as well.

I grew up in Congo one the largest country in Africa with French as the first language, but even back there my parent made sure to enrol us in English course during summer vacation because they new that we will benefit from that. We have family in Europe and Africa who don't speak English but it is amazing to see how our children are able to communicate with their grand parents, uncles, aunties and cousins .

Researches show that learning a new language especially in childhood has more advantage as it gives the child brain a boost , it develops critical thinking in the child and helps improve their problem solving as well as their listening skills while some even suggest that children who learn second language at early age are less likely to experience age-related mental illness as they reach old age.

We can continue as there are many more advantages to learning a new language for our children.

Schools

We all want to form the leaders of tomorrow, we all know that school play a very important role in the process. How rewarding would it be for our schools and all the teachers who invest so much of themselves in our children to be recognize for their role in the process . Schools will benefit from providing that level of education as more resources would be put in order to allow the teachers to instruct in the best manner. In regard to the portable , I would like to talk about my own child: it hasn't been an issue for her , in fact she sees it as it is, her classroom, and, being in a portable hasn't stop her from learning , making friends and being a student.

Community

Languages are effective barriers breaker in communities. Learning a new language enables us to be more open to other people and brings us together. Our catholic and christian values are to include and welcome those around us . I am grateful to live in this country, this community, built by both French and English.

To bridge gaps between communities, the federal government recently initiated a new law to promote and protect official languages and Melanie Jolie, the minister of Economic and Official languages has already release funding to support French Immersion programs and allow more hiring of Francophone teacher to fill in the need.

Lets move forward with Burlington , Milton and Oakville to eliminate the waiting list and give our children the opportunity to learn , let's work together to bring our community together and most important let's not deny this great program to our children.

Fatou Okenge



Protecting And Promoting Official Languages

Along with Indigenous languages, Canada's history is rooted in both English and French – our two official languages that helped to build a strong country and make us who we are today. Whether spoken at home, at work, among friends, or online, our official languages continue to be important to our sense of identity and essential to our future success.

Official Languages and Bilingualism

We will support minority-language rights and encourage more people to learn English or French as a second language.

Across the country, strong, vibrant minority-language communities are continuing Canada's proud tradition of linguistic duality, with both English and French as official languages. These communities need our continued support.

To protect and promote the rights of minority-language communities, we will move forward with:

- modernizing the 50-year-old Official Languages Act, including making Radio-Canada's mandate for regional news part of the Act, and making sure that Air Canada provides fully bilingual services to its customers;
- reviewing and strengthening the powers of the Commissioner of Official Languages;
- appointing only bilingual judges to the Supreme Court of Canada; and

- undertaking an enumeration of rights-holders and a thorough post-census survey to better account for – and better serve – minority-language communities.

Canada's two official languages should be reflected not only in institutions but in the ability of people to speak and understand each other in both languages. To encourage more people to learn a second language, we will move forward with:

- working with the provinces and territories to ensure that all Canadians can access second-language programs, like immersion, in their local schools if they choose to do so;
- new investments to help train, recruit and attract teachers in both immersion and second-language programs, based on new targets set by the provinces and territories;
- developing and promoting new opportunities for language and cultural exchanges; and



Statement from Melanie Joly on January 28, 2020 Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages

Our two languages speak to the country we've built, the people we are, and the society we hope to leave to our children. We'll continue to do all we can to promote and protect them, while giving every Canadian the chance to live, learn and thrive in whichever one they choose.

IMMERSION: Immersion programs are more popular than ever. Parents are lining up to register their children to learn French, and we are proud to support them with investments of more than \$432 million for... the provinces.

TEACHERS: We also know that to learn a language, you need qualified teachers. That's why we now have the tools to recruit more Francophone teachers through a new \$62.5 million fund.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Date: | February 4, 2020 | |
| Time: | 7:30 pm | |
| Location: | Catholic Education Centre - Board Room 802 Drury Lane, Burlington, ON | |
| Trustees: | B. Agnew V. Iantomasi, Chair of the Board H. Karabela | P. Murphy T. O'Brien J. O'Hearn-Czarnota |
| Student Trustees: | M. Bhambra D. Caratao | D. Suan |
| Members Excused: | P. DeRosa M. Duarte, Vice Chair of the Board | N. Guzzo |
| Senior Staff: | S. Balogh C. Cipriano J. Crowell P. Daly, Secretary of the Board A. Lofts | R. Merrick J. O'Hara T. Pinelli A. Prkacin |
| Also Present: | A. Bartucci, Communication Officer, Strategic Communications R. Cilliers, Metroland Media L. Collimore, Chief Officer, Research & Development A. Cross, Senior Manager, Financial Services J. Gligoric, Junior Communications Officer, Strategic Communications A. Swinden, Manager, Strategic Communications F. Thibeault, Senior Manager, Planning Services | |
| Recording Secretary: | R. Di Pietro | |

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

1.1 Opening Prayer, National Anthem and Oath of Citizenship (D. Caratao)

The meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. with a prayer led by Student Trustee Caratao.

1.2 Motions Adopted In-Camera

The following motion was adopted in-camera:

RESOLVED, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of Marieke Murphy to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) as representative for Autism Ontario February 2020 until November 2022.

1.3 Information Received In-Camera

At this time no information was received in-camera.

2. Approval of the Agenda

#45/20

Moved by: B. Agnew

Seconded by: J. O'Hearn-Czarnota

RESOLVED, that the agenda be approved.

The Chair called for a vote on **#45/20** and it **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts on interest declared.

4. Presentations

There were no presentations.

5. Delegations

5.1 Expansion of the French Program (N. Sestito)

Ms. Sestito addressed the Board regarding being in favour of expansion of the French Program.

5.2 Expansion of the French Program (R. Bkila)

Ms. Bkila addressed the Board regarding why the expansion of the French program should not be delayed for the 2020-2021 school year.

6. Approval of Minutes

6.1 Minutes of the January 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

#46/20

Moved by: B. Agnew

Seconded by: H. Karabela

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the January 21, 2020 Regular Board Meeting be approved.

The Chair called for a vote on **#46/20** and it **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

7. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

7.1 Summary of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings

The Summary of Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings was received as information.

8. Action Items**8.1 Response to Delegations****#47/20****Moved by:** H. Karabela**Seconded by:** T. O'Brien**RESOLVED**, that the delegation from Ms. Sestito be received as information.The Chair called for a vote on **#47/20** and it **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.**#48/20****Moved by:** H. Karabela**Seconded by:** T. O'Brien**RESOLVED**, that the delegation from Ms. Bkila be received as information.The Chair called for a vote on **#48/20** and it **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.**9. Staff Reports**

There were no staff reports.

10. Information Items**10.1 Student Trustees Update**

Student Trustees reported on the pillars of Achieving, Believing and Belonging.

10.2 School Educational Field Trips (S. Balogh)

School trips were provided as information.

10.3 2020 - 2021 Budget Estimates - Schedule and Consultation (A. Lofts)

Trustees provided information on the Ministry's invitations to education funding consultations and the 2020-2021 budget estimates schedule and consultation approach.

11. Miscellaneous Information**11.1 Parliamentary Follow-Up (T. O'Brien)**

Trustees expressed what they are looking for in terms of professional development.

11.2 Minutes of the December 2, 2019 CPIC Meeting

Minutes of the December 2, 2019 CPIC meeting provided as information.

11.3 Minutes of the December 16, 2019 SEAC Meeting

Minutes of the December 16, 2019 SEAC Meeting provided as information.

12. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

13. Open Question Period**QUESTION ONE**

Please provide an update regarding the implementation of student mental health and social media education at the HCDSB. This was the "ask" at the September delegation to the Board of Trustees and what was to be addressed in the staff report issued by Patricia Codner, Glenda Brown and Superintendent Cipriano last October.

At the October 15, 2019 Regular Board Meeting the HCDSB Mental Health Strategy was outlined for the year.

On a go forward:

The HCDSB Mental Health and Wellbeing Advisory and Steering Committee meets three times per year.

Initiatives for 2019-20**Life Promotion – Suicide Prevention/Intervention/Postvention Protocol**

Professional development scheduled for Secondary School Mental Health and Wellbeing Teams for April 29, 2020.

- Building capacity for school staff
- Strengthen staff confidence in responding/supporting students
- Increase knowledge and resources for students and parents to support and providing them with strategies/skills

Parent and Youth Engagement

SafeTalk training will be piloted this year with Secondary students.

- Recognize signs of suicide to engage someone, and connecting them to an intervention resource for further support.
- Student/Parent Safe Talk presentations are scheduled for April 2, 14 and 28, 2019 at St. Ignatius of Loyola, Corpus Christi and Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary Schools
- A skilled, supportive trainer will guide you through the course, and a community resource will be on hand to support your safety and comfort.

Mental Health Tip of the Month

- Tips to be pushed out through social media
- Broken down to parent tip, student tip and school tip all around the same idea and topic

Uptake of Bell Let'sTalk throughout the Board

Student Engagement – Student Trustees/Senators – Student Voice

- Chief of Mental Programming & Chief Social Worker will be attending/presenting/collaborating with our student Trustees and Senators on February 11, 2020 at Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School

Continue with mental health literacy, mentally healthy classrooms at the school level through PD with teachers

Ongoing Capacity Building Initiatives

Lunch & learns for teachers – Mental Health Literacy; Mentally Healthy Classrooms; recognizing students in need of support and pathways to care in school/external, etc

Girls/Boys Nights In – students participate, build and strengthen relationships and have learning opportunities: mental health, how to ask for help and where to get help in school/external; coping with stress, yoga, mindfulness, and team building

Mental Health & Wellness Fairs - Family of Schools invite students and families to participate to highlight programs, community agencies, that foster healthy mental wellness, digital literacy, etc.

Tier one programs continue to run focusing on mental health promotion: coping strategies, asset building, resiliency, problem solving, relationship building

Working with Mental Health Ontario and will use their upcoming social media guide to build capacity regarding social media.

14. In Camera

#49/20

Moved by: J. O'Hearn-Czarnota

Seconded by: P. Murphy

RESOLVED, that the meeting move in-camera.

The Chair called for a vote on **#49/20** and it **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

The meeting moved back in-camera at 8:36 p.m.

The meeting moved out of in-camera at 8:44 p.m.

15. Resolution re Absentees

#50/20

Moved by: T. O'Brien

Seconded by: H. Karabela

RESOLVED, that Trustee DeRosa, Vice Chair Duarte and Trustee Guzzo be excused from the meeting.

The Chair called for a vote on **#50/20** and it **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

16. Adjournment and Closing Prayer (B. Agnew)

#51/20

Moved by: B. Agnew

Seconded by: P. Murphy

RESOLVED, that the meeting adjourn.

The Chair called for a vote on **#51/20** and it **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with a prayer led by Trustee Agnew.

Secretary of the Board

Chair

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

| DATE OF THE BOARD MEETING | AGENDA ITEM | ACTION REQUIRED | RESPONSIBILITY | STATUS |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------|--------|
| November 19, 2019 | Response to Delegations | <p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees give direction to the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board to present a comprehensive plan to eliminate the waiting list, meet future demand and growth of the French Programming for the 2020/2021 school year.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees further direct that the Multi year French Teacher Recruitment plan include expanding the job fair piece to include those schools identified in the delegation, including but not limited to Laurentian, Sherbrook, Bishops, Concordia University of Quebec, etc.)</p> | Senior Staff | |

OUTSTANDING POLICY ITEMS

| DATE OF THE BOARD MEETING | AGENDA ITEM | ACTION REQUIRED | RESPONSIBILITY | STATUS |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|
| | | | | |



Regular Board Meeting

Action Report

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| French Expansion | Item 8.1 |
| Tuesday, February 18, 2020 | |

Resolution#:

Moved by: T. O'Brien

Seconded by:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees give direction to the Director of Education and Secretary of the Board to proceed with expansion of French Immersion programming at the Halton Catholic District School Board with Option A (presented at the December 10, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting) for the 2020-2021 school year.

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Religious Education Resource Selection | Item 9.1 |
| Tuesday, February 18, 2020 | |

Alignment to Strategic Plan

This report is linked to our strategic priority of **Achieving: Meeting the needs of all learners.**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend the purchase of the Grade Seven, Growing In Faith, Growing In Christ, Complete Print and Digital District Implementation Package to support the implementation of the Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document for Religious Education, Grades 1-8, 2012.

The Halton Catholic District School Board's investment in classroom learning materials ensures the provision of appropriate resources that support the Catholic faith Tradition as well as the Ontario Curriculum.

Background Information

The Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document for Religious Education, Grades 1-8, was completed in 2012 and created to support the academic and spiritual development of students in Catholic schools. This Policy Document is founded upon the General Directory for Catechesis and is rooted in the call to a New Evangelization. The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) collectively set the Religious Education program through their Education Commission and the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) and in May 2013, approved it for implementation. It has been forwarded to the Vatican and has been foundational in the creation of the new Religious Education program Growing In Faith, Growing In Christ.

In order to support the *Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum Policy Document for Religious Education, Grades 1 – 8, 2012*, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario announced that Pearson Canada was the publisher awarded the contract for a new Religious Education program for Catholic schools. With the participation and contribution of bishops, theologians and Catholic School board representatives from Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan, the new resource *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* was developed.



The following is a schedule of the Growing in Faith, Growing In Christ purchase by the Halton Catholic District School Board:

2014-2015 **Grade One**, Comprehensive Resource Package

2015-2016 **Grade Two and Grade Three**, Comprehensive Resource Package

2016-2017 **Grade Four**, Comprehensive Resource Package

2017-2018 **Grade Five**, Comprehensive Resource Package

2018-2019 **Grade Six**, Comprehensive Resource Package

This exceptional resource reflects current pedagogical understandings that support all curriculum all the while rooted in Scripture, Catholic Tradition and Catholic theological thought. In a statement on the value of the program, the Ontario and Western Bishops say:

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ creates strong links between home, school, and parish. The classroom experience helps students to deepen their love of God and their neighbours. Using the best pedagogical practices, the program seeks to engage students in knowing and living their faith. This will not only help them today but will also prepare them for tomorrow as they grow and mature and make significant contributions to our society as faith-filled Catholics who radiate the joy of believing.

It is recommended that the Halton Catholic District School Board continue with the implementation of the **Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ** resource by purchasing the Grade Seven Comprehensive Resource Package for implementation in September 2020. The proposed publication dates for the resource by Grade Level are as follows:



| Grade | Print Resources | Digital Resources |
|-------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | April 2015 (purchased) | August 2015 (purchased) |
| 2 | August 2015 (purchased) | December 2015 (purchased) |
| 3 | April 2016 (purchased) | August 2016 (purchased) |
| 4 | April 2017 (purchased) | August 2017 (purchased) |
| 5 | May 2018 (purchased) | August 2018 (purchased) |
| 6 | May 2019 (purchased) | August 2019 (purchased) |
| 7 | May 2020 | August 2020 |
| 8 | May 2021 | August 2021 |
| KDG | May 2022 | August 2022 |

Comments

The components of the Grade 7 program include:

Teacher Resource

- Print and digital formats
- Detailed lesson plans, and background information
- Support of theological learning and experience for teacher
- Support differentiated instruction for each lesson and unit
- demonstration of learning statements, to support teacher assessment of the expectations
- unit inquiry tasks to support assessment and evaluation as per Ministry of Education guidelines
- culturally responsive pedagogy

Student Book

- Print and digital formats, to support home/school/parish connections
- Supports literacy
- Ignites inquiry-based learning opportunities
- Highly Visual
- Variety of text forms, including media literacy supports such as infographics, charts, diagrams, etc.
- Culturally responsive pedagogy
- Catechetical support for the Sacrament of Confirmation



Multi-Media/Interactive Elements

- Songs with instrumental tracks, lyrics, and scores
- Interactive activities
- Google Earth Faith Journeys
- Extended Image Gallery for projects
- Audio playback for the student resource
- Videos
- School, Home and Parish Portal

In addition, boards who purchase the Comprehensive Resource Package will also receive:

- Half-day in-person implementation and resource overview session;
- Five on-line Professional Development modules to provide background and support for key program concepts (self-directed or used for staff development);
- Teacher access to digital components for multiple grades to facilitate combined grade classroom;
- Combined grade support, correlations and strategies;
- Report card comments (if requested; would be developed in partnership with appropriate stakeholders);
- Sacramental instruction support; and
- One copy of the student resource and digital access to other components for every parish in the district.

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:

| Product Description | Quantity | Print/Digital (Full Implementation) | Total |
|--|----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Digital Teacher Resources: - Teacher, Student and Parish Websites, digital Teacher Resource | 108 | \$950.00 | \$102,600.00 |
| Digital Student Resources: - Student Website & digital student book | 2331 | \$52.00 | \$121,212.00 |
| Print Teacher Resources | 111 | \$45.00 | \$4,995.00 |
| Print Student Resources | 2331 | \$3.50 | \$8,158.50 |
| PRODUCT TOTAL | | | \$236,965.50 |
| TAXES | | | \$29,095.56 HST \$657.68 GST |
| SUBTOTAL BEFORE SHIPPING FEES (shipping fees have not yet been provided) | | | \$266,718.74 |



Conclusion

The recommendation is to purchase ***Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ***, Comprehensive Resource Package as the approved Grade Seven Religious Education Program Resource, with the intention of continuing to purchase *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* grade level resources up to Grade Eight as well as Kindergarten as they are made available. By purchasing the Growing In Faith, Growing In Christ product, in collaboration with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and in solidarity with the Holy See, the Halton Catholic District School Board, will provide all elementary students, staff and their families an opportunity to grow, learn and develop in the Catholic faith we have been entrusted to share.

Recommendation

The following recommendation is presented for the consideration for the March 3, 2020 meeting of the Board:

Resolution#:

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Resolved, that the Halton Catholic District School Board approve the purchase of the Grade Seven Core Religious Education Complete Print and Digital District Implementation Package: Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ in the amount of \$266,718.74.

Report Prepared by:

P. Dal Ben
Curriculum Consultant, Curriculum Services

Report Submitted by:

A. Prkacin
Superintendent of Education, Curriculum Services

Report Approved by:

P. Daly
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board





| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Student Trustees Update | Item 10.1 |
| Tuesday, February 18, 2020 | |

Alignment to Strategic Plan

This report is linked to the strategic priorities:

Achieving: Meeting the needs of all learners

Believing: Celebrating our Catholic faith & aspiring to be models of Christ

Belonging: Embracing relationships & sustaining safe, welcome schools

Achieving

Trustee Suan and Trustee Caratao hosted a conference call with the Lead Senators on February 4, 2020 to discuss how the current Student Trustees can work proactively with the Student Senators to encourage student voice in their schools and to develop their skills. Previously, Student Trustees considered hosting a leadership conference for transitioning Senators and existing Senators. However, due to mounting feasibility, budgetary, and planning difficulties, staff advisors suggested providing professional development sessions at Senate meetings. Lead Senators discussed multiple topics at the call, including but not limited to:

- How to run effective meetings; that is, how to control debates and control them so that they are focused on an issue
- How to take meeting minutes properly
- How to create constructive action plans
- How to give good presentations

All three Student Trustees are committed to working on developing professional development important workshops for the Senate. Student Trustees are investigating whether they will host these workshops themselves or with experienced professionals. Notably, Lead Senators explored the option of involving elementary students in student voice. One suggested that principals select one or two students who have expressed leadership and interest, to become involved with the Senate. Others were concerned that introducing Student Senate to elementary students could be overwhelming and complicated. Trustee Suan noted that the former has been introduced successfully in several Catholic boards across the province, such as Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) as well as Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB). Trustee Caratao noted its presence in the coterminous board (HDSB). Trustee Suan stressed Lead Senators would have to take responsibility for much of the work of this initiative, including meeting with students in their feeder schools. The minutes are attached to this report as Appendix A.



Believing

All three Trustees will be attending OSTA-AECO's Board Council Conference from this Thursday, 20, 2020 to Sunday, 23, 2020. Catholic Board Council (CBC) held a brief call on February 13, 2020, informing Regional Representatives that they will be hosting breakout sessions with their respective Student Trustees, part of the council's second pillar, "Faith in Action". CBC also requested that Student Trustees bring socks to donate to the organization called The Ottawa Mission, as socks are a basic and oft-overlooked necessity for homeless individuals. CBC is also planning to volunteer at the mission, whose goal is to provide care to those without a home of their own or are in need of basic necessities. Furthermore, Student Trustees announced planning for Senators to attend Catholic Youth Day with the staff advisors on May 4, 2020 in Toronto.

Belonging

At the February 11, 2020 Student Senate Meeting, Student Senators voted in favour to pass a motion proposed by Trustee Caratao to change the election process for Student Trustees. The new policy (Appendix B) would change the system to allocate votes for each Student Senator, not by school, as well as to introduce a ranked-ballot. The process will go forward in determining the Student Trustees for the 2020-2021 school year, and any other elections thereafter. The results were that 32 Senators voted in favour of the motion, 16 voted against and 7 abstained from voting. The reformed election process is currently undergoing minor technical revisions to ensure complete clarity and will be presented to HCDSB's Board of Trustees in the next Student Trustee Report. When finalized, it will be the first Senate policy in recorded history.

Director of Education, Pat Daly came to speak briefly at the meeting in light of the upcoming Student Trustee elections that will be taking place on February 25, 2020 at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School, as well as embracing student voice and the importance of mental health.

In addition, the HCDSB's Chief of Mental Health Programming, Glenda Brown, and Chief Social Worker, Patricia Codner, were invited to discuss the Mental Health Strategy and Addiction Plan to the Senate. They discussed the priorities and purpose of the strategy, as well as broader information and education on the realities of mental health. Student Senator Katelyn Weinstein noted the importance of creating a safe space for Senators to express their own ideas and experiences on this issue and led by example at the meeting. Student Senators took part in breakout sessions, where they answered pertinent mental health questions. Dozens of other questions from Senators were forwarded to Ms. Brown and Codner by Trustee Suan. The intention behind this is to solicit student consultation in updating the Mental Health and Addiction Strategy for the next three years. Trustee Suan and Katelyn Weinstein, as part of the Mental Health and Well-Being Advisory Committee will meet imminently (February 17-21st) to debrief and to plan feedback for the Senate meeting in March. They will attend the Mental Health and Well-being Advisory Committee meeting on February 26th, 2020 to discuss how student consultation has been incorporated into the development of the strategy.



Lastly, all three Student Trustees have invited Dr. Lisa Collimore, Chief Research Officer to have her speak at one of our Student Senate meetings. The details are being discussed. As Trustee Caratao observed in the January 14th Policy Committee Meeting, Dr. Collimore presented an action report recommending the replacement of active consent with passive consent, due to students' low response rate in surveys. The importance of the School Climate Survey will be made clear to all Senators and more will become inclined to take the survey.

**Report Prepared &
Submitted by:**

D. Suan
Student Trustee, Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School

D. Caratao
Student Trustee, Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School

M. Bhambra
Student Trustee, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School

Report Approved by:

P. Daly
Director of Education and Secretary of the Board

2019-2020 HCDSB Student Senate: Conference Call to Lead Senators (MINUTES)

Date: February 4th, 2020

Start Time: 10:30 a.m.

End Time: 11:46 a.m.

Present: N. Gubert, D. Herrero, K. Weinstein, M. Ghaly, C. Kim, L. Greenaway, H. Shelton, D. Suan, D. Caratao, N. Lee, S. Ellison

Excused: M. Bhambra, D. Arabit

Absent: D. Sabido, N. Rodrigues, A. Zarandi, M. Rubach

1. Updates:

- a. **February 11, 2020: Senate Meeting: Focus on Mental Health, Glenda Brown (Chief of Mental Health Programming in HCDSB) + Director of Education Pat Daly)**

- Google Doc shared on Teams for questions related to Glenda Brown's discussion regarding anything about Mental Health (it either has to entail some sort of discussion, or can be a genuine question regarding Mental Health). All questions due BY THE LATEST February 6th or 7th, 2020.

- b. **Voting Questions for Student Senate Policy VI-01** – any unanswered and outstanding questions, please forward them to me, Malika, or Davin by February 6th or 7th, 2020. Any questions taken afterwards will not be accepted, as the voting procedure has to be voted at this meeting.

2. Higher Engagement for Senate Meetings (Offering PD sessions)

- Nick Gubert: How much will this cost? Who will run it?
 - Remember that the Senate does not have a budget. We have to pre-approve the costs of any sessions that we host (usually, the costs are provided through a honorarium)
- Mark: Handbook – dynamic from year to year, very helpful for new senators
- Katelyn, Nick: PD will improve more than a handbook, but the handbook can be useful in some situations.

- Dylex: The handbook is important in the sense that it provides a reference, to be even a student senator. The constitution on the other hand, provides a backbone and structure of what is the Senate, how the Senate is run, etc. Once this is ratified by the majority of the Senate, the Constitution lives on forever. Note that amendments can be made, but at the core we establish the framework.

Things to consider:

- How to run effective meetings → how to establish debate and control it so that it doesn't go everywhere.
- How to give good presentations
- How to get back on track when you go on a tangent
- How to take effective minutes (when is too much, when is too little)
- How to go about getting things done (action plans)

Given the need for students to be learning at these meetings, PD Sessions may be offered starting the meeting after the Senators have elected the Student Trustees for 2020-2021 school year. The logistics need to be worked out, but it may be that the Student Trustees for the next school year will help with providing these sessions.

3. Improving Senates At Your Schools

- Hailey wants to make promotional material for the Student Senate.
 - For instance, creating posters! Hailey would love to volunteer to create the posters (so then we can try though it may be better to talk more about this near the end of the school year (May or June).
- Share Instagram account (@hcdsbsenate) with the student councils.
 - We need to publish more content on the Senate accounts. Get the word out as much as you can!

4. Message about Communication on Teams

- a. Please check Teams regularly for any updates. Dylex echoed the importance of checking Teams. While group chats are useful to keep in

touch with the School Senates, most of our updates for Senate will HAVE to come through Teams (as it is an approved service for the Board).

5. Constitution Committee (who will participate)

- Many lead senators are too busy with other commitments to participate in the committee.
- The role of being on this committee is not clearly defined, and that is why most Senators have not expressed their interest. Keep in mind that time is still an issue.
- Dylex and Davin will send out a document on the Lead Senators chat and General chat outlining the responsibilities and roles of a member of this committee ASAP (*ideally, by the end of this week: February 7, 2020*).
- We need everyone to reach out to their Senates; we will post a document outlining all of the roles and responsibilities at least by the end of this week (February 7, 2020).

6. Elementary Outreach

- a. Other ways to reach out besides "See the Problem, Be the Solution"?
- Viability of an elementary student senate?
 - Nicole: Appealing to elementary students may not be beneficial, especially if we raise Student Senate. What might have to be done is that we promote this after students have settled into their high school.
 - Mark: Echoed the same responses as Nicole. It's another responsibility that may not necessarily be beneficial to most students as they are already preparing to make that transition. Perhaps, we need to wait a little bit afterward after they have become used to the school environment.
 - Nicole: Mentors can act as a bridge because their main role is to connect students currently in Grade 9 to the school community; so, if there's a problem with anything, they are the ones to address that issue. Again, it's most likely that this would be most beneficial when the students are already established
 - Nicholas: Why don't we have representatives at the elementary school, where they would voice their concerns?

- Some other ideas: get one or two students elected
- Dylex: This was stated at one of our conferences (OSTA-AECO Fall General Meeting in October). Elementary outreach should encourage student voice, and raise any sort of concerns that they may have. This is not new in the province; many school boards, such as HDSB and TCDSB have implemented similar processes, where the Elementary Student Senators are chosen by the Principal and/or Vice-Principal. Could be implemented, but the will of the Lead Senators to carry on such a project will dictate that.

Student Senate Policy No. I-01

| | |
|--|--|
| Elections for Student Trustee | |
| Adopted: February 11, 2020 | Last Reviewed/Revised: February 11, 2020 |
| Next Scheduled Review: February 11, 2021 | |
| Associated Policies & Procedures: I-26 Student Trustees on the Halton Catholic District School Board VI-26 Student Trustees | |

Purpose

One of the responsibilities of the Student Senate is to elect the student trustees on the school board. This is the most important, board policy-required responsibility of the Senate. As such, its process should be perfected and recorded. As no written record, only a custom exists, a new process is recorded here.

This policy implements an IRV voting system, and seeks to eliminate the potential for an individual to be elected with a minority of the vote. This policy gives a voice and vote to every Student Senator.

Application and Scope

This internal Student Senate procedure applies to the process of electing Student Trustees by Student Senators, to the Halton Catholic District School Board's Board of Trustees.

References

I-26 Student Trustees on the Halton Catholic District School Board
VI-26 Student Trustees

Definitions

IRV, or Instant Runoff Voting, is the electoral system where each voter ranks the candidates, rather than selecting a single preferred candidate. The first-choice votes are counted, and if no candidate has a majority (50%+1 votes), then the last-place candidate is eliminated and their second-choice votes are redistributed.

A Student Senator is a member of the Student Senate, including both Senators who regularly and typically attend Senate meetings, and Home Senators, who represent the Senate at their own schools.

A voting Senator is a member of the Student Senate who votes in the Student Trustee Election.

Principles

- The election of Student Trustees by the Student Senate is an important and compulsory responsibility.
- In accordance with Policy I-26, "student representation is determined in an open and democratic manner", this policy ensures a majority electoral support for student trustees.
- Ensures that no Student Trustee will be elected with a minority of the vote.
- Student Senators can give their first-choice support to whomever they choose.
- Student Senators will vote as student leaders and representatives.
- Attendance for the Senate meeting where the Student Trustee Elections are held is critically important.

Requirements

- The elections will be held by IRV, except where there are only two (2) candidates in a region, where IRV becomes, functionally, First-Past-The-Post. If there is only one (1) candidate, they are acclaimed.
- There are three (3) races and regions for Student Trustees; Oakville, Burlington, and North Halton.
- On election day, each voting Senator will be given one (1) ballot for each race. Each school may have up to eight (8) voting Senators.
- Each voting Senator is entitled to vote in each of the three (3) races, with the following exceptions:
 - Senators not present or too late to view the speeches are not entitled to vote.
 - If a Student Senator is not able to attend the meeting, a home Senator who does not typically attend the meetings may attend the election.
- Each voting Senator will rank the candidates of each given race in order, with 1 being the first-choice, 2 being the second-choice, and 3 being the third-choice, and so on if applicable.
 - The voting Senator cannot give two candidates the same rank.
- The first-choice votes will be tallied, but if no candidate has more than 50% of the total votes plus one (1), then the last-place candidate is eliminated and their first-choice votes will be redistributed to the second-choice candidates. Whomever now has 50% of all votes plus one (1) is elected Student Trustee in their respective race.
- Any ballot supporting the eliminated candidate as a first-choice and does not have a second choice, is removed from the number of total votes.
- In the event of a tie in the first round, the candidate to be eliminated is chosen randomly, and in the event of a last-round tie, the candidate with the most first-choice votes is elected Student Trustee.

APPROVED: February 11 Student Senate Meeting

AUTHORIZED BY: _____

Presiding Co-Chair of the Student Senate

Approved School Educational Trips

ALL PROPOSED TRIPS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED PRIOR TO APPROVAL, AND ARE CONSISTENT WITH BOARD POLICY

Dated: Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Listed by Destination

| SCHOOL | GRADE(S) | # OF STUDENTS | DESTINATION | PURPOSE | DATES | COST PER PUPIL |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------------|---|---|---|----------------|
| Elementary | | | | | | |
| St. Andrew CES Oakville | 8 | 55-70 | Camp Muskoka Education Leadership Centre, Bracebridge, ON | Students will have an opportunity to participate in activities from program streams designed to complement the Ontario Curriculum. Our religious and moral responsibilities, as stewards of the earth will be incorporated as ecological liturgy. Students will participate in daily prayers at all meals as well as the liturgy. | Tuesday, May 19 - Friday, May 22, 2020 | ~\$450.00 |
| St. John Paul II CES Oakville | 8 | 64 | Ottawa, ON | This trip will enhance the students History, Geography, and Arts programs. The students will tour the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian War Museum, and the Supreme Court of Canada, to name a few. This tour will provide students the opportunity to explore the cultural and political aspects of our nation's capital. Staff and students will receive a guided tour and attend Mass at Notre Dame Basilica. | Wednesday, June 10 - Friday, June 12, 2020 | ~\$826.00 |

Construction Report - February 2020



Construction Update

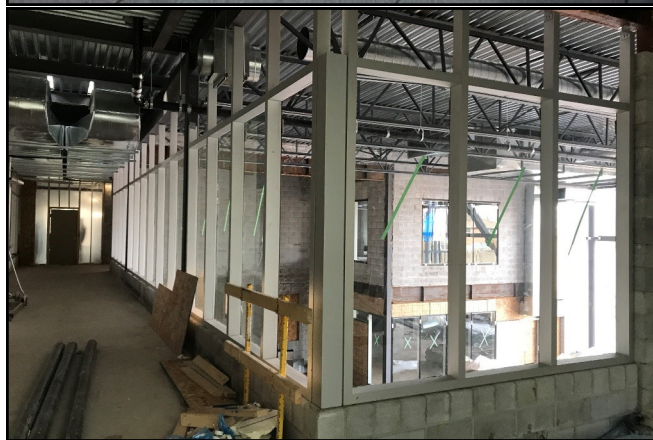
- The pictures above were taken on February 13, 2020. The top picture shows painted gym game lines. The bottom picture shows the completed library.
- Work completed included gym and library flooring, gym operable partitions and gym equipment installation.

Schedule Update

- Atrium millwork.
- Retaining wall installation.

If you have any comments or questions about the new school, please contact Toni Pinelli, Superintendent of Education, at (905) 632-6300 ext. 181 or email pinellit@hcdsb.org. For school construction information contact Ryan Merrick, Superintendent, Facility Management Services, at (905) 632-6300 ext. 171 or email merrickr@hcdsb.org.

Construction Report - February 2020



Construction Update

- The pictures above were taken on February 12, 2020. The top-left picture shows installed curtain wall on west elevation of the addition. The top-right picture shows the completed roofing assembly. The bottom-left picture shows ongoing fence installation. The bottom-right picture shows installed interior glass on the second floor walkway.
- Work completed included electrical wiring, roof drains, roofing and some window installation.

Schedule Update

- 3rd floor concrete topping
- Window completion
- Spray foam insulation
- Painting

If you have any comments or questions about the new school, please contact Stephany Balogh, Superintendent of Education, at (905) 632-6300 ext. 120 or e-mail baloghs@hcdsb.org. For school construction information contact Ryan Merrick, Superintendent, Facility Management Services, at (905) 632-6300 ext. 171 or e-mail merrickr@hcdsb.org.

Construction Report - February 2020



Construction Update

- The pictures above were taken on February 12, 2020. The top-left picture shows load bearing walls in the new cafeteria. The top-right picture shows installed windows in the classroom addition. The bottom-left picture shows floor topping being poured in the classroom addition. The bottom-right picture shows ongoing footings in the childcare addition.
- Work completed included some structural steel, mechanical & electrical rough-in and roof parapets.

Schedule Update

- Classroom addition spray foam insulation.
- Cafeteria concrete floor slab.
- Child care centre load bearing masonry walls.

If you have any comments or questions about the new school, please contact Lorrie Naar, Superintendent of Education, at (905) 632-6300 ext. 135 or e-mail naarl@hcdsb.org. For school construction information contact Ryan Merrick, Superintendent, Facility Management Services, at (905) 632-6300 ext. 171 or e-mail merrickr@hcdsb.org.