

REPORT TITLE:	<b>NORTH EAST BARRIE BOUNDARY REVIEW</b>
REPORT NUMBER:	8. 2) 24-2012
DESTINATION:	Board Meeting #24
DATE:	Wednesday, November 28, 2012
AUTHOR OF REPORT:	Glenn Clarke, Controller of Plant Steve Charbonneau, Superintendent of Schools
TYPE OF REPORT:	<b>Information</b>

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### **Background:**

1. A Boundary Review Committee (BRC) was initiated for the review of school boundaries related to the North Barrie PAR recommendations. The group of schools included for this review was: Monsignor Clair Catholic School (MCL), and St. Monica's Catholic School (SMO).

### **Comments**

2. Since October 2012, the BRC has met on three occasions. During the first meeting with the above group, the overall objectives of the Boundary Review and the related process were shared with the representatives from the school communities. The need for the boundary review was outlined and information was provided with regards to the current enrolment and capacity situation at all four north Barrie elementary schools. Information was also shared on the North Barrie Pupil Accommodation Review. The group looked at pupil distribution and municipal development information, as well as community associations to guide discussions around the boundary adjustments. The enrolment projections for this area were updated by The Ammendolia Group. The group then entered into general discussions around proposed boundary changes and specifically considerations of the concept that was shared as part of the North Barrie PAR.

4. The proposed boundaries and other supporting information were then presented to the two school communities at an Open House held at St. Monica's Catholic Elementary School on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The school communities were asked for their input on the proposed boundaries. Those comments were compiled and shared with the BRC on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. In response to some of the comments received, the date for providing input was extended to November 9, 2012 and comment sheets were sent out again through the MCL school community. A final meeting with the BRC was held on November 12, 2012.

5. A summary of the issues and concerns that were raised through the Open House as well as from input received following the Open House is attached (*Appendix A*).

6. It is very important to recognize that the Committee carefully considered the options. In the Committee's discussion on changes to the boundaries, the potential impact to families was emphasized.

7. Similar to our previous boundary reviews, upon approval of the boundary, planning staff will coordinate the implementation of the new boundary, including advising the schools, school communities, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium and other Board administration. The proposed option, which includes the closure of the eight classrooms at MCL, would also require Ministry of Education approval for use as a Board Office.

8. The attached summary (*Appendix B*) includes the recommendations provided by the Boundary Review Committee, with the supporting documentation (*at Appendices C and D*). The recommendations were reached after very careful consideration of the input received.

9. The Committee's work has resulted in the recommendation of a boundary option that has given consideration to the overall objectives of our boundary review process as well as in response to the motion of the Board on the North Barrie PAR considerations.

**Conclusion:**

10. This report is provided for information of the Board at this time. Additional work is being done on the corresponding facility issues that were part of the North Barrie PAR as well as the Boundary Review for the northwest Barrie schools.

11. A recommendation will be available for the Board's consideration at the Board meeting in February 2013.

**Northeast Barrie Boundary Review 2012/13  
MCL/SMO**

**Summary of Input Received**

- Total of 41 Families affected by geographical boundary change;
- Total of 27 families affected by boundary exemption change;
- Received input from 59 families including:
  - 37 families affected by boundary exemptions;
  - 10 families affected by the geographical boundary change;
  - 12 families with general comments

**Input received from MCL School Community**

- Is this review the start of the eventual closure of MCL?
- Can the Board be upfront with their short and long term plans for MCL? – if the school is eventually to close it may be better to do that now
- Can MCL remain status quo until a final decision is made on whether or not MCL will remain open long term?
- Area that is being proposed to move was moved from SMO 10 years ago to alleviate crowding there – will there be another reverse in 10 years?
- Grandfathering should be allowed for Grades 7 & 8
- With the reduced amount of space at MCL there will be no extra spaces to work with students
- Why are each of the scenarios trying to reduce the enrolment at MCL? – won't this have a negative effect on that school?
- Would prefer scenario #2 since even though we live on the south side of Hwy 400 we have established MCL as our home school
- The scenario that affects the least amount of people is by using available space in all buildings by board staff and splitting consultants in different buildings rather than shifting the impact on students and their families

- MCL should not be changed – there should be stability for children – this suggestion should not even be a consideration in a Catholic society – there is plenty of office space in Barrie and based on our taxes money should not be an issue
- Boundary review should not be completed until the PAR process has reached a final decision
- Boundary exemptions should be allowed to continue as the enrolment adjustments needed are achieved by making the geographical boundary change for the area south of Hwy 400
- Should not include adjustment of boundary exemptions – understand position if based on no new exemptions being granted
- Families on exemptions should be given some time to make other arrangements
- Want stability for families – whether they are boundary exemptions or not
- If changes approved will consider changing to the area public schools
- Can the needs for Board office space be addressed by utilizing existing surplus classroom spaces and not adjusting to accommodate at MCL
- If the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of MCL is to be used for Board offices the issues surrounding the co-location with the school need to be carefully looked at (security, parking, etc) – can the school community provide input on the proposed design?
- Concern that the impact to the students is not the focus of this review – does this reflect the Board's Catholic values?

### **Input received from MCL School Community with the extension deadline to November 9, 2012:**

- Support proposal to leave geographic boundaries as status quo
- Remove students on boundary exemptions
- Would be closer to MDY than SMO
- Moving to SMO would require new childcare
- Not able to participate in extra curricular
  
- Uproot children and friendships for sake of money and board office space
- Families will move to public schools
  
- Boundary exemptions not necessary

- Wait for PAR decision – does hybrid option require boundary changes?
  - Not respecting morale
  - Disrupting students not necessary
  - Change bus routes based on natural geographic boundary
  - Neighbourhood that was originally at SMO would be returning to “grass routes”
  - Suggest that SCSTC recognize whole neighbourhood for boundary changes
- 
- Daughter struggles in school
  - Move would be detrimental to daughter
  - Friendship with special needs child important to continue
  - Would consider public board
- 
- Review has more to do with board’s plan to close MCL for office purposes
  - Negative and disruptive impact for students
  - Friendships, comfort, relationships with teachers
  - Significant change could have long term effects
- 
- Disruptive to children
- 
- Does not seem beneficial to community
  - Perception to evacuate students to justify future closure to become board office
  - Whole PAR process unfavourable
  - Consider moving child to public board
- 
- Stress for children remaining at MCL that they will be next
  - Extra security for repurpose of classrooms to Board office
  - Short term solution – will go through this again in a few more years
  - Do not want to spend next nine years worrying about the following year
  - Is the board saving that much money as a result of changes?

- Best interests of children?
- School already has issues with parking
- Move board office to MDY
- Shame if grade 7 & 8 students could not complete their education with their peers
- Would like to see all buses moved to SMO
- Allow boundary exemptions to stay at MCL
- Do not see need to revoke exemptions
- Propose geographical boundary children will give MCL necessary space for hybrid option
- 3 children – moved one block from MCL boundary in SCD boundary – exemption granted to continue to attend MCL
- Faith knows no boundaries
- Do not agree with proposed boundary scenarios
- Address PAR before boundary changes
- Community support of families suffering tragedy
- Removing exemptions for MCL only not fair
- If numbers continued to go low enough, the board will take over more than second floor
- Full day on-site daycare at MCL
- Important to have participation of board of trustees in decision making process
- Will move children to public board
- Practices faith at home and at parish
- Special needs (autism)
- Currently doing well at MCL school
- Big change could be too much for him

- Would like daughter to stay at MCL – been there 6 years
- 10 years ago children’s school changed from SMO to MCL through boundary review
- Boundary changes should be rare and non-reactionary
- Inclusion of students with boundary exemptions a poor idea – chose Catholic education and drive many kilometers for children to attend MCL – may lose them from Catholic board
- Welcome everywhere except where you want to send your children
- Eliminate Bell Farm location on backs of students and parents
- If forced to choose, choose a boundary review and shift of students as in scenario #1 – not ideal but provides shifting of balance that was created 10 years ago

**Input received from SMO School community**

-this seems to be a well thought out boundary adjustment

-parent input should continue to be part of this process

## **NORTH EAST BARRIE BOUNDARY REVIEW – Fall 2012** **MONSIGNOR CLAIR & ST. MONICA’S**

### **BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The BRC has come to general consensus with the following recommendations:

#### **i. Boundary Scenarios:**

- a) *As a result of the recommendation of the Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) process, the Boundary Review Committee is recommending Scenario #3. (see attached map)*
- b) *The timing of the boundary implementation will be tied to the PAR recommendations and its timing.*

#### **ii. Boundary Exemptions:**

- a) *The current accommodation objectives and the potential capacity limitations in area schools will necessitate that existing exemptions be extended only in exceptional circumstances.*
- b) *All existing boundary exemptions at Monsignor Clair will be reviewed. Extensions to current exemptions will be reviewed on a case by case basis, in consideration of exceptional circumstances.*
- c) *All existing boundary exemptions at St. Monica’s will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis (in accordance with the School Boundaries and Boundary Exemptions Policy & Procedures).*
- d) *Consideration for any new requests for Boundary Exemptions will be submitted to the Principal for review (in accordance with the School Boundaries and Boundary Exemptions Policy & Procedures).*
- e) *Monsignor Clair boundary exemptions could have the option to request a boundary exemption to attend other Catholic schools instead of their home school.*

#### **iii. Grandfathering:**

- a) *Based on the available capacity at Monsignor Clair, grandfathering will be considered for the current grade 7’s for their grade 8 year, along with their siblings, without transportation. This approval for siblings will be for a one year period.*

### **Recommendations**

That the Board approve the change of boundaries for Monsignor Clair and St. Monica’s Catholic Schools based on Scenario #3 as recommended by the Boundary Review Committee. Implementation of the boundaries will be dependent on the recommendations to be considered by the Board of Trustees in February 2013 regarding the North Barrie Pupil Accommodation Review.

That the Board approve the recommendation for confirming the current grandfathering of grade 7 students affected by the change (both students affected through geographical boundary change and boundary exemptions) as recommended by the Boundary Review Committee.



**NORTH EAST BARRIE BOUNDARY REVIEW PROCESS  
- MONSIGNOR CLAIR / ST. MONICA'S**

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY SCENARIOS**

**SCENARIO #1: Monsignor Clair Boundary Change to St. Monica's only**

Proposing 53 Monsignor Clair students residing south of Hwy #400 move to St. Monica's.

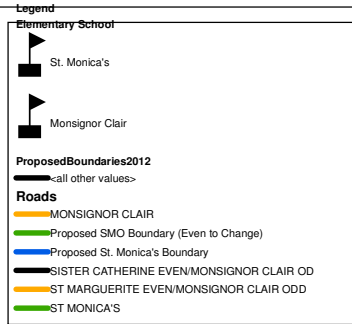
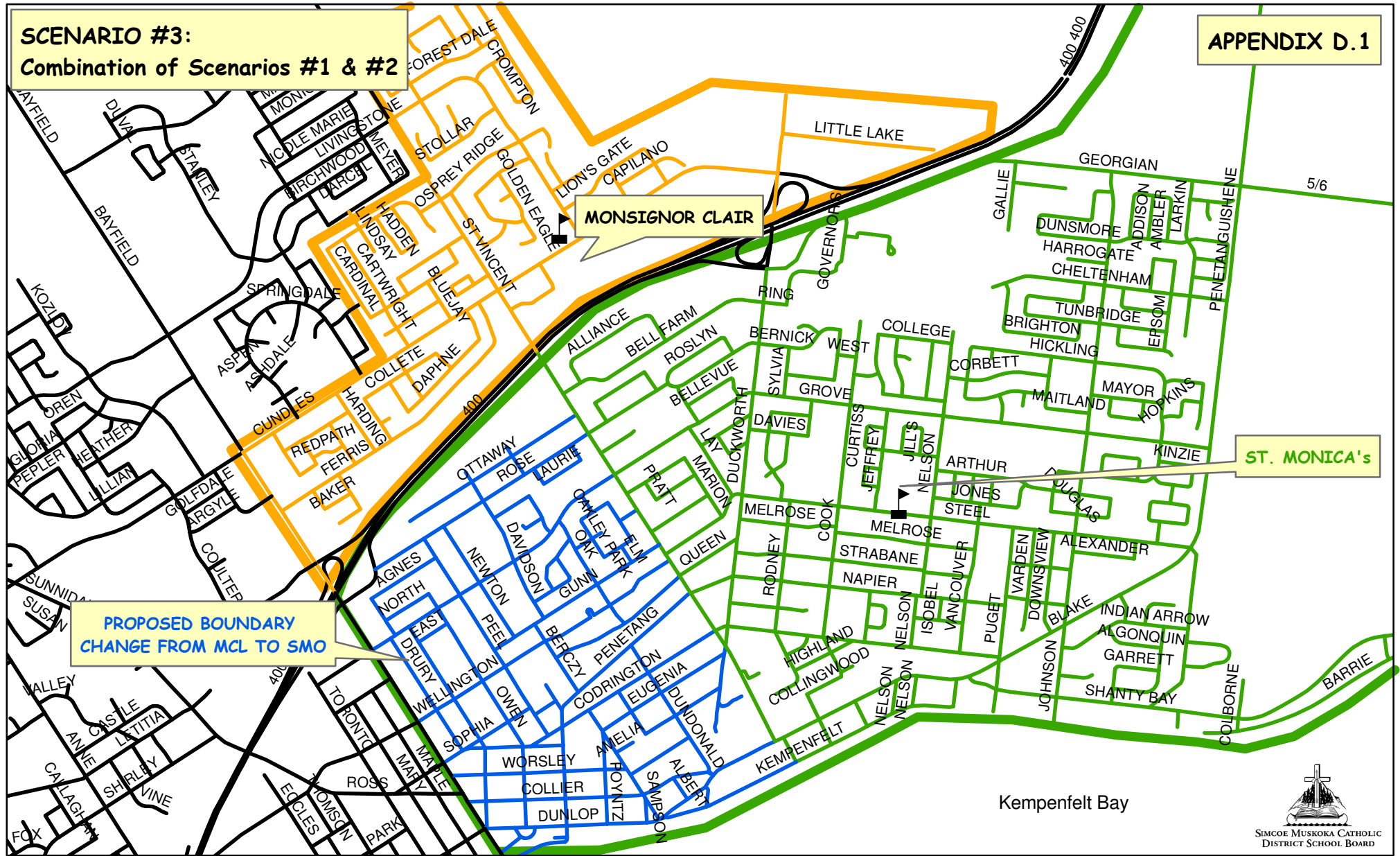
**SCENARIO #2: Remove Monsignor Clair Boundary Exemption students only**

Proposing the 43 Monsignor Clair boundary exemption students be directed to return to their original home school. 11 of these 43 students reside within the St. Monica's boundary and 17 of these students reside within the Sister Catherine Donnelly boundary.

**SCENARIO #3: Boundary Change & Boundary Exemption students removed from Monsignor Clair combined**

Proposing a combination of #1 and #2 Scenarios, which identifies the 53 Monsignor Clair students residing south of Hwy #400 move to St. Monica's as well as directing the 43 Monsignor Clair boundary exemption students to return to their home school.

**SCENARIO #3:**  
**Combination of Scenarios #1 & #2**



**NORTH EAST BARRIE BOUNDARY REVIEW**  
**PROPOSED BOUNDARY SCENARIO #3**



Proposed St. Monica's Boundary  
 Created on: November 1, 2012  
 Student Data as of: October 2, 2012

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**NORTH EAST BARRIE BOUNDARY REVIEW PROCESS**

**- MONSIGNOR CLAIR / ST. MONICA'S**

**ENROLMENTS AND CAPACITY COMPARISON BASED ON ORIGINAL BOUNDARY AND SCENARIO #3**

**Updated November 22, 2012**

**ORIGINAL BOUNDARY:**

School	Enrolment 2012/13 (Bodies)	OTG (Capacity)	% Capacity
Monsignor Clair	351	483	73%
St. Monica's	315	486	65%
Review Area Total	666	969	69%

**SCENARIO #3: Boundary Change & Boundary Exemption students removed from Monsignor Clair combined**

School	Current Capacity			Revised Capacity with Full Day KG & 8 reduced classrooms at MCL			
	Enrolment 2012/13 (Bodies)	OTG (Capacity)	% Capacity	8 Classroom Reduction	Capacity increase due to FDK	Revised OTG	% Capacity
Monsignor Clair	255	483	53%	184	18	317	80%
St. Monica's	379	486	78%	0	12	498	76%
Review Area Total	634	969	65%	184	30	815	78%

*NOTE: MCL has 3 existing KG classrooms  
SMO has 2 existing KG classrooms*