

## **DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**REPORT TO:** Durham District School Board **DATE:** October 17, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Clara Hughes PS – Boundary Review **PAGE:** 1 of 8

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### **1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with information on the public consultation and boundary review process for Clara Hughes Public School (PS) in accordance with the Durham District School Board's (DDSB) School Boundaries Regulation due to ongoing accommodation pressures. The boundary review process is scheduled to begin in fall 2022. The new Clara Hughes Public School boundary would be effective for the 2023-2024 school year pending approval by the Board of Trustees at the conclusion of the boundary review process.

### **2.0 Ignite Learning Strategic Priority/Operational Goals**

**Well-being** – *Create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces to promote well-being for all students and staff.*

### **3.0 Background**

Clara Hughes PS opened in 2014 with a Ministry Rated Capacity (MRC) of 490 pupil places offering a Junior Kindergarten – Grade 8 regular program and child care centre. Increasing enrolment has required the use of portables. In the 2021-2022 school year, 12 of the 13 portables on site were being used. For the 2022-2023 school year, an additional 2 portables were added to the site, with all 15 portables being used for regular classroom instruction. The site can accommodate a maximum of 18 portables.

#### **3.1 Overview**

Clara Hughes PS is located in a mature neighbourhood with a school site of 5.68 acres and a large enrolment boundary (see Appendix A). All enrolment projections consider all students who are currently in virtual learning and students who are attending in-person learning within the school's boundary.

The Clara Hughes PS neighbourhood has experienced and continues to experience a regeneration with new families moving into the area, resulting in enrolment pressures. Families have been attracted by the newer school and child care centre, and relative affordable housing prices in comparison to other areas in the Greater Toronto Area. In addition, most of the schools in the area do not have a child care centre which is key to this school and neighbourhood.

### 3.2 Growth

Enrolment growth within the Clara Hughes PS boundary is from migration into the area (people moving into existing homes) and infill development. Enrolment resulting from new development is factored into the Board's enrolment projections based on information provided in registered plans of subdivision. The development at the former Dr. F. J. Donevan CI site (250 Harmony Road South, Oshawa) is a 241-block townhouse development which is expected to net approximately 82 students for the DDSB over 7 years. This is included in the enrolment projections for the school.

Although within the existing Clara Hughes PS enrolment boundary, the new development identified west of Ritson Road, north of Olive Avenue and south of Bruce Street, and any other registered plans of subdivision are currently allocated towards enrolment projections for Village Union PS to alleviate the accommodation pressures at Clara Hughes PS. Future growth in this area would be monitored by Planning over the coming years (6-8) prior to any decision being made on future accommodation needs in this area should the Clara Hughes PS boundaries be modified.

In 2020, the Region of Durham released its proposed policy direction for Major Transit Station Areas (MTSA). One of the stations would be located at the Central Oshawa GO Station north of Highway 401. It is adjacent to the downtown Oshawa Regional Centre/Urban Growth Centre and includes a high and low-density residential development as part of the plan. This is a key component of Envision Durham, the Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) of the Regional Official Plan (ROP). The DDSB is taking into consideration future enrolment projections, as a result of this MTSA and planned development.

In the Ministry of Education's 2021 Capital Priorities request for school capital funding, a 138-pupil place, 6-room addition and child care expansion for Clara Hughes PS was submitted; however, it was not approved for funding. The proposal was resubmitted in the recent 2022 Capital Priorities request as a larger 192-pupil place, 8-room addition (2 Kindergartens and 6 classrooms) and child care expansion but was not approved. Planning staff increased the size of the addition for the 2022 submission given the growing enrolment pressures at the school.

The facility's current MRC is 490 pupil places which is calculated with Kindergarten loaded at 26 students and classrooms at 23 students. The school has 4 purpose-built Kindergarten rooms and for 2022-2023, 7 Kindergarten classes will be in operation. Of these kindergarten classes, two classrooms were originally designated as Special Education rooms and one regular classroom. All Kindergarten classes will be located on the first floor.

### 3.3 Enrolment Pressures

Clara Hughes PS 2022 Official Enrolment Projection (OEP) 5-year projections (in-person and virtual learning) of:

Table 1

Clara Hughes P.S.  
 City of Oshawa  
 MRC: 490 pp

	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed
October 2021	874	178%	12
September 2022 (Preliminary)	900	184%	15
October 2022	913	186%	15
October 2023	944	193%	20
October 2024	971	198%	21
October 2025	982	200%	22
October 2026	981	200%	22

Exceeds maximum # of 18 Portables that could reasonably be accommodated on site

September 2022 Preliminary Actual Enrolments to be confirmed after October 31, 2022

Although virtual learning through DDSB@Home was available and remains available, very few parents/guardians in the Clara Hughes PS community selected this option. Based on current projections, it is expected that the school population will exceed the maximum number of portables allowed on the site (18 portables) in October 2023.

### 3.4 Staff Recommended Boundary Review Scenario for Community Consultation

Staff have recommended that a boundary review is required for the school and that it begin on October 18, 2022. The review will include consulting with the community on the realignment of boundaries between Clara Hughes PS and Village Union PS (See Appendix B for proposed realigned boundaries). The new boundaries for the two schools would be effective September 2023.

#### Scenario for Community Consultation:

For September 2023, it is proposed that all JK to Grade 7 students residing north of Olive Street and west of Central Park Boulevard South would attend Village Union PS instead of Clara Hughes PS. This area encompasses two study areas that have been established for facility planning purposes.

This approach was designed to not have a major impact for students in Grade 8 who are preparing to enter secondary school and may want to graduate from Grade 8 with their peers. It is contemplated that Grade 8 students be given the choice to remain at Clara Hughes PS or attend Village Union PS for their graduating year.

Based on this scenario, over the 4-year projection period beginning in 2023-2024, the number of portables required at Clara Hughes PS would decrease to approximately 6 by 2026-2027. A manageable enrolment pressure would continue to exist, however it alleviates the immediate need for an addition and could potentially reduce the size of the proposed addition. Staff intend to resubmit the proposal for an addition to the school in the next capital priorities request to the Ministry of Education.

Village Union PS currently has space available to renovate and utilize as additional elementary classrooms, given that it is located in the former Oshawa Central CI building. The existing enrolment boundary is set out in Appendix A.

Under this proposed scenario, the boundary realignment would result in approximately 9 additional rooms at Village Union PS being utilized by 2026-2027. This would fully utilize the existing space at Village Union PS if these rooms are opened up. Due to site impediments, it is not possible to place any portables on the Village Union PS site as the existing school was constructed on land that has been designated as a flood plain.

Table 2a – Anticipated Impact of the Boundary Realignment at Clara Hughes PS:

**Clara Hughes P.S.**

City of Oshawa

MRC: 490 pp

	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed
October 2021	874	178%	12
September 2022 (Preliminary)	900	184%	15
October 2022	913	186%	15
October 2023	679	138%	8
October 2024	662	135%	7
October 2025	636	130%	6
October 2026	631	129%	6
<i>September 2022 Preliminary Actual Enrolments to be confirmed after October 31, 2022</i>			

Table 2b – Scenario -Anticipated Impact of Boundary Realignment at Village Union PS:

**Village Union P.S.**

City of Oshawa

MRC: 549 pp

**Existing Situation - 2021-22**

**Scenario - 2023-24**

	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed	Total	Utilization	Additional Rooms Needed
October 2021	368	67%	-	368	67%	-
September 2022 (Preliminary)	353	64%	-	353	64%	-
October 2022	385	70%	-	385	70%	-
October 2023	389	71%	-	654	119%	5
October 2024	391	71%	-	700	128%	7
October 2025	396	72%	-	742	135%	8
October 2026	403	73%	-	753	137%	9

*September 2022 Preliminary Actual Enrolments to be confirmed after October 31, 2022*

The existing capacity of Village Union PS is 549 pupil places. School utilization calculations are based on projected enrolment under this scenario divided by the existing MRC of the school at 549 pupil places. Opening a maximum of 9 available rooms in the facility to accommodate the increased student body would increase the 549 pupil places to approximately 756 pupil places as formerly secondary classrooms are now utilized as elementary classrooms. As a result, the overall utilization of the facility would be reduced and hover at approximately 100% as the space used is “right sized”.

### 3.4.1 Other Boundary Revisions Examined:

Staff examined other boundary revisions in an attempt to address the growth at Clara Hughes PS:

1. Realign the enrolment boundaries between Clara Hughes PS and David Bouchard PS Regular Track program:

Considerations:

- David Bouchard PS is a 602-pupil place dual track school offering Regular and French Immersion programs.
  - The total enrolment at the school (excluding Special Education) is close to a 50/50 split of Regular and French Immersion programs
  - The available space at the school provides for enrolment growth, in the boundary area for French Immersion programs and for the Regular program, which has recently been a growing population in mature Oshawa neighborhoods.
  - For the 2022-2023 school year, the facility has two vacant classrooms.
  - There is insufficient space to accommodate part of the existing Clara Hughes PS students without placing portables on the David Bouchard PS site.
  - By considering realigning boundaries between Clara Hughes PS and Village Union PS, students within the community are accommodated in two schools instead of three schools.
  - During the past two years, there was a noticeable decline in the students attending French Immersion programs. In 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 there may be a French Immersion program enrolment increase as students continue to return to in-person learning. There is sufficient room at David Bouchard PS to accommodate an increase in French Immersion enrolment without creating an accommodation pressure.
2. To expand the proposed realignment of the boundaries between Clara Hughes PS and Village Union PS to relocate students from Clara Hughes PS to Village Union PS who are currently in JK to Grade 6, as well as incoming JK's, as of September 2023, who reside north of Olive Avenue, and west of Wilson Street. This area encompasses three study areas that have been established for facility planning purposes.

Considerations:

- Over the 4-year projection period beginning in 2023-2024, the number of portables required at Clara Hughes PS is anticipated to be reduced to 1 portable by 2026-2027.
- Under this scenario, Village Union PS would require approximately 14 additional rooms to be opened by 2026-2027. The school does not have the capacity to accommodate this change without displacing existing programs or major renovations and cannot accommodate portables on-site.
- The approach would redirect the enrolment pressure from the existing Clara Hughes PS to Village Union PS with no flexibility to address future growth within the Village Union PS attendance boundary.

### 3.5 School Community Concerns

There are concerns regarding the enrolment pressures at Clara Hughes PS and the increasing number of portables that are required to address this. The school was designed to accommodate 490 students but is projected to have over 900 students by October 2022. Traffic congestion and safety of students remains a concern with this many students attending the school while managing drop-off and pick-up at start and dismissal times. The increasing number of portables on site reduces the available playing field space for students. Additionally, the school has two recess periods in the morning and two in the afternoon to accommodate the over 900 students.

## 4.0 **Analysis**

### 4.1 Boundary Review Process

The DDSB School Boundaries Regulation outlines the parameters used for creating new and revising current school boundaries. The Regulation includes a consultation process to gather feedback from the community

### 4.2 Proposed Timing

A consultation period would begin on October 18, 2022 and end on January 13, 2023. Following consultation, a final recommendation report will be brought forward to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and for a decision at the February 20, 2023 Board Meeting.

Delaying the start of the boundary review process to January 2023 or later would further delay staff's ability to manage the increasing enrolment pressures at Clara Hughes PS and it would not be possible to implement any finalized boundary realignments for September 2023. Based on projected enrolment and if a solution is not implemented at Clara Hughes PS, 20 portables would be required for the school site. However, the site can only accommodate 18 portables.

If no changes are made to the boundaries, students would likely have to be temporarily redirected to nearby schools, outside of the existing Clara Hughes PS enrolment boundary.

## 5.0 **Financial Implications**

- Impact of transportation costs to be assessed.
- There would be renovation, furniture and equipment costs to convert classrooms at Village Union PS to accommodate elementary students.
- Staff will continue to submit to the Ministry of Education the request for Capital Funding for a future addition at Clara Hughes PS.

## 6.0 **Evidence of Impact**

Should boundary changes occur at Clara Hughes PS, there will be a noticeable reduction in enrolment pressures at Clara Hughes PS, a reduction in the number of portables on site, and a reduction of traffic congestion and safety concerns onsite. The increase in enrolment at Village Union PS would result in better utilization of vacant space in the building and both schools would reflect a better student population balance.

## 7.0 **Communication Plan**

The School Boundary Regulation is a community consultation process that includes a variety of communications including Board Reports, information posted on the DDSB's website, communications to parents/guardians through the affected school webpage, and electronic notices.

The process includes opportunities for the community of the affected schools to provide input through email, voicemail and surveys as well as webinars and School Community Council Executive meetings with affected schools.

All information will be summarized and provided to Trustees in a recommendation report.

A dedicated email address and phone line will be established as another means to gather community input.

Key dates for consultation as noted above are as follows:

October 2022:

- Information Report to Board to begin the consultation.
- A report and a PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the DDSB website under About DDSB, Boundary and Program Reviews section of the website (location TBD)
- Individual schools will receive communications regarding the Boundary Review Process.

Mid-October 2022 – Mid-January 2023:

- Community Consultation
  - Virtual meeting with School Community Council Executives.
  - On-line Public Open House (date to be determined and advertised).
  - An email and voice mail system will be made available for community input/feedback.
  - An online survey will be created for community input/feedback.
  - A webinar will take place to gather community input/feedback.

February 2023

- Final Recommendation report will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the February 20, 2023 Board meeting for their consideration

## 8.0 **Conclusion**

Over the past few years, Clara Hughes PS has been experiencing enrolment pressures which are projected to continue. This places increased safety and traffic congestion pressures on the school in addition to an inability to add further portables for September 2023.

A boundary review and adjustment pending trustee approval of Clara Hughes PS and Village Union PS will allow for enrolment relief at Clara Hughes PS for the 2023-2024 school year.

This report is provided to the Board of Trustees for information.

## 9.0 **Appendices:**

- Appendix A: Clara Hughes PS and Village Union PS - Existing Boundary Map  
Appendix B: Clara Hughes PS and Village Union PS Proposed Realigned Boundary Map

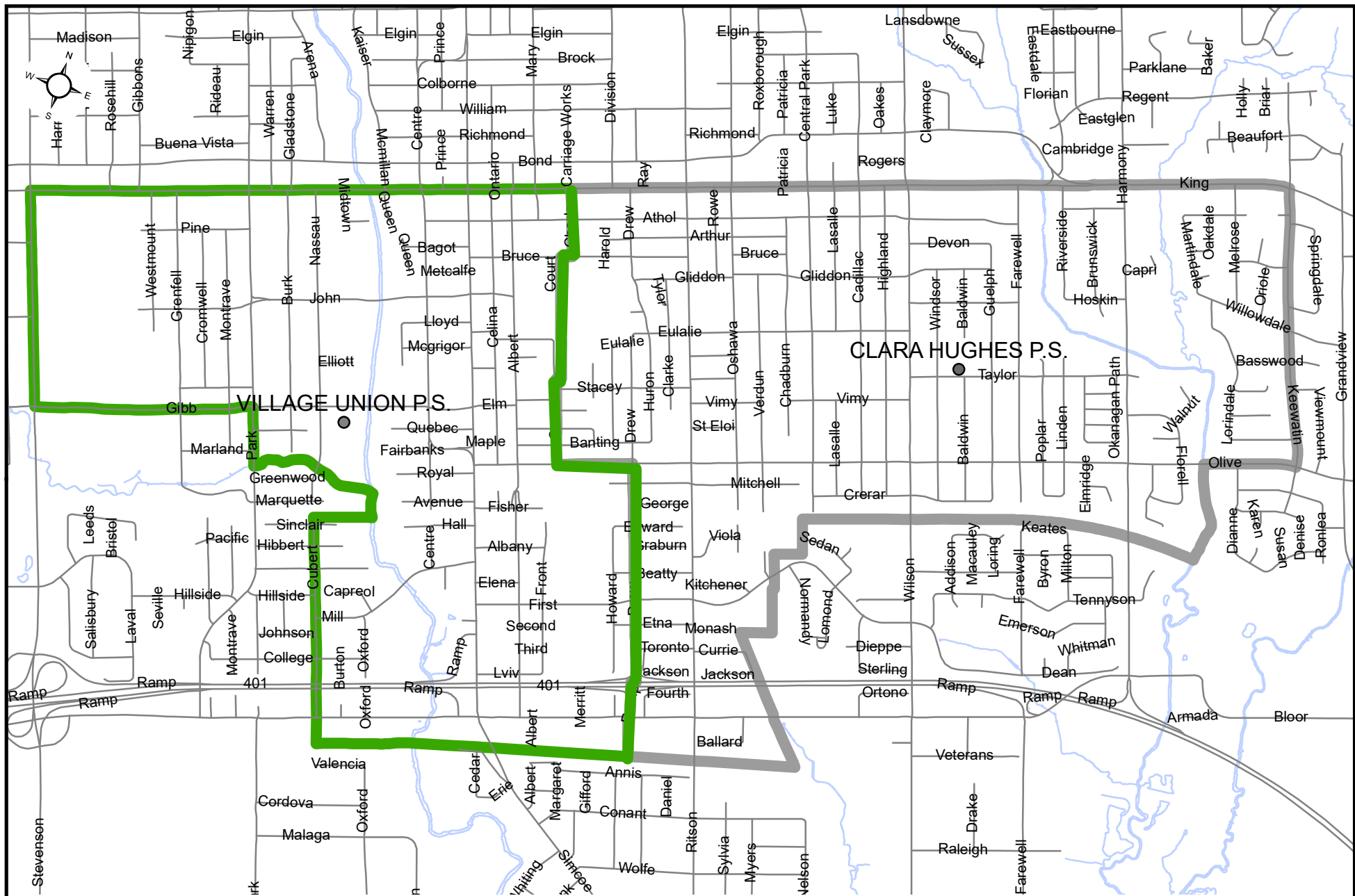
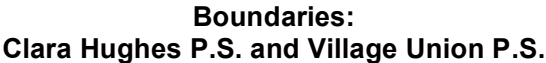
Report reviewed and submitted by:

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## Proposed Boundaries: Clara Hughes P.S. and Village Union P.S.

