

Unnamed Coughlan Public School Boundary Review Consultation

December 10, 2024

Land Acknowledgement

The Durham District School Board acknowledges that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships, both historic and modern, with the territories upon which our school board and schools are located. Today, this area is home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We acknowledge that the Durham Region forms a part of the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, the Mississauga Peoples and the treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. It is on these ancestral and treaty lands that we teach, live and learn.

This statement was co-created in partnership with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and the Chippewas of Georgina Island.

Indigenous Rights and Human Rights

The Durham District School Board recognizes Indigenous rights are distinct. In the exercise of those rights, Indigenous staff and students shall not be subjected to actions with the aim or effect of depriving these distinct rights.

The Durham District School Board is committed to providing learning and working environments that centre human rights and equity and are safe, welcoming, respectful, equitable, accessible, inclusive and free from all forms of discrimination, oppression, harassment and harm.

Agenda & Process - Virtual Public Meeting

- **Agenda:**

- Land Acknowledgement
- Indigenous Rights and Human Rights
- Presentation – Establishment of a Permanent Attendance Boundary for the Unnamed Coughlan Public School
- Community Questions & Answers
- Wrap up

- **Process:**

- Please use the Q&A button to type in your questions for everyone to view
- DDSB staff will use best efforts to respond within the Webinar either by messaging through the Q&A or responding live
 - Feel free to “like” a question using the Thumbs Up button
- All input received will be included in the Final Recommendation Report to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the February 18, 2025, Board Meeting

Overview

- An information report on the proposed boundary review for Unnamed Coughlan Public School was presented to Trustees at the October 21, 2024, Board Meeting.
 - The purpose of the report was to initiate the consultation process to gather community input on the proposed boundary for Unnamed Coughlan PS, located at Stannardville Drive and Hurst Drive, Ajax, scheduled to open for the 2025-2026 school year.
- An In-person Public Meeting was held to solicit public input on November 13, 2024, at 7pm. Notices of this meeting were provided on DDSB's and partner schools' websites. There were 28 attendees.
- Notices of tonight's virtual Public Meeting were provided on DDSB's and partner schools' websites.

Overview, Continued

- The Board Report, PowerPoint presentation, and a survey are posted to the DDSB's website and are accessible through the partner schools' websites (Eagle Ridge Public School, Alexander Graham Bell Public School, Valley Farm Public School and Valley View Public School) and DDSB@Home.
- Staff will collect feedback through email at CPSBoundaryReview@ddsb.ca, phone 905-666-6308 & survey at: <https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/HOA7gz> until January 10, 2025.
- All input will be summarized in the February 18, 2025, Recommendation Report to Trustees.
 - Trustees will make a decision about the permanent boundary at the February 18, 2025 Board Meeting.

Boundary Review

- Unnamed Coughlan Public School (CPS) received Ministry of Education Capital Priorities funding in 2020. The school is currently under construction and scheduled to open for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Unnamed CPS has a Ministry Rated Capacity (MRC) of 536 pupil places, will accommodate students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8, and includes a Child Care Centre.
- The neighbourhood is part of a greenfield development that attracts new families.
- Four partner schools, Eagle Ridge PS, Alexander Graham Bell PS, Valley Farm PS and Valley View PS have been accommodating the growth from the area until the school opens for the 2025-2026 school year.

Partner Schools

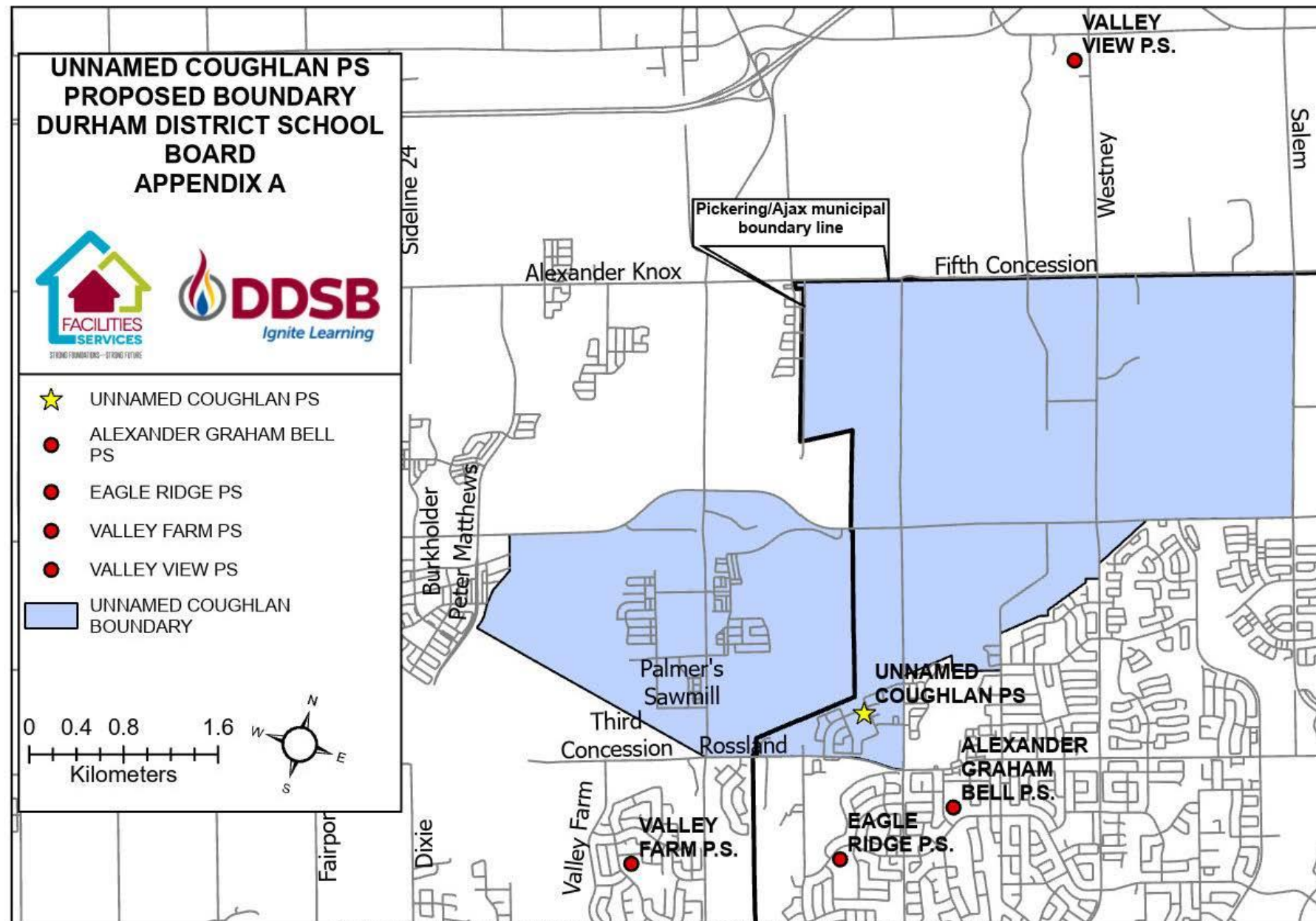
- Partner schools are determined based on factors including the following:
 - Space to accommodate students (in school, portables and site size)
 - Transportation (distance to school and space to accommodate buses)
 - Adequate parking and washrooms.
- Students and their siblings attend their designated partner school (as long as they remain at their current address) until such time as the new school is opened with a boundary in place.

Proposed Unnamed Coughlan PS Boundary For Consultation

- The proposed permanent boundary for CPS encompasses the area west of Salem Road, north of Rossland Road West, south of 5th Concession Road and east of Aquarius Trail.
- The proposed permanent boundary aligns with the multiple growth boundaries currently in place since development in the area began.
- For the 2025-2026 school year, the proposal includes JK to Grade 7 students residing within the proposed permanent boundary. Current Grade 7 students would be given the choice to remain at their designated partner school with transportation provided or transition to the Unnamed Coughlan PS for Grade 8.

Unnamed Coughlan PS Partner Schools and Growth Boundary

- The proposed permanent boundary of the Unnamed Coughlan PS would cross beyond the border of Ajax to include a portion of the Seaton Community in Pickering as it covers the area west of Salem Road, north of Rossland Road West, south of 5th Concession Road and east of Aquarius Trail.
 - The Pickering segment of the proposed permanent boundary is currently partnering at Valley Farm PS and Valley View PS.
 - The north part of the Ajax segment of the proposed permanent boundary is also currently partnering at Valley View PS.
 - The south part of the Ajax segment of the proposed permanent boundary is partnering at Eagle Ridge PS and Alexander Graham Bell PS.



This map has been produced from a variety of sources and contains public sector information made available under The Regional Municipality of Durham's Open Data Licence. The Durham District School Board has produced this map for reference purposes only.
Sources: "Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources 2020", 2020 Orthophotography provided by © First Base Solutions Inc.; 2019 Digital Terrain Elevation provided by © First Base Solutions Inc. All rights reserved.
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Unnamed Coughlan PS Enrolment Projections

- Based upon previous new DDSB school openings, a new facility attracts students from other sources, including other publicly funded schools, private schools and DDSB families within the proposed boundary. CPS will continue to attract new students as development in the area increases.
- Unnamed Coughlan PS, for the 2025-2026 school year, will open with portables. The number of portables at the current partner schools is anticipated to decrease.

Table 1 – 2025-2026 Projected Enrolment:

October 2025	Capacity	Total Enrolment	Utilization	Portables Needed
Unnamed Coughlan PS	536	736	137%	8
Alexander Graham Bell PS	512	555	108%	1
Eagle Ridge PS	435	431	99%	0
Valley Farm PS	674	561	83%	0
Valley View PS	167	160	96%	0

Impact on Partner Schools With Unnamed Coughlan PS Overview

- The opening of Unnamed Coughlan PS for the 2025-2026 school year will result in enrolment relief and the need for fewer portables at the four partner schools (Alexander Graham Bell PS, Eagle Ridge PS, Valley Farm PS, and Valley View PS).
- For the current school year, the four partner schools have a combined 29 portables on site.
- With the opening of Unnamed Coughlan PS, there is a potential to redirect 20 portables to address other accommodation pressures and ensure there are fewer students in alternative learning spaces.
- The four partner schools will be provided some relief; however, they may be required in future years to accommodate the current and planned growth in the area. In September 2025, Valley View PS will be a partner school for a growth boundary currently attending Claremont PS.

Considerations

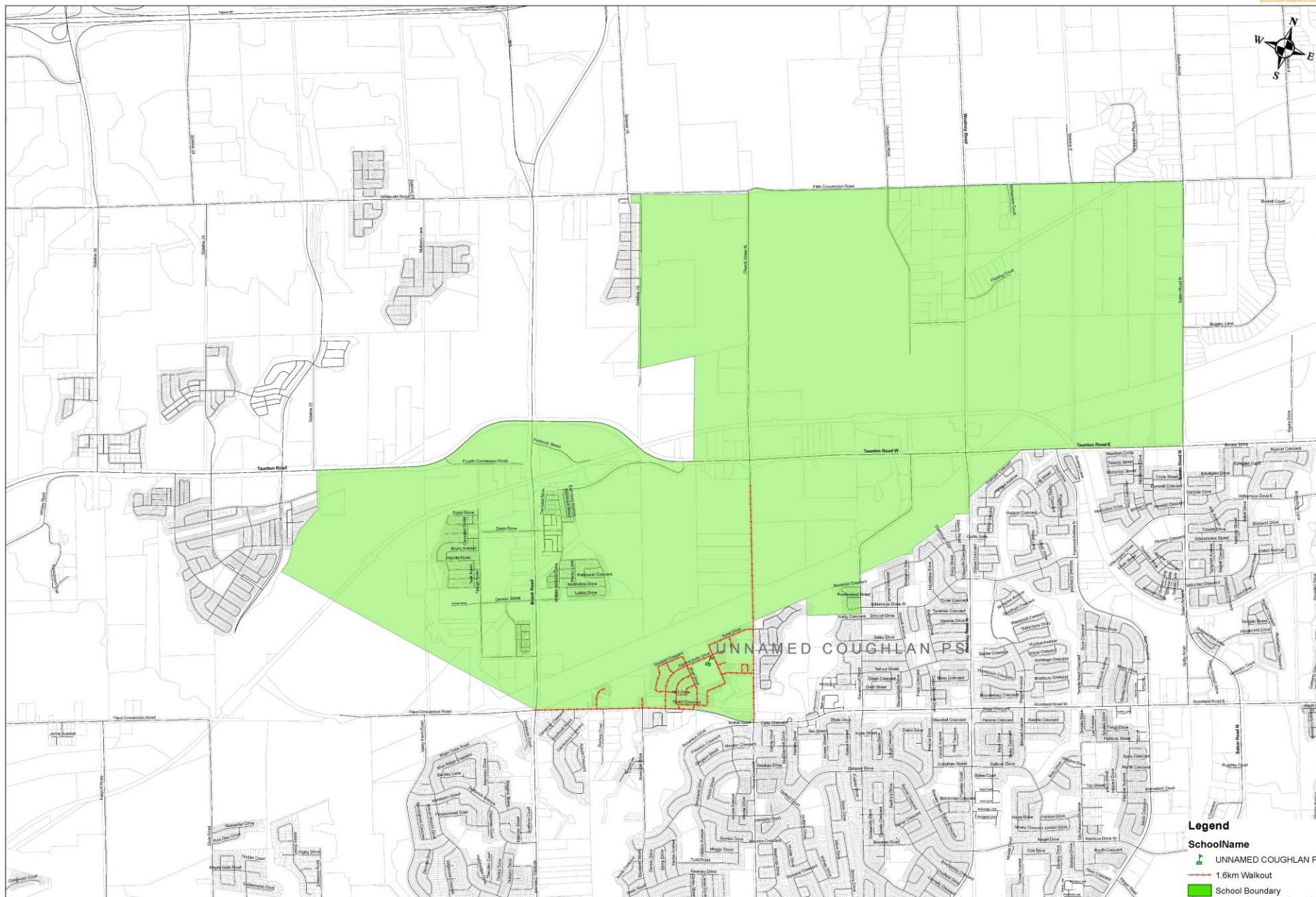
- DDSB recognizes that good mental health is an important foundation for achievement and well-being.
- Schools are an ideal place for mental health promotion, the prevention of mental health concerns, and the early identification of mental health concerns through school-based prevention and intervention services. Schools provide students with the knowledge and skills to be aware of, care for, and advocate for their own mental health and well-being.
- Changes because of the proposed boundary shifts will be a transition for students and families. With this on mind, the mental health and well-being of students and their caregivers who may be affected by these changes are among the district's leading considerations.
- DDSB will be intentional in the transition supports for all students impacted by the change. Relationship building and facilitating a sense of school community, connectedness and belonging across all learning spaces will be key commitments throughout this process.

Considerations 2

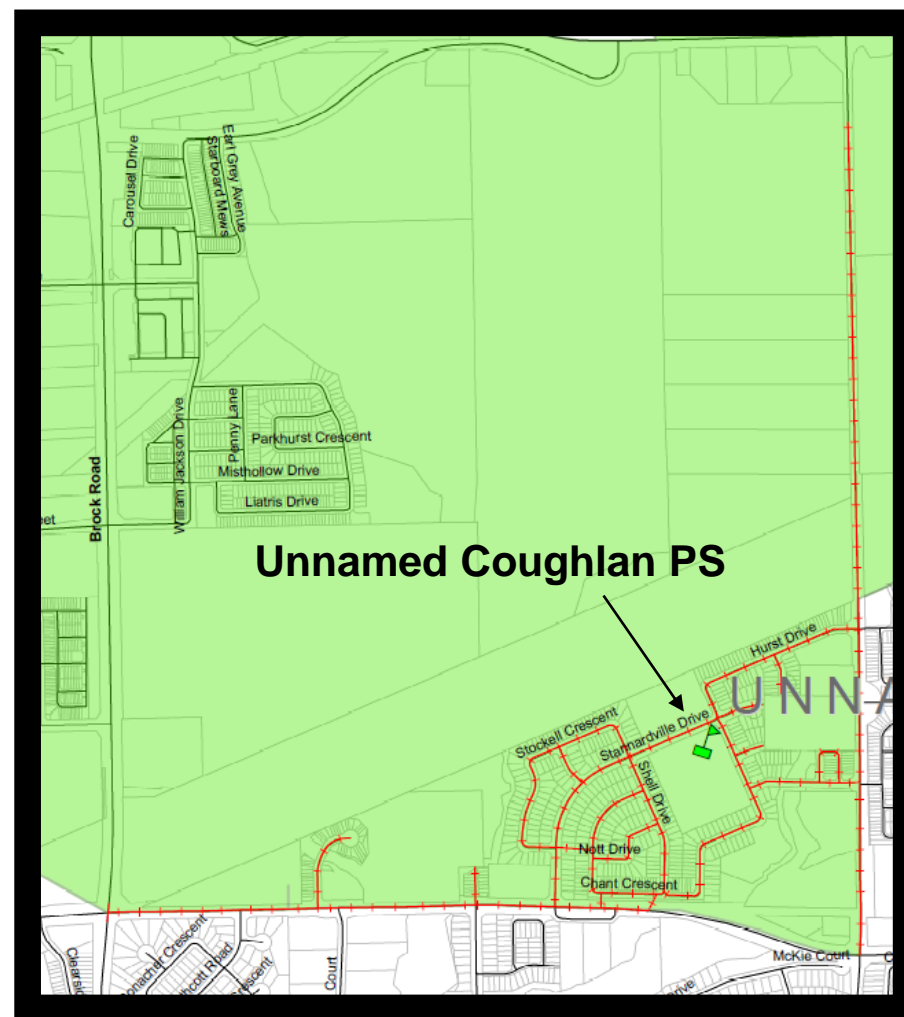
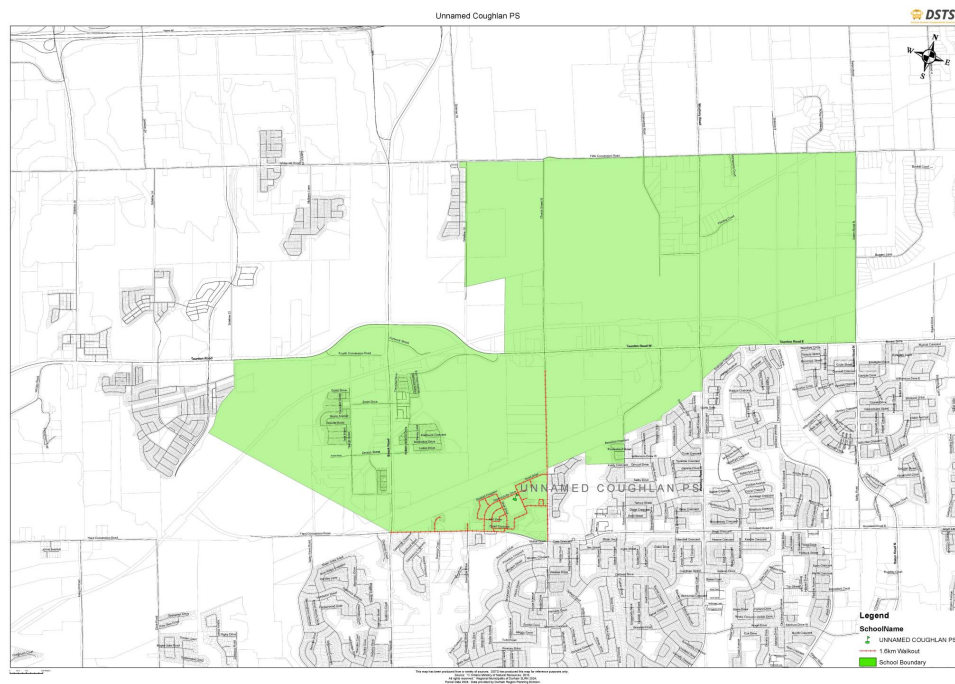
- Should the Board of Trustees approve this proposed Boundary realignment in February 2025 for implementation in September 2025:
 - Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) will identify bus routes;
 - There will be sufficient time for decisions to be made regarding the impact of staffing for Unnamed Coughlan PS and the four partner schools.

Considerations 2 – Cont'd

- Under the DSTS Transportation Policy, students residing more than 1.6 km from their designated school of attendance would be eligible for school bus transportation.
- The roads identified in red on the following slide reflect the 1.6 km walk distance based on the proposed permanent boundary under consideration for the Unnamed Coughlan PS.
- This analysis has been completed by DSTS based on the preliminary information available; the proposed walkout area may change once a decision is made by the Trustees.
- As more residential development is constructed within the proposed permanent boundary and as more homes are occupied, bus routes are expected to be revised.



This map has been produced from a variety of sources. DSTS has produced this map for reference purposes only.
 Sources: © Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2015
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 Period Date 2016. Data provided by Durham Region Planning Division.
 Walking Path Produced by DSTS Geo Planner Pro software. ©2016.



Red lines reflect the 1.6km walkout area from Unnamed Coughlan Public School as part of a preliminary analysis by DSTS

Considerations 3

- A child care centre is being constructed as part of the Unnamed Coughlan PS and will open in the 2025-2026 school year.
- A Child Care partner has already been identified for the school. Programs will support Infant, Toddler, Preschool, Kindergarten, and School-age children.
- Parents interested in child care at the Unnamed Coughlan PS should contact:

Fairy Glen Day Care Centres

Heather Mott, RECE (Executive Director)

Phone: 905-665-6689 ext. 102

Kindergarten Registration

- Kindergarten Registration for the 2025/2026 school year will open on **Tuesday, January 7th, 2025.**
- To register for Kindergarten, your child must:
 - be 4 years old by December 31 in the current year (Junior Kindergarten)
 - be 5 years old by December 31 in the current year (Senior Kindergarten)
- Families are encouraged to submit their registration early. Benefits for early registration include:
 - Earlier access to information and resources
 - Connection to the school community (i.e., invitation to school events)
 - Opportunities to meet with school teams (i.e., Kindergarten Team)

Kindergarten Transition: Information & Resources

Visit our Kindergarten webpage for additional information and resources:



DDSB Ignite Learning

Starting kindergarten is an exciting milestone for you and your child! Thinking about speech, language, hearing and literacy development is an important part of getting ready for school.

When starting kindergarten, most children

- are understood by others when talking,
- speak in complete sentences,
- have conversations,
- ask questions,
- follow directions about things they cannot see,
- play co-operatively with other children,
- join in when being read to and notice words in books and the environment.

Hearing and vision can change over time! Have your child's hearing and vision checked before school starts, even if they have previously passed screenings. This is especially important if your child

- does not turn towards or respond to sounds,
- often turns up the volume,
- frequently asks you to repeat yourself.

Contact your doctor if you need help finding professionals in your area.

If you have questions about your child's speech, language, or hearing,

- contact Grandview Kids right away to access preschool services.

grandviewkids.ca
905-728-1675

For more information and resources,

- check out the DDSB Speech, Language and Hearing Services page on our website.

ddsb.ca Early Years Inclusive STUDENT SERVICES

SPEECH LANGUAGE & HEARING
Ignite Learning

Community Input Received To Date

- **Comment:**

My two children currently attend Valley View public school and are expected to start at the new Unnamed Coughlan PS in 2025. I was wondering if there will be an option to stay at Valley View PS or will my children have to move to the new school.

Response:

- Transportation will be provided to students currently in Grade 7, if they choose to graduate with their peers at their current partner school.
- All other students will be transferred to their new school for the 2025-2026 school year. The DDSB's Out of Area Policy would apply to any students choosing to remain at their current partner school. In these cases, transportation would not be provided by DDSB.

Community Input Received To Date 2

- **Comment:**

Can I please suggest you consider offering full gifted program classes at the new Coughlan school? It would be nice to offer these classes at a new school with new infrastructure vs. only having AG Bell as the Ajax option for gifted classes. For my own family, it would benefit us so that my two kids can go to the same school (one is too young for gifted).

Response:

- Most students with accommodation plans receive support within regular classroom placements at their home school. DDSB offers a variety of special education programs to support student learning and well-being, including the Gifted program, which serve students from multiple school communities.
- The number and locations of these programs are reviewed annually, with adjustments made as needed. When a new school opens, DDSB considers students living within the attendance area who are already accessing special education placements as part of the planning process. All new schools include two purpose-built spaces to accommodate potential special education placements, either at opening or in the future.
- Currently, no changes are being considered for the locations of the Gifted Program. Any changes to the boundaries of current schools offering the Gifted Program would require a district-wide boundary review, in accordance with DDSB procedures.

Community Input Received To Date 3

- **Comment:**

How could DDSB make sure the new school won't be over-utilized too much, for example twice the capacity of the school? We have noticed there are bunch of development under constructions near the new school, which could generate a significant number of pupils.

Response:

- DDSB appreciates your concern. Funding for new school construction is based on evidence of the need for a school that would be utilized at 100% or more when considering the capacity of the school. Additionally, under current funding requirements, nearby schools must also be at 100% utilization or more within 5 years of the opening of a new school. Existing schools with available space, ability to site portables and in an optimum location for school bus transportation are always considered when DDSB identifies new partner schools for communities waiting for a new school. As new homes are occupied and enrolment increases, DDSB will submit funding requests to the Ministry of Education to build new schools.
- Staff expect that new schools may open with portables on site to accommodate the peak growth. The size of an elementary school considers stable enrolment within the community over a longer period of time.

Community Input Received To Date 4

- **Comment:**

We have been informed that after-school care will not be available until November at the earliest, pending licensing and other government related paperwork. Additionally, there seems to be no guarantee that the service will be operational even by that time. This issue is deeply concerning for families like ours who rely on after-school care as an essential service. A service disruption lasting two months or even longer would severely impact our ability to balance work and family responsibilities. We kindly ask for alternative arrangements or interim solutions to support families during this transition.

Response:

The DDSB appreciates the concerns families may have with the delay in the opening of the child care program at the new Unnamed Coughlan PS. In partnership with Fairy Glen Daycare, a decision has been made to delay the opening of the new program (infant, toddler, preschool, kindergarten, and school-age) until full occupancy has been granted for both the school and child care agency. Due to extensive licensing requirements for the operation of a child care program, full building occupancy is required.

Once occupancy has been obtained, Fairy Glen will be required to complete several mandatory inspections from multiple organizations (i.e., Public Health). Unfortunately, the timeline for this process is inconsistent and cannot be started until all other licensing requirements are completed. In addition, Fairy Glen must ensure there is adequate staffing in place to meet their high operating standards. Alongside Fairy Glen, the DDSB will continue to ensure that families are supported and quality child care provided.

Community Input Received To Date 5

- **Comment:**

What is the current status of the proposed new school located at Tillings Rd in Pickering?

Response:

- The site is owned by the City of Pickering, which has been rezoned to permit a public elementary school and a public park. Prior to selling the property the City of Pickering must meet certain Provincial requirements that remain outstanding. There is no specific timeline on when this site will be acquired.
- The community consultation currently underway includes families of students residing in the area around the Tillings Road site as this area forms part of the proposed permanent boundary for the Unnamed Coughlan PS.

Community Input Received To Date 6

- **Comment:**

My home address won't fall within the proposed permanent boundary of the new school, but wondering if an exception could be made so my daughter could go to the new school and stay together with her classmates?

Response:

- If the Board of Trustees approves the recommended permanent attendance boundary for the Unnamed Coughlan PS, students who want to attend the school but reside outside of the approved boundary, would be considered as out-of-area students. Under the DDSB's Out of Area Policy, an annual application would be made to the school for the student to attend the school. Approval is dependent on various factors including available space at the school. School bus transportation is not provided for out-of-area students.

Community Input Received To Date 7

- **Comment:**

I had mentioned that my street, Powlesland (and the crescent around it) have always been zoned for Eagle Ridge since it was built 14 years ago. The new school is not any closer to us than Eagle Ridge, so it is confusing why we are being rezoned. My children as well as all the other children on our street have attended Eagle Ridge for several years and love it. It seems unfair to pull them when their new school is still not close to home and they are required to take a bus but just in a different direction.

Response:

- DDSB staff will provide an impact analysis of your option and include it in the Final Recommendation Report for the Trustees.

Community Input Received To Date 8

- **Comment:**

Which high schools will Unnamed Coughlan PS students go?

Response:

- Students would either go to Pickering HS if they reside in Ajax or Pine Ridge SS if they reside in Pickering.

- **Comment:**

How about the bell time of the new Unnamed Coughlan PS?

Response:

A decision on bell times would be made after a permanent boundary for the Unnamed Coughlan PS is approved by the Board of Trustees at the February 18, 2025 Board Meeting.

Community Input Received To Date 9

- **Comment:**

If the enrolment number of the schools includes childcare pupils?

Response:

- Children attending daycare centres at schools are not included in the enrolment of the school. Daycare Centres may be physically located at DDSB schools; however, they are not operated by DDSB.

- **Comment:**

Are there any other school sites crossing the municipal boundary.

Response:

- DDSB has several schools where the attendance boundary crosses municipalities.

Communication Plan

- The Final Recommendation Report will take into consideration all community input presented to the Board of Trustees on February 18, 2025, where the Trustees will be considering the recommendation resulting from this consultation.
- Community Consultation started on October 22, 2024, and will end on January 10, 2025.
- Input to be received through various avenues:
 - SCC Executive Meetings – November 18 with Valley View PS's SCC Executive and November 21, 2024, with Valley Farm PS's SCC Executive.
 - In-person Public Meeting – November 13, 2024
 - Virtual Public Meeting - December 10, 2024
 - Email, Voicemail and Survey

Communication Plan 2

- The following are available at [Boundary and Program Reviews - DDSB](#)
 - Information Report to the Board of Trustees dated October 21, 2024
 - PowerPoint Presentation dated October 22, 2024
 - PowerPoint Presentation dated December 10, 2024
 - Newsletter (also available on four partner schools' websites)
- More information will be provided on DDSB's website as well as on the four partner schools' websites and DDSB@Home.

Communication Plan 3

- Staff will collect feedback until January 10, 2025, via:
 - Email at CPSBoundaryReview@DDSB.ca,
 - Phone line: 905-666-6308
 - Survey at: <https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/HOA7gz>

Conclusion

- The information contained in this presentation together with community input that is received will be included in a final report to Trustees to be considered by Trustees at the February 18, 2025, Board Meeting.
- The report will summarize all feedback collected and provide a recommended permanent attendance boundary for Trustees' consideration.

End Of Presentation