

Unnamed Pickering Seaton Public School Boundary Review Consultation

November 27, 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 Pickering Seaton 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
- The recording of the Webinar is not available; however, 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 Pickering Seaton Public School was presented to Trustees at the October 21, 2024, Board Meeting.
 - The purpose of the report was to initiate this consultation process to gather community input on the proposed boundary for Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS. The school is located at Burkholder Drive West and Azalea Avenue, Pickering, and is scheduled to open for the 2025-2026 school year.
- An In-person Public Meeting was held to solicit public input on November 5, 2024, at 7pm at Highbush PS. Notices of this meeting were provided on DDSB's and partner schools' websites. There were 5 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 Board website and are accessible through the partner schools' websites (Westcreek Public School, Elizabeth B. Phin Public School, and Highbush Public School) and DDSB@Home.
- Staff will collect feedback through email at PSPSBoundaryReview@DDSB.ca, phone 905-666-6473 & survey at: <https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/FqfGg8> 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 Pickering Seaton Public School (PSPS) received Ministry of Education Capital Priorities funding in May 2022. The school is currently under construction and scheduled to open for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Unnamed PSPS has a Ministry Rated Capacity (MRC) of 634 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.
- Three partner schools; Highbush PS, Westcreek PS, and Elizabeth B. Phin 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 open with a boundary in place.
- Details of the three partner schools are as follows:
 - Highbush PS was identified as the first partner school during the 2019-2020 school year until June 2022. The school has again been identified as the partner school for 2024-2025, until the new school opens in September 2025.
 - Westcreek PS was the second partner school and accommodated new students from the PSPS area from September 2022 and until June 2023.
 - Elizabeth B. Phin PS was identified as the third partner school until June 2024.

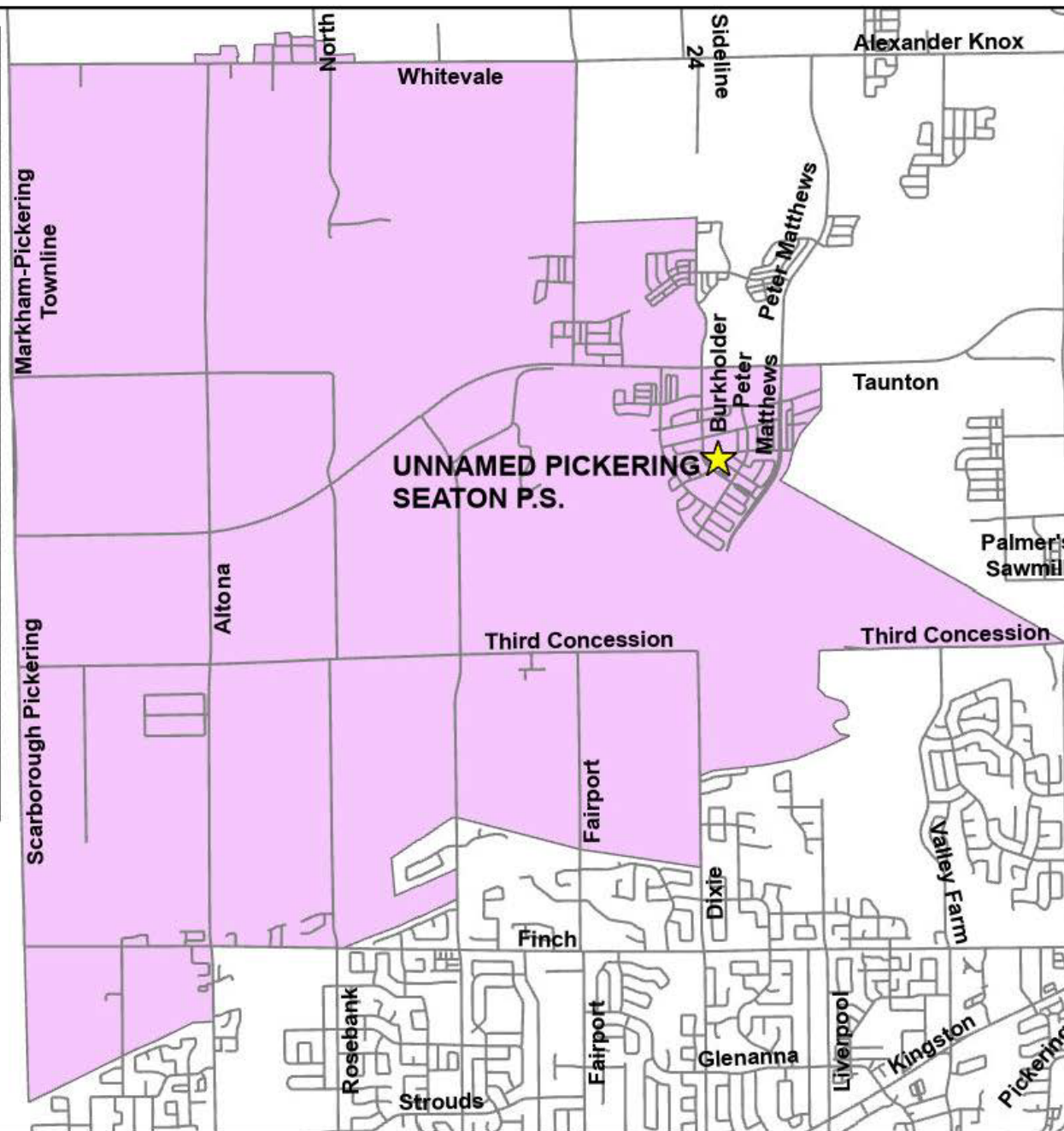
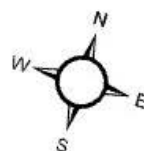
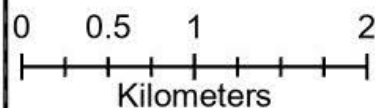
Proposed Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS Boundary For Consultation

- Unnamed Pickering Seaton's proposed boundary encompasses the area west of Peter Matthews Drive, north of the Hydro Corridor, south of Whitevale Road and east of Scarborough-Pickering Townline/Markham-Pickering Townline Road (York-Durham Line).
- The proposed boundary aligns with the current growth boundary in place since the development in the area began.
- For the 2025-2026 school year, the proposal includes JK to Grade 7 students residing within the proposed boundary. Current Grade 7 students would be given the choice to remain at their designated partner school for Grade 8 with transportation provided or transition to the Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS for Grade 8.

UNNAMED PICKERING SEATON PS PROPOSED BOUNDARY DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPENDIX B



- ★ UNNAMED PICKERING SEATON PS
- UNNAMED PICKERING SEATON BOUNDARY



Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS Enrolment Projections

- The proposed Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS community has no existing schools and therefore staff, based upon past school openings, expect Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS to attract over 100 new students per year as new homes continue to be occupied.
- Unnamed Pickering Seaton 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	Enrolment	Utilization	Portables
Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS	634	808	127%	5
Highbush PS	610	441	72%	0
Westcreek PS	426	348	82%	0
Elizabeth B. Phin PS	400	561	140%	6

Impact on Partner Schools With Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS Overview

- The opening of Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS for the 2025-2026 school year will result in enrolment relief and the need for fewer portables at the three partner schools (Highbush PS, Westcreek PS, and Elizabeth B. Phin PS).
- For the current school year, the three partner schools have a combined 19 portables on site.
- With the opening of Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS, there is a potential to redirect 8 portables to address other accommodation pressures and ensure there are fewer students in alternative learning spaces.
- The three partner schools will be provided some relief; however, they may be required in future years to accommodate the current and planned growth in Pickering.
- In the Pickering Seaton Area, as of June 2024, more than 1,800 homes, out of an estimated 20,000 future homes, have been built. Over 3,000 building permits have been issued for the construction of additional homes in the near future.

Considerations - 1

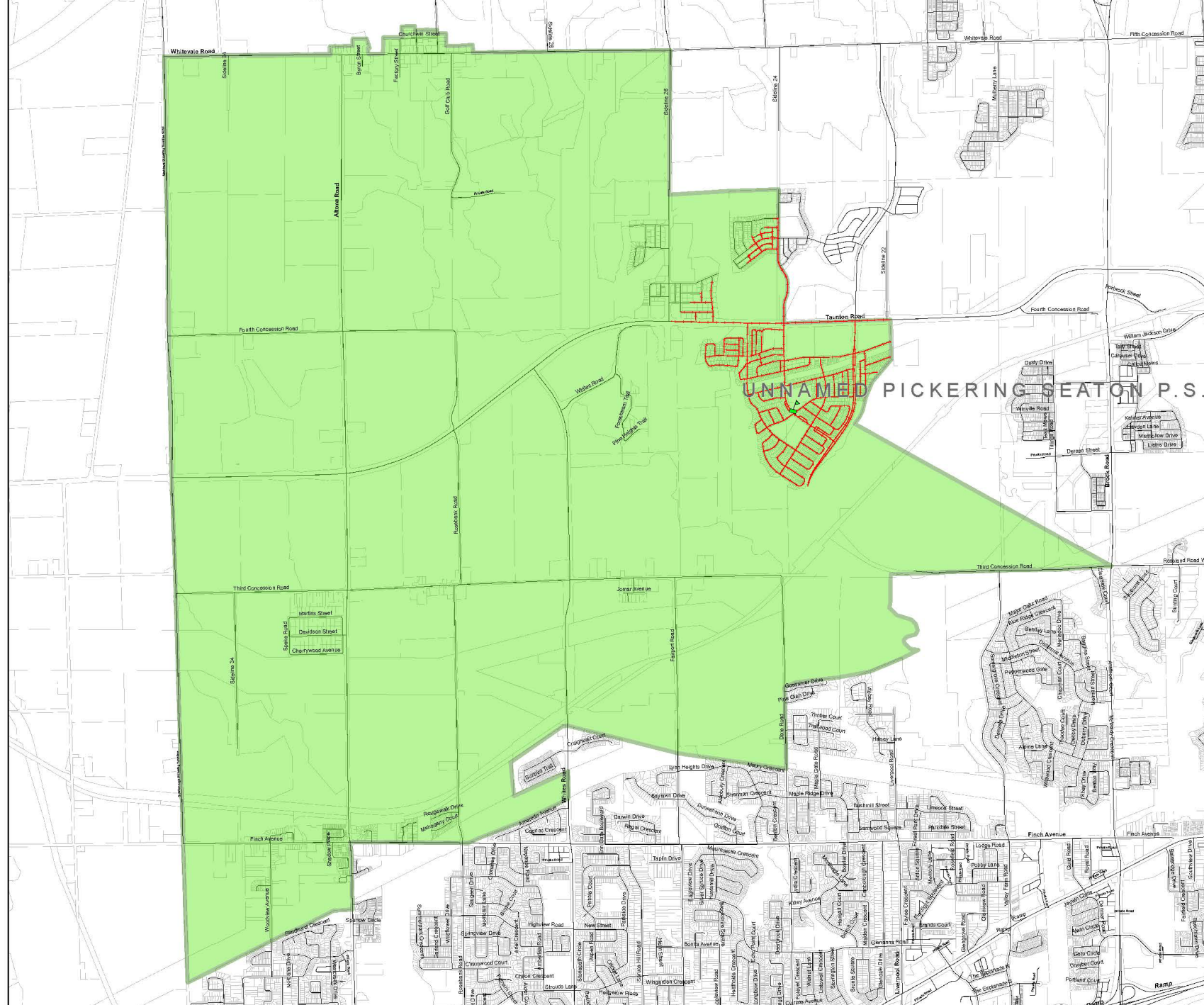
- DDSB recognizes that good mental health is an important foundation for achievement and well-being.
- Schools are an ideal place for mental health promotion, the prevention of mental health concerns, and the early identification of mental health concerns through school-based prevention and intervention 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.

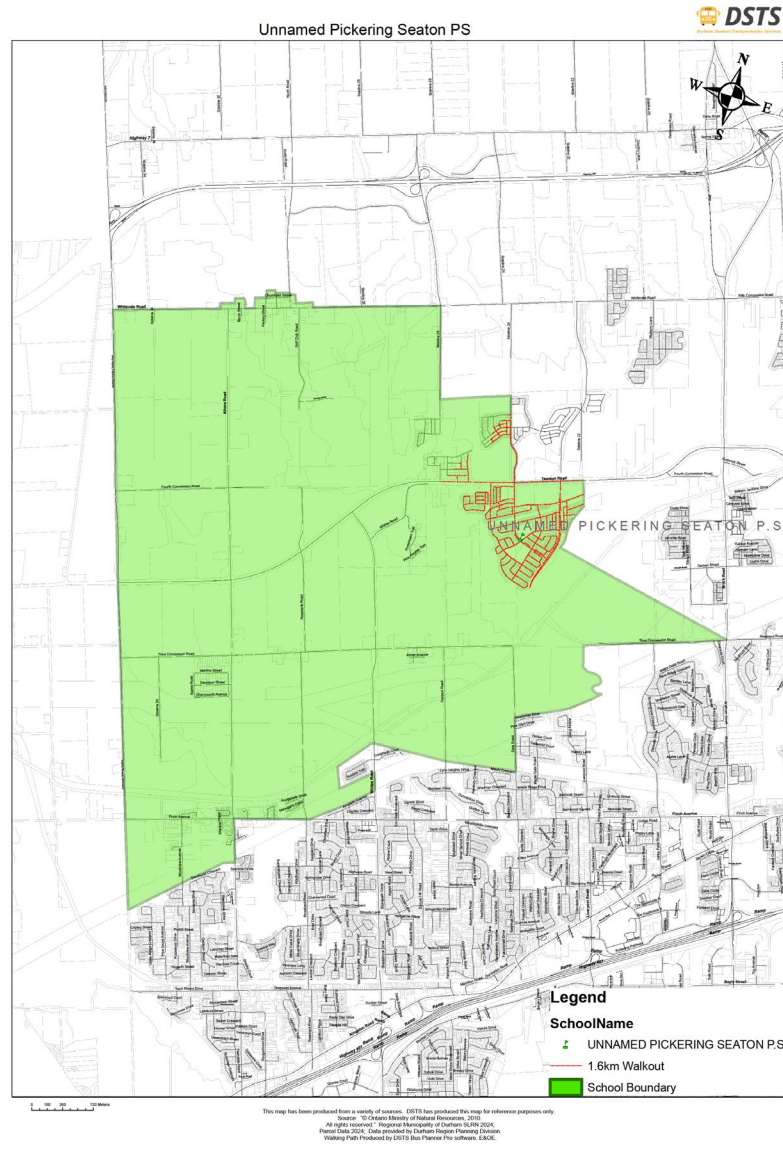
Considerations - 2

- Should the Board of Trustees approve this proposed permanent boundary 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 Pickering Seaton PS and the three 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 Pickering Seaton 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.





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

Considerations 3

- A child care centre is being constructed as part of the Unnamed Pickering Seaton 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 Pickering Seaton PS should contact:

SKD Child Care Centre

Sandra Berthelette, RECE (Program Manager)

Phone: 905-239-6753

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:**

Partner schools may be required in future years to accommodate the current and planned growth in Pickering. This statement is extremely concerning as it does not address the feedback our community has already been giving for years that seeing our enrolment balloon to ~600 kids, and seeing our outdoor space erode is NOT providing students with a quality education they deserve. We lost our STEM room, as it was converted to a classroom. We want that STEM space back. We lost half our library to build another classroom. We want that literacy space back. We are trying to foster a community feel in our school and with half the population residing 7k from the school, many families who use the bus never even coming to the area, it is nearly impossible to do so. The issues are many when decisions to overpopulate schools are made. So while the relief with the new PSPS opening is very much appreciated, and welcome, I cannot stress enough and hope you understand how concerning it is to see that we will likely be bloating our walk-in community schools in the coming years, yet again. What other schools can take on additional New Seton student enrolment? Why must it fall to 3?

- **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. DDSB's standard size for an elementary school would accommodate 634 pupils in the permanent building. 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.

Community Input Received To Date

- **Comment:**

I noticed the sign on the Unnamed Seaton school says it is now opening for the 2025-2026 school year. Is this really possible – to build a school in only a few months considering the winter is close?

- **Response:**

The Unnamed Pickering Seaton Public School is scheduled to open for September 2025. Construction has already begun on the site, and DDSB is confident in this timeline. For more information, please refer to the September 2024 Construction and Major Projects report on ddsb.ca @ [Construction and Property Updates – DDSB](#).

Community Input Received To Date

- **Comment:**

The slides say Westcreek PS was the second partner school and accommodated new students from the PSPS area from September 2022 and until June 2023. Does this statement mean no new students from the PSPS area are being enrolled at Westcreek, effective June 2023, whereas Highbush and EB Phin continue to take new students through their listed dates?

- **Response:**

New students enrolling from within the growth boundary were first directed to Highbush PS in the 2019-2020 school year, until the 2021-2022 school year. Since September 2022, new enrolments were directed to Westcreek PS until June 2023. Elizabeth B. Phin PS accepted new registrations from the growth boundary from September 2023 until January 2024, and since January 2024, new student registration was once again directed to Highbush PS.

Once a new partner school has been assigned to a growth boundary, the previous partner school continues to accommodate existing students residing within the growth boundary as well as younger siblings. All other registrations are directed to the current partner school.

Community Input Received To Date

- **Comment:**

Families living within the Westcreek PS walk zone are captured within the proposed boundary for Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS. Could the boundary be changed so that the area south of Finch Avenue is designated to Westcreek PS?

- **Response:**

Staff will undertake an analysis of your option and include it in the February 18, 2025, Final Report for the Trustees' consideration.

Community Input Received To Date

- **Comment:**

For the 2025-2026 school year do parents decide which of the 3 schools (Highbush PS, EB Phin PS, Westcreek PS) their child attends or is that determined by the school board? Do you know where students residing in the New Seaton area will go next year if the latter is the case?

- **Response:**

A student's home school is determined through the establishment of a permanent attendance boundary. DDSB consults with the community and a final decision of the recommended permanent attendance boundary is considered by the Board of Trustees.

The consultation currently underway is to seek input on the proposed permanent attendance boundary for the new Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS. Students residing within the proposed permanent boundary located west of Peter Matthews Drive, north of the Hydro Corridor, south of Whitevale Road and east of Scarborough-Pickering Townline/Markham-Pickering Townline Road (York-Durham Line) would attend the new Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS as of September 2025 if this is the recommended option considered and approved by the Trustees.

Community Input Received To Date

- **Comment:**

Families living within the Whitevale community near the intersection of Peter Matthews Drive and Alexander Knox Road have reached out inquiring about the proposed boundary of Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS. Is the Whitevale community, currently attending Claremont PS, included in the proposed boundary for the new school? Can it be included?

- **Response:**

Families in the development near Peter Matthews Drive and Alexander Knox Road are not included in the proposed boundary of Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS. The growth boundary being considered as the potential permanent boundary for the Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS was established in 2019-2020 with the expectation of a new school within the community. Students within this area are currently at Highbush PS as the partner school and previously at Elizabeth B. Phin PS and Westcreek PS.

The growth boundary located near Peter Matthews Drive and Alexander Knox Road currently attends Claremont PS; however, as enrolment from new residential development in this area increases, DDSB will identify the need for a new school for this community in a future submission to the Ministry of Education for new school funding.

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 from October 22, 2024 to January 10, 2025.
- Input to be received through various avenues:
 - SCC Executive Meeting – TBD
 - In-person Public Meeting – November 5, 2024
 - Virtual Public Meeting – November 27, 2024
 - Email, Voicemail and Survey

Communication Plan 2

- The following are available at <https://www.ddsb.ca/en/about-ddsb/boundary-and-program-reviews.aspx>
 - Information Report to the Board of Trustees dated October 21, 2024
 - PowerPoint Presentation dated October 22, 2024
 - PowerPoint Presentation dated November 27, 2024 (to be posted on November 28, 2024)
 - Newsletter

More information will be provided on DDSB's website as well as on the three partner schools' websites and DDSB@Home.

Communication Plan 3

- Staff will collect feedback until January 10, 2025, via:
 - Email at PSPSBoundaryReview@DDSB.ca,
 - Phone line 905-666-6473
 - Survey at: <https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/FqfGg8>

Conclusion

- The information contained in this presentation together with community input that is received will be included in a final report to Trustees.
- The final recommendation report will be presented to 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