

Unnamed Pickering Seaton Public School Boundary Review Consultation

October 22, 2024 to January 10, 2025

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.

Overview

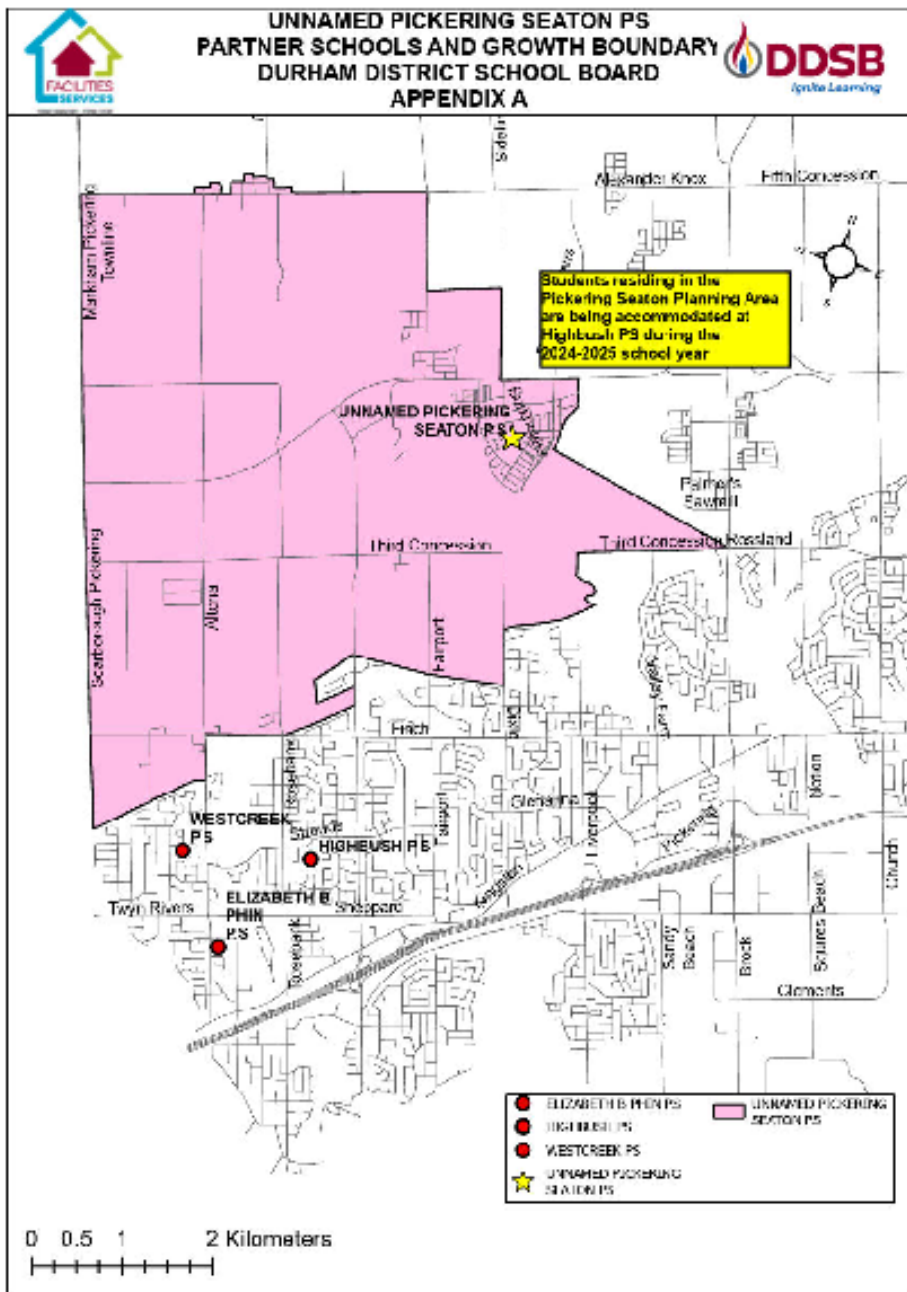
- An information report on the proposed boundary review for Unnamed Pickering Seaton Public School was presented to Trustees at the October 21, 2024, Board Meeting.
 - The purpose of the report was to initiate this consultation process to gather community input on the proposed boundary for Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS, located at Burkholder Drive West and Azalea Avenue, Pickering, scheduled to open for the 2025-2026 school year.
- An In-person Public Meeting will be held to solicit public input on November 5, 2024, at 7pm. Notices of this meeting will be provided on DDSB's and partner schools' websites.
- A Virtual Public Meeting will be held to solicit public input in early December. Notices of this meeting will be provided on DDSB's and partner schools' websites.

Overview, Continued

- The Board Report, PowerPoint presentation, and a survey will be 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 boundary decision at the February 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.



Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS Partner Schools and Growth Boundary

Unnamed Pickering Seaton's proposed boundary encompasses the area west of Peter Matthews Drive, north of the Gatineau Hydro Corridor, south of Whitevale Road and east of Scarborough-Pickering Townline/Markham-Pickering Townline Road (York-Durham Line). 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 been identified as the partner school again as of September 2024, 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 Gatineau 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 with transportation provided or transition to the Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS for Grade 8.

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 will attract over 100 new students per year as new homes continue to be occupied.
- The opening of Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS for the 2025-2026 school year will open with portables but will result in a reduction of portables at the three schools currently accommodating the growth.

Table 1 – 2025-2026 Projected Enrolment:

| October 2025 | Total Enrolment | Utilization | Portables Needed |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Unnamed Pickering Seaton PS | 808 | 127% | 5 |
| Highbush PS | 441 | 72% | 0 |
| Westcreek PS | 348 | 82% | 0 |
| Elizabeth B. Phin PS | 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 to 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

- 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

- Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) identify safe walking routes for all schools.
- 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.
- Should the Board of Trustees approve this proposed Boundary realignment in February 2025 for implementation in September 2025:
 - 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, to be made.

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 - December 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
 - Newsletter (also available on three partner school's websites)
 - An In-Person Public Meeting will be held on November 5, 2024, at 7:00 pm to solicit public input
 - A Virtual Public Meeting will be held in early December to solicit public input. More information will be shared on the DDSB's website.
- More information will be provided on DDSB's website as well as on the three partner schools' websites and DDSB@Home.
- Anyone wishing to participate in the In-Person Public Meeting are requested to register upon arrival. Anyone wishing to participate in the Virtual Public Meeting is requested to register in advance to share their input and view the public meeting. Please visit DDSB's website to register.

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 boundary for Trustees' consideration.

End Of Presentation