



December 10, 2013

Re: Doon South Boundary Study – Interim Boundary Changes

Dear J.W. Gerth Public School Community,

This fall the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) commenced a boundary study involving the four elementary schools in the Doon community of Kitchener (Brigadoon, Doon, J.W. Gerth, and Pioneer Park Public Schools). A boundary study is a public process that ensures a decision made by the WRDSB has the involvement of an informed local community.

Once a boundary study is approved by Trustees, the WRDSB seeks community representatives to participate on a Boundary Study Working Group along with the Principals of the schools involved, Board Planning staff and the area Superintendent of Education. This Working Group is responsible for:

- Reviewing and supplying background information
- Confirming issues to be addressed by the boundary study
- Developing objectives
- Developing and reviewing scenarios
- Reviewing public feedback
- Confirming recommended scenarios

The Doon South Boundary Study Working Group as a collective has developed, reviewed and analyzed many different solutions for the Doon South community, including J.W. Gerth Public School. Although one of the key components of this boundary study is to establish a boundary for the new school to be constructed in the area, another is to address the enrolment situation at J.W. Gerth Public School.

Enrolment at J.W. Gerth Public School has been increasing steadily since it opened in 2008. With this continual increase and the introduction of Full Day Kindergarten at the school last year, the facility and site have reached capacity. There is no further opportunity for additions/portables on the site, or to expand the parking lot. Based on our analysis, the Working Group has concluded that **some J.W. Gerth Public School students must be redirected to another school beginning in September 2014** until such time as the new school in the Doon South area is constructed. For this reason, a preferred solution has been developed.

That preferred option (Option F) presented at Public Meeting #2 on December 5, 2013 was to direct all J.W. Gerth Public School Grade 5 and 6 students to Doon Public School. This option was the only one presented because the Working Group agreed it was the only option that had been explored that would address the facility issues at J.W. Gerth Public School and did not create any additional transitions for students than they would have today.

Several community members have expressed concerns with this option and therefore the Working Group will be exploring alternative options prior to making any final recommendations. No decisions have been made, and a final decision is expected to be made by the elected Board of Trustees in January 2014. We continue to welcome input from community members on this boundary study at boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca. We also apologize for any misunderstanding that may have resulted in some J.W. Gerth Public School families believing that recommendations are being made by the Principal of the school. Final decisions will be made by the Board of Trustees with recommendations from the Working Group as a whole.

Sincerely,
The WRDSB Planning Department
519-570-0003 ext. 4419