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Pressing need for school prompts boundary review

By **TIM WHITNELL**
Metroland Media Group

A school boundary review is being recommended for Georgetown.

Administrative staff with the Halton Catholic District School Board say the north Halton area requires a boundary review due to the pressing need for another elementary school there.

In its capital projects priority list submitted to the Ministry of Education in the spring of 2012, the board identified a new elementary school in Georgetown as its fourth highest priority, behind only two new elementary schools for Milton and a high school expansion for Milton.

Since the ministry has now approved the two elementary schools for Milton, the board is making a new elementary school in Georgetown its new No. 1 priority on its capital wish list.

"It strengthens our business case for a Georgetown west elementary school," board Facility Management Services Superintendent Giacomo Corbacio said of a boundary review for the area.

A Georgetown elementary schools boundary review would include Holy Cross, St. Brigid, St. Catharine of Alexandria and St. Francis of Assisi.

"While the Georgetown West elementary school was the board's No. 4 school capital priority at the time of the 2012 (ministry) submission, the business case for the new facility... is arguably likely to emerge as the board's No. 1 priority in the

next round," Corbacio said in a June 4 report to trustees.

"I agree with the staff report that says a boundary review will strengthen our business case with the Ministry," said Halton Hills Catholic trustee John Mark Rowe. "We do not want to leave any stone

turned in our efforts to secure funding as soon as possible for a replacement school for Holy Cross. Secondly, the school boundary map for Georgetown has been compiled in a piecemeal fashion as new housing was added and accommodation capacities changed. It is outdated and needs realignment no matter what future funding we receive."

A new Georgetown West school would essentially be a combination replacement school for Holy Cross and also provide additional capacity to existing student growth currently accommodated in portable classrooms.

Board staff wants to start the boundary review process early in the 2013-14 school year to give school communities time to attract representatives wishing to become part of the boundary review committee.

The report said it expects the Georgetown boundary review's community consultation process be conducted like the earlier one for Milton.

Trustees are expected to vote on a boundary review proposal for Georgetown at the June 18 board meeting.

—With files from Cynthia Gamble, staff writer



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