

SCHOOL BOUNDARY REVIEW PROPOSES GRADE SHUFFLE

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With enrolment expected to decline in the coming years at Acton schools, the Halton District School Board is considering some big changes at its three local facilities.

The board recently informed parents that as part of a boundary review process, the option of moving the grade 7 and 8 program from McKenzie-Smith Bennett (MSB) Public School to Acton District High School will be examined. This proposal would see MSB and the board's other elementary school in Acton, Robert Little, become kindergarten to grade 6 facilities.

"There has been discussion within the board and school board staff about student enrolment num-

bers in Acton, and the three schools located there," explains a staff report co-authored by Superintendent of Facility Services Maia Puccetti and Director of Education Stuart Miller.

Currently, MSB is sitting at 85 per cent capacity, but that number is projected to drop to 69 per cent by 2028.

Meanwhile, Robert Little is currently at 75 per cent capacity - a figure that's expected to fall by five per cent within the next decade.

Over at Acton High, enrolment is projected to decrease from 68 to 62 per cent by 2028.

"There has been discussion regarding the opportunity to reconfigure the grade structures at these three schools," notes the report from Puccetti and

Miller.

A Boundary Review Committee will now be established that will consist of parents from all three schools, trustees Jeanne Gray and Leah Reynolds, HDSB Planning Department staff, and Superintendents of Education John Pennyfather and Scott Podrebarac.

Parents will be able to discuss the issue further at a public information meeting slated for Jan. 14, 2020 at 7 p.m. at Acton District High School.

The local boundary review process is expected to be complete by early March 2020.

The board is also reviewing school boundaries in Burlington, Oakville and Milton. The process stems from the 2018/2019 long-term accommodation plan that provided enrolment projections for the next decade across Halton.

For more information visit hdsb.ca or email actonboundaryreview@hdsb.ca.

HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS



Karen Morrison photo

The Acton Legion recently donated \$20,000 to Ontario Command's Leave the Streets Behind program that benefits homeless veterans. Pictured (from left) are Acton Legion President Wes Kutasienski, Acton Legion member Frank Single, Ontario Command President Garry Pond and Acton Legion member Don Joyce. To date, more than 800 veterans have been moved off the streets and helped through programs that assist with mental health issues.

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