

**RESPONSES TO  
FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS**



# Other Options – Slide 1

- **Relocate the Gifted program**

Concern: Small Gifted program and continued growth in French Immersion

- **Modify the Regular Track boundary**

Concern: Small Regular Track boundary and continued growth in French Immersion

- **Removal of Regular Track to create single track French Immersion**

Concern: Displacement of local school community. Optional/regional programs are provided in schools alongside an established local community boundary

# Other Options – Slide 2

- **Move French Immersion program to another location**

Concern: The French Immersion program at Newmarket HS is quite large (approx. 700 students) and cannot be accommodated at one school in Newmarket or north of Newmarket


Concern: The majority of French Immersion students reside in the Newmarket area surrounding Newmarket High School and Huron Heights Secondary School.

Concern: There is currently no secondary school in East Gwillimbury. The Board has a future high school site designated in East Gwillimbury.

## **Utilization in Surrounding schools:**

- Sir William Mulock SS is operating at 115% utilization
- Dr. John M Denison SS is operating at 104% utilization
- Huron Heights SS is operating at 73% utilization
- Keswick HS (west Georgina) is operating at 92% utilization
- Sutton DHS (east Georgina) is operating at 40% utilization


# Keswick PS Feeder

- The largest concentration of secondary school French Immersion students currently reside in the Newmarket area surrounding Huron Heights Secondary School and Newmarket High School
  - Need to balance French Immersion numbers between Huron Heights SS and Newmarket HS.
    - Maintain viable French Immersion enrolment at Newmarket HS
    - French Immersion growth along Green Lane and immediately north in East Gwillimbury can be accommodated at Huron Heights SS
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# New French Immersion Program at Huron Heights SS

- The Board has opened multiple French Immersion programs at Secondary Schools across the system in the last 10 years and the average French Immersion student population at the Board's 9 French Immersion locations is approximately 350 students.
- Budget is available to provide resources (library, course materials) to schools receiving a new French Immersion program
- Annual staffing process to have teachers available to accommodate course requests at each secondary school.
- New leadership opportunities for staff who wish to teach French Immersion at Huron Heights SS
- Human Resource Services manages a recruitment process for French Immersion teachers

# New French Immersion Program at Huron Heights SS

- French Immersion Certificate: at least 10 French Immersion credits
  - Each secondary school must offer the following courses in French:
    - Four required French language courses (French Immersion);
    - Grade 9 Geography;
    - Grade 10 History;
    - Grade 10 Civics and Careers; and
    - At least three other courses taught in the French language which is on based on student interest and staff qualifications.
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# Elementary Feeder Schools Assigned to Multiple Secondary Schools

- Unfortunately, splitting elementary feeders is often required to balance enrolment across secondary schools. The Board has multiple circumstances where grade 8 feeders have more than one secondary school designation.
- Any French Immersion boundary proposal would require Mazo de la Roche PS and Poplar Bank PS Grade 8s feeders to attend different Secondary Schools due to:
  - The large geographic areas these schools serve
  - The Poplar Bank PS boundary encompasses future French Immersion growth from Green Lane and East Gwillimbury that needs to be accommodated
  - Huron Heights SS is located within the Mazo de la Roche PS French Immersion boundary

# Siblings

- A boundary change or expansion of optional/regional program may result in families who have children attending different schools during the transition period
- Optional/regional programming choices for students may result in families with children attending different schools
- The Board has a long history of expanding French Immersion program locations across the region to provide opportunities for more students to attend. Expansion has involved:
  - Offering the program in a variety of configurations (i.e. Primary Dual Track) in the elementary panel
  - Increasing the number of secondary schools offering French Immersion



# Long-term Plans for New Elementary/Secondary schools

- Multiple elementary and secondary school sites have been designated to serve long-term enrolment growth in East Gwillimbury and Newmarket
- Timing for new schools depends on:
  - A threshold of students in the area
  - Pupil places available in neighbouring schools including the use of portable classrooms
  - Approved construction funding from the Ministry of Education
- School Boards must apply to the Ministry of Education for construction funding to build a new school
- The Ministry of Education reviews applications from all Boards across the province and allocates funding annually