



Middlesex Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review Delaware Central Public School AARC Subcommittee Report

Date: February 15th, 2024

1. SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS & AFFILIATION

Junior: Megan Cole (Subcommittee Chair)
Junior: Joon Park
Primary: Emily Fard (Subcommittee Secretary)
Kindergarten: Joshua MacDougall
School Council Chair/Primary: Carrie Parker
Kindergarten: Geoff Yates

2. SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETINGS

MEETING 1

Date: November 27th, 2023
Number of attendees: 10

MEETING 2

Date: January 30th, 2024
Attendees: 7

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a committee, we've discussed the proposed boundary change for Delaware Central PS, gathering feedback from a survey, two in-person/zoom meetings and committee discussions. Families from both the proposed Kilworth area boundary change and those within Delaware proper have shared their concerns and comments during this process.

The findings support students from the proposed Kilworth Boundary Change Area to continue attending Delaware Central PS.

Section 5 of this report lists feedback and concerns collected about switching the Parkview/Delaware school boundary (section5).



Our findings support a variation of the proposed Delaware Central PS to Parkview PS boundary change (see section 6).

4. BRIEF SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROFILE

Delaware Central PS current student population: 260 pupils
Approximately 85 students from the Kilworth/=Komoka boundary area

Delaware Central Public School currently draws students from Delaware, Kilworth/Komoka, Muncey Delaware Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames

We have 11 homeroom classes populating the school with 2 portables on site.

5. FEEDBACK REGARDING PROPOSAL

After reviewing feedback from the survey sent out to families at Delaware Central Public School, the results showed most families in favour of keeping current students from the Kilworth area at Delaware Central PS.

Summary of the feedback received

(Collected from parent survey, in person meetings and discussions)

**Italics below-comments directly from survey feedback*

Well-Being of the children

- 85+ students moved from Delaware Central PS will have a negative impact on class dynamics and disrupt friendships at both schools.
- Parent concern for their children who have been in and out of school and extra-curricular activities over the last few years- now begin to feel stability and it is taken away if they are forced to switch schools
- The Kilworth area consists of new homes. Many of these students have recently switched schools in the past 1-3 years when they moved to this area.
- Students are being used as a pawn to submit a business case for expansion. One school will be under capacity, while another is overpopulated with portables in an attempt to acquire Ministry funding.
- Children have access to sports teams and clubs at Delaware

Effects on Delaware Central Public School



- Concerns raised from Delaware Central PS families about teacher loss, resource allocation, and viability of sports clubs/extracurricular activities with a sharp decline in student population.
- No residential growth/development in Delaware. School can support/accommodate some catchment enrolment from Kilworth/Komoka 5 minutes down the road

Before and After Care

- Concern expressed over the amount of before and after care that will be available at each school. Will Parkview increase the number available spots to accommodate the massive influx of students from the Kilworth boundary change? Will Delaware continue to offer before and after school care? If a student has a spot at Delaware Central PS before and after care, will it be accommodated at Parkview PS? These questions were submitted to the MEARRC website but the answer provided states it is not within the school board control.

Divided Community

- There is a belief that a new school will be built in Kilworth and that this proposed change won't take effect anyway. This is not the case, it has been advised that the held land will be released back to the developer at the end of 2024.
- Parkview Public School Capability- concern about rapid growth of 85+ students at one time. Gym access, sports and clubs, will be affected.
- Concern that Delaware will be under capacity and Parkview PS will be drastically over capacity. Growth and development has slowed in the area over the past year with the economic and market changes.

Neighbourhood to the same school

- Kilworth neighbourhood Proximity to Parkview PS- closer for parents
- Neighbour friends that go to Parkview already and would move their child to Parkview. Bus that already will be going to Parkview because of the new boundary



Parent Comments:

- *A change in the boundaries without before and after care would be very problematic and would affect several families with two parents who work full time*
- *If the Kilworth kids are forced to leave Delaware, my kids will lose friendships that have been established.*
- *My kid is happy and comfortable at their school. Parkview is over crowded and my child benefits from being in such a space that is conducive to their learning*
- *If we loose students from the dotted area, we will loose great teachers from Delaware PS and this will have a huge impact on the school community.*
- *If Delaware were to lose the Kilworth students, what is the plan for Delaware? Future projections put Delaware down several classrooms in a couple years which means several teachers would be lost. Are you going to change boundaries (ie. Campbellville or south Caradoc now coming to Delaware) so that Delaware maintains its size or close to it? It doesn't make sense to have Delaware under-capacity and bordering schools overflowing.*
- *Keep Kilworth students continuing at Delaware. The growth at Delaware has only served to enrich and further diversify our close knit school community.*
- *Kilworth students have so many more opportunities at Delaware (being a smaller school) than they would get at Parkview regarding sport teams and clubs. For example, no cuts were made to the boys volleyball team. Everyone who wanted to play could...this opportunity would never happen at Parkview and students would miss out on such a valuable experience there. Parkview is too big.*
- *Delaware is projected to be down at least 100 students in a couple years. It doesn't make sense for Delaware to be under capacity and neighbouring schools to be jammed and over-flowing*
- *We want our child to go to Parkview. Ideally there will be a new school built in Kilworth/Komoka area.*
- *It brings my kids who are currently going to Delaware come closer to home I'm hoping that this change will ease the enrolment pressures Delaware has faced!*
- *My children switched schools one year ago when we moved into this area. There was no mention this was holding school and possible re-zoning so quickly. I am concerned for their well being if they are forced to switch schools again after finally settling in to a new school. There is a very large divide within the community since these committees were formed. Belittling of areas, schools, populations has been overheard around the community at sport events etc. Leave the children alone and plan moving forward not forcing them to move into portables hoping to quickly overpopulate a school*



6. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of the Delaware Central Public School AARC Subcommittee that all students from the Kilworth proposed boundary change area stay at Delaware Central PS, including their siblings, with new homeowners to the area registering at Parkview. This recommendation also includes the provision of ongoing transportation.

Considerations

- New homeowners to the Kilworth area would register new students to Parkview PS, gradually increasing the student population. This is the current enrollment cap implemented in January 2024.
- Current Delaware Central PS students residing within the proposed Kilworth boundary change district have the option to stay at Delaware Central with transportation provided.
- 70% of parents who responded to the Sub-committee survey expressed they want to keep the Kilworth student population at Delaware Central Public School because it enriches the school and
- Increase Parkview PS with organic growth through enrollment.
- Reduce the drastic shock of moving 85+ students at once
- Delaware Central PS will lose some of its student population if parents are given the option to move their student to Parkview PS at their discretion. This would alleviate the Delaware Central PS capacity issues while maintaining access to full sports teams and clubs.
- With the current slow down in development growth due to economic and market conditions, let the enrolment cap solve the solution