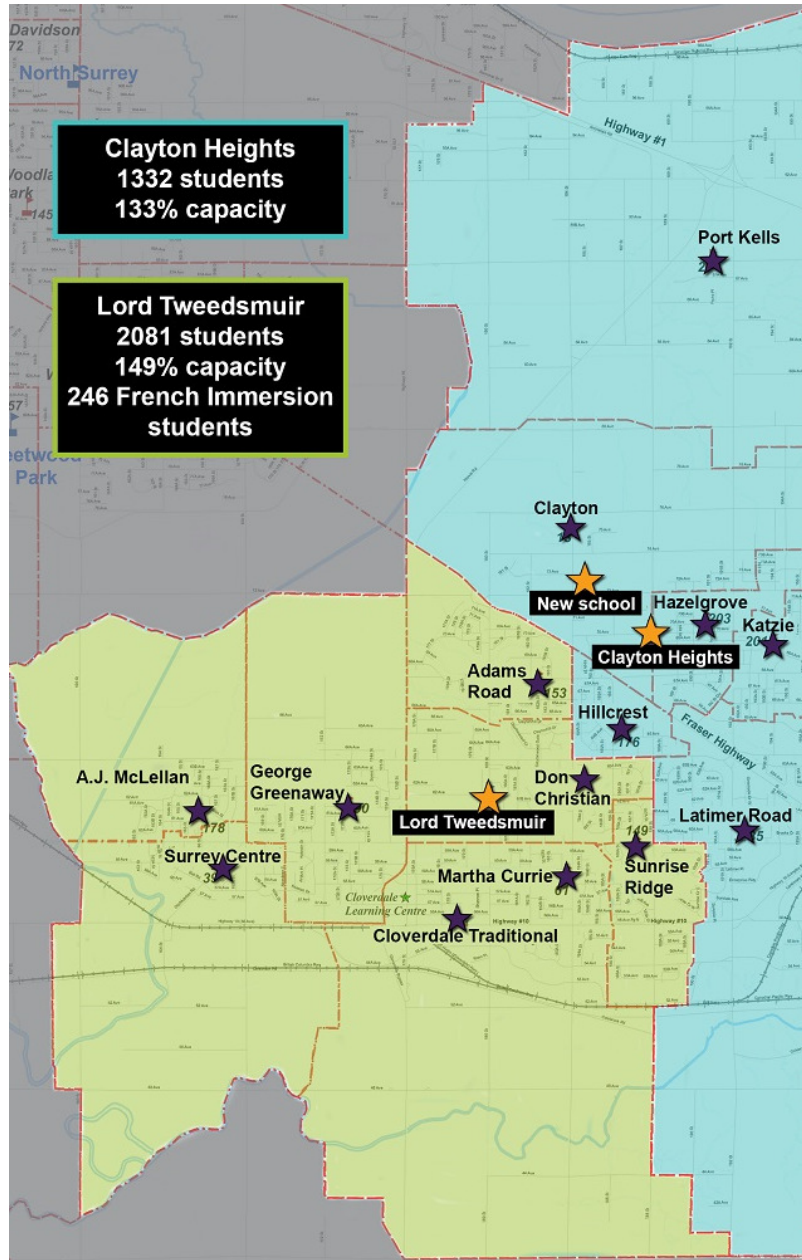


# Salish Secondary: Consultation Report on Proposed Boundaries

OCTOBER, 2016



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## Executive Summary

Salish Secondary, a new state-of-the-art 1500 student capacity secondary school is under construction in the Clayton area of Surrey (7278 184<sup>th</sup> St). The new school will open in 2018, and will address the overcrowding at École Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary School (LTSS) and Clayton Heights Secondary School (CHSS). The combined population of these existing schools were almost 1100 students over capacity as of September 2015. To prepare for the opening of the new school, new catchment boundaries need to be established for the impacted schools (LTSS, CHSS and Salish).

The process used by the district to establish and consult on these boundaries included developing a range of options and then taking these options to the public for consultation prior to the writing of a final report to senior staff and the Board of Education.

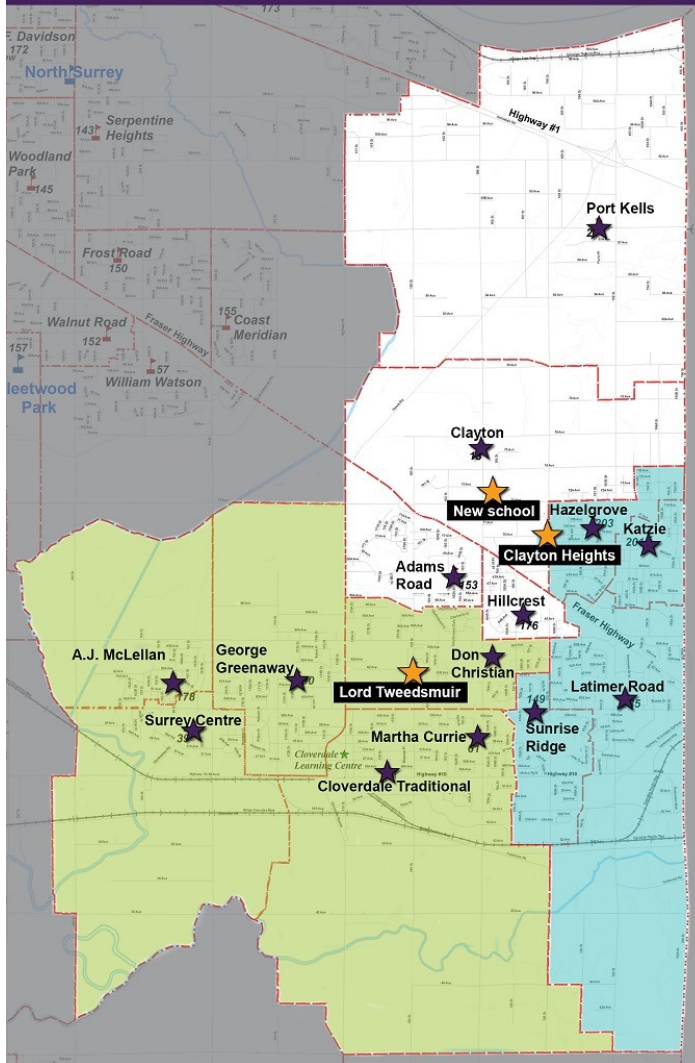
Initially, the District's Programming and Facilities Planning Committee (PFP) developed a large range of boundary and program location options and presented the top three options during a community engagement process in the spring of 2016. We estimate to have involved over 3,000+ parents, students and staff in this consultation process.

The consultation process identified several key themes:

- A high level of support for students attending their existing school and subsequent concerns about changes;
- Concerns regarding the distance to school increasing, especially amongst families with children in Don Christian Elementary and the French Immersion Program;
- Concerns regarding transportation and safety, specifically, crossing Fraser Highway, sidewalks required around Salish Secondary, and a lack of transit options;
- Concerns regarding the impact on the French Immersion Program if it is moved to Salish Secondary, specifically, the possible reduction of students and the quality of the program;
- A desire to have more details around the implementation of the catchment boundary changes (e.g. timing, staffing, PACs, programs, funding, sports teams);
- Concerns regarding the sustainability of the options presented, specifically, the rapid pace of enrolment growth in the Clayton area and what future catchment or program location changes may be required;
- Support for the additional student capacity and subsequent relief on schools – the end of extended day schedules and a reduction of portables; and
- Specific concerns about continuity for those that will have to move schools (e.g. friendships, sports, scholarships, specialty programs)

There is no perfect option for boundary adjustments as Salish Secondary emerges in a rapidly growing area of the city. However, through this process, Option 1 continues to emerge as the preferred option. The results of the community engagement were presented to the Board of Education for information at the September 22nd Board meeting. Executive Committee has received the report and at the October 20th Board meeting will present a final recommendation for the Board. The Board will consider the recommendation of Executive Committee and will make a final decision at their November 17th, 2016 meeting.

# New Clayton Area Secondary Option 1: Explored - Recommended



- Proposed catchment area for the new school
- Proposed catchment area for Clayton Heights
- Proposed catchment area for Lord Tweedsmuir
- Other areas

|                  | Lord Tweedsmuir | Clayton Heights | New school  |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Regular          | 1422            | 953             | 792         |
| French Immersion | 0               | 0               | 246         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1422</b>     | <b>953</b>      | <b>1038</b> |
| Utilization      | 102%            | 95%             | 69%         |

Numbers calculated using 2015 enrolment figures

- The option involves the least amount of disruption for the existing catchment boundaries for Lord Tweedsmuir and Clayton Heights
- The secondary French Immersion program would be located in the new secondary school in the Clayton area.
- 24 per cent of the existing Lord Tweedsmuir French Immersion population lives in the new secondary school catchment in Option 1
- This option is best aligned with Surrey Board of Education policy

## 1.0 Introduction

Salish Secondary, a new state-of-the-art 1500 student capacity secondary school is under construction in the Clayton area of Surrey (7278 184<sup>th</sup> St). This is an exciting time for students, staff, parents, and the Surrey Board of Education as new secondary schools do not come about often. Along with this new facility, there is a rare opportunity to define the culture and character of a new school community. The new school is anticipated to open in 2018, and will address the overcrowding at École Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary School (LTSS) and Clayton Heights Secondary School (CHSS) which combined are were almost 1100 students over capacity as of September 2015.

To prepare for the opening of the new school, new catchment boundaries need to be established. In order to balance student capacity at the three schools, consideration also needs to be given to where the secondary French Immersion program for the area will be located.

The new school is expected to open in either the second semester of the 2017/2018 or September 2018. In order to plan for the new school and provide certainty to families making choices for their children in the coming year, the new catchment boundary will be recommended to the Board of Education in November 2016.

## 2.0 Option Development

The District's Programming and Facilities Planning Committee (PFP) developed a large range of boundary and program location options considering the following:

- Alignment with Board of Education policy
  - Policy 9200 – School Catchment Areas
  - Regulation 9200.1 – School Catchment Areas
  - Policy 9320 – Registration and Placement of Students
  - Regulation 9320.1 – Registration and Placement of Students
  - Policy 6700 – Management of Portable Classrooms
- Current enrolment
- Projected residential development and enrolment growth
- Input from school administration

Although over ten options were originally explored by PFP and made available for public consideration and comment, three options were highlighted for community engagement. These three options aimed to balance enrolment now and in the future and reduce the need for temporary space.

In all three options, the following elementary schools would transition their students into the following secondary schools:

- Salish Secondary: Port Kells, Clayton, Adams Road, Hillcrest
- Clayton Heights Secondary (CHSS): Hazelgrove, Katzie, Latimer Road, Sunrise Ridge
- École Lord Tweedsmuir (LTSS): A.J. McLellan, George Greenway, Surrey Centre, Martha Currie, Cloverdale Traditional

The three options vary in which secondary school they propose students from Don Christian Elementary and the secondary school French Immersion (FI) program attend. Option details can be found in Appendix A.

### 3.0 Community Engagement Process

Given the large scale nature of changes to existing students in the two families of schools, establishing new catchment boundaries is a task that needs to be approached with thoughtfulness and in consultation with those impacted. The following is a summary of the community engagement efforts:

- Pre-engagement meeting to discuss consultation methodology
  - Student, staff and parent representatives
- Principal briefing
- Notice to parents - community forum save-the-date
- Notice to parents – information package and survey
- PlaceSpeak website – information and survey
- Media releases
- School newsletters
- In-class engagement at elementary schools
- Grade 8-9 assemblies at Clayton Heights and Lord Tweedsmuir
- Five community forums:
  - May 9, 2016 – Clayton Heights Secondary
  - May 10, 2016 – Lord Tweedsmuir
  - May 11, 2016 – Lord Tweedsmuir
  - May 16, 2016 – Lord Tweedsmuir
  - May 17, 216 – Clayton Heights

Community engagement efforts were focused around information sharing, presenting options, providing clarification and seeking feedback. The district's efforts are thought to have engaged over 3,000 parents, students and staff. No solution for the boundaries will be perfect when combined with the desire to have minimal impact on French Immersion and local schools. We have presented options that reflect the best possible options in the current context.

## 4.0 Community Feedback

### 4.1 Feedback Statistics

- PlaceSpeak – 1315 view and 473 connections
- Survey Feedback – 473 survey responses (420 online)
- Community Forums
  - May 9, 2016 – Clayton Heights Secondary = **35 attendees + staff**
  - May 10, 2016 – Lord Tweedsmuir = **75 + staff**
  - May 11, 2016 – Lord Tweedsmuir = **130 + staff**
  - May 16, 2016 – Lord Tweedsmuir = **70 + staff**
  - May 17, 216 – Clayton Heights = **55 + staff**
  - **TOTAL = 365 + staff**
- Emails, comments and questions through the Capital Plan email address
- Formal response to proposals from Canadian Parents for French – Surrey Chapter

### 4.2 Survey Results

Survey responses were received from parents and students across both families of schools. The highest level of respondents were from Lord Tweedsmuir, Martha Currie, Don Christian, Hillcrest, Adams Road and Clayton Heights. This was expected given these schools are subject to the most amount of change in regards to these proposals.

#### Common Themes

Common themes amongst survey respondents (not tied to a particular option) were:

- **Transportation concerns**
  - Undeveloped road network around Salish Secondary – a lack of sidewalks and narrow rural roads
  - Crossing of Fraser Highway
- **Programming and Facilities considerations**
  - What athletic and recreational programs will be offered?
  - What program and trades options will be offered?
  - Will there be adequate supplies and complete facilities?
  - What equipment will be available?
  - Will everything be adequately prepared when the school opens?
- **Questions around change and how it will be managed**
  - Concerns regarding a loss of connection with friends and faculty
  - Questions regarding sibling registration
  - Questions regarding grandfathering for students entering grade 12



- A desire for extended day to be eliminated
- **Catchment area option comments**
  - Students should be able to attend the closest school
  - A desire to maintain existing catchments as much as possible
  - A desire to look at split catchment or other program moves
  - A desire to add additional student capacity to existing sites (addition, portables, modulars) to maintain catchment areas and program locations

### Option 1 Themes

- **Impact on French Immersion (189 comments)**
  - Moving French Immersion would be the best solution
  - Moving French Immersion would be a challenge for students already in the program
  - French Immersion should remain at LTSS (central location and near French Immersion elementary feeder schools)
  - French Immersion enrolment and program health will be compromised by this option
  - Request to have French Immersion in both secondary schools
  - Concerns French Immersion students will be segregated at new school
  - Both Grade 11 and 12 French Immersion students should be grandfathered
  - Questions around whether elementary French Immersion Programs will be moved
- **Impact on Lord Tweedsmuir (118 comments)**
  - This will help alleviate enrolment pressure
  - There will still be enrolment pressures
  - New development will increase enrolment pressures
- **Impact on elementary schools (31 comments)**
  - Don Christian families will be disrupted
  - Martha Currie will feed into two secondary schools
  - Hazelgrove students should go to Clayton (2 comments)
- **Overall view (30 comments)**
  - 30 respondents expressed their opinion of option 1 with no supplementary comments. 16 of these respondents supported option 1, 10 respondents did not, and 4 expressed they were unaffected.

### Option 2A Themes

- **Impact on French Immersion (108 comments)**
  - French Immersion should remain at LTSS (central location and near French Immersion elementary feeder schools)
  - Moving French Immersion would be the best solution
  - Other French Immersion concerns (disruption, more extensive grandfathering required)

- **Impact on elementary schools (84 comments)**
  - Don Christian families will be disrupted
  - Don Christian families may wish to go to the new school
  - Hazelgrove students should go to Clayton (2 comments)
  
- **Impact on enrolment at Lord Tweedsmuir (67 comments)**
  - Enrolment pressure is not alleviated
  - Helps to alleviate enrolment pressure
  - New development will increase enrolment pressure
  - Add new Choice Programs to schools to balance enrolments
  - Concerns French Immersion will be moved again when capacity is reached
  
- **Overall view (33 comments)**
  - 33 respondents expressed their opinion of option 2A with no supplementary comments. 17 of these respondents said they did not support option 2A, 9 respondents did support option 2A, and 7 respondents expressed they were unaffected.

#### **Option 2B Themes**

- **Impact on French Immersion (99 comments)**
  - French Immersion should remain at LTSS (central location and near French Immersion elementary feeder schools)
  - Moving French Immersion would be the best solution
  - Other French Immersion concerns (disruption, more extensive grandfathering required)
  
- **Impact on elementary schools (75 comments)**
  - Don Christian families will be disrupted
  - Don Christian families may wish to go to new school
  - Hazelgrove students should go to CHSS (2 comments)
  
- **Impact on enrolment at Lord Tweedsmuir (100 comments)**
  - Enrolment pressure is not alleviated (87/100)
  - Helps to alleviate enrolment pressure
  - New development will increase enrolment pressure
  - Can we create junior middle schools?
  
- **Overall view (30 comments)**
  - 30 respondents expressed their opinion of option 2B with no supplementary comments. 12 of these respondents did not support the option, 5 respondents did support the option, and 3 respondents expressed they were unaffected.

### 4.3 Community Forum Feedback Summary

Total attendance at all 5 forums is estimated at 365 + SD 36 staff in attendance. The following is a summary of feedback/questions from the forums:

- **Overall**
  - Strong loyalty to current school (in particular LTSS)
  - Importance of keeping friend groups together
  - Questions regarding out-of-catchment students
  - Questions regarding how the community can advocate for new space and a slower pace of development
  
- **Proximity to school**
  - Concern regarding not being able to attend the closest school
  - Transportation challenges (time required to get to school by walking, biking or transit)
  
- **Transportation**
  - Concerns regarding students no longer being able to walk to school
  - Concerns regarding incomplete road and sidewalk network around Salish Secondary
  - Concerns regarding a lack of Transit services
  - Concerns regarding crossing Fraser Highway
  
- **French Immersion**
  - Overall concern about relocating the French Immersion program from LTSS to Salish Secondary
  - Comments that LTSS is more central to population and to French Immersion elementary feeder schools than Salish Secondary
  - Some support for moving French Immersion vs moving another elementary school (e.g., Don Christian)
  - Comments regarding the length of time it takes to establish a French Immersion program
  - Comments that French Immersion families drive anyway so they can drive further
  - Concerns the French Immersion program will have to move again in the future
  - Concerns that some French Immersion students will not continue in the program if it moves
  - Concerns over distance to Salish Secondary from the French Immersion elementary feeder schools
  - Suggestion of moving the French Immersion program one grade at a time over a number of years
  - Suggestion the Program of Choice policy should be reviewed
  - Comments that students will have to choose between athletics and staying in French Immersion

- **Implementation details**
  - Questions regarding who will be grandfathered?
  - Questions/comments regarding sibling registration
  - Questions regarding what program, sports, clubs, specialty programs etc. are going to be at the new school?
  - Questions about students who participate in special program at LTSS (hockey, automotive etc.)
  - Questions regarding PAC and funding at the new school?
  - Questions regarding whether students will be offered a choice?
  - Questions regarding staffing the new school.
  - Questions about whether the proposals will take LTSS and CHSS off of an extended day schedule?
  - Concerns over the possibility of a mid-year opening (scholarships, athletics)
  
- **Enrolment and capacity questions/concerns**
  - Questions regarding student capacity at Salish Secondary when the area further develops?
  - Questions regarding what the district do when all schools are at capacity again?
  - Questions regarding how long will these catchment boundaries be viable for?
  
- **Development**
  - Comments regarding the pace of development being too rapid
  
- **Advocacy**
  - Questions regarding how can the community advocate to slow development?
  - Questions regarding how the community advocate for capital?
  
- **Suggested alternatives**
  - Supplement LTSS site with an addition, portables or annex
  - Bus French Immersion students to Salish
  - Bus students to Salish Secondary to overcome anticipated transportation challenges
  - Grandfather all students or at least grade 11 and 12?
  - Let students choose or go to closest school

## 4.4 In-School Student Engagement Summary

School District staff presented at two grade 8/9 assemblies at LTSS and CHSS with a total attendance for both of approximately 1350-1400 students. Feedback is summarized as follows:

- **Comments/Questions about new school**
  - What sort of programs will it have?
  - What sort of sports teams will it have?
  - Will it have any state of the art/high tech features?
  - What will be the school colours and mascot?
  - Excitement expressed over new school design
  - Expression of desires to stay at existing school – strong sense of school pride
  
- **Implementation details**
  - Question regarding who has to move schools?
  - Concerns around friendship groups staying together
  - Concerns and questions around siblings staying together
  - Questions around who will be grandfathered
  - Question regarding students being able to go to the new school if they are out-of-catchment
  - Support for LTSS and CHSS coming off of an extended day schedule
  - Concerns over a mid-year opening
  
- **Proximity to school**
  - Concern regarding having to attend a school that is not the closest one
  - Transportation challenges (time to get to school by walking or transit)
  
- **French Immersion**
  - Concerns around having to move schools if the French Immersion program moves
  - Salish Secondary is further away for many French Immersion students
  - Concerns the program will have to move again in the future
  - Questions around existing French immersion teaching staff and whether they would move if the program does
  - Concerns students will have to choose between sports and staying in French Immersion

School Administration at elementary schools focused efforts on ensuring families had information regarding the proposal. Student feedback at the elementary level was similar to the themes above but with a greater focus on concerns around friend groups being divided.

## 4.5 Canadian Parents for French – Surrey Chapter

A letter from the Canadian Parents for French Surrey Chapter, dated June 13, 2016, was sent to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Shawn Wilson regarding the Salish Secondary catchment/program options. The key themes of the letter are:

- Option 1 caused some parents to raise concerns
- Canadian Parents for French – Surrey Chapter issued a survey to parents regarding the proposal
- There were 50 responses to the survey (45 from Martha Currie and 5 from Sunrise Ridge). 64% of the respondents were concerned with the proposal and 24% said they would remove their child from French Immersion to remain at LTSS
- The letter suggests it would take 3-5 years to re-build program at a new location
- Concern that with growth in Clayton, the French Immersion program will be moved back to LTSS eventually
- Moving French Immersion is disruptive to the entire school (sport teams, band etc.)
- Moving French Immersion is disruptive to staff
- French Immersion elementary feeder schools (Martha Currie and Sunrise Ridge) are walking distance to LTSS

## 4.6 Key Themes

The main themes coming out of all community engagement efforts can be summarized as follows:

- A high level of support for students attending their existing school and subsequent concern about changes;
- Concerns regarding the distance to school increasing, especially amongst families with children in Don Christian Elementary and the French Immersion Program;
- Concerns regarding transportation and safety, specifically, crossing Fraser Highway, sidewalks required around Salish Secondary, and a lack of transit options;
- Concerns regarding the impact on the French Immersion Program if it moved to Salish Secondary, specifically, the possible reduction of students and the quality of the program;
- A desire to have more details around the implementation of the catchment boundary changes (timing, staffing, PACs, programs, funding, sports teams etc.);
- Concerns regarding the sustainability of the options presented, specifically, the rapid pace of enrolment growth in the Clayton area and what future catchment or program location changes may be required.
- Support for the additional student capacity and subsequent relief on schools – end of extended day and reduction of portables
- Specific concerns about continuity for those that will have to move schools (friendships, sports, scholarships, specialty programs etc.)

## 5.0 Next Steps

During the community engagement process, the school district expressed to the community that Option 1 was the recommended option of the district's Programming and Facilities Committee (PFP).

In the fall of 2016, PFP staff will review the feedback from this community engagement process and also give consideration to:

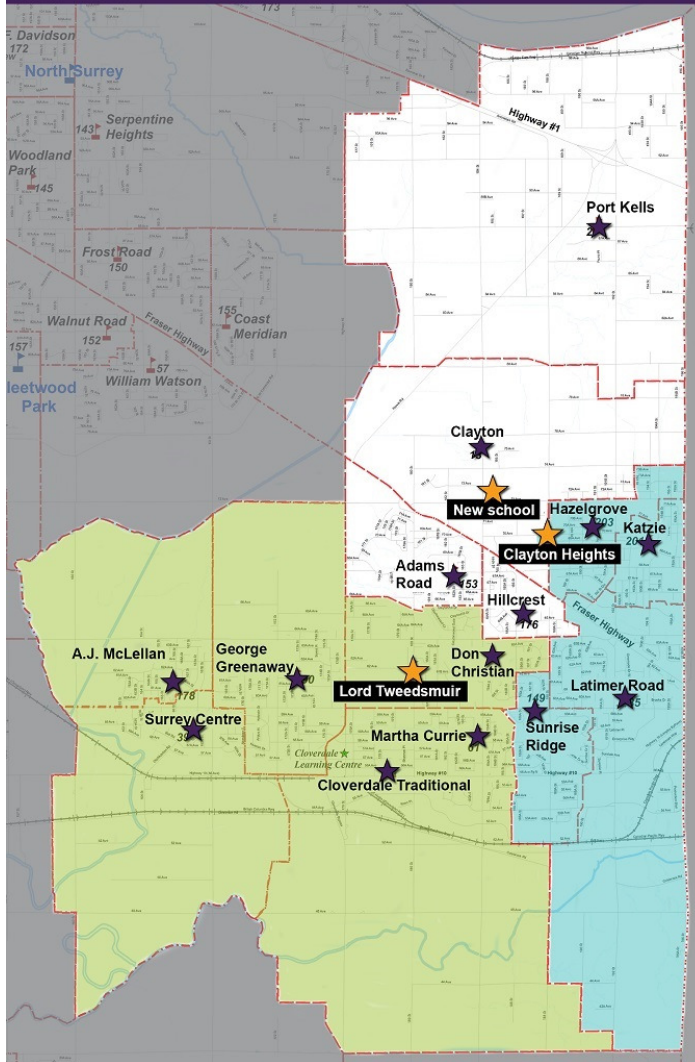
- The catchment and enrolment implications of the funding announcement for a new elementary school in North Clayton.
- Any changes in pace of development/enrolment trends. The School District is working with the City of Surrey to re-examine the unit projections for high growth areas
- How concerns expressed that involve other agencies will be communicated and managed (e.g., Translink, City of Surrey).

There is no perfect option for boundary adjustments as Salish Secondary emerges in a rapidly growing area of the city. However, through this process, Option 1 continues to emerge as the preferred option. The results of the community engagement were presented to the Board of Education for information at the September 22nd Board meeting. Executive Committee has received the report and at the October 20th Board meeting will present a final recommendation for the Board. The Board will consider the recommendation of Executive Committee and will make a final decision at their November 17th, 2016 meeting.



Appendix A – Salish Secondary Catchment and Program Option Details

# New Clayton Area Secondary Option 1: Explored - Recommended



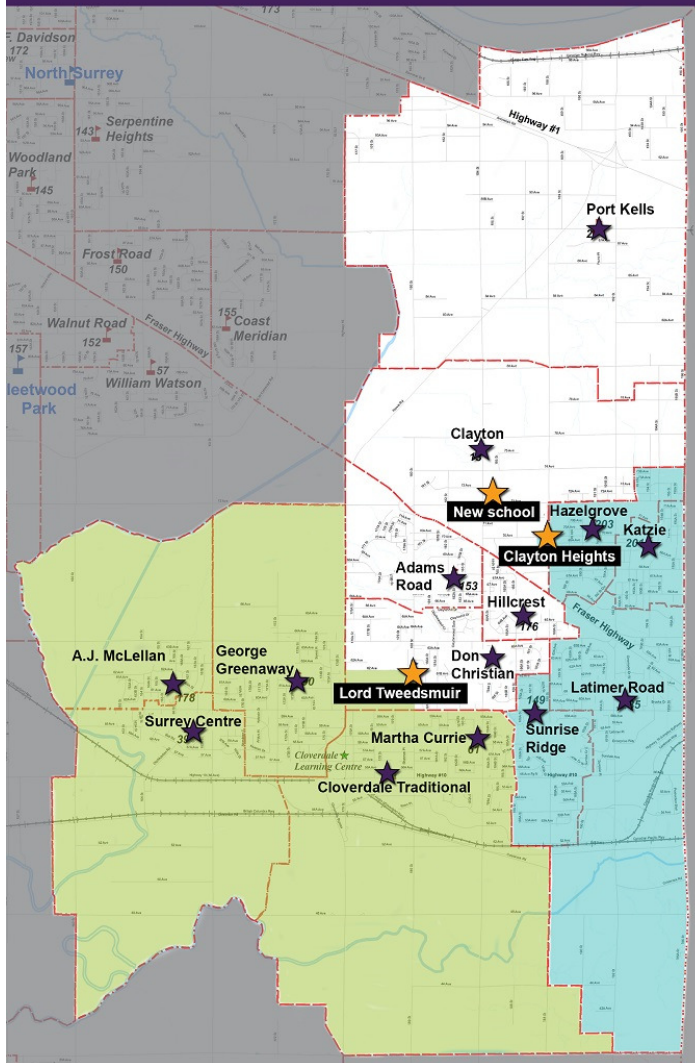
- Proposed catchment area for the new school
- Proposed catchment area for Clayton Heights
- Proposed catchment area for Lord Tweedsmuir
- Other areas

|                  | Lord Tweedsmuir | Clayton Heights | New school  |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Regular          | 1422            | 953             | 792         |
| French Immersion | 0               | 0               | 246         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1422</b>     | <b>953</b>      | <b>1038</b> |
| Utilization      | 102%            | 95%             | 69%         |

Numbers calculated using 2015 enrolment figures

- The option involves the least amount of disruption for the existing catchment boundaries for Lord Tweedsmuir and Clayton Heights
- The secondary French Immersion program would be located in the new secondary school in the Clayton area.
- 24 per cent of the existing Lord Tweedsmuir French Immersion population lives in the new secondary school catchment in Option 1
- This option is best aligned with Surrey Board of Education policy

# New Clayton Area Secondary Option 2A: Explored



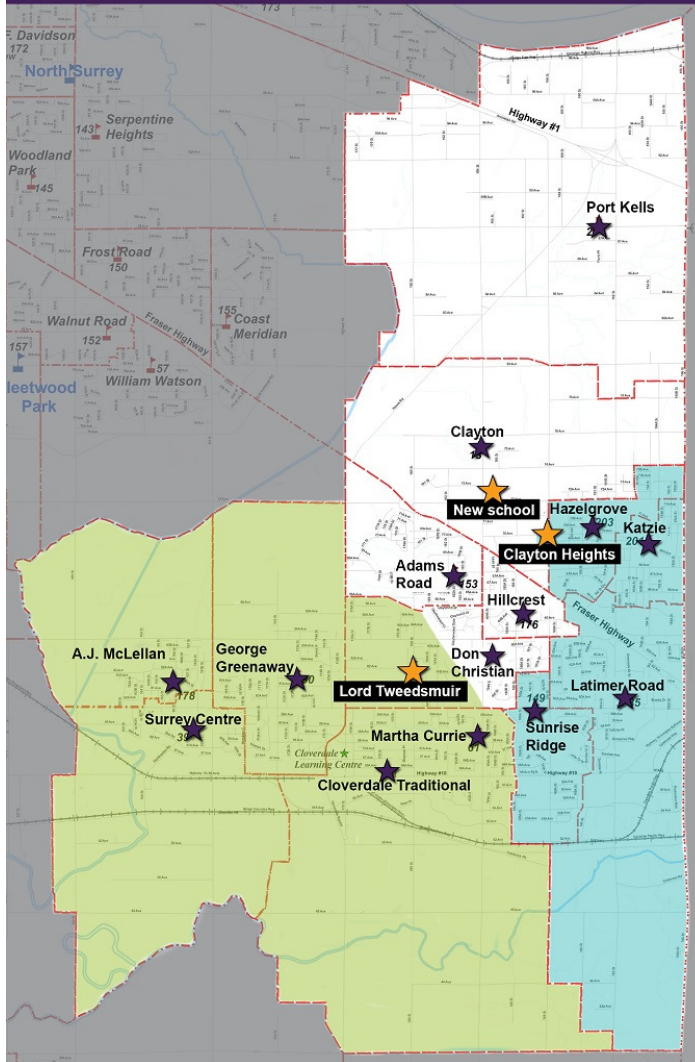
- Proposed catchment area for the new school
- Proposed catchment area for Clayton Heights
- Proposed catchment area for Lord Tweedsmuir
- Other areas

|                  | Lord Tweedsmuir | Clayton Heights | New school  |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Regular          | 1199            | 953             | 1015        |
| French Immersion | 246             | 0               | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1445</b>     | <b>953</b>      | <b>1015</b> |
| Utilization      | 103%            | 95%             | 68%         |

Numbers calculated using 2015 enrolment figures

- Don Christian Elementary is not in catchment for Lord Tweedsmuir, despite being located in very close geographic proximity to it
- The secondary French Immersion program would remain at Lord Tweedsmuir
- 30 per cent of the existing Lord Tweedsmuir French Immersion population live in the new Lord Tweedsmuir catchment in Option 2A

# New Clayton Area Secondary Option 2B: Explored



- Proposed catchment area for the new school
- Proposed catchment area for Clayton Heights
- Proposed catchment area for Lord Tweedsmuir
- Other areas

|                  | Lord Tweedsmuir | Clayton Heights | New school |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Regular          | 1269            | 953             | 945        |
| French Immersion | 246             | 0               | 0          |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>1515</b>     | <b>953</b>      | <b>945</b> |
| Utilization      | 108%            | 95%             | 63%        |

Numbers calculated using 2015 enrolment figures

- Lord Tweedsmuir would remain over capacity
- Don Christian Elementary would become a split catchment (Grade 7s would transition to Lord Tweedsmuir or the new school based on address)
- The secondary French Immersion program would remain at Lord Tweedsmuir
- 33 per cent of the existing Lord Tweedsmuir French Immersion population live in the new Lord Tweedsmuir catchment in Option 2B