

Enrolment Criteria
and
Transportation Boundary Consultations
for
St. Michael's High School
and
Hadley & Philemon Wright High Schools

November 21, 2019

Consultation Agenda

- * Consultations
- * Important Considerations
- * Purpose of a Enrolment Criteria and Transportation Boundary
- * Present Situation
- * Moving Forward
- * Feedback from first consultations

Consultations

- * St. Michael's High School – Nov 5, 7:00 p.m.
- * Hadley/PWHS – Nov 12, 7:00 p.m.
- * Wakefield Elementary School – Nov 20, 7:00 p.m.
- * Chelsea Elementary School – Nov 21, 7:30 p.m.
- * Poltimore Elementary School – Nov 27, 7:00 p.m.
- * Queen Elizabeth Elementary School – Nov 28, 7:00 p.m.

Important Consideration

- * **Education Act - Article 275** – Equitable distribution of resources and alignment of administrative and pedagogical practices
 - * In reference to enrolment criteria & transportation boundaries – Boundaries exist for all WQSB schools with the exception of St. Michael's and Hadley/PWHS

Important Considerations

- * **Education Act – Article 4** - Parents have a right to choose their school (With conditions and without the right of transportation if the choice is not within the boundary of their residence)
- * **Every student, or the student's parents if the student is not of full age, shall have the right to choose, every year, the school that best reflects their preferences** from among the schools of the school board whose jurisdiction the student comes under that provide services to which the student is entitled. (re-registrations and cross boundary requests)
- * **The exercise of the right to choose a school is subordinate to the enrolment criteria** established pursuant to **section 239** where the **number of applications for enrollment in a school exceeds the school's capacity**, and, in the case of a school with a special project or a school having a regional or provincial role, subordinate to the enrollment criteria established by the school board pursuant to section 240 or 468.
- * **The exercise of the right does not entail the right to require transportation services** where the transportation services required for the student concerned exceed the limits established by the school board.

Important Considerations

- * Cross Boundary Requests 2019-2020
 - * 94 requests for renewal – all approved
 - * 52 new requests
 - * 41 approved – (9 of those at Hadley/PWHS)
 - * 11 not granted
 - * Of those not granted, 7 Symmes/D'Arcy, 1 Lord Aylmer, 3 PETES, 1 South Hull

Important Considerations

- * Planning and Review Committee periodically reviews enrolment criteria and transportation boundaries to ensure viability and stability of schools
- * “Grandfathering” students who presently attend a school is an option when enrolment criteria and transportation boundaries change. *(In this case no change for students already attending either high school)*

Important Considerations

- * Being more efficient and providing equitable services, not saving money on transportation, i.e.:
 - * Improve services and reduce travel times for students in Cantley/Chelsea, Gracefield/Kazabazua/Low areas
 - * Provide transportation services in the Lac St. Marie area
- * Proposed Bill 40 on School Governance does not propose changing territory of future “Service Centres”
- * No decisions have been made on an enrolment criteria and transportation boundary for St. Michael’s and Hadley/PWHS.

Purpose of an Enrolment Criteria and Transportation Boundary

- * To consistently and equitably apply enrolment criteria and transportation boundaries for all schools within the Western Quebec School Board territory
 - * To ensure the long term viability and stability of WQSB schools
 - * To maximize the efficient use of resources.

Present Situation

- * St. Michael's HS is nearing capacity with unclear enrolment criteria (Education Act - Article 239)

*The enrollment criteria must give priority to students coming under the jurisdiction of the school board and, as far as possible, **to students whose place of residence is nearest to the school premises.***

- * Space available at Hadley/PWHS
- * No enrolment criteria nor transportation boundary exists between St. Michael's HS and Hadley/PWHS
- * Inequity and inefficiencies in transportation system

Present Situation

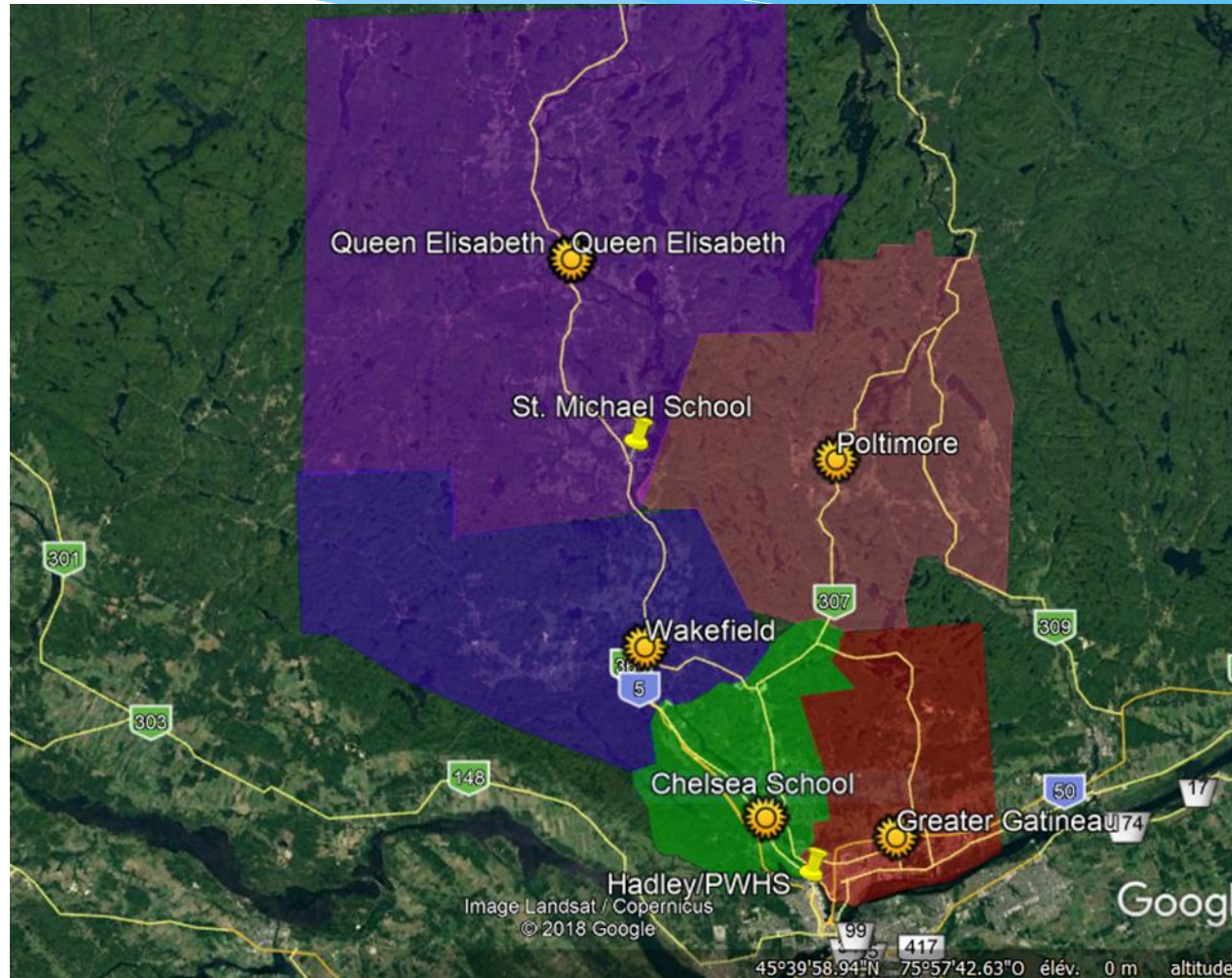
ENROLMENT OVERVIEW - 5 YEARS

SCHOOL	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2019-2020	2015-2019	SCHOOL CAPACITY	19-20 SPACE AVAILABLE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	Sept. 30	Sept. 30	Sept. 30	Sept. 30	Sept. 30	K4 full time	Difference		
Buckingham	176	150	144	127	138	14	-38	312	160
Chelsea	293	288	281	292	316		23	312	-4
Dr. S.E. McDowell	256	269	275	281	258	17	2	312	37
Eardley	357	359	360	359	349		-8	445	96
Greater Gatineau	414	449	469	480	478		64	486	8
Lord Aylmer	632	624	659	662	645		13	614	-31
Onslow	61	67	72	85	86	10	25	110	14
Pierre Elliott Trudeau	512	561	569	536	549		37	737	188
Poltimore	44	32	37	30	31	8	-13	87	48
Queen Elizabeth	43	52	66	77	77	8	34	110	25
South Hull	415	436	449	462	443		28	481	38
St. John's	107	118	108	108	114	10	7	317	193
Wakefield	293	303	306	296	297		4	330	33
Elementary Total	3603	3708	3795	3795	3781		178		
SECONDARY SCHOOLS									
Hadley/PWHS/L.P.	1004	1064	1078	1139	1189		185	1600	411
Pontiac	377	394	382	366	370		-7	800	430
St. Michael's	82	92	100	128	147		65	174	27
Symmes/Darcy McGee	988	1017	1024	1030	1101		113	1100	-1
Secondary Total	2451	2567	2584	2663	2807		356		
K TO 11 SCHOOLS									
Dr. Wilbert Keon	148	142	150	146	136	9	-12	500	355
G. Theberge	104	99	106	97	97	7	-7	300	196
Golden Valley	277	252	244	250	254	8	-23	500	238
Maniwaki Woodland	156	194	194	205	205	9	49	342	128
Namur	78	84	91	91	95	11	17	175	69
Noranda	93	88	82	88	103		10	465	362
K to Eleven Total	856	859	867	877	890	11	34		
GRAND TOTALS	6910	7134	7246	7335	7478		68		

Present Situation

2019-2020 CURRENT ENROLMENT WITHOUT BOUNDARY		
MUNICIPALITIES	ST. MICHAEL	HADLEY/PWHS
Alleyn & Cawood	2	0
Bowman	2	0
Cantley	3	52
Chelsea	31	157
Denholm/Val-des-Monts/Val-des-Bois (Poltimore)	10	18
Gatineau	4	714
Gracefield	8	0
Kazabazua	10	0
La Peche	58	138
Lac Ste-Marie	3	1
Low	16	4
POPULATION FOR ABOVE MUNICIPALITIES	147	1084

Elementary Enrolment Criteria and Transportation Boundary



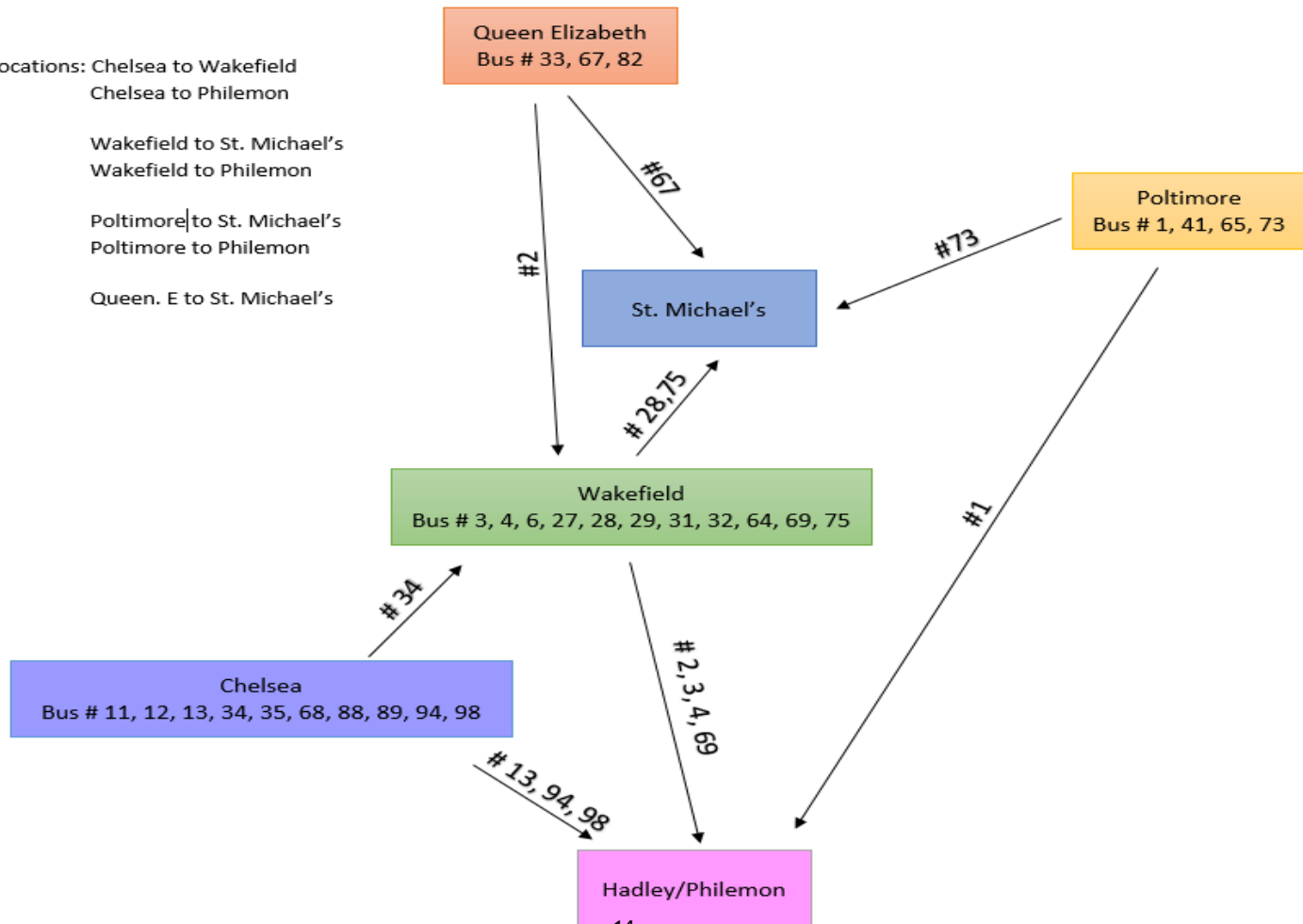
Present Situation

Transfer Locations: Chelsea to Wakefield
Chelsea to Philemon

Wakefield to St. Michael's
Wakefield to Philemon

Poltimore to St. Michael's
Poltimore to Philemon

Queen. E to St. Michael's



Challenges

- * Enrolment Criteria

- * At present, no way to determine who can attend St. Michael's in the event that there is no room in the school – (Art 239 – clearly states preference for those living closest to the school)

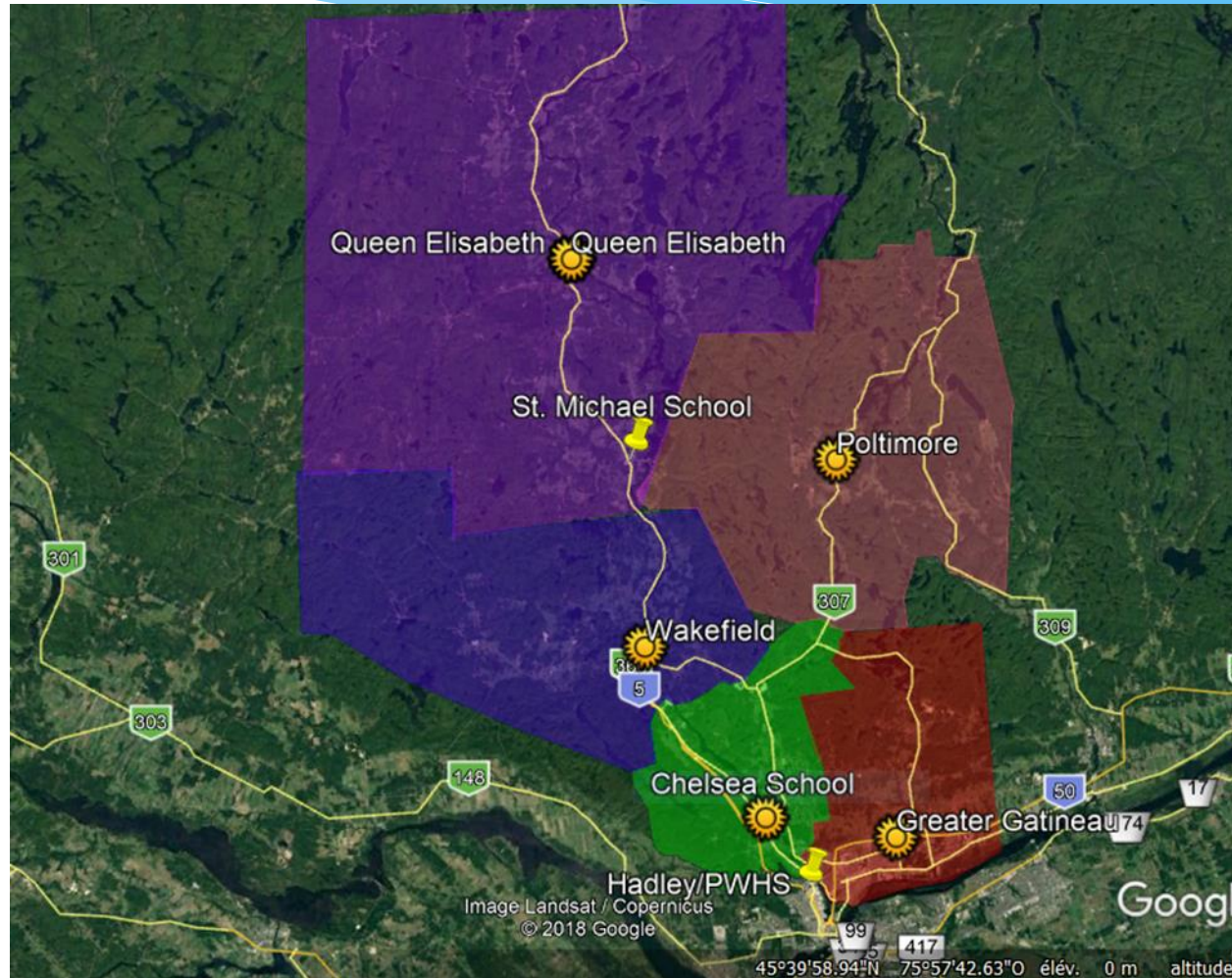
- * Transportation

- * Establishing bus transfers with 3 schools (Chelsea, Poltimore & Wakefield Schools)
- * Inefficient, while resources could be used in other areas to alleviate travel times

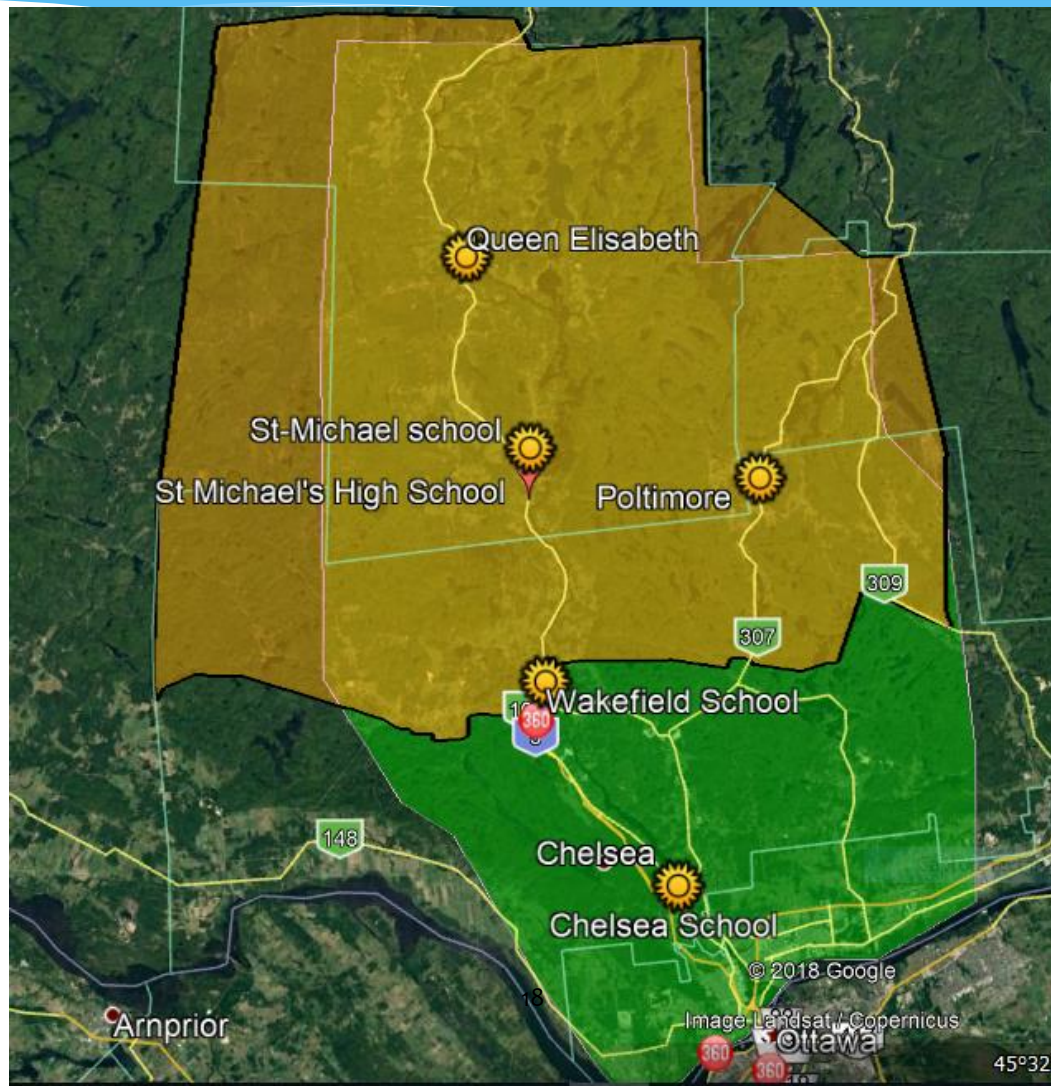
Moving Forward

- * Establish enrolment criteria and transportation boundaries that ensure the viability and stability of WQSB schools
- * Align WQSB practices and policies to ensure compliance with Article 4, 239, 275 of the Education Act
- * Maximize the efficient use of human, financial and material resources of the school board for student success.

Elementary Enrolment Criteria and Transportation Boundary



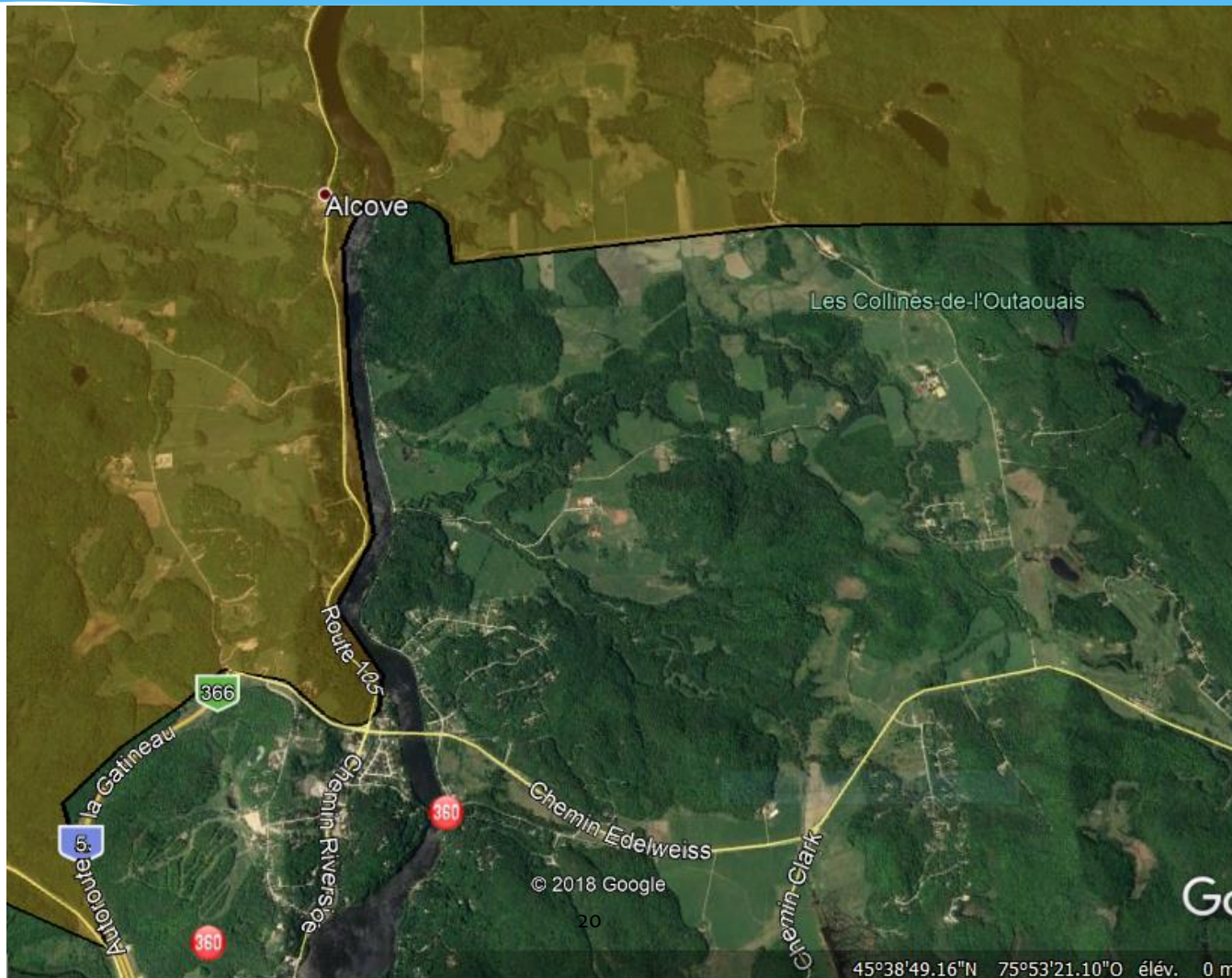
Proposed Boundary 2020-2021



Proposed Boundary 2020-2021



Proposed Boundary 2020-2021



Enrolment Criteria and Transportation Boundary

- * Establish a viable enrolment criteria and transportation boundary
- * Based on current enrolment, the option presented provides for approximately 162 students at St. Michael's and approximately 1174 at Hadley/PWHS
- * Grandfather existing students with transportation
- * Prioritize cross boundary requests, especially for siblings and special education. (*note that cross boundary requests are applied for yearly with no guarantee of transportation*)

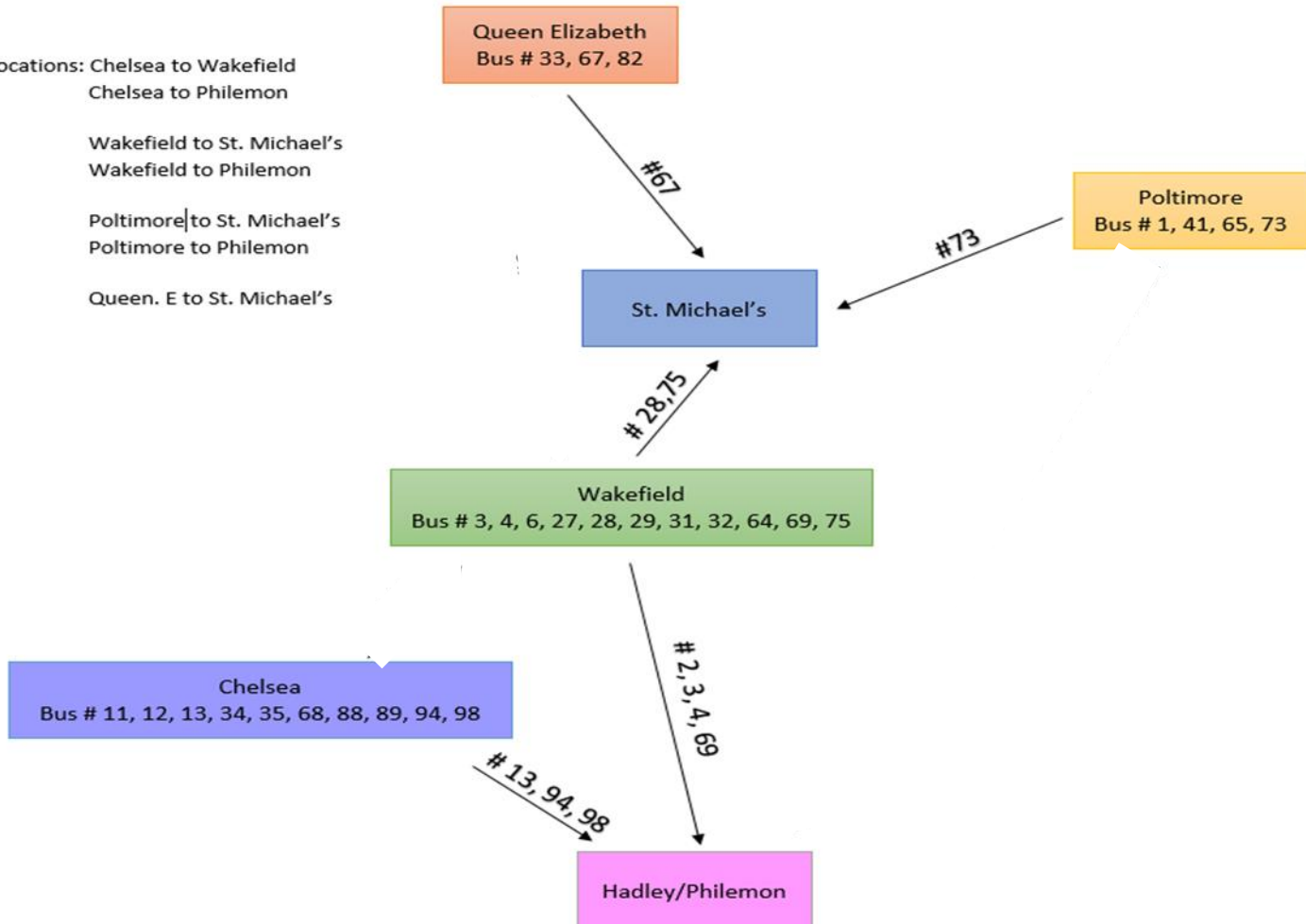
Proposed Boundary 2020-2021 Transportation

Transfer Locations: Chelsea to Wakefield
Chelsea to Philemon

Wakefield to St. Michael's
Wakefield to Philemon

Poltimore to St. Michael's
Poltimore to Philemon

Queen. E to St. Michael's



Proposed Boundary 2020-2021

2019-2020 CURRENT ENROLMENT WITH BOUNDARY		
MUNICIPALITIES	ST. MICHAEL	HADLEY/PWHS
Alleyn & Cawood	2	0
Bowman	2	0
Cantley	3	52
Chelsea	31	157
Denholm/Val-des-Monts/Val-des-Bois (Poltimore)	10	18
Gatineau	4	714
Gracefield	8	0
Kazabazua	10	0
La Peche	31	63
La Peche	29	73
Lac Ste-Marie	3	1
Low	16	4
Other areas		
POPULATION FOR ABOVE MUNICIPALITIES	149*	1082**

* as of November 12, 2019

** does not include students outside of affected areas - i.e Buckingham, Namur

Proposed Enrolment Criteria and Transportation Boundary 2020-2021

- * Planning and Review Committee - December 17, 2019 to review feedback from consultations
- * For new enrolment criteria and transportation boundary to apply for 2020-2021 school year a decision needs to be made at the January Council of Commissioners meeting
- * Transportation will be guaranteed for the students already attending St-Michael's HS and Hadley/Philemon Wright HS (*Grandfathering*)
- * For siblings, if a cross boundary is accepted, transportation may not be available after 2023-2024 (*or when the last grandfathered student is no longer attending school*)

Feedback Received to Date (point form)

- * Status quo
- * St. Michael's and Hadley/PWHS are very different schools, this should be a major consideration when implementing boundaries
- * Redraw boundary to include Poltimore in Hadley/PWHS boundary
- * Grandfather all siblings
- * Create transportation hubs at Wakefield and Chelsea to allow for choice of school
- * Examine alternative bus routes and partnerships.

Feedback Received to Date (point form)

- * Delay decision to 2021-2022 school year
- * Create a sub-committee of parents and community representatives to work with the school board to develop solutions
- * Gather more information through surveys to community
- * Create a 7-8 at St. Michael's for present catchment of Queen Elizabeth, Poltimore and Wakefield.

Questions and Feedback

Can also email WQSB Secretary General/Director of Corporate Services
Mr. George Singfield

georgesingfield@wqsb.qc.ca

NOTES