



**Catholic Education Centre**  
**3927 Perth Road 180, PO Box 70**  
**Dublin, ON N0K 1E0**

## **Initial Staff Report**

**St. Joseph's School, Clinton**  
**Boundary Review**

**April 6, 2020**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Trustees with sufficient information to initiate a boundary review involving St. Mary's School, Goderich, St. Joseph's School, Clinton, and Sacred Heart School, Wingham.

When St. Joseph's School, Kingsbridge was closed in 2006, it was recommended that these students be accommodated at St. Joseph's School, Clinton. At that time it allowed the opportunity for the Kingsbridge students to stay together in the same classes.

These students have now moved through the system. There are currently nineteen (19) families in this area who have students enrolled at Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board. The majority of these families (74%) are now choosing St. Mary's School, Goderich. For families in the former Kingsbridge geographical area, the communities of Goderich and Wingham area are closer, or as close, as Clinton.

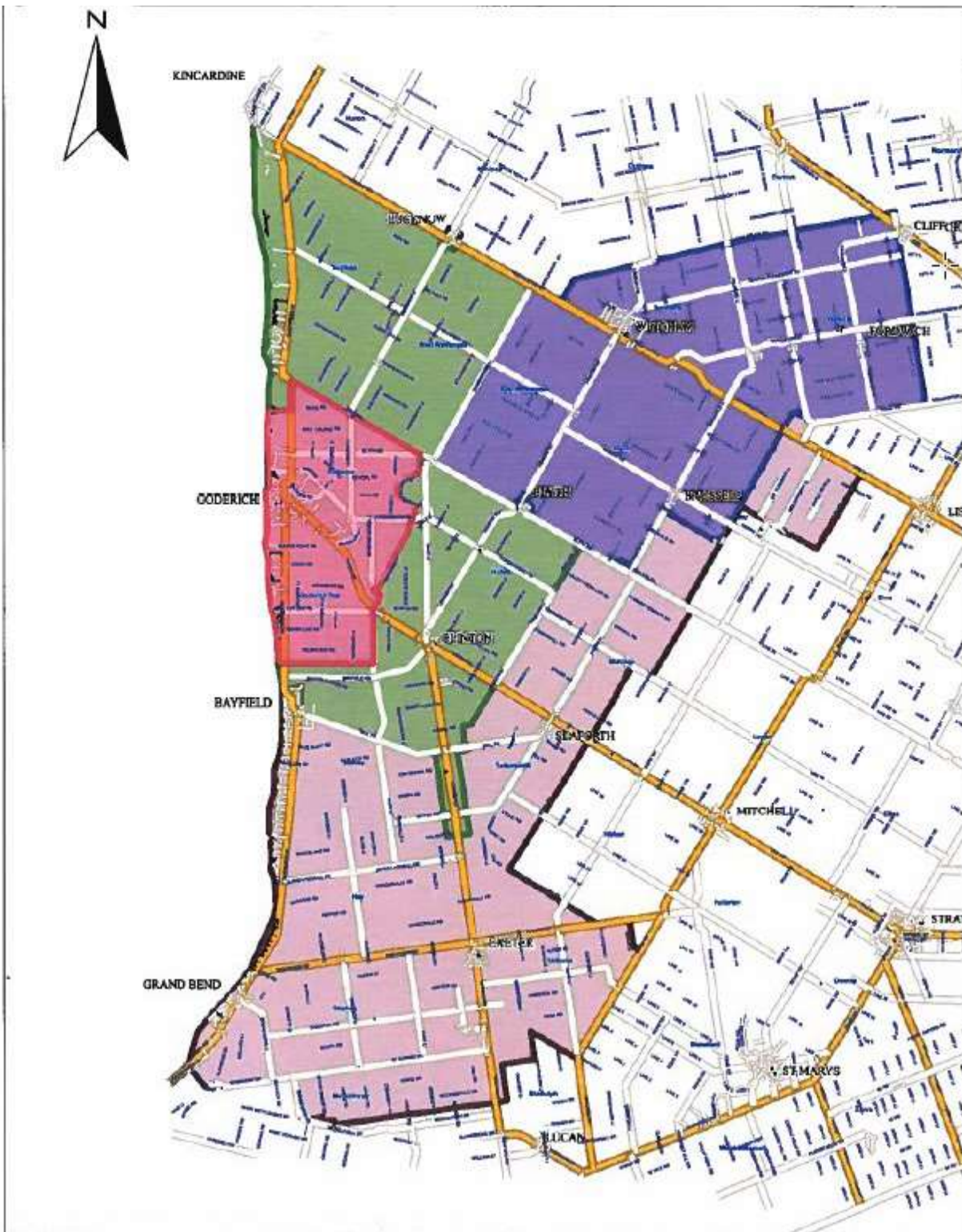
*February 2020 Kingsbridge area student demographics:*

| <b>Current School/Program</b> | <b>Families</b> | <b>% of Total</b> | <b>Students</b> | <b>% of Total</b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| St. Joseph's, Clinton         | 4               | 21%               | 6               | 18%               |
| St.Mary's, Goderich           | 14              | 74%               |                 | 79%               |
| * French Immersion            |                 |                   | 16              |                   |
| * Kindergarten                |                 |                   | 6               |                   |
| * English Program             |                 |                   | 4               |                   |
| Sacred Heart                  | 1               | 5%                | 1               | 3%                |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                 | <b>19</b>       |                   | <b>33</b>       |                   |

Through this report, staff is proposing to initiate a boundary review to move students in the former St. Joseph's School, Kingsbridge area away from St. Joseph's School, Clinton to a closer community.

The existing boundaries are shown on the next page:

Current St. Mary's, Goderich, St. Joseph's, Clinton and Sacred Heart Boundaries



- St Mary's, Goderich (Dark Pink-English Boundary/Light Pink-French Immersion Boundary)
- St Joseph's. Clinton Boundary (Green)
- Sacred Heart Boundary (Purple)

## 1.2 Goal of the Review

The specific goal of the review is to move students in the former St. Joseph's, Kingsbridge area to a closer school community. St. Joseph's, Clinton would no longer be the home school for all families in this area.

## 1.3 Board-wide Accommodation Review Goals

The following goals relate to every accommodation review and must be considered in the St. Joseph's School, Clinton boundary review.

- Provide, in cooperation with the Church and the home, a Catholic education that will develop the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional well-being of each student.
- Allocate physical, human and financial resources to each school in a manner which best provides an equal educational opportunity for all students in the system.
- Instructional facilities will be planned and organized with consideration of the following factors:
  - To support learning;
  - To achieve operating efficiencies;
  - To respond to current accommodation needs and unique community characteristics;
  - To anticipate the future.

## 2.0 BOUNDARY REVIEW PROCESS

The boundary review will follow the procedure as set out in Policy 3E:2 – Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines, *Section 9*. School boards have the option of completing a modified accommodation review process in cases where the options available are deemed to be less complex. That is the case in this situation.

Conditions required for conducting a modified pupil accommodation review must be based on two or more factors; factors can be developed to reflect local conditions across the board.

These explicitly defined factors must be approved, after community consultation, by the Board of Trustees. This community consultation was held March 10, 2020 at St. Mary's School, Goderich.

Identified factors to support this boundary review, and explain the rationale for exempting St. Mary's, Goderich, St. Joseph's, Clinton, and Sacred Heart from the standard pupil accommodation review process are:

- Distance to the nearest available accommodation (Goderich and/or Wingham);
  - Large distance to a school without an older sibling is not ideal.
- Families are currently using Policy 3C:4 – School of Attendance for Students to attend the closest school. This approval to attend is required each school year and is not a feasible solution;
- Goderich and Wingham are the home communities to many families in this area;
- St. Peter's Parish in Goderich is the parish to families in the former Kingsbridge area.

## **2.1 Initial Staff Report**

This report shall serve as the Initial Staff Report as per Policy 3E:2, *Section 9.3*. This report includes all relevant background information and two (2) options for consideration. Once a decision is made by the Board of Trustees to begin the review, a public meeting will be announced.

This report and the School Information Profile for St. Mary's, Goderich, St. Joseph's, Clinton, and Sacred Heart will be made publically available, and posted on the Board's website.

## **2.2 Public Consultation**

The purpose of the public meeting is to solicit feedback from the community on the boundary options. After the public meeting is announced, it will be advertised in local newspapers and posted on the following range of media:

- Board website, Twitter, and Facebook
- School Twitter and Facebook (St. Mary's, Goderich, St. Joseph's, Clinton and Sacred Heart)

A minimum of one (1) public meeting is required. This meeting will be facilitated by Board staff.

Within five (5) business days of the Board of Trustees decision, written notice of the Board of Trustees approval to conduct a boundary review will be provided to each of the affected single and upper-tier municipalities. Those being the County of Huron, Municipality of Central Huron, Town of Goderich, Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, and the Municipality of North Huron. The Avon Maitland District School Board and the Ministry of Education will also be notified.

To date there has been no interest expressed by the above municipalities or other community partners.

## **2.3 Final Staff Report**

Subsequent to the public meeting, a Final Staff Report will be submitted to the Board of Trustees and be made publically available and posted on the Board's website. The report will contain a Community Consultation section that includes any public consultations as well as any relevant information received from municipalities and other potential community partners.

There will be an opportunity for members of the public to provide feedback through public delegations after the Final Staff Report has been submitted to the Board of Trustees. Notice of public delegation opportunities will be posted to the Board's website. Those interested may register as delegations to address the Board of Trustees directly.

Following the public delegations, any public feedback will be compiled and provided to the Board of Trustees in a Final Staff Report.

## 2.4 Approvals

The final decision will be made by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has the discretion to approve the recommendation(s) of the Final Staff Report as presented; modify the recommendation(s) of the Final Staff Report; or to approve a different outcome.

## 2.5 Timelines

A modified review process is to occur over a minimum period of 3 months. It is encouraged that school boards not make final review decisions during the summer holiday period. Therefore, the review process will not be completed in time to be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year.

It is proposed that the Boundary Review would begin April 6, 2020 with the approval of this report. Two possible timelines are given below. The first proposal is dependent on 1) Ability to host an organized public event, or 2) Capability to host a virtual public meeting.

These completion dates will allow for communication to the community prior to 2021-2022 Junior Kindergarten enrolment. Due to the current provincial climate as a result of COVID-19, either of these proposed timelines are subject to change. If adjusted, all public postings and timing of public events will meet the requirements set out in Policy 3E:2 Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines.

### Proposed Timeline #1:

| Item  | Timeline                      |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Initial Community Consultation   | March 10, 2020                |
| 2. Initial Staff Report to Board / Initiate Review  | April 6, 2020 Board Meeting   |
| 3. Public Meeting   | Week of May 25 to 29, 2020    |
| 4. Final Report to Board of Trustees and post on website.   | June 15, 2020 Board Meeting   |
| 5. Public Delegations   | August, 2020 Board Meeting    |
| 6. Final Report to Board of Trustees with Public Delegation Information and the Final Decision of the Board of Trustees | September, 2020 Board Meeting |

### Proposed Timeline #2:

| Item  | Timeline                               |
|---|--|
| 1. Initial Community Consultation   | March 10, 2020                         |
| 2. Initial Staff Report to Board / Initiate Review  | April 6, 2020 Board Meeting            |
| 3. Public Meeting   | Week of August 31 to September 4, 2020 |
| 4. Final Report to Board of Trustees and post on website.   | September, 2020 Board Meeting          |
| 5. Public Delegations   | October, 2020 Board Meeting            |
| 6. Final Report to Board of Trustees with Public Delegation Information and the Final Decision of the Board of Trustees | November, 2020 Board Meeting           |



## 3.0 ANALYSIS

### 3.1 Enrolment

The following table show actuals and projected enrolment versus capacity. Please note that these enrolment numbers reflect the twenty-six (26) students in this area who currently attend St. Mary's. Goderich. Sacred Heart is able to accommodate any additional enrolment that may be seen with the increase to its boundary.

|                              |          | Current      |               | Forecast |               | Historical |               |         |               |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------|---------------|----------|---------------|------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
|                              | OTG*     | October 2019 |               | 2029     |               | 2018/19    |               | 2017/18 |               |
|                              | Capacity | FTE*         | % Utilization | FTE*     | % Utilization | FTE*       | % Utilization | FTE*    | % Utilization |
| St. Mary's School, Goderich  | 331      | 324          | 97.9%         | 322      | 97.3%         | 319        | 96.4%         | 303     | 91.5%         |
| St. Joseph's School, Clinton | 225      | 247          | 109.8%        | 253      | 112.4%        | 239        | 106.2%        | 248     | 110.2%        |
| Sacred Heart School, Wingham | 225      | 187          | 83.1%         | 183      | 81.3%         | 180        | 80.0%         | 171     | 76.0%         |

\*OTG (On the Ground)

\*Full Time Equivalent Enrolment

## 4.0 OPTIONS

Two options are contained in this report, including staff's preferred option.

### 4.1 Option 1 – Preferred Option

This option focuses on making the home school for families in the former St. Joseph's, Kingsbridge area one that is better situated in their community. It recommends a boundary change for St. Mary's, Goderich, St. Joseph's, Clinton, and Sacred Heart. It will balance enrolment between St. Mary's, Goderich and St. Joseph's, Clinton, and will provide a viable choice for elementary Catholic education to all families in this area.

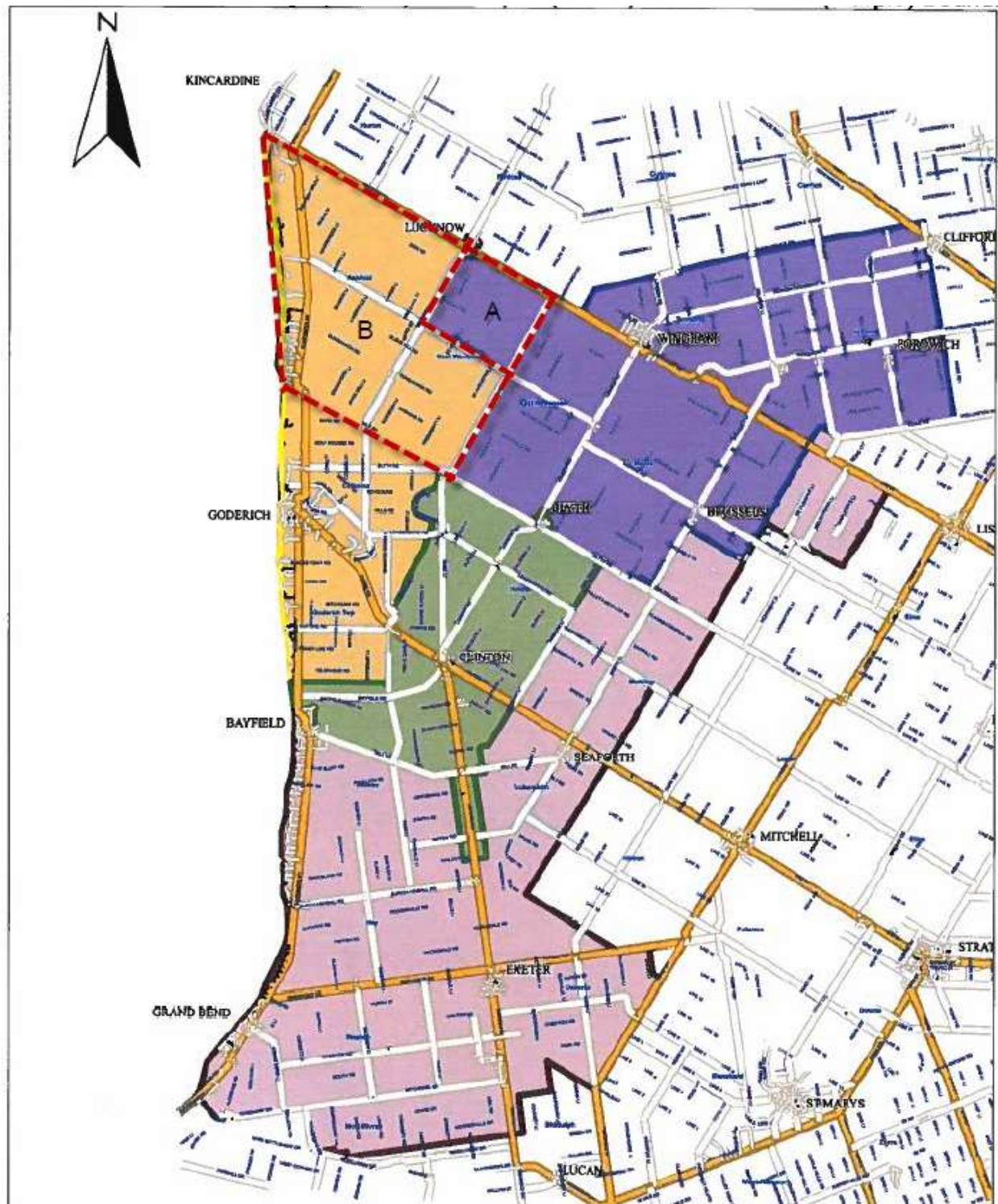
Specifically, it proposes to:

- Move area A from St. Joseph's, Clinton to Sacred Heart.
  - There are currently no students in the proposed Sacred Heart area attending St. Mary's, Goderich or St. Joseph's, Clinton.
- Move area B from St. Joseph's, Clinton to St. Mary's, Goderich.
  - St. Mary's, Goderich will be the home school for all families in area B.
- There would be no change for the 74% of families who currently attend St. Mary's, Goderich in a combination of the French Immersion, Kindergarten, and English programs.

- For the 21% of families who currently attend St. Joseph's, Clinton, time frames for grandfathering into the new boundary will be confirmed. They would have the opportunity to:
  - Register at St. Mary's, Goderich;
  - Continue to attend St. Joseph's, Clinton during the grandfather period;
  - Submit an annual School of Attendance Form for approval, per Policy 3C:4 – School of Attendance for Students, to attend St. Joseph's, Clinton.
- The 5% of families who currently attend Sacred Heart would still not reside in the proposed Sacred Heart boundary. There is the opportunity to:
  - Register at St. Mary's, Goderich;
  - Continue to submit an annual School of Attendance Form for approval, per Policy 3C:4 – School of Attendance for Students, to attend Sacred Heart.



**Option 1 – Proposed St. Mary's, Goderich, St. Joseph's, Clinton and Sacred Heart Boundaries**



- St Mary's, Goderich (Yellow-English Boundary/Light Pink-French Immersion Boundary)
- St Joseph's, Clinton Boundary (Green)
- Sacred Heart Boundary (Purple)

#### Strengths:

- Dividing the former St. Joseph's, Kingsbridge area into two (2) sections best supports the specific goal of the review to move students to a closer school community.
- St. Joseph's, Clinton and St. Mary's, Goderich would be equally at capacity.
- Sacred Heart is able to accommodate an increase to enrolment.
- Increased options for families in this area to choose Catholic education.
- Few students in this area would be affected.

#### Weaknesses:

- There will be an increased transportation cost. Not all of the families in this new boundary area who currently attend St. Mary's, Goderich reside in an area that provides door pickup. At this time, the estimated additional cost to provide door pickup for all *current* students of the Board in this area will be approximately \$7,000.00. This cost can be accommodated in the budget.
- There will be students living in this boundary area that can expect bus rides of greater than an hour each way.

## 4.2 Option 2

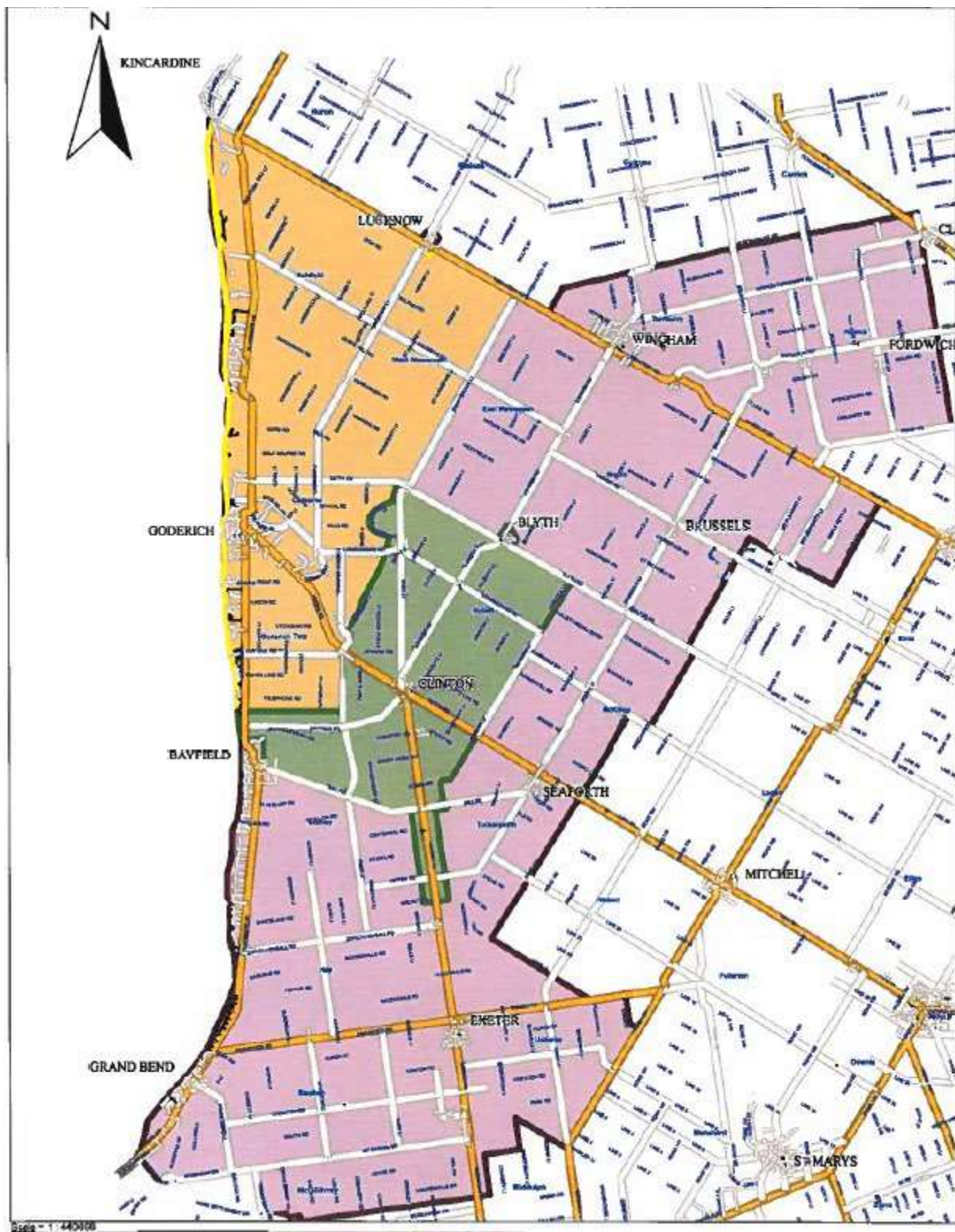
This option focuses on moving the entire former Kingsbridge area from St. Joseph's, Clinton to St. Mary's, Goderich and will make the home school for many students in this area one that is situated in their community. It will also balance enrolment between the two (2) schools. This option will change boundaries for only two (2) schools within the Board (St. Joseph's, Clinton & St. Mary's, Goderich), and would not result in a boundary change for Sacred Heart.

Specifically, it proposes to:

- Make St. Mary's, Goderich the home school for all families in the former St. Joseph's, Kingsbridge area.
- There would be no change for the 74% of families who currently attend St. Mary's, Goderich in a combination of the French Immersion, Kindergarten, and English programs.
- For the 21% of families who currently attend St. Joseph's, Clinton, time frames for grandfathering into the new boundary will be confirmed. They would have the opportunity to:
  - Register at St. Mary's, Goderich;
  - Continue to attend St. Joseph's, Clinton during a grandfather period;
  - Submit an annual School of Attendance Form for approval, per Policy 3C:4 – School of Attendance for Students, to attend St. Joseph's, Clinton.
- The 5% of families who currently attend Sacred Heart would have the opportunity to:
  - Register at St. Mary's, Goderich;
  - Continue to submit an annual School of Attendance Form for approval, per Policy 3C:4 – School of Attendance for Students, to attend Sacred Heart.



**Option 2 – Proposed St. Mary's, Goderich and St. Joseph's, Clinton Boundaries (no change to Sacred Heart)**



- St Mary's, Goderich (Yellow-English Boundary/Light Pink-French Immersion Boundary)
- St Joseph's, Clinton Boundary (Green)

#### Strengths:

- The goal of moving students in the former St. Joseph's, Kingsbridge area to a closer school community would be achieved for the majority of families.
- St. Joseph's, Clinton and St. Mary's, Goderich would be equally at capacity.
- Few students in this area would be affected, and they would have the opportunity to continue to attend St. Joseph's, Clinton during a grandfather period.

#### Weaknesses:

- There will be an increased transportation cost. Not all of the families in this new boundary area who currently attend St. Mary's, Goderich reside in an area that provides door pickup. The estimated additional cost to provide door pickup for all *current* students of the Board in this area will be approximately \$7,000.00. This cost can be accommodated in the budget.
- There will be students living in this boundary area that can expect at least an hour bus ride each way.
- The home school for families in the Northeast corner of the new boundary may not be within their community. (Goderich vs. Wingham).

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

Due to circumstances at the time, when the St. Joseph's School, Kingsbridge was closed, the preferred option was to accommodate all students at St. Joseph's School, Clinton. For these families, the communities of Goderich and Wingham area are closer, or as close as Clinton.

Two options have been identified through this report, with one identified as staff's preferred option. Both options achieve the primary goal to move students in the former Kingsbridge area to a closer school community.

Subject to approval by the Board of Trustees to commence a boundary review on April 6, 2020, it is anticipated that the review will be completed for the 2021-2022 school year.

Once a decision is made, it will be communicated to families in this area. Grandfathering options will be discussed and made available to those families that currently attend St. Joseph's School, Clinton, and will be affected by a boundary change.