



**Information package for the Queen Elizabeth Regional High school system  
related to the construction of the new elementary school in Conception Bay South  
February 9, 2017**



**Background**

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) is pleased to report that the new school under construction in the Queen Elizabeth Regional High (QERH) school system in Conception Bay South (CBS) is scheduled to open for the 2017-2018 school year.

The QERH school system is currently configured as follows:

Three elementary (Kindergarten to Grade 6) schools (Upper Gullies Elementary, St. Edward's Elementary, and St. George's Elementary) feed into one intermediate (Grades 7-9) school (Frank Roberts Junior High) and then feed into one high (grades 10-12) school (Queen Elizabeth Regional High). This is graphically represented as Figure 1 below.

The new school was planned and constructed to address enrolment pressures at Upper Gullies Elementary, St. Edward's Elementary, and Frank Roberts Junior High.

Once the new school is in operation, the QERH school system will be configured as follows:

In addition to the three existing elementary schools a new Kindergarten to Grade 7 school will feed into Frank Roberts Junior High and onto Queen Elizabeth Regional High. This configuration will see the new school population being drawn from a piece of the existing Upper Gullies Elementary catchment area and the existing St. Edward's Elementary catchment area and also retain the Grade 7 population from the new combined catchment. This is graphically represented as Figure 2 below.

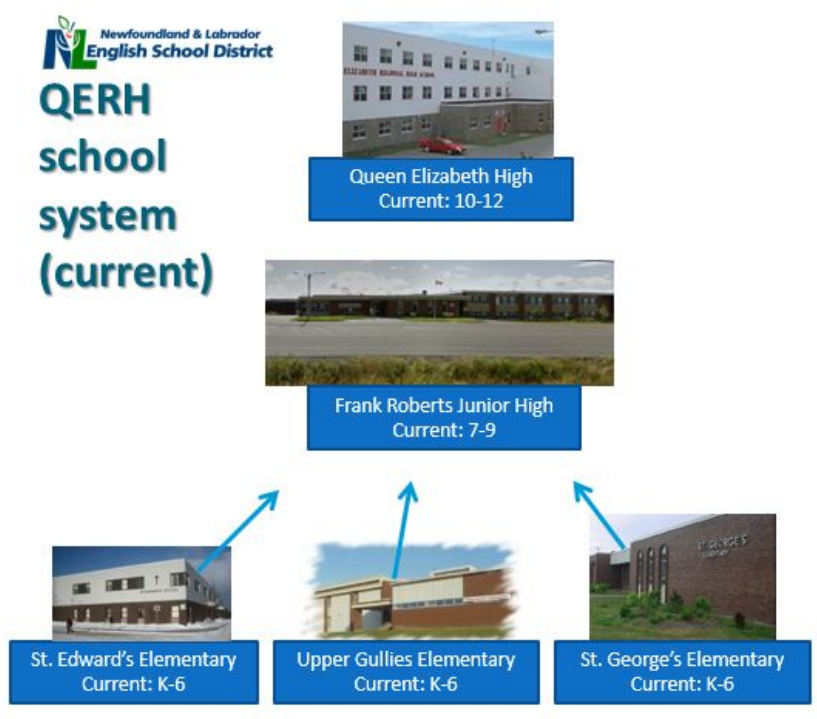


Figure 1: Current QERH school system configuration

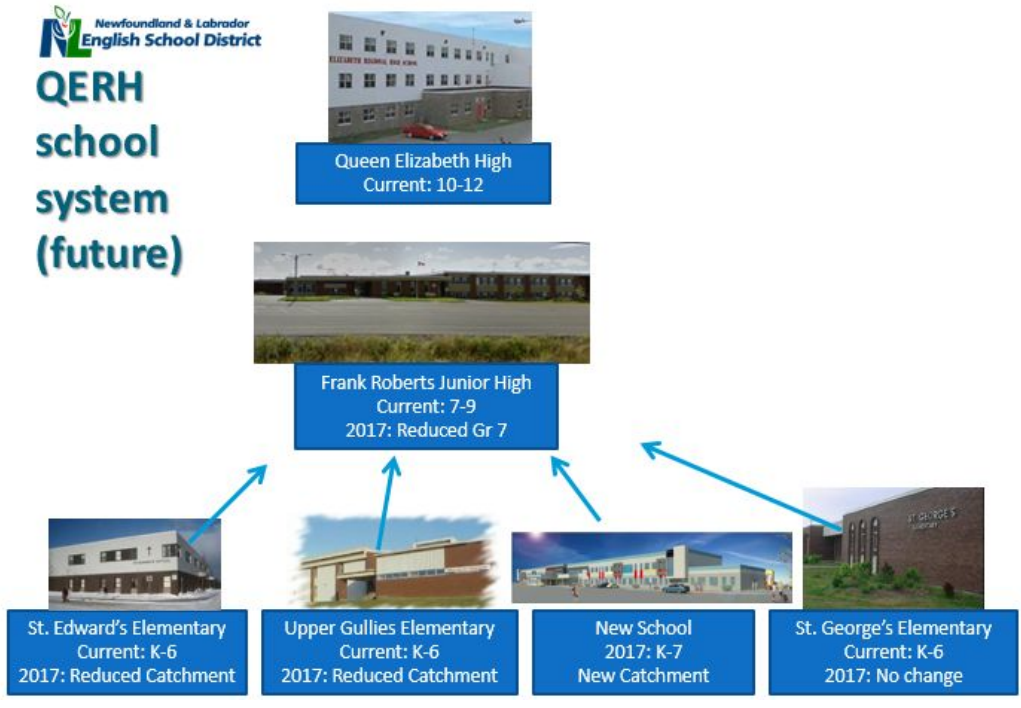


Figure 2: Future QERH catchment

## Description of New CBS K-7 School

- Capacity to accommodate up to 600 students from Kindergarten to Grade 7 with the core to be designed for 700 students.
- 28 regular classrooms, varying in area from 60 sq.m. to 85 sq.m.
- In general, the first floor is primary grades and specialty areas, while higher grades are on the second floor.
- The proposed net area of the building is 4515 sq.m. and total gross area of the building is 6592 sq.m. The design will be a two-story structure with a second-level mechanical room.
- In addition to the regular classrooms, the following instructional and administrative support areas have been provided:
  - Challenging needs room with washroom,
  - Library/resource centre complete with IT room,
  - Science lab,
  - Gymnasium and Stage,
  - Music room,
  - Kitchen and Multi-purpose/lunch room,
  - Computer lab,
  - Administration suite and Guidance suite,
  - Staff preparation/lounge area,
  - Related storage areas, and
  - Building service rooms.



## Ground Floor



CBS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN  
APRIL 8, 2015



Figure 3: New CBS K-7 Ground Floor Plan



Figure 4: New CBS K-7 Ground Floor Plan

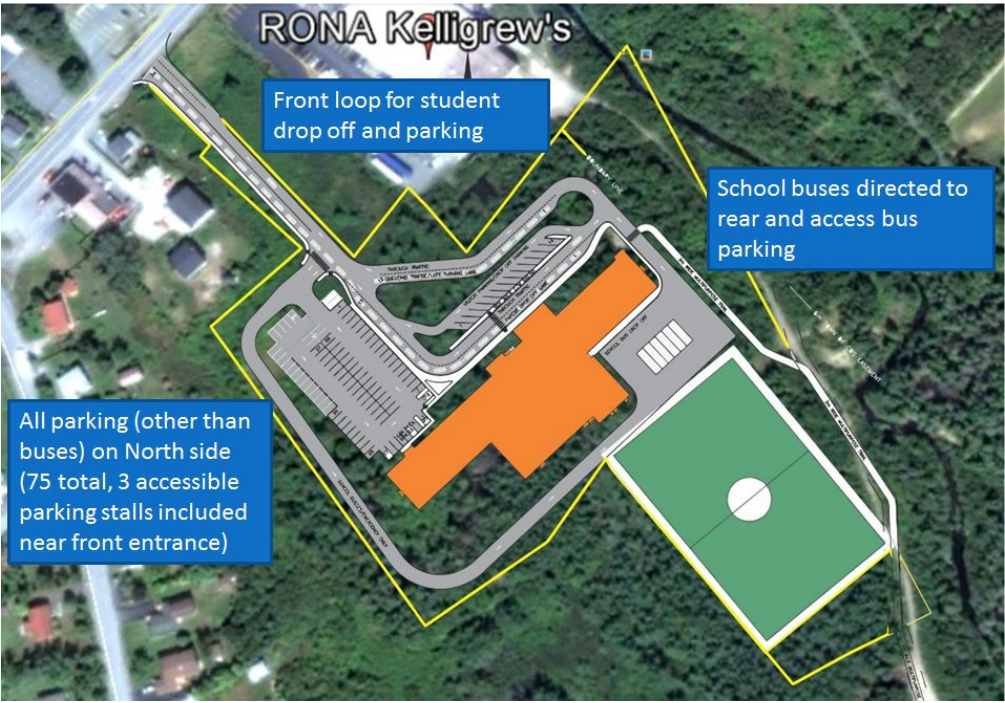


Figure 5: New CBS K-7 Site Schematic



## **New CBS K-7 School Catchment (Attendance Zone) Design**

NLESD staff has met with the School Councils of the QERH school system on several occasions as part of the preliminary consultation process regarding the design of the catchment area for the new CBS K-7 school. Together with the School Councils a number of different options were explored and examined with the aid of Baragar Systems, a custom planning software system for use by school districts across Canada. School Councils were presented with some options for the design of this new catchment area. Some additional creative suggestions were also explored, such as different grade level alignments with combined catchments. Options were eliminated from consideration after consultation if they did not offer solutions that could work in the long term given the available infrastructure and enrolment projections into the future. NLESD has projected the enrolment for all the schools in the QERH school system out to the year 2026 utilizing Baragar Systems.

The current school catchment areas (school attendance zones) are depicted in Figure 6.

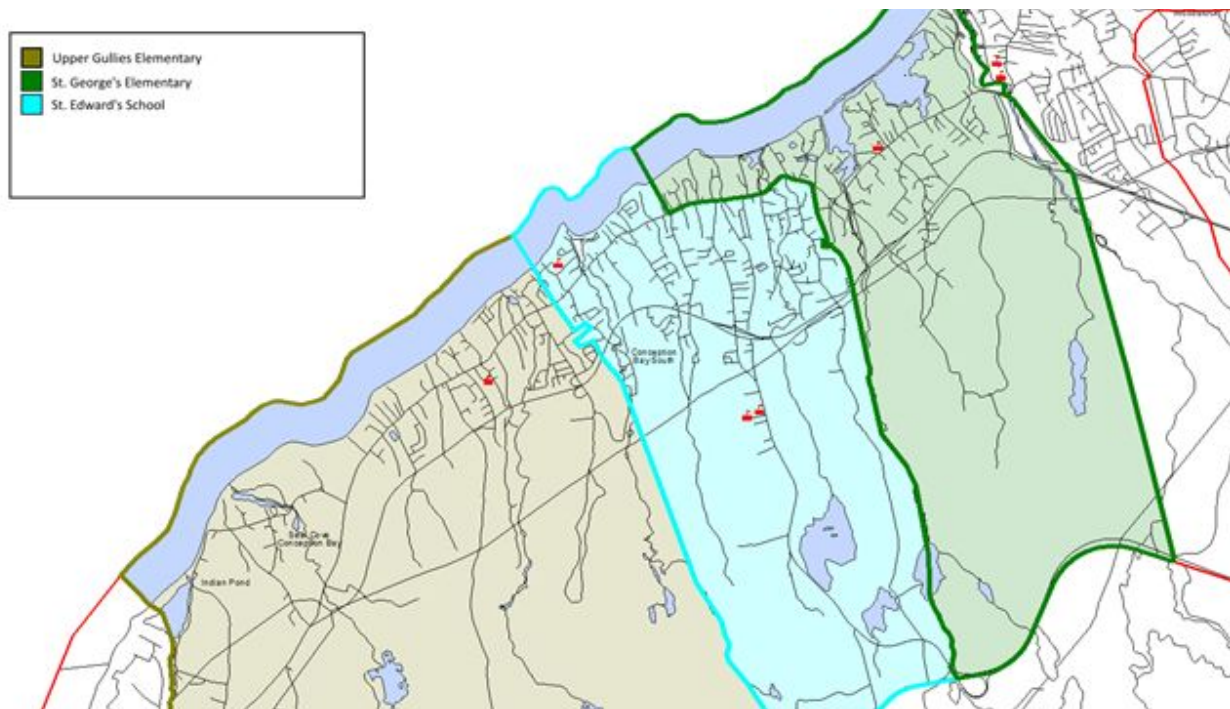


Figure 6: Current Catchment Areas

Early on it was determined that St. George's Elementary would not need to be factored into the new catchment design. St. George's Elementary has a relatively stable school enrolment projection and can continue to feed into Frank Roberts Junior High. St. George's Elementary is currently utilizing all of its 16 regular classrooms and projections indicate will require no more

than 16 rooms out to 2026. If actual enrolment was to increase beyond the 16 room requirement, the catchment design could be revisited in the future if necessary, but this is not anticipated.

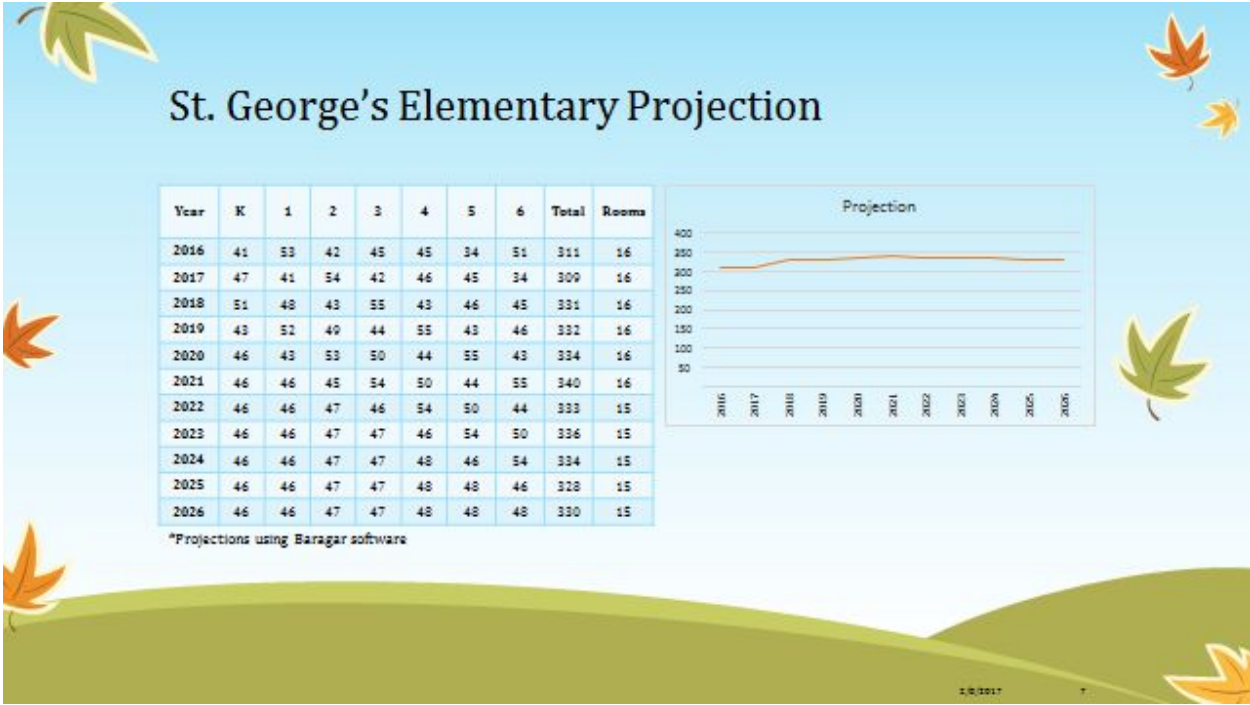


Figure 7: St. George's Elementary enrolment projection.

Given that no adjustments are required for St. George's, the New CBS K-7 school catchment involved just St. Edward's Elementary and Upper Gullies Elementary. The new school attendance zone (catchment area) is to be created from taking a piece of the existing Upper Gullies Elementary catchment area and taking a piece of the existing St. Edward's Elementary catchment area.

**Proposed New St. Edward's Elementary Catchment Area**

St. Edward's Elementary currently has 31 classrooms (27 regular classrooms + 4 modular classrooms). At present 35 rooms are required. The school is accommodating this over capacity issue by splitting the library for one space, utilizing two small rooms with half-sized classes, and co-teaching in kindergarten. The intent is to extract enough of the current St. Edward's Elementary catchment to allow the enrolment to comfortably fit into the available instructional areas out to the year 2026.

Given the proximity of the new school to St. Edward's Elementary, there is very little flexibility in dividing this catchment area. The proposed new catchment area boundaries for St. Edward's Elementary is represented in the slide below as the teal coloured area. The portion of the

catchment area that is proposed to become part of the New CBS K-7 school is depicted in the **purple** coloured area in Figure 8.

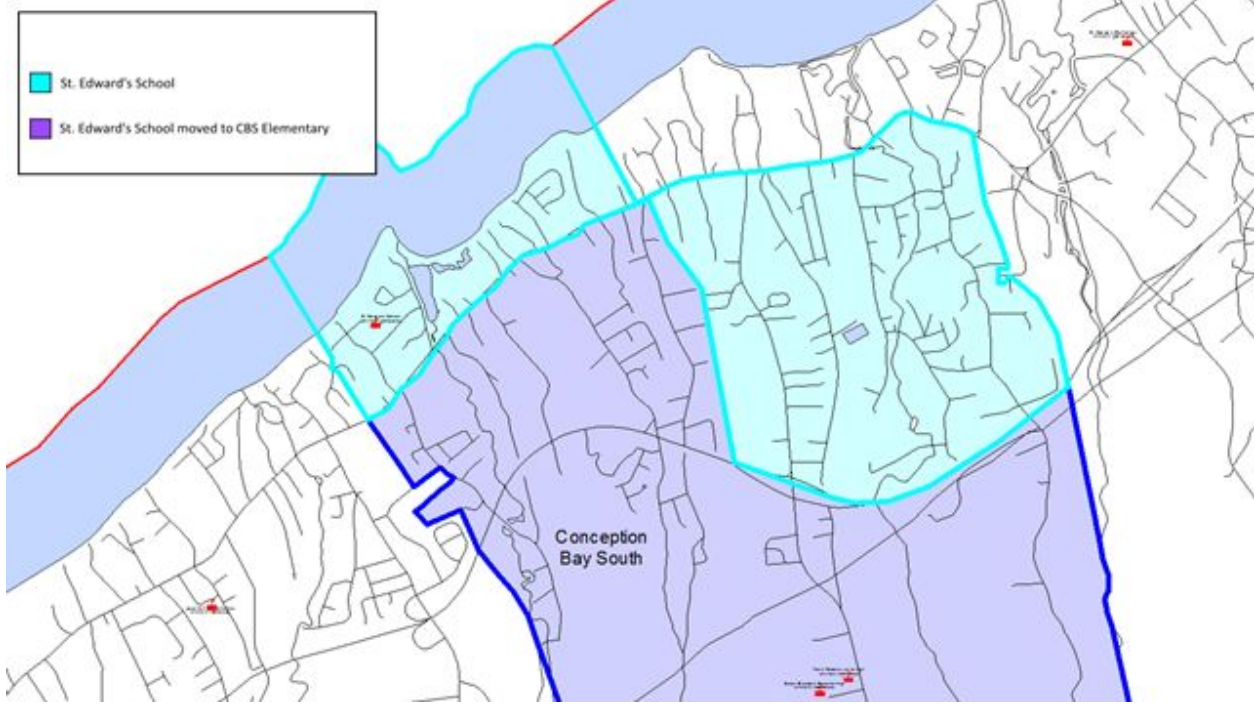


Figure 8: Proposed new St. Edward's Elementary catchment

If the proposed catchment was implemented, enrolment at St. Edward's Elementary would decrease from 754 students currently to 517 students projected for 2017-2018. The peak projected enrolment to 2026 would be 638 students and the peak room requirement would be 29 of the 31 available rooms.

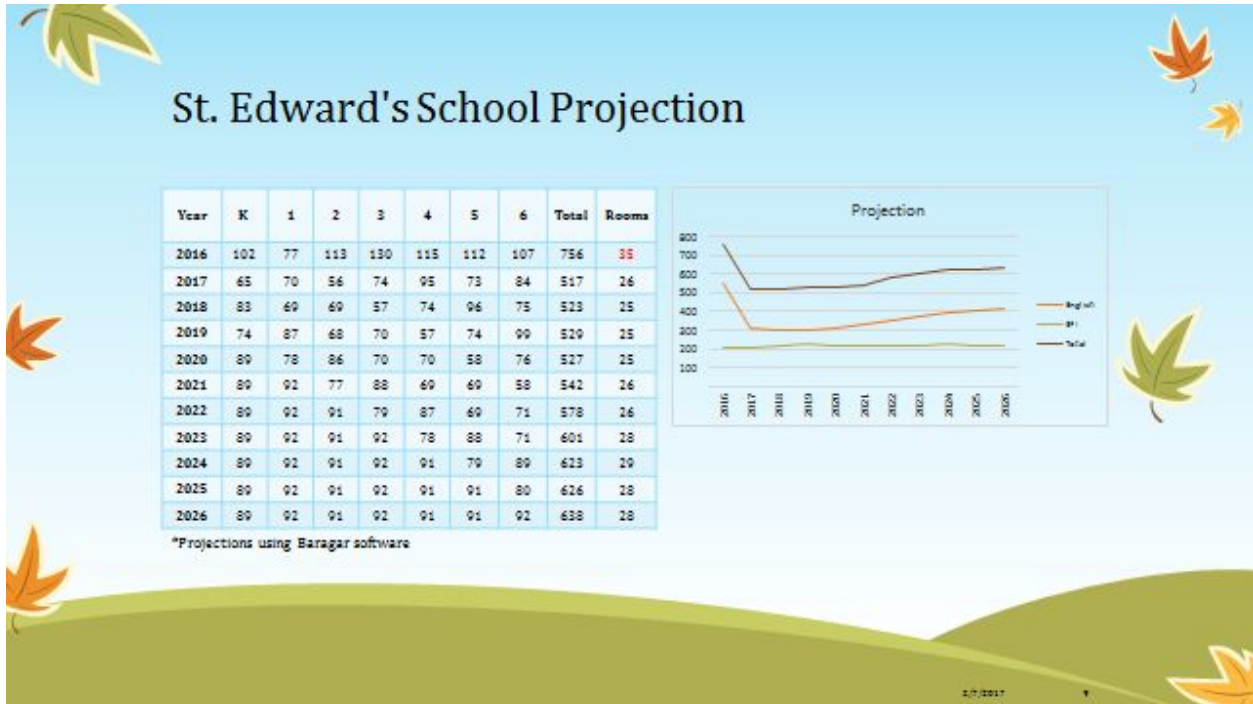


Figure 9: New Catchment St. Edward’s Elementary projection  
**Upper Gullies Elementary Catchment Scenarios**

Upper Gullies Elementary currently has 21 regular classrooms. At present 23 rooms are required. The school is accommodating this over capacity issue by co-teaching in Kindergarten and use of former music/band room as a regular classroom. Music/band is now held on the stage of the gymnasium and employing a divider. The intent is to extract enough of the current Upper Gullies Elementary catchment to allow the enrolment to comfortably fit into the available instructional areas out to the year 2026.

Upper Gullies Elementary is some distance from the new school location and this factor allows for some distinct choices for catchment design. After a series of consultation sessions with the combined school councils of the QERH school system, the District has designed two possible scenarios for consideration for the new catchment area - referred to as Scenario A and Scenario B. Scenario A takes a section of the current Upper Gullies Elementary adjacent to the section taken from St. Edward’s Elementary to form the new catchment area for the New CBS K-7 school. Scenario B takes a section on the Western end of the current Upper Gullies Elementary and combined with the section taken from St. Edward’s Elementary to form the new catchment area for the New CBS K-7 school. Figures 8,9, and 10 depict the proposed Scenario A catchment.



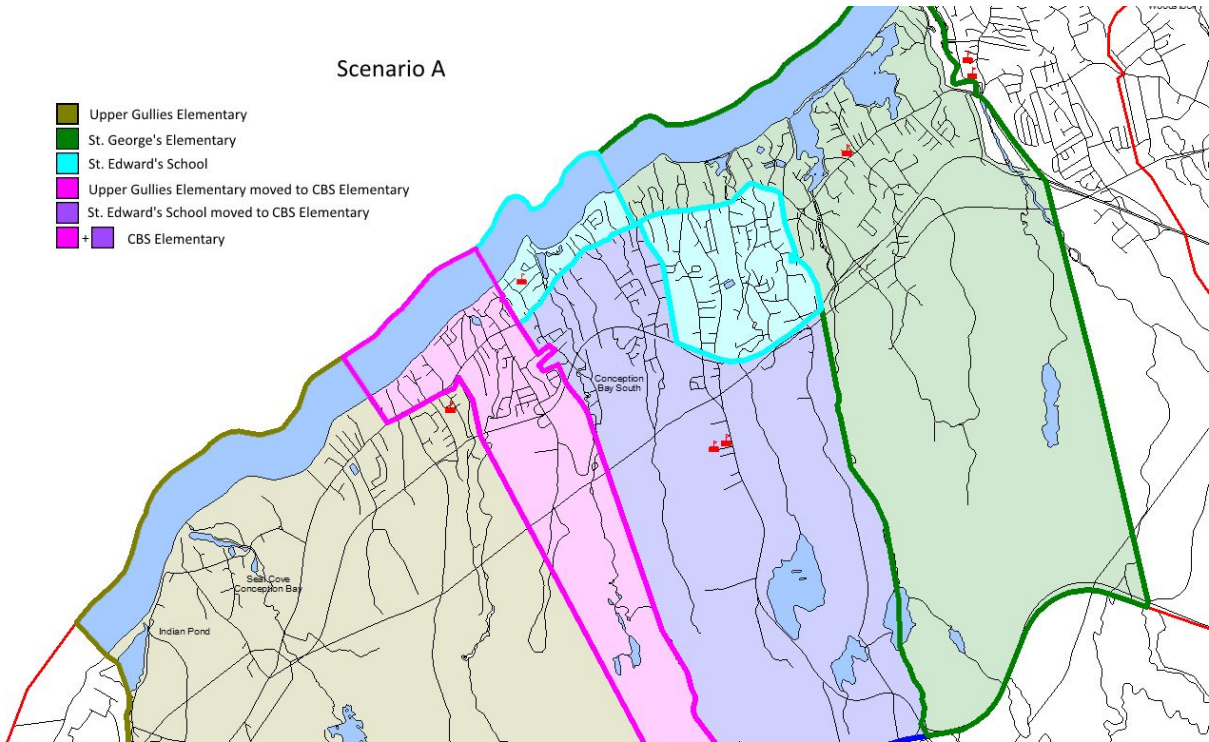


Figure 10: Scenario A Catchment Design

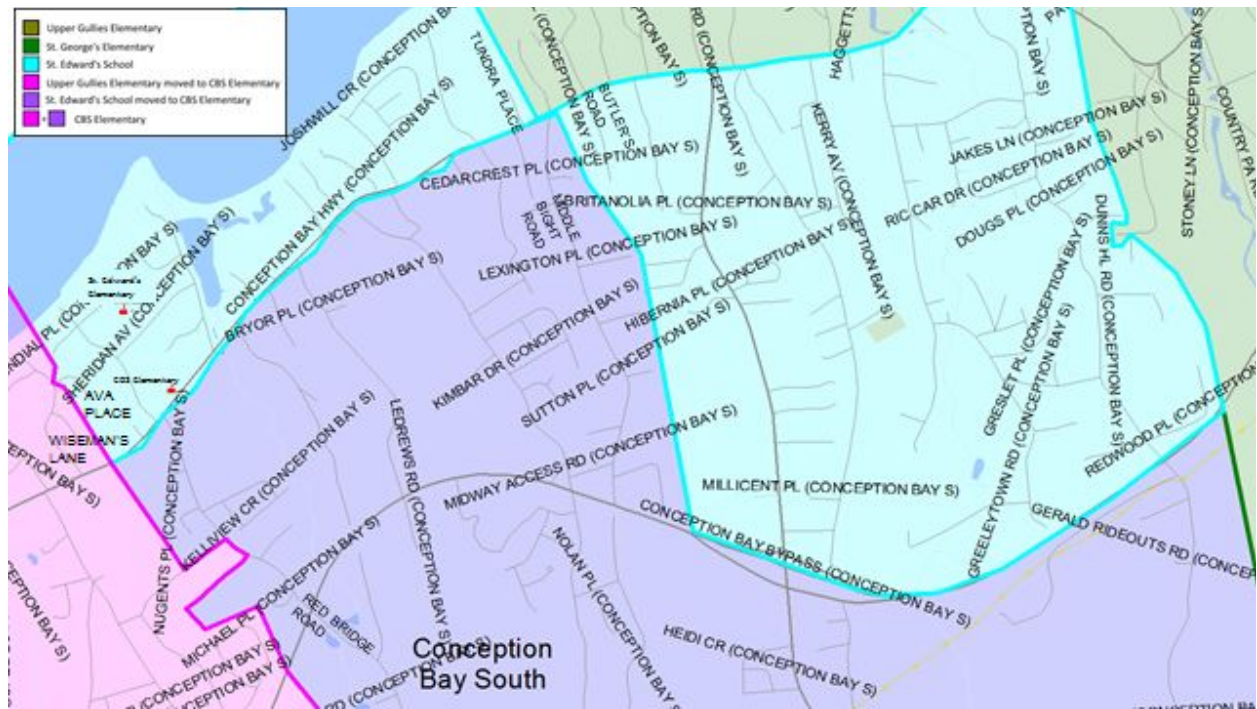


Figure 11: Scenario A Catchment Design - Zoom in

If the proposed Scenario A catchment was implemented, enrolment at Upper Gullies Elementary would decrease from 520 students currently to 335 students projected for

2017-2018. The peak projected enrolment to 2026 would be 423 students and the peak room requirement would be 20 of the 21 available rooms.

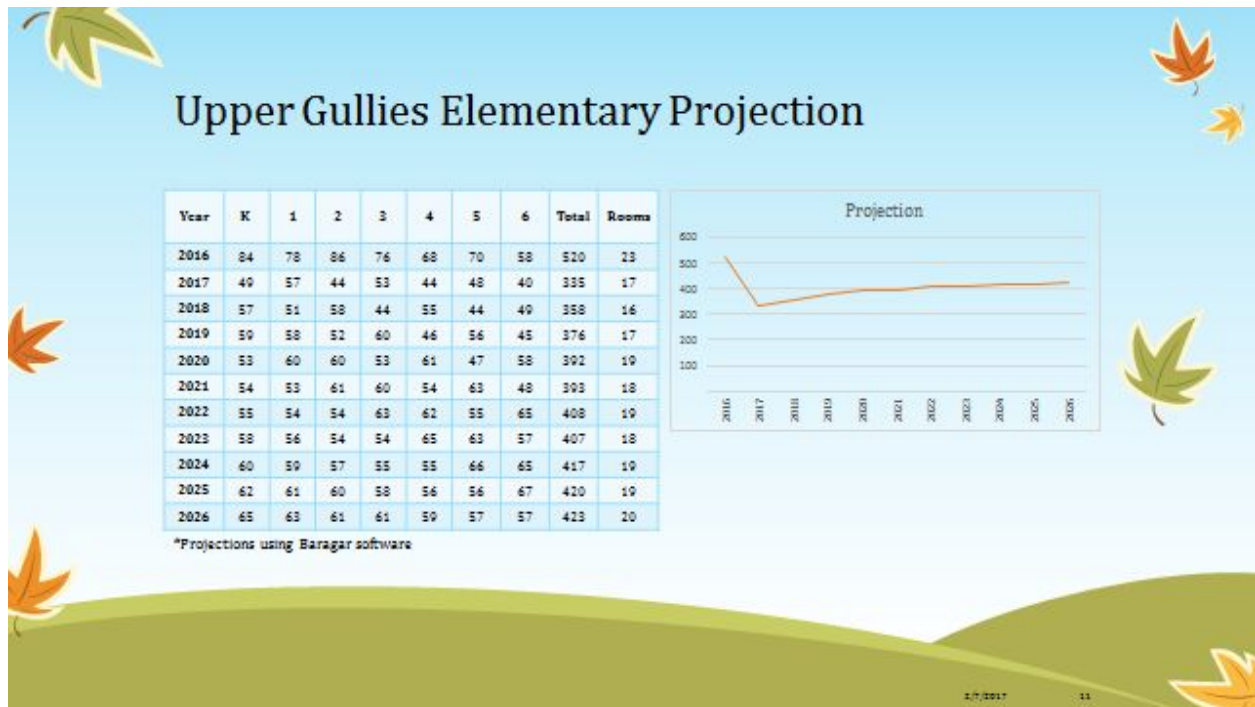


Figure 12: Scenario A: Upper Gullies Elementary projection.

The new CBS K-7 school is designed for 28 regular rooms. The intent is to maximize the use of the new school while affording some flexibility of use. Scenario A achieves this aim. If Scenario A was selected as the catchment area for Upper Gullies Elementary, the portion of the catchment was rezoned for the New CBS K-7 school would be combined with the proposed portion of the St. Edward’s Elementary catchment rezoned for the New CBS K-7 school. The resulting catchment would have an initial enrolment of 500 students with a requirement for 22 rooms. Out to the year 2026 the projected peak enrolment would be 585 students and the projected peak room requirement is 25 rooms. The projected enrolment utilizing Scenario A for the New CBS K-7 school is depicted in Figure 13.

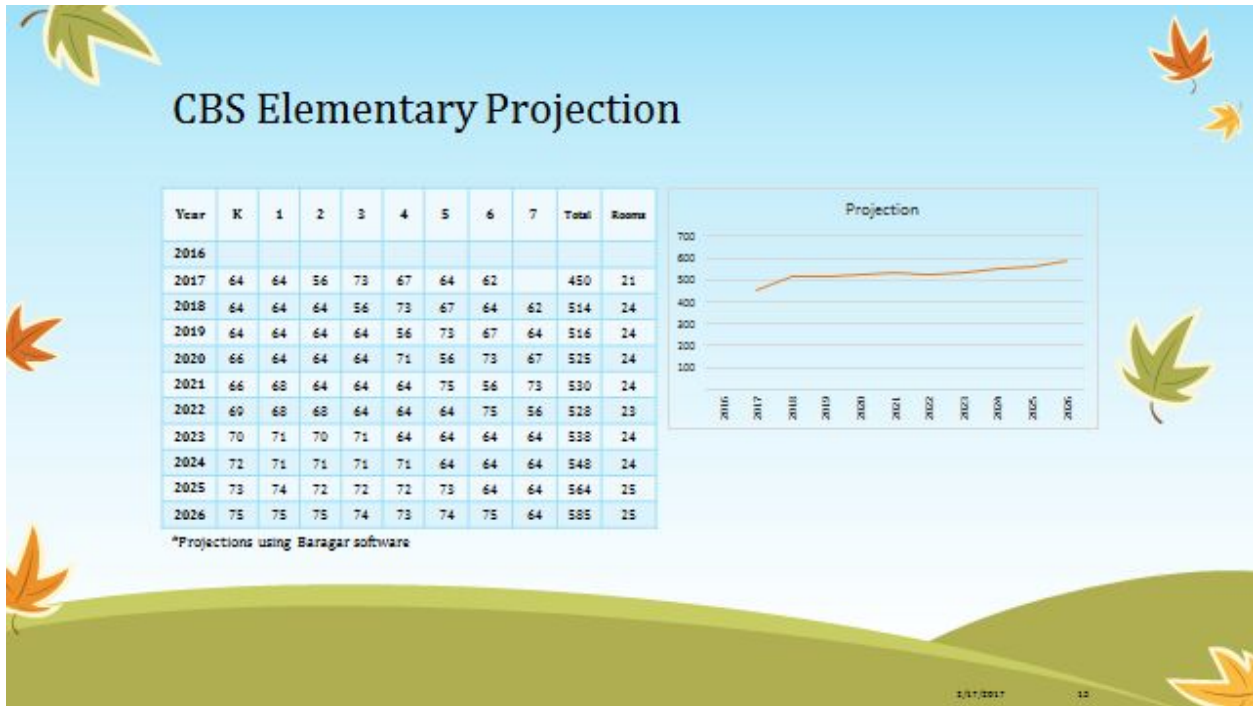


Figure 13: Scenario A - CBS Elementary Projection

Frank Roberts Junior High currently has 24 classrooms and is using 22 rooms. However, given projected growth, the school is expected to require more than 24 classrooms by 2020. Reducing the number of grade 7 students by having them remain at the New CBS K-7 school will alleviate future enrolment pressures. However, the enrolment at Frank Roberts Junior High is still projected to increase despite this measure. At some point, regardless of which scenario is selected, there may be a future requirement to retain some Grade 7 students at Upper Gullies Elementary or St. Edward's Elementary.

If the proposed Scenario A catchment was implemented, enrolment at Frank Roberts Junior High would decrease from 577 students currently to 524 students projected for 2017-2018. The peak projected enrolment to 2026 would be 688 students and the peak room requirement would be 25 rooms.

The projected enrolment for Scenario A of Frank Roberts Junior High is depicted in Figure 14.





Figure 14: Scenario A: Frank Roberts Junior High projection

Queen Elizabeth Regional High is not altered by Scenario A and B. The high school is projected to grow from its current enrolment of 575 to a peak of 693 students by 2024. The school is not expected to have capacity concerns with this enrolment.

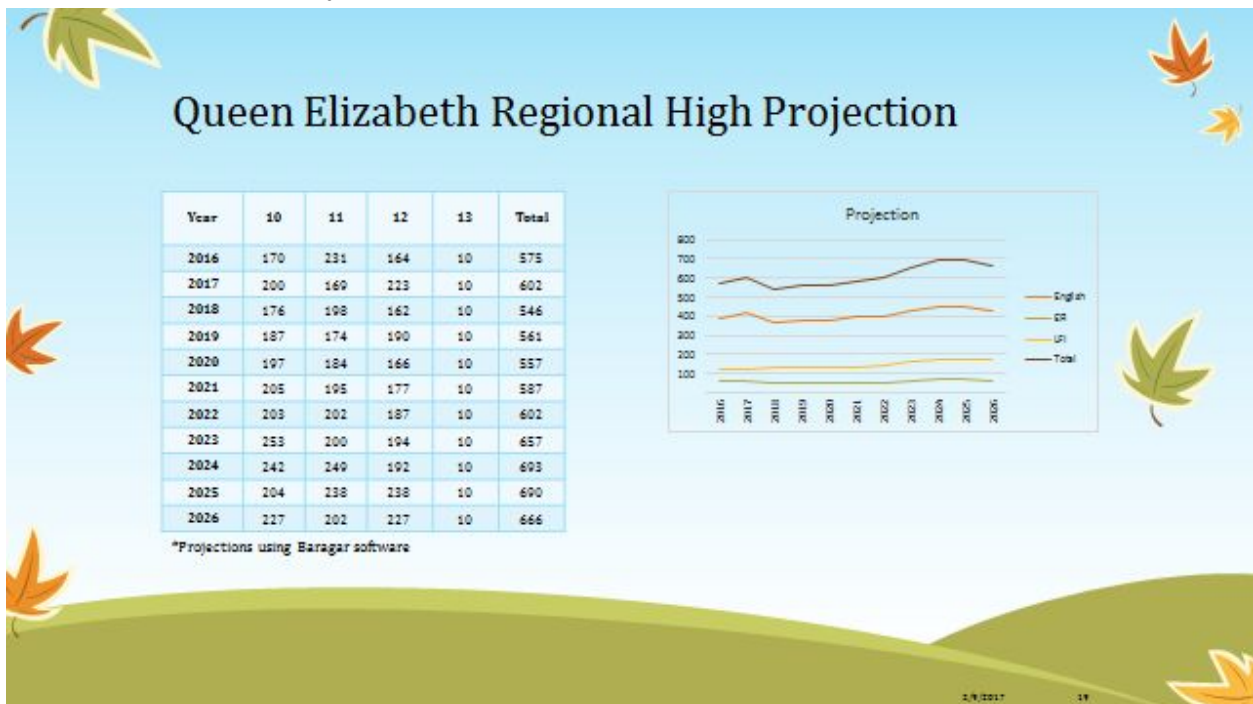


Figure 15: Scenario A or B: Queen Elizabeth Regional High projection



The other scenario under consideration for the new catchment area for Upper Gullies Elementary, Scenario B takes a section on the Western end of the current Upper Gullies Elementary and combined with the section taken from St. Edward's Elementary to form the new catchment area for the New CBS K-7 school. Figures 15 and 16 depict the proposed Scenario B catchment.

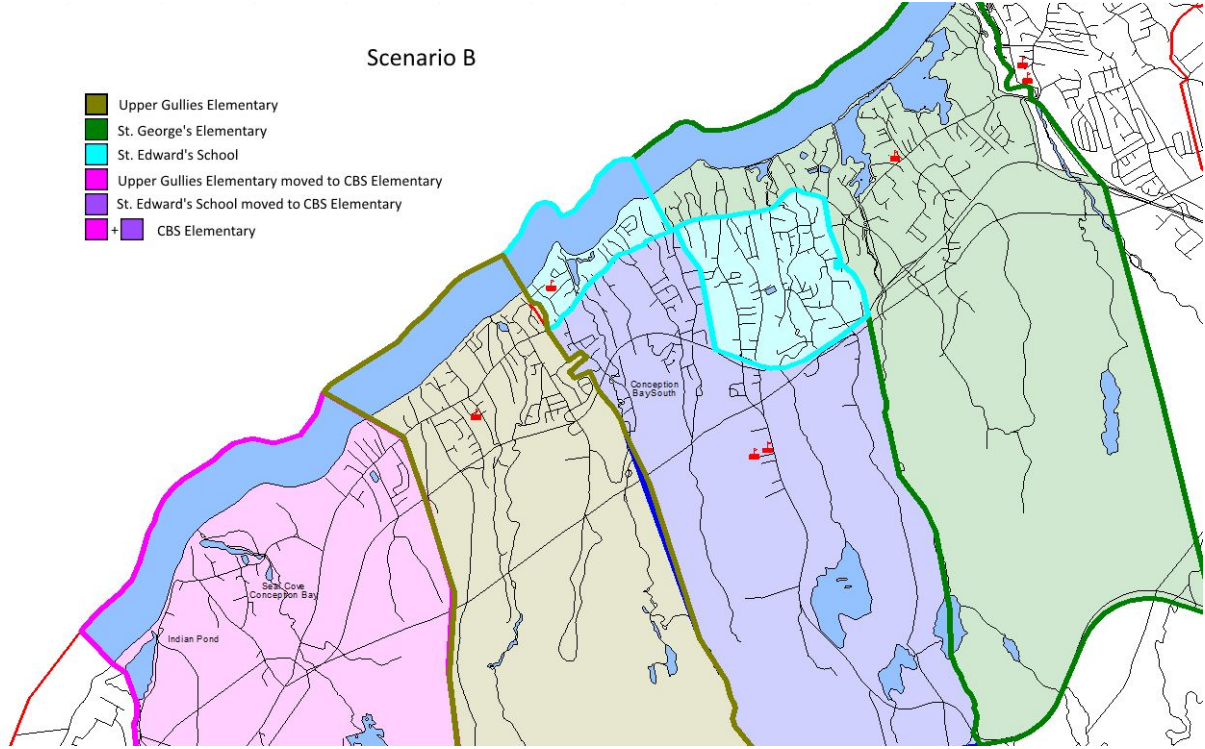


Figure 16: Scenario B Catchment Design

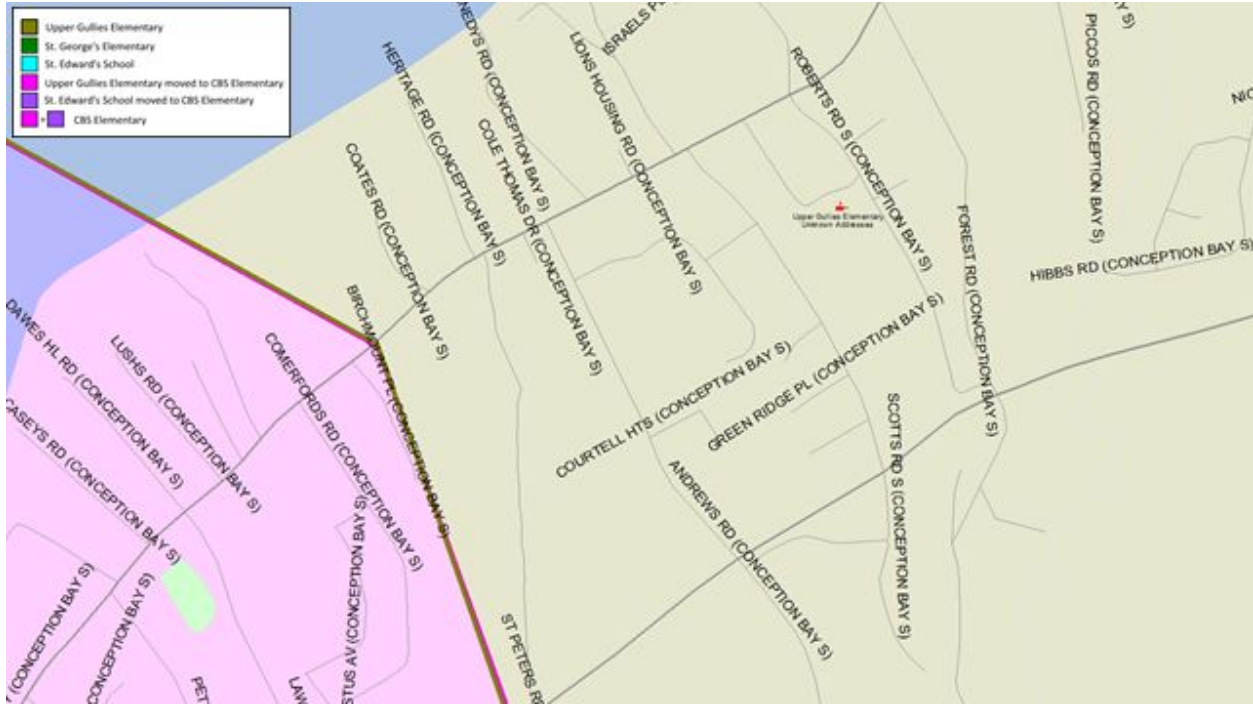


Figure 17: Scenario B Catchment Design - Zoom in

If the proposed Scenario B catchment was implemented, enrolment at Upper Gullies Elementary would decrease from 520 students currently to 343 students projected for 2017-2018. The peak projected enrolment to 2026 would be 428 students and the peak room requirement would be 20 of the 21 available rooms.

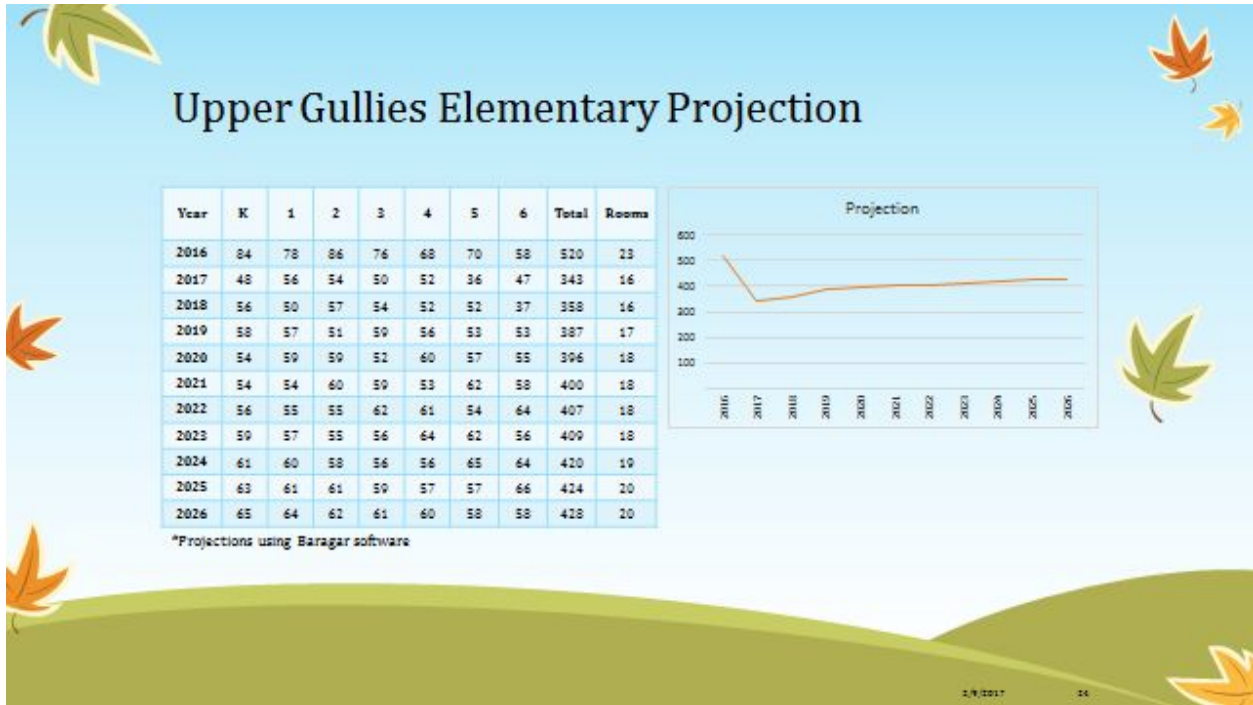


Figure 18: Scenario B - Upper Gullies Elementary projection

The new CBS K-7 school is designed for 28 regular rooms. The intent is to maximize the use of the new school while affording some flexibility of use. As with Scenario A, Scenario B achieves this aim. If Scenario B was selected as the catchment area for Upper Gullies Elementary, the portion of the catchment rezoned for the New CBS K-7 school would be combined with the proposed portion of the St. Edward's catchment rezoned for the New CBS K-7 school. The resulting catchment would have an initial enrolment of 500 students with a requirement for 22 rooms. Out to the year 2026 the projected peak enrolment would be 581 students and the projected peak room requirement is 25 rooms. The projected enrolment utilizing Scenario A for the New CBS K-7 school is depicted in Figure 19.

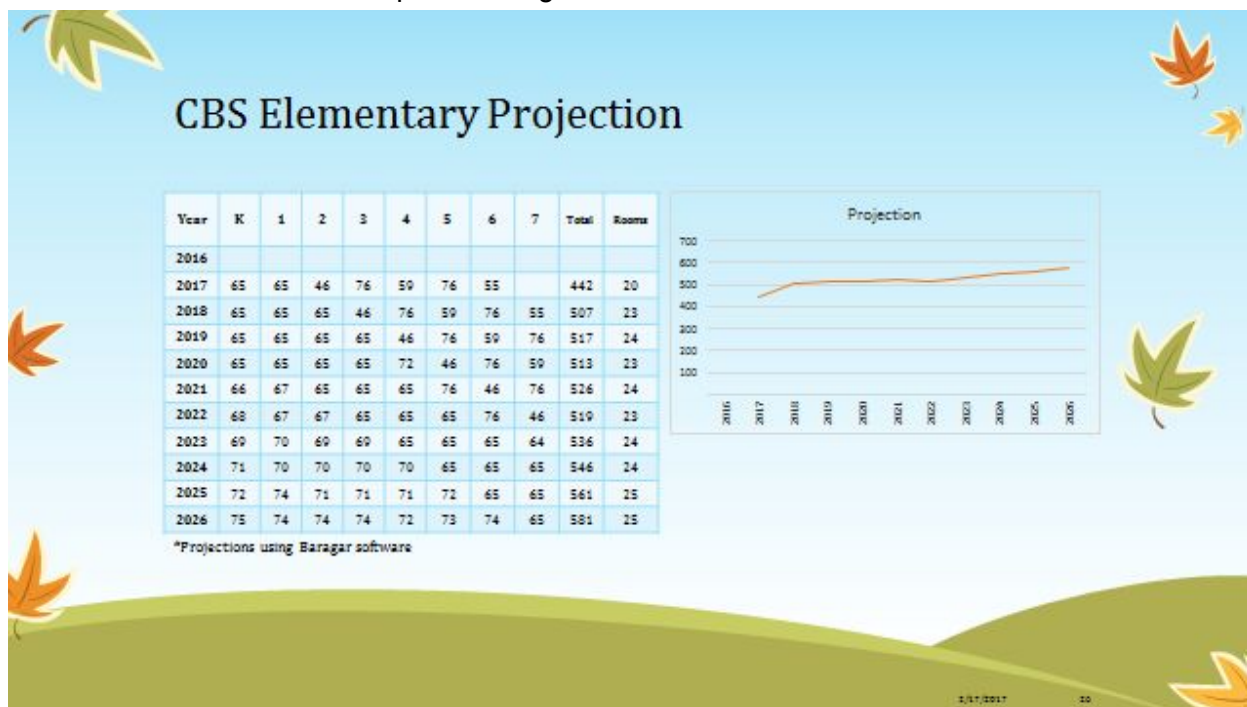


Figure 19: Scenario B - New CBS K-7 projection

Frank Roberts Junior High currently has 24 classrooms and is using 22 rooms. However, given projected growth, the school is expected to require more than 24 classrooms by 2020. Reducing the number of grade 7 students by having them remain at the New CBS K-7 school will alleviate future enrolment pressures. However, the enrolment at Frank Roberts Junior High is still projected to increase despite this measure. At some point, regardless of which scenario is selected, there may be a future requirement to retain some Grade 7 students at Upper Gullies Elementary or St. Edward's Elementary.

If the proposed Scenario B catchment was implemented, enrolment at Frank Roberts Junior High would decrease from 577 students currently to 524 students projected for 2017-2018. The peak projected enrolment to 2026 would be 684 students and the peak room requirement would be 25 rooms.

The projected enrolment for Scenario B of Frank Roberts Junior High is depicted in Figure 20.

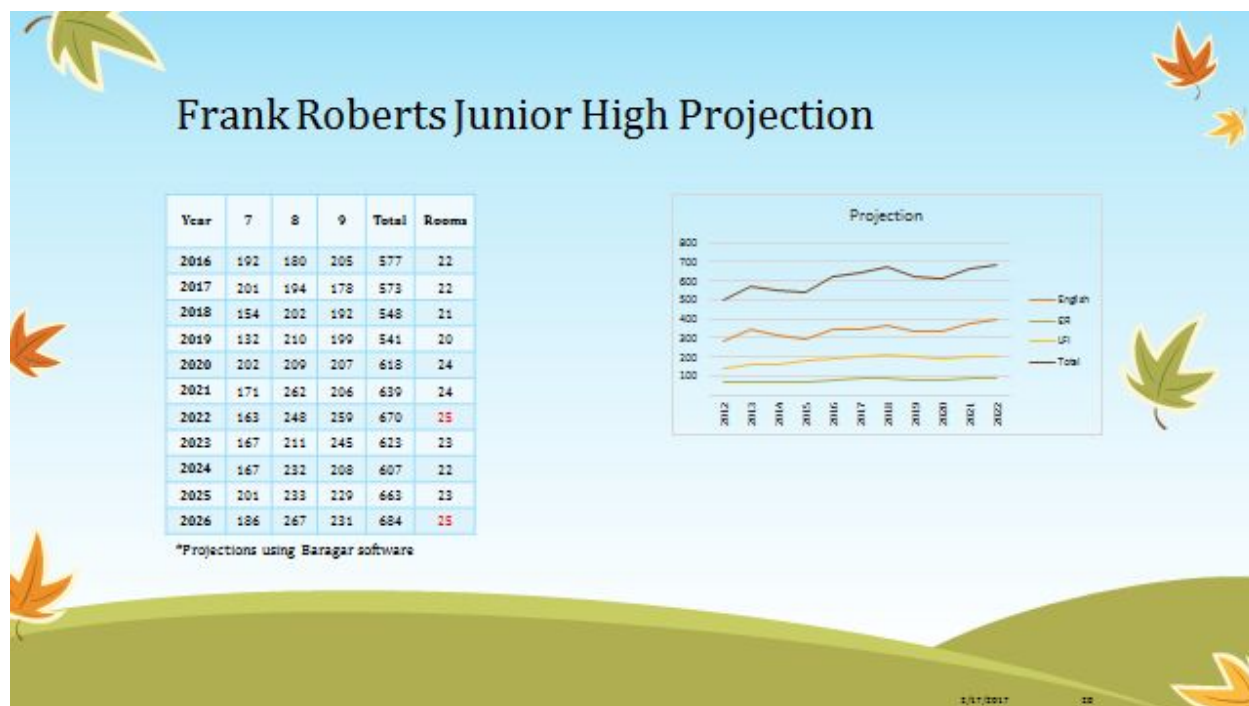


Figure 20: Scenario B - Frank Roberts Junior High projection

Regardless of whether Scenario A or B is selected, Queen Elizabeth Regional High has the same projections. The high school is projected to grow from its current enrolment of 575 to a peak of 693 students by 2024. The school has held up to 747 students in 2000 and is not expected to have capacity concerns.

### **Information Regarding French Immersion**

Early French Immersion (EFI) was an important consideration in planning for the introduction of the New CBS K-7 school into the QERH school system. St. Edward's Elementary is the currently designated school to host EFI for the QERH system. Expanding EFI to be hosted at more than one school is not assessed as being feasible as the class size would be projected at an average of only 16 students per room which would require 4-5 more teachers than at present to deliver the program. Therefore, these proposals see the maintenance of the EFI program hosted at St. Edward's Elementary.

Currently, 214 student avail of the EFI at St. Edward's Elementary. There are 68 students from either Upper Gullies Elementary catchment or St. George's Elementary catchment. With the new catchment boundaries, 78 students are displaced from the original St. Edward's Elementary catchment and now fall within the New CBS K-7 school catchment area. Of these 78 students, 22 fall within the bus eligible zone for the new St. Edward's Elementary catchment.



In other words, 56 students who were formerly in the bus eligible zone for St. Edward's are no longer eligible for busing. Given that this was not known at the time of enrolment in the EFI program, the District will adhere to past practice and 'grandfather' the bus eligibility for those students for as long as they attend St. Edward's Elementary. This will mean that gradually over time as students move onto Frank Roberts Junior High, this number of 56 will eventually deplete to zero and the 'grandfathered' busing arrangement will no longer be necessary. Those Kindergarten students already registered for EFI for the 2017-2018 school year will access busing. In 2024 these students will be moved onto Frank Roberts Junior High and this 'grandfathered' busing arrangement will cease. Any students outside the St. Edward's Elementary catchment registering for EFI commencing in 2018-2019 will not be eligible for busing.

Frank Roberts Junior High offers a Late French Immersion (LFI) and this program will be maintained. Therefore, those students who will attend the New CBS K-7 school and who wish to avail of the LFI program will move to Frank Roberts Junior High after completing Grade 6.

### **Options that were considered but eliminated after consideration**

During consultations with the School Councils a number of creative suggestions were explored. One suggestion was to reconfigure all the Elementary schools in the QERH school system from K-6 schools to K-7 schools. In considering this option it was understood that each of the schools would eventually experience capacity issues and it would create significant excess space and program gaps at Frank Roberts Junior High. Another suggestion was to configure the New CBS K-7 as a K-6 instead. This was problematic as it did not alleviate the eventual capacity pressure on Frank Roberts Junior High. So essentially to balance enrolment, there needs to be some of the Grade 7 population come out of Frank Roberts Junior High but not all or even the majority. Still another suggestion was to combine the St. Edward's catchment and the New CBS K-7 school catchment and create a K-3 school and a Grade 4-7 school. This was explored in detail but due to the configuration of the facilities was deemed impractical.

### **Current Grade 6 students rezoned for the New CBS K-7**

During consultation with the School Councils it was pointed out that current Grade 6 students rezoned for the New CBS K-7 school from Upper Gullies Elementary and St. Edward's Elementary would have only one year at the new school before moving onto Frank Roberts Junior High. Rather than compel an additional transition for the sake of just one year, it was felt that it would be better to have them simply move onto Frank Roberts Junior High for the the 2017-2018 school year. So for the very first year in operation the new school would be a K-6 school.

### **Conclusion**

NLESD would like to thank NLESB Zone17 Trustee, John Smith, the combined School Councils and the staff of the QERH school system, for your candour, interest, and passion for the education of yours and our students.

Please take the time to complete the feedback form so as to allow us to proceed with the next step in the opening of this fine new facility for the community of Conception Bay South.