

Planning Department Memo

Orangeville/Dufferin and Erin International Baccalaureate (IB) Survey & Feasibility Study



To: Martha Rogers, Director of Education
From: Jennifer Passy, Manager of Planning
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Date: March 19, 2019
Report Type: DECISION

Background

On December 13, 2016, staff presented a report on the expansion of the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme. One of the approved motions from this report was:

3. *That staff be directed to investigate establishing an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program in Dufferin County and/or the County of Wellington.*

Input received on the Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) in 2017/18 indicated interest in establishing a secondary FI program in Orangeville/Dufferin. Due to the interrelated nature of IB and FI, staff indicated that they need to be assessed together.

The approved work plan for 2018/19 identified in the LTAP (June, 2018) included a French Immersion/International Baccalaureate (FI/IB) Impact Assessment for Orangeville/Dufferin and Erin secondary schools.

Before an impact assessment is initiated, staff needs to confirm interest in IB beyond the current programme at GCVI and assess the feasibility of establishing a new IB programme in Orangeville/Dufferin.

Issue

To proceed with a survey of the Orangeville, Dufferin and Erin school communities, to assess the interest in International Baccalaureate programming. This survey will assist with the determination of feasibility of establishing a new IB programme in Orangeville/Dufferin. This work will be done in advance of undertaking the impact study identified in the 2018/19 LTAP work plan.

Recommendations

1. That memo PLN: 19-03 “Orangeville/Dufferin and Erin International Baccalaureate (IB) Survey & Feasibility Study” dated March 19, 2019 be received.
2. That staff be directed to conduct an IB survey in Orangeville, Dufferin, and Erin.
3. That staff be directed to present the IB survey results, as part of a report on the feasibility of offering an IB programme in Orangeville/Dufferin, to trustees prior to bringing forward a report on an impact assessment of FI and IB in Orangeville, Dufferin, and Erin.

Rationale

The Board’s Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) identified an Orangeville/Dufferin and Erin FI/IB impact study to be conducted in the 2018/19 school year. It was necessary for the district-wide Secondary Program Review to be completed first, given that it had the potential to inform the impact assessment.

The Secondary Program Review concluded in December 2018. The final report provided a comprehensive examination of the Board’s secondary schools and students, but no specific direction that affects the proposed impact assessment. As a result, staff can proceed with the impact assessment.

An impact assessment is a process of identifying future consequences of a current or proposed action. The impact is the difference between what would happen with the action and what would happen without it.¹ The purpose of this impact assessment is to provide Trustees with information which analyses the consequences of possible actions related to offering high school FI and IB in Orangeville/Dufferin.

This impact assessment will provide information about status quo secondary enrolment projections, enrolment trends including existing and forecasted participation rates in FI and IB, secondary enrolment projections for different scenarios, consideration of facility space, transportation considerations, and program costs.

The impact assessment is intended as a background resource to inform future processes which may be necessary in order to implement the recommendations of this review.

¹ International Association for Impact Assessment

International Baccalaureate (IB) Survey & Feasibility Study

Prior to initiating the impact assessment, it is appropriate to conduct a survey of Orangeville, Dufferin, and Erin school communities to assess interest in IB programming.

The IB Study (March 7, 2013) established that in order to offer a sufficient range of courses within the IB curriculum, three sections of students would be required. Grades 9-12 would grow in over time, with a minimum of 66 students per grade, in order to reach an initial target program size of 264 students.

A survey of school communities in the Orangeville, Dufferin and Erin areas would assist staff in assessing the feasibility of an IB programme in Orangeville/Dufferin. Staff needs to determine whether interest in an IB programme meets viable program criteria previously accepted by the Board. Other feasibility factors need to be considered including: overall enrolment trends, participation rates, financial considerations to establish an IB programme, and ongoing financial commitments associated with IB programme delivery.

The IB survey will be conducted online over a two week period from March 28, 2019 to April 12, 2019. The results of the survey will be reported to Trustees as part of a report on IB programme feasibility to confirm board direction, before approval is sought to initiate the impact assessment.

Process and Timeline

The following outlines the proposed timeline and how the proposed survey will be considered within the future impact assessment work.

March 19, 2019	Presentation of memo PLN: 19-03 to Business Operations Committee
March 28, 2019 – April 12, 2019	Conduct IB survey
May 2019	Present results of IB survey and programme feasibility

Communication Plan

Following the presentation of memo PLN: 19-03 “Orangeville/Dufferin and Erin International Baccalaureate (IB) Survey” on March 19, 2019, the IB survey will be promoted on the Board’s website and on Erin, Orangeville and Dufferin elementary

school webpages. The survey will also be promoted via social media, school councils and Board stakeholder committees.

In addition to the IB survey, the Board and school web pages will include a copy of memo PLN: 19-03 and an explanation about the purpose of the survey and the survey timeline.