



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: Brenda Blancher, Director of Education & Secretary

FROM: Jamie Gunn, Superintendent of Business

RE: **Haldimand East Elementary Accommodation Review**

DATE: January 18, 2016

Recommended Action: It was moved by _____, seconded by _____ THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Haldimand East Elementary Accommodation Review – Senior Administration Report as information.

Recommended Action: It was moved by _____, seconded by _____ THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Haldimand East Elementary Accommodation Review – Committee Report and Senior Administration Report for consideration at the Committee of the Whole #2 meeting April 11, 2016.

Rationale/Background:

Accommodation Review Committee for the Haldimand East Elementary review area has submitted their final report and recommendations to the Director of Education and the Board of Trustees. Senior Administration has reviewed the report and provide their recommendations for Board consideration in this report.

Additional Information:

Administration provided a number of recommendations to the Accommodation Review Committee for consideration. These recommendations focused on reducing the surplus pupil places in the review area. During the process, two clear requests came from the school communities:

1. Consider permanent building additions rather than portable classroom structures where additional accommodation is needed for the recommended accommodation option.
2. Avoid splitting school populations when reassigning the students from a closed school.

The preferred recommendation from the ARC was not one that was provided by administration but it has its merits. By closing two schools and building a new school on the Fairview site the Board would be reducing surplus pupil places and permanently removing operating costs and facility renewal liabilities for the closed facilities. While this option will require submission of a business case as a School Consolidation Capital Project to request financial support from the Ministry of Education, the ongoing savings make it a strong case for consideration.

Recommendation of Administration:

Administration recommends the following action for each school in the review area:

Rainham Central – no changes

JL Mitchener – no changes

Grandview Central – Close the school and reassign all students to a new school to be constructed at Fairview Avenue Public School.

Anna Melick – Close the school and reassign all students to Thompson Creek Elementary School

Fairview Avenue Public School – Demolish the current school and build a replacement school on the Fairview site to accommodate current Fairview and Grandview Central students.

Thompson Creek – construct a four classroom addition onto Thompson Creek to provide sufficient total capacity to accommodate current Thompson Creek and Anna Melick students.

The table below shows existing enrolment levels and capacities of the review area schools. With no consolidation, utilization rates will decline to well below 75%.

Summary of Enrolment and Capacity

School	Capacity	Portable Capacity	Total Capacity	Current Enrolment	5 Year Projection	10 Year Projection
Anna Melick	210		210	130	118	120
Fairview Avenue	372		372	279	272	270
Grandview Central	199	23	222	142	125	130
JL Mitchener	414		414	285	277	263
Rainham Central	274	46	320	244	217	212
Thompson Creek	444		444	353	368	365
Total	1913	69	1982	1433	1377	1360
Surplus Pupil Spaces (excluding Portables)				480	536	553
Utilization				72.3%	69.5%	68.6%

The school closure and consolidation recommended by administration would reduce the capacity of the review area schools by 225 pupil spaces and improve the total utilization to over 85% in the Dunnville schools. This recommendation proposes that Anna Melick students move to Thompson Creek rather than Fairview (as recommended by the ARC) to better utilize all surplus space at the

Dunnville schools. Rainham Central and JL Mitchener would be left as is as they are more than 20 km from two remaining schools. School populations would have to be split up to improve the overall utilization rates further for the review area. The replacement school on the Fairview site would have a capacity of 464. There is some indication that Ministry capital may be available to create space to host the Haldimand-Norfolk Reach program currently operating in Fairview School. The table below shows the enrolments and capacities that would result from the proposed consolidation.

<i>Summary of Enrolment and Capacity</i>								
<i>Recommendation from Senior Administration</i>								
School	Capacity	Added Capacity	Total Capacity	Enrolment Shift	5 Year Enrolment Projection	5 Year Utilization	10 Year Enrolment Projection	10 Year Utilization
Anna Melick	210		closed	-120	0		0	
Fairview Avenue	372	92	464	130	397	85.6%	400	86.2%
Grandview Central	199		closed	-130	0		0	
JL Mitchener	414		414		277	66.9%	263	63.5%
Rainham Central	274		274		217	79.2%	212	77.4%
Thompson Creek	444	92	536	120	486	90.7%	485	90.5%
Total	1504	184	1688	0	1377		1360	
Surplus Pupil Spaces					311		328	
Utilization (including added capacity)					81.6%		80.6%	

Timelines and Next Steps:

The Ministry of Education recently put out a call for School Consolidation Capital Project business cases where the Board could present the above proposal for consideration for capital funding approval. Pending Board approval of the recommended consolidation plan, a proposal would be submitted and could receive approval by the late spring of this year. This would make possible the timeline to have the new school open to students by September 2018 or sooner.

The former accommodation review policy under which this ARC was conducted requires that the Board receive this report and hold it for decision no earlier than 60 days from the date of the January 25, 2016 Board Meeting (excluding March Break and adjacent weekends). The earliest agenda that the Board could consider approval would be at the Committee of the Whole #2 meeting scheduled for April 11, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Gunn
Superintendent of Business