

TO: Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board

TOPIC: **Update: City of Peterborough Secondary Schools – Group Pupil Accommodation Review**

INITIATOR: W.R. (Rusty) Hick, Director of Education
Peter Mangold, Superintendent, Student Achievement

BACKGROUND

1. At the May 26, 2011 Board meeting a report was received from the City of Peterborough Secondary Schools Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). At the June 23, 2011 Board meeting an administrative report for information was presented on the City of Peterborough Secondary Schools – Group Pupil Accommodation Review, with recommendations for decision at the September 29, 2011 Board meeting. The Ministry of Education timelines for a pupil accommodation process require that at least 60 days (not including summer vacation) pass between the presentation of the ARC report to the Board (May 26) and the decision of the Board.

STATUS

2. Various correspondence has been received regarding the potential closure of a school, with approximately fourteen announced delegations for the August Board meeting registered to speak on the topic.
3. Within the staff report in June the option of moving the Education Centre was put forward in the event that Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School (TASSS) is recommended to close. This was put forward only as a way to retain the building and property for the use of future students, and not as a result of any desire to move the functions of the Education Centre.

Along with a move of the Education Centre, staff proposed that a specialized school environment be created at the Thomas A. Stewart site. The initial vision is that there would be one or two senior classes (25-50 students) with a science/mathematics focus. In addition to working on three senior science/math courses, students would have a fourth credit focusing on leadership/teaching where they would be working with elementary students who would be visiting the site on a rotational basis. This program would be a regional program with students from various schools attending. This is a model that has been in place at the Ontario Science Centre for many years and is also similar to some of our own leadership programs although on a larger scale. All of these students would have the benefits of the natural environment as well as the facilities at TASSS.

In addition to the above, proposals for a “classroom of the future”, as well as partnerships with Sir Sandford Fleming College and with Trent University were put forward as possibilities for extended use of the site.

In order to assess as accurately as possible the feasibility of any move, administration has engaged the services of ZAS Architects Inc. to prepare a study regarding this possible move. A draft report is expected August 31, with a final report due September 16. The firm will present this report to the Board at the September Board meeting. Included in this will be the cost of making the facility fully accessible. Manager of Planning, Norman Breitner is our liaison with the firm and has facilitated their access to information and personnel over the past weeks.

4. The potential costs associated with making Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School a fully accessible site are being investigated by Facilities Services.
5. Trustee visits to City of Peterborough secondary schools are being scheduled for September, while classes are in session.
6. A property value assessment of \$4,900,000 has been received for the Education Centre at 1994 Fisher Drive, Peterborough.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Update: City of Peterborough Secondary Schools – Group Pupil Accommodation Review report, dated August 25, 2011, be received for information.

W.R. (Rusty) Hick
Director of Education