

Presentation to ARC meeting,
Feb 28, 2011

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My purpose is to review the issue of accessibility of the schools that are under consideration for closure, so that discussion of **what is best for all the students** includes students with special needs.

Within the KPR board, more than 7000 of 33,500 students, or about 22% receive special education services.

I believe that school accessibility is of value to all students, to the board, and to the community.

Accessibility:

- Legislation
- Research
- Board Policy

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005)

Legislation is in place to prevent and remove barriers to accessibility. The school board is obliged to comply with this legislation, as it evolves.

What adolescents with disabilities want in life

Most adolescents with disabilities want what all adolescents generally want in life—

- happiness
- meaningful occupation
- fulfilling relationships
- independence
- being believed in
- being accepted by others

Research shows that to support this, we should focus on **eliminating barriers**

Special Ed Plan, Standard 17 :

Accessibility of School Buildings

Summary of the Board's Multi-Year Capital Expenditure Plan for Improving Accessibility

- The Board's plan revolves around **an analysis of the accessibility** of each of its schools.
- Priority** is given each year to addressing those **projects which will provide accessibility to those buildings requiring it**, to allow students to attend school.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR BARRIER FREE ACCESS TO BUILDINGS

	ASCVI	KENNER	PCVS	TAS
STRUCTURAL CONSIDERATIONS				
Is there accessible parking (larger parking spots, wheelchair symbols, close to doors, etc.)?	Y	Y	N	Y
Is the building wheelchair accessible?	Y	Y	N	Y
Is there a ramp?	Y	Y	N	Y
Is there an automatic outside door opener?	Y	Y	N	Y
Is there an elevator/stair lift	Y	Y	N	N
WASHROOM CONSIDERATIONS				
Are there automatic washroom door openers?	Y	N	N	Y
Are there washrooms for the disabled for both genders?	Y	Y	N	Y
Are the washrooms properly identified?	Y	Y	Y	Y
Do the doors open in a direction to allow for a larger entrance and not be obstructive?	Y	Y		Y
Can privacy be assured for the user (lock or sign on the door)?	Y	Y	N	Y
Are grab bars placed appropriately for the individual or is a commode available?	Y	Y	N	Y
Are sinks wheelchair accessible?	Y	Y	Y	Y
Do the faucets have winged handles?	Y	Y	N	Y
Are there full length or tilted mirrors?	Y	Y	N	N
Are there buzzers available for emergency situations and staff designated to respond?	N	Y	N	N
PERSONAL CARE AND HYGIENE				
Is there a private room/area equipped with a hydraulic change table?	Y	Y	N	Y
If it is a fixed change table, is it at a height that staff can avoid unnecessary strain?	NA	NA	N	NA
If it is a fixed change table, does it provide independence to student?	NA	NA	N	NA
Is a water source available nearby for hygiene purposes?	Y	Y	N	Y
Are towels, diapers, disposable gloves, etc. stored within easy reach?	Y	N	N	Y

Accessibility is looking much better outside our city!!

	Secondary schools	Wheelchair accessible	%
KPRDSB, excluding city	12	11	92
Peterborough city schools	4	3	75

Under the Building Code of Ontario (Building Code Act, 1992) a building and its facilities are **BARRIER FREE** if **people with physical or sensory disabilities** can **approach, enter and use them**. As set out in the code, the requirements include:

- Parking
- entrances
- Elevators
- Washrooms
- Halls
- Ramps
- Stairs
- Signs
- emergency exits



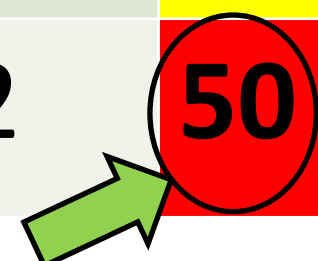
<p>BARRIER FREE ACCESS ?</p>	<h1>ADAM SCOTT</h1>
<p>Assessment of the accessibility of the facility for individuals with disabilities:</p>	<p><i>Wheelchair access to entire first floor including washroom facilities, auditoriums, gyms & cafeteria. The second floor has assisted access via stair lift. One new science lab is equipped with adjustable lab bench to accommodate wheelchair - other labs/and or rooms have been modified or equipment is transferable. Available portable lift that can be used to transport wheelchairs up stairs. Automatic doors, handicapped parking spaces clearly defined marked, signage clearly visible, specialized ramp access to the music room and the lower cafeteria. All stairwells “yellow taped” and marked for the visually impaired.</i></p>
<p>Describe access relative to assisted or independent access. Is the school barrier free?</p>	<p>YES <i>most of the school is barrier free. The main front door entrance is the only door that is not accessible to a wheelchair, however all of the rear and side entrances are accessible. Exceptions to wheelchair access are upper weight room off of the small gym, co-op office and galley classrooms in shops.</i></p>

BARRIER FREE ACCESS	KENNER
Assessment of the accessibility of the facility for individuals with disabilities:	<i>Elevator, ramps in halls</i>
Describe access relative to assisted or independent access. Is the school barrier free?	<i>Yes</i>

BARRIER FREE ACCESS	PCVS
Assessment of the accessibility of the facility for individuals with disabilities:	<i>In recent renovations the bathrooms have been remodelled to be accessible. New chemistry lab is equipped with wheelchair work space.</i>
Describe access relative to assisted or independent access. Is the school barrier free?	No

BARRIER FREE ACCESS	TAS
Assessment of the accessibility of the facility for individuals with disabilities:	<i>A third floor in each wing is not accessible except by stairs. The library has a portable lift in place as it is a sunken room with steps needed to access 2 different levels. These lifts need a trained adult to operate. One can only access floors one and two by using outside ramps which is a challenge and sometimes not safe in the winter.</i>
Describe access relative to assisted or independent access. Is the school barrier free?	No

	Secondary schools	Wheelchair accessible	Barrier Free	%
KPRDSB, excluding city	12	11	?	??
Peterborough city schools	4	3	2	50



Board Policy

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

- all students are provided with equitable opportunities to be successful in our system
- that institutional barriers to success are identified and removed

Accessibility Plan for the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board September 2009 - August 2011

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board is committed to the **continuous improvement of access to school board facilities, policies, programs, practices and services** for students, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers and members of the community living with disabilities.

Summary of Accessibility Upgrade Projects from 2003-2010*

Note: No city high schools received any accessibility upgrade project funding in 2009/2010 year

	Mobility	Physical Access	Personal Care	Safety	Total
Adam Scott	\$0	\$72,952	\$8,040	\$35,385	\$116,377
Kenner	\$0	\$770	\$12,896	\$16,670	\$30,336
PCVS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TAS	\$6,045	\$37,544	\$32,621	\$10,350	\$86,560
Total	\$6,045	\$111,266	\$53,557	\$62,405	\$233,273

* Based on figures found in KPRDSB Accessibility plans

*“**Priority** is given each year to addressing those projects which will **provide accessibility** to those buildings requiring it, to allow students to attend school”*

If this is truly a priority, we would not consider closing our Barrier Free schools.

From the Accessibility Plan, “*the Board recognizes the importance of adjusting accommodations priorities as needs emerge...and in very rare situations, moving students to accessible settings that will meet their needs.*”

A move to an accessible setting, may deny a student various specialized program opportunities at the secondary level.

Section 6 of the Accessibility Plan:

“Revisions to the Board’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy establish a framework for **proactive approaches to accessibility**”

And from section 2 of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy:

“Practising equity involves **proactively eradicating** attitudes, actions, structures and systems that result in **discrimination and exclusion.**”

Proactive accessibility

- Accessibility upgrades are complex and costly
- An opportunity is available now to minimize the costs of proactive accessibility, by choosing not to close the two existing barrier free schools.

Recommendations

- 1. Keep both barrier free schools open,** thus making maximal use of space which is already barrier free at Kenner and Adam Scott, and significantly reducing the cost to achieve the ultimate goal having all schools barrier free.

Recommendations

2. Place a top priority and heaviest weighting on school accessibility, as one of the key components.

Aligned with:

- Current legislation
- Research
- Board policy
- Character development attributes of empathy, fairness, and respect of all students

Recommendations

3. Aim for continuous improvement toward **100% barrier free access to all programs** within Peterborough schools

Recommendations

4. Factor the **costs of proactive accessibility upgrades** into the basic operational and maintenance costs of each school, for consideration of **fiscally responsible decisions**.

Let everyone participate in their dream



For the benefit of all

References for Accessibility Presentation to ARC committee, Feb 28, 2011, by Ann Way-Nee, Occupational Therapist

- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005) www.aoda.ca
- Can Child Centre for Childhood Disability Research www.canchild.ca
- Gillian King, Thames Valley Children's Centre, London, Ontario, and Neurodevelopmental Clinical Research Unit (NCRU)*, McMaster University, Tamzin Cathers, Thames Valley Children's Centre, London, Ontario. What adolescents with disabilities want in life: Implications for service delivery. Keeping Current #96-2
<http://www.canchild.ca/en/canchildresources/adolescentswithdisabilities.asp>
- Special education plan, standard 17
<http://www.kprschoools.ca/Programs/documents/Standard17Sept2010a.pdf>
- Ontario Building code <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page1290.aspx>
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, KPRDSB
<http://kprcontentlibrary.kprdsb.ca:8080/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-1068/B-3.2%20Equity%2c%20Diversity%20and%20Inclusion.pdf>
- Accessibility Plan, KPRDSB, Sept 2009 to Aug 2011
<http://kprcontentlibrary.kprdsb.ca:8080/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-3831/Accessibility%20Plan%20for%20September%202010.pdf>
- Plus attached charts (slides) as summarized from KPRDSB information