

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BOARD RELEASES FEASIBILITY STUDY IN CONNECTION WITH ACCOMMODATION REVIEW**

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District school board today released the feasibility study, submitted by ZAS architects, regarding the possibility of moving the Board's existing Education Centre, at 1994 Fisher Drive to the Thomas A. Stewart Secondary school site.

With a potential move of this magnitude and possible cost, it was determined that an architectural firm would need to be engaged with a view to examining all aspects as accurately as possible. As a result, in early July Board staff toured both sites with three pre-qualified architectural firms, with ZAS architects being contracted to complete the study.

Aspects contemplated by the feasibility report included:

- comprehensive upgrades to the building before any office space could be constructed,
- site plan development,
- physical accessibility issues,
- upgrades to current building codes,
- parking expansion.

Depending on final design, the initial feasibility report from ZAS has concluded that potential costs for relocating the Education Centre at a minimum of \$10M.

In light of these potential costs, and given a market appraisal of \$ 4.9 million for the current Education Centre, Board administration can no longer support the viability of a relocation of the board office to the Thomas A. Stewart school site.

"We wanted to share this information with the community as soon as we could. We realize that we are working through a very complex and emotional issue for the Board and the communities we serve," says Diane Lloyd, Chairperson of the Board.

"We moved forward with the concept of relocating the Education Centre as a way in which we could find a 'win-win' scenario for both the board and our school communities," says Rusty Hick, Director of Education. "While we believe that, through working with our architects it may be possible to lower the cost of any possible move from this initial amount we don't think, at the end of the day, that we could reduce it to a point where it is economically viable for the Board's consideration."

Hick continued.

"We think this number is high, and it's far from what we reasonably or conservatively thought we might expect, but we needed to complete this exercise as part of our due diligence in exploring all available options within the accommodation review. As part of that process, we also wanted to bring this information forward to the community."

Board administration continues to review all relevant information, including the results of the feasibility study, as it prepares final recommendations for the Board's consideration at the September 29, 2011 Regular Board meeting.

The feasibility study, submitted by ZAS architects, is available at [www.kprschools.ca](http://www.kprschools.ca)

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**For information, please call:**

Diane Lloyd, Board Chairperson, at 1-705-536-0955

Greg Kidd, Communications Officer - Public & Corporate Affairs, at 705-742-9773 or toll-free at 877-741-4577, ext. 2353