

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: Resource Committee

TOPIC: **Crestwood Secondary School Family of Schools Accommodation Planning Update**

INITIATOR: Jodi Sepkowski, Superintendent of Education, Student Achievement
April Foster, Superintendent, Business and Corporate Services

BACKGROUND

1. Crestwood Secondary School (SS) and Crestwood Intermediate School (IS) are both experiencing accommodation pressures. Crestwood IS is forecasted to be at 174% of its capacity for September 2024, with 320 expected students and only space for 184. Crestwood SS is anticipated to be at 101% of its capacity for September 2024, with 769 expected students.
2. Relieving accommodation pressures at Crestwood SS and Crestwood IS is a priority.
3. The Crestwood Family of Schools Accommodation Planning report was brought to the Resource Committee on November 8, 2023, and included a preliminary analysis around capacity and space limitations at Crestwood SS family of schools (FOS).

Enrolment trends within the Crestwood SS FOS are illustrated in Appendix A.

Crestwood SS (Grade 9-12) and Crestwood IS (Grade 7-8) are situated within the same building and are both experiencing significant accommodation pressure, which is projected to continue over the long term. The intermediate school was established in 2018, with students from Kawartha Heights Public School (PS), Millbrook/South Cavan PS, North Cavan PS and Westmount PS.

James Strath PS (Junior Kindergarten (JK)-Grade 8) is trending at approximately 20% below capacity and is projected to see a slight decline in enrolment over the 10-year planning horizon.

Kawartha Heights PS (JK-Grade 6) is experiencing stable enrolment just below or at capacity and will continue to do so over the 10-year planning horizon. Prior to the intermediate school being established at Crestwood SS, students from this school attended James Strath PS for Grade 7 and 8.

Millbrook/South Cavan PS (JK-Grade 6) is experiencing significant accommodation pressure, which is presently being managed with the use of portable classrooms. Presently there are eight portable classrooms on site. Facilities Services has confirmed that the site is able to accommodate an additional four portable classrooms. There are several residential developments within this catchment that we anticipate will generate an additional 232

elementary students over the next five to ten years, which the school will have difficulty accommodating. The Board is employing other growth management strategies, including closing the school to out-of-boundary students and the establishment of holding areas and holding schools (i.e., students from a new subdivision may be directed to a school outside of the community on a temporary basis). A school site has been identified in the Towerhill North Subdivision. The Board submitted a Capital Priorities funding request for a new JK-Grade 8 school to be situated at this site, as part of the 2023-2024 Capital Priorities Program.

North Cavan PS (JK-Grade 6) is also seeing an increase in enrolment, although not as significant as the enrolment pressures at Millbrook/South Cavan PS. However, this school site cannot accommodate any additional portables, and with limited classroom space (i.e., five regular classrooms, four portables), managing a JK-Grade 6 school with increasing enrolment is presenting some challenges. There are four residential developments within this catchment that we anticipate will generate an additional 92 elementary students over the next five to ten years, which the school will have difficulty accommodating. The Board is employing other growth management strategies, including closing the school to out-of-boundary students and the establishment of holding areas and holding schools (i.e., students from a new subdivision may be directed to a school outside of the community on a temporary basis). The school site that has been identified in the Towerhill North Subdivision should help alleviate accommodation pressures at this school over the long term.

Westmount PS (dual-track JK-Grade 6) is experiencing enrolment levels that are consistently 10% below capacity (the capacity includes the 8-room portapak). However, a review of classroom utilization has identified that all the classrooms within the school and adjoining portapak are presently being utilized as regular classroom space.

STATUS

4. A letter was provided to impacted families in the Crestwood FOS attendance area and shared on the board website on November 9, 2023.
5. A community engagement process took place to seek input from a variety of stakeholders including parents/caregivers, school staff, community members, trustees, school principal/vice-principal and senior administration. The community engagement process included an in-person engagement, digital engagement, and the opportunity to connect directly with the Superintendent of Student Achievement for the Crestwood Secondary School FOS. The in-person community consultation meetings were held on November 30, 2023 at Westmount PS, and on Monday, December 4, 2023 at Kawartha Heights PS.
6. At the Community Engagement Meetings, it was shared with the community that in order to manage immediate pressures being experienced within this FOS, administration proposes that effective September 2024, Grade 7 students from

- Westmount PS (English stream) and Kawartha Heights PS, attend James Strath PS.
7. With the proposal being presented, the cohort of Grade 7 students (in 2024-2025) would attend James Strath PS for Grade 7 and 8, and then transition to Crestwood SS for Grades 9-12. Enrolment projections reflecting this proposal are included as Appendix B.
 8. Feedback from the Community Engagement Meetings was consolidated and shared with administration for review. This feedback will also be shared on the board website under Student Accommodation Planning: Peterborough City and County Accommodation Planning. A summary of the community feedback is attached as appendices. Appendix C includes a summary of the feedback that was received from the November 30, 2023 in-person community engagement meeting. Appendix D includes a summary of the feedback that was received from the December 4, 2023 in-person community engagement meeting. Appendix E includes the collated online feedback received through the ThoughtExchange platform.
 9. Feedback and comments from the Community Engagement Meetings and the ThoughtExchange platform suggest the use of portable classrooms at Westmount PS and Kawartha Heights PS as an alternative to moving the Grade 7 students to James Strath PS. Due to the limited availability of portable classrooms to manage enrolment pressures across the board, this is not a viable option.
 10. Feedback from the Community Engagement Meetings suggest that as an alternative to Westmount PS and Kawartha Heights PS moving to James Strath PS, the Grade 7 students from Millbrook/South Cavan PS be relocated to James Strath PS. In an effort to keep communities together, (e.g., Millbrook/South Cavan PS and North Cavan PS; Westmount PS and Kawartha Heights PS) and balancing enrolment numbers, the most supportive solution was to have Westmount PS and Kawartha Heights PS students attend James Strath PS.
 11. Administration acknowledges parents/guardians desire to want to keep the Grade 7 students at their home schools but recognize the challenges that this could create. From a programming perspective, only having part of an intermediate program within a school building (Grade 7 students with no Grade 8 students) does not meet the needs of the students, nor does it provide the same opportunities as a full intermediate program can offer.
 12. Administration acknowledges and shares the community's concern with the current enrolment pressures at Crestwood SS and Crestwood IS, and will, as part of the broader City and County of Peterborough Accommodation Planning process, bring proposals to address the long-term pressures in this community. This process will take place over the next year, with final decisions being brought forward to the Board of Trustees for approval by December 2024. It is anticipated

that the long-term accommodation strategies will be implemented using a phased approach, with initial changes becoming effective September 2025.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

13. The impact on the 2023-2024 budget would include costs (if any) associated with preparing James Strath PS for the transition of the Grade 7 students from Westmount PS (English stream) and Kawartha Heights PS. This could include, but would not be limited to, the purchase of additional resources, classroom furniture, technology, and refreshing the classroom spaces.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cohort of Grade 7 students in the 2024-2025 school year, from Westmount Public School (English stream) and Kawartha Heights Public School, attend James Strath Public School, effective September 2024.

Jodi Sepkowski,
Superintendent of Education, Student Achievement

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