

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: Resource Committee

TOPIC: **City and County of Peterborough Accommodation Planning Update**

INITIATOR: Rita Russo, Director of Education
April Foster, Superintendent, Business and Corporate Services

BACKGROUND

1. At the February 28, 2024, Resource Committee meeting, staff presented an initial report, the City and County of Peterborough Accommodation Planning: Background Study, which rationalized the need for a school attendance area, program offering and/or grade/cohort review.
2. At the April 3, 2024, Resource Committee meeting, Administration and Planning Services staff prepared and presented four accommodation planning concepts, which were intended to balance enrolment across the City and County of Peterborough schools.
3. A community engagement meeting was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute (CVI). The meeting was organized in an open house format. This meeting provided community members with the opportunity to review the accommodation planning concepts and ask questions of administrative staff and trustees. Other opportunities for community engagement included an electronic feedback option.
4. Administrative staff considered the community feedback, together with the following guiding principles identified at the start of this project to evaluate the proposed solutions:
 - a. providing high quality programs for all students
 - b. developing long-term, sustainable plans that balance enrolment
 - c. maintaining walkable routes to school, and
 - d. maintaining efficient transportation services.
5. Following the community engagement meeting and after review of the feedback considered, administration presented two refined concepts to the Resource Committee at the September 11, 2024 meeting.
6. Community engagement meetings were held to provide community members with the opportunity to review the revised accommodation planning concepts and ask questions of administrative staff and trustees. An electronic feedback option

was also available.

The meetings were held on the following dates and locations:

- October 1, 2024 – 6:00 p.m. – Kaawaate East City PS
- October 10, 2024 – 6:00 p.m. – Millbrook/South Cavan PS
- October 17, 2024 – 6:00 p.m. – Adam Scott CVI

STATUS

7. Feedback gathered from the three Community Engagement opportunities on October 1, 10 and 17, as well as the feedback received through the online survey, which closed on October 30, 2024, and directly through email submission, is being consolidated and reviewed. A full summary of the community engagement feedback will be shared at the November 27, 2024, Resource Committee meeting.
8. Preliminary feedback themes specific to the different strategies found within the Concepts, are summarized below.
 - i. The feedback related to Kaawaate East City PS is the same in Concept A.1 and Concept E. Frequently mentioned themes include:
 - a. appreciation for keeping cohorts together, including Grade 8 students remaining at the school for the 2025-26 last year;
 - b. frustration over the multiple disruptions and transitions experienced by this school community, and the resulting impacts on well-being;
 - c. concerns about the impacts of splitting siblings which creates logistical challenges, as a result of childcare and different school bell times, and
 - d. reduced walkability and impacts on health and accessibility.
 - ii. Families impacted by Concepts A.1 and E who attend Chemong Public School and Highland Heights PS did not express much opposition to the proposed Family of Schools change for English stream students. There are some concerns related to:
 - a. logistics of siblings attending different secondary schools;
 - b. concerns from French Immersion families about the potential impact on young elementary students in different schools, including possibly having to move SK students, with the change from Edmison Heights PS to Westmount PS for French Immersion; and
 - c. Specific to Highland Heights PS, students who could walk to Adam Scott CVI would have to be bused to Crestwood, and concerns about the change to a JK-6 school and students being bused for Grade 7-8.

- iii. Specific to Concept E and the strategy to create a regional Intermediate School for English stream students at Queen Mary PS with students who would otherwise attend Adam Scott Intermediate School, many concerns were expressed. The feedback centers on the following themes:
 - a. These students would currently walk to school, whereas in the proposed Concept E, students would require transportation to get to school;
 - b. Separation of English and French cohorts disrupts friendships and siblings, including increased logistical difficulties;
 - c. Negative impacts to physical and mental health; and
 - d. Views that separating the cohorts is elitist and not equitable to families with one or no vehicles.
 - iv. Those impacted by Concepts A.1 and E who attend Millbrook/South Cavan PS and North Cavan PS expressed deep concern with the two options presented. These two school communities feel strongly that administration has not been responsive to the feedback provided, since the recommended options provide no alternative for their families. Frequently mentioned feedback themes include:
 - a. Strong preference for remaining at Crestwood SS;
 - b. Impact on rural communities and loss of community connection;
 - c. Frustration with the concepts presented;
 - d. Impact on student well-being;
 - e. Concerns with safety, transportation, programming and extracurriculars at Kenner CVI;
 - f. Many requests for siblings to be able to attend the same school; and
 - g. Financial and logistical questions and concerns.
 - v. Feedback from North Cavan PS families indicates they would like an alternate option that allows North Cavan PS students the opportunity to continue attending Crestwood SS since the student population at North Cavan PS is relatively small compared to that of Millbrook/South Cavan PS.
9. As a follow-up to the Board, administration has summarized general costs associated with Concepts A.1 (Appendix A) and E (Appendix B) as presented.

With respect to costs, it is important to note that an immediate implementation path represents the most cost-effective approach to any accommodation changes. It is also, however, the most impactful on families.

The overwhelming majority of feedback received through Phase One of the accommodation consultation confirmed a strong interest from families and

community in a slow implementation or a phased approach that minimized disruption to existing class cohorts and students.

To accommodate this wide-spread community feedback, additional busing costs will be incurred, largely in the initial years of the transition (Years 1 and 2).

As part of transition planning for any accommodation changes, administration is also considering additional capital investments, as part of the board's annual refresh planning, as well as school-based investments to support educational programming and extra-curricular opportunities for students.

10. Based on the feedback received as part of the most recent engagement meetings and online submissions, and in consideration of the guiding principles, administration has developed an alternative option, Concept A.2, (Appendix C) for consideration by the board.

In Concept A.2, the following is proposed:

- i. Chemong PS would become part of the Crestwood Secondary School family of schools,
- ii. Millbrook/South Cavan PS would become part of the Kenner CVI family of schools,
- iii. Keith Wightman PS, Otonabee Valley PS and Roger Neilson PS would become JK to Grade 8.
- iv. French Immersion students from Norwood PS and Havelock Belmont PS would attend Hillcrest PS and Campbellford District HS for French Immersion,
- v. Kaawaate East City PS becomes a dual track JK to Grade 6 school, with the Grade 7 and 8 English stream students attending Otonabee Valley PS. These students would then attend Thomas A. Stewart SS for Grades 9 to 12. Grade 7 and 8 French Immersion students would continue to attend Adam Scott Intermediate School and Adam Scott CVI.
- vi. French Immersion students from North Shore PS would attend Prince of Wales PS for SK to Grade 8.

This concepts differs from A.1, in that,

- i. Highland Heights PS remains a JK to Grade 8 school and remains as part of the Adam Scott CVI family of schools.
- ii. North Cavan PS remains as part of the Crestwood SS family of schools.

In order to accommodate this change the Board would need to designate a holding area on Phase 2 of the Nature's Edge (Lily Lake Road) residential development (Appendix D). Students from Phase 2 of this development would attend Queen Mary PS for JK to Grade 8 and Kenner CVI for Grades 9 to 12.

11. Related to this alternative concept, it is important to note that the current and projected future enrolment growth of Millbrook/South Cavan PS is significant – one of the largest expected within City and County of Peterborough schools – and is the greatest contributor to ongoing enrolment pressures at Crestwood Intermediate and Secondary Schools.
12. A final decision/recommendation will be made to the Board of Trustees at the December 10, 2024 Board meeting.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

13. Budget implications are noted through the cost analysis shared in Appendices A, B, and C.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the City and County of Accommodation Planning Update report, dated November 6, 2024, be received for information.

Rita Russo
Director of Education

April Foster
Superintendent, Business and Corporate Services