

PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW
COMMITTEE

KINGSVILLE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Kingsville District High School, Kingsville Public School, Jack
Miner Public School , Ruthven Public School

FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

~June 2012~

Committee Members

Kingsville District High School

Pat Masson - Principal

Jarrold Omstead - Teacher

Barb Denotter – Parent (final report writing team)

Kingsville Public School

Mona Renaud - Principal

Kerry Kraus - Parent

Lisa Bradt - Parent (final report writing team)

Debbie Burgess - Teacher (final report writing team)

Jack Miner Public School

Mary Catherine Langlois - Principal

Terri Barrette - Acting Principal

Matthew Capel-Cure - Parent

Gillian Carter - Teacher

Ruthven Public School

Bill Cervini - Principal

Melanie Burns - Parent

Helen Andrade - Parent

Melissa Cziraky - Teacher

John vanWingerden – Community representative

Elliott Dunlop – Community representative; Chairperson (final report writing team)

Superintendent of Accommodation - Terry Lyons

Administrative Assistant - Lynne Hornby

Kingsville PARC

On October 18, 2011, the Board of Trustees approved the following recommendation:

That the Superintendent responsible for accommodation conduct a PARC study of the Kingsville Family of Schools to:

- Reduce the number of empty spaces;
- Improve the utilization rates within the family of schools

Committee Meeting Dates

Jan. 24, 2012 @ Kingsville District High School

Feb. 23 @ Ruthven Public School

March 8 @ Kingsville Public School

March 27 @ Jack Miner Public School

April 11 @ Kingsville Public School

April 24 @ Ruthven Public School

May 7 @ Kingsville District High School

May 30 @ Kingsville District High School

Public Community Meetings

Feb. 23 @ Ruthven Public School

April 11 @ Kingsville Public School

May 16 @ Jack Miner Public School

June 7 @ Kingsville District High School

The following data regarding enrolments was considered in addressing the mandate of the committee.

Please note that Pelee Island School was considered a special situation that is funded by a specific funding formula which is separate from the other schools in this family of schools.

The committee considered operational costs, renewal needs, programs, transportation costs, student travel times, and community impact when reaching decisions.

Kingsville Family of Schools Student Spaces

Year	Jack Miner	KPS	Pelee Island	Ruthven	KDHS	Total
Capacity	547	653	69	328	840	2437
Sept 2011	323.5	468.5 (226 E, 242.5 F)	6	222.5	625	1645.5
Empty Seats	223.5	184.5	63	105.5	215	791.5

Kingsville Family of Schools Projected Enrolment

Year	Jack Miner	KPS	Pelee Island	Ruthven	KDHS	Total
2015	346	531	10	195	545	1627
2020	356	522	11	189	528	1606
2025	361	517	11	193	512	1594

Kingsville Family of Schools Facility Data

Item	Jack Miner	KPS	Pelee Island	Ruthven	KDHS
Usage Rate	58%	76%	9%	64%	76%
FCI	41.32%	54.16%	44.14%	55.75%	46.36%
FCI In 10 yrs.	54.94%	76.19%	81.44%	73.63%	78.89%

Renewal Backlog	\$3.78 M	\$5.70M	\$0.51M	\$3.06M	\$8.83M
Renewal Backlog in 10 yrs.	\$5.02M	\$8.02M	\$0.94M	\$4.04M	\$15.04M

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The Committee met on seven occasions, with the average meeting lasting approximately five hours. Over twenty-five scenarios were analyzed, discussed and several were revisited more than once.

As the meetings progressed and we heard feedback from the community, a definite common philosophy began to emerge. Finally, a consensus was reached as to our final common philosophy. Using this as a basis for going forward, we developed recommendations which met the mandate as given by the Board of Trustees.

The points in our Common Philosophy included;

- 1. The students and our community are our first priority.**
- 2. Maximizing student program opportunities is essential.**
- 3. All Grade 7 and 8 students, including French Immersion, should remain together.**
- 4. French Immersion and English JK-6 students should remain together.**
- 5. Of all of our elementary schools, Jack Miner has the most potential and should remain open.**
- 6. School communities should be transitioned as a whole where possible.**
- 7. A high school is necessary within our community.**

Final Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION # 1

CLOSE KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH, KINGSVILLE PUBLIC, JACK MINER AND RUTHVEN SCHOOLS. BUILD A JK-12 DUAL TRACK SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS WITHIN THE KINGSVILLE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS.

IF RECOMMENDATION #1 IS APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY, IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT IN THE INTERIM, RUTHVEN SCHOOL IS CLOSED AND ALL STUDENTS TRANSITION TO JACK MINER PUBLIC SCHOOL; KINGSVILLE PUBLIC AND KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS REMAIN STATUS QUO.

In this recommendation, the Committee recognizes the current fiscal situation in the Province of Ontario. However, this option adheres to all of the points in our common philosophy. There are two options for a location for this recommendation:

- a) Acquire a new site large enough to build the facility (please see attached real estate listings as appendices 1 & 2); or
- b) Build on the existing high school site with the purchase of land adjacent to KDHS, which is currently for sale. Migration Hall is currently on site at KDHS and could be used in this expansion.

This recommendation's advantages are:

1. State of the art facility
 - Entrenches students within a new facility with exposure to “green” technology and practices
 - Students benefit from the latest in technology.
 - Savings on utilities due to the energy efficiency associated with a new build.

2. Increases program options for students and staff.

- More opportunities for collaborative team teaching and sharing of best practices amongst staff members within all divisions of both elementary and secondary sectors.
- Projected decrease in the number of combined grade classes due to higher enrolments per grade.
- Students would have access to better resources such as innovative technology.
- Larger amount of staff members may increase the co-curricular options available to students.
- Enhanced leadership opportunities for secondary students to work with elementary students (ex. coaching intramurals, reading programs, exercise programs, etc.)
- Leadership opportunities remain intact for grade 7 & 8 students within the elementary sector (ex. Student council, reading programs, lunch monitors, bus buddies, etc.)
- Greater transitional opportunities between elementary and secondary sectors to promote student success initiatives
- Professionals who provide vital services (ex. Social Workers, Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, etc.) would decrease time spent on travel between schools, thereby servicing more children.

3. Overcomes a \$21-32 million renewal backlog by the closing of four schools

- Current backlog is \$21.4 million dollars. In ten years the backlog will be \$32.2 million
- GECDSB cannot begin to complete needed repairs to these four schools with the \$4.7 million received annually for all of the boards 76 schools.

	Current Backlog		10 Yr Backlog
JMPS	3,777,000		5,023,000
KPS	5,703,000		8,023,000
RPS	3,056,000		4,037,000
KDHS	8,831,000		15,036,000
TOTAL	\$ 21,367,000		\$ 32,118,000

4. Provides a significant savings on operations, utilities, and maintenance, plus the savings in administrative staff. See below.

CURRENT OPERATION COSTS (based on school profile information)

	Operations	Utilities	Maint.	Admin.		Total
JMPS	188,994	62,318	63,545	265,000		579,857
KPS	190,412	69,437	69,638	265,000		594,487
RPS	102,142	49,460	99,355	180,000		430,957
KDHS	285,418	137,782	74,867	400,000		898,067
TOTAL	766,966	318,997	307,405	1,110,000		2,503,368

NOTE: Although it is difficult to determine the cost savings, we anticipate that they would be significant due to decreased property maintenance, taxes, and administrative personnel as well as increased energy efficiencies associated with a new facility.

5. Provides a community focus.
 - Segregation between school communities is eliminated and the community attends school as one.
 - Continuity of elementary students to the secondary setting within Kingsville would likely be increased.
 - Opportunities for the community of Kingsville to utilize the facility for community focused activities with access to multiple gymnasiums.
6. Attraction and retention of families to the Kingsville area.
7. Satisfies community input regarding preference of grade 7 & 8's to remain within the elementary school sector.
8. Seamless transition between sectors which correlates with the GECDsB's strategic plan goal of realizing success for all students through continuous improvement and alignment from JK to graduation.

Challenges to this recommendation are:

1. The timeline associated with this process. A minimum of five years to receive funding, develop architectural plans and complete the building.
2. Changes to transportation costs. Cost dependent on location of new school.
3. Loss of a small school feeling.
4. Determination & acquisition of the best site.
5. Possibility of losing schools in the core of Kingsville.

The current 791 empty spaces in the Kingsville Family of schools would be eliminated which would provide an immediate \$800,000 in annual savings. In addition, the new Kingsville Community School would be a "state of the art" school with upgraded technology and equipment and would launch school programs into the future and give our students a competitive edge in this ever changing world. A track (currently not available in Kingsville at

KDHS) and other outdoor facilities as well as new gymnasiums would enrich the school experience.

The interim plan that has been proposed does not meet the mandate in isolation and would only be recommended for implementation should funding from the Ministry of Education be approved. It is being recommended in an effort to retain the grade 7 & 8 students within the elementary sector, as requested by the community, until a new facility is built, if approved by the Ministry. The committee would like to stress that this recommendation is an interim plan only and not a stand alone recommendation as the committee does not want to risk the closure of the secondary school as a result of under-utilization.

Advantages of interim plan:

- Grade 7 & 8 students remain within the elementary sector.
- No costs to be covered by the board budget.

Challenges of interim plan:

- Empty space utilization is not as significant as with recommendation #1 thereby causing funds being spent on empty spaces still.

	Operations	Utilities	Maint.	Admin. Salaries		Total
JMPS						
KPS						
RPS	102,142	49,460	99,355	180,000		430,957
KDHS						
TOTAL	102,142	49,460	99,355	180,000		\$430,957
						+\$ <u>230000</u> Svgs.
						\$ 660,957

In the event that the proposal was not approved by the Ministry, the committee would then suggest implementing our second draft recommendation below.

RECOMMENDATION # 2

ALL GRADE 7 & 8 STUDENTS TRANSITION TO KDHS, KINGSVILLE PUBLIC REMAINS A DUAL-TRACK JK-6 SCHOOL WITH THE DEMOLITION OF THE “OLD SECTION”; RUTHVEN PUBLIC SCHOOL WOULD CLOSE AND JK-6 STUDENTS WOULD TRANSITION TO THE JACK MINER PUBLIC SITE.

This option also meets our Common Philosophy in that all JK-6 students remain intact as a group, and no boundary adjustments are needed. The empty spaces at KDHS are reduced. The total empty spaces in the Kingsville Family of Schools are reduced from 791 to approx. 190. The renewal backlog is reduced by approx. \$5 million with the closing of Ruthven and the demolition at KPS. French Immersion students in Grade 7 & 8 have the opportunity to transition into the KDHS extended French program more easily. Operations, maintenance, and utility costs are reduced by closing Ruthven and decreasing the square footage of Kingsville Public School.

This would unfortunately mean the loss of a community school in Ruthven, and would cost a modest increase in transportation costs while removing the ability of some students to walk to school in Ruthven. There would be a demolition cost (approx. \$185,000-230,000) to demolish the old section at KPS.

This recommendation advantages are:

1. Utilization rates at all schools are increased, which meets the mandate and maintains the high school within Kingsville as requested by the community.
2. All of Ruthven Public School students would transition to a new school without the need for boundary adjustments.
3. Savings of operations, utilities and maintenance costs. See chart on following page.

CURRENT OPERATIONS COSTS

The annual savings from the closure of Ruthven Public School would be approximately \$430,957. In addition, the costs of operating Kingsville Public School would be diminished.

	Operations	Utilities	Maint.	Admin		Total
JMPS						
KPS *	19,041	6,944	6,964			32,949
RPS	102,142	49,460	99,355	180,000		430,957
KDHS						
TOTAL	121,183	56,404	106,319	180,000		463,906

4. The renewal costs would be diminished by approximately \$5 million dollars with the closure of Ruthven (\$3.06 million) and the demolition at KPS (\$1.95 million).

KPS Demolition -	\$1.95 million
RPS Closure -	<u>\$3.06 million</u>
Total -	\$5.01 million

5. Status quo for the walking students at KPS is maintained, thereby eliminating the need to transport an additional 180 students.

The challenges to recommendation # 2 are:

1. Loss of a school in Ruthven.
2. Potential difficulties within the current high school structure in ensuring that the intermediate students are housed intact as a division and remain separate from the secondary students.
3. Potential conflicts in scheduling of use of gymnasium between sectors.
4. The cost of the demolition at Kingsville Public School (\$185,000-230,000)
5. Loss of ability for some students to walk to school.
6. Changes to transportation costs. Approximately \$40,000 increase per year.

Dear GECD SB Trustees and Board Personnel,

A wise, local businessman stated, “It takes a village to raise a child” at one of our community meetings. The community of Kingsville is a village devoted to collaboratively raising responsible, respectful citizens who embrace our individual differences as well as our similarities.

All community members can agree that when it comes to the students within the Kingsville Family of Schools, their needs are of utmost priority. These needs not only include tangible items, but also the emotional and physical needs of students of all ages. The adult citizens of Kingsville are extremely passionate about creating environments which foster growth and security in all of its children regardless of the size of the facility in which they attend school. At the community meetings we heard of the wonderful educators within our schools who have taught our children not only reading, writing and arithmetic but also how to overcome adversity, face challenges head on and the core values that will one day make them the responsible, respectful adult citizens of Kingsville or our wonderful country of Canada.

The committee realizes that access to resources is essential for the overall success of the students within the Kingsville Family of Schools. These resources come not only in the form of books, computers and crayons but also in the form of teachers who specialize in particular subjects and work together as a team to spread their knowledge amongst their students. Resources also come in the form of individuals who choose to give of their time to assist a child in becoming better at a particular sport or partaking in a variety of art forms. The recommendations of the committee are designed to enhance resources and opportunities for all current and future students in our family of schools.

On behalf of the Kingsville Family of Schools and all of the students whom we serve, thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide input as to what we feel our community desires and would benefit from.

Sincerely,

Kingsville PARC Committee