

## THE GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MEMORANDUM TO: CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

FROM: ERIN KELLY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND

TODD AWENDER, SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION:

**ACCOMMODATIONS** 

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW

INVOLVING GENERAL AMHERST HIGH SCHOOL, KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, WESTERN SECONDARY SCHOOL, HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL AND HARROW PUBLIC

**SCHOOL** 

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

In accordance with the Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines of June 2009, and after consideration of the report of the Program and Accommodation Review Committee posted on the Greater Essex County District School Board's website on June 2, 2015, and presented at a meeting of the board on the same day, Administration's recommendations for this group of schools have been determined.

## **Background**

At the December 9, 2014, regular meeting of the Board, Trustees approved the following recommendation regarding General Amherst HS, Harrow DHS, Harrow PS, Kingsville DHS and Western SS:

THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITATES AN ACCOMMODATION REVIEW OF GENERAL AMHERST HIGH SCHOOL, KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, WESTERN SECONDARY SCHOOL, HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL AND HARROW PUBLIC SCHOOL, TO ADDRESS CAPACITY ISSUES.

#### Scope of the Study

The Greater Essex County District School Board is responsible for operating and maintaining its schools as effectively and responsibly as possible with an emphasis on programming that will support student achievement.

#### Rationale

In the efforts to effectively and responsibly maximize efficiencies by allowing resources to be allocated to student programming and opportunity, the Board must continue to perform systematic reviews. Implementing cost effective strategies addressing programming opportunities, the shifting demographics, declining and increasing enrolments, utilization rates, renewal needs, and aging infrastructure are a necessity. Ethical stewardship requires responsible change in providing safe and welcoming schools and facilities to all our learners and communities.

#### Methodology:

- Consultation with School Principals and School Council Chairs prior to the Accommodation Review
- Committee comprising of school personnel, parents and community members was struck in January of 2015 and approved by the Trustees

- Regular Meetings with the committee from January 2015 to June 2015
- Identification and analysis of data and related information as required/requested by the committee
- Development of enrolment projection charts based on October 31, 2014 enrolment data
- Development of a link from each school's website directly to the Student Accommodation icon on the GECDSB website where related information can be found
- Notes of meetings posted to the Board website in a timely fashion
- Keeping each school community informed via School Council meeting reports, staff meetings, school newsletter articles, and community information letters
- Community information meetings to apprise the community of the study's progress and recommendations
- Collection of community input
- Letters, distributed via students, to all families of each school in the study
- Synrevoice phone messages to all families of each school in the study apprising of the community meeting location, date, and time and presentation of report to Trustees meeting location, date, and time
- News Release to media announcing the community meetings
- Eventscast displayed on Board website publicizing community meetings
- Meetings with school staff of all schools involved in the study to provide updates and answer concerns
- Consultation with Area Superintendents of Education and Superintendent of Business
- Consultation with Special Education Superintendent
- Consultation with Transportation Consortium staff
- Consultation with Facility Services staff
- Consultation with Senior Administration

#### **Resources:**

- The 2014-2015 Annual Accommodation and Capital Planning Report
- School enrolment charts based on October 31, 2014 enrolment figures
- Consultation with school principals, D. Salinitre, M. Edwards, M. Sprague-Keane, M. MacIntyre, and H. Keefner
- Consultation with respective School Council Chairs
- Developed an email link (parc@publicboard.ca) as an additional forum to collect community input
- Consultation with Capital Policy and Program personnel of the Ministry of Education
- Consultation and meetings with municipality town council members
- Barager Systems software
- Consultation with Planning Process Associates Inc.

## **Considerations of the Study:**

- To determine the best scenarios to strengthen business cases to receive Ministry funding for new builds
- To enhance student programming and opportunity
- To endeavour to reduce the number of empty student spaces, thus addressing capacity issues
- To improve utilization rates in the schools
- To examine the current infrastructure and renewal needs
- To develop a plan for the relocation of students with the least amount of disruption, where possible
- To be fiscally responsible, in consideration of student transportation issues

- To recognize the impact of transportation (school bus) routes with regard to distances
- To effectively and responsibly maximize efficiencies in the allocation of resources

#### FOR THE REASONS THAT FOLLOW, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

- 1. THAT HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL CLOSE EFFECTIVE JUNE 2016 AND BE DECLARED SURPLUS TO THE BOARD'S NEEDS. THE GRADE 9-12 STUDENTS WILL TRANSITION TO KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL. THE GRADE 7 AND GRADE 8 STUDENTS WILL TRANSITION BACK TO HARROW PUBLIC SCHOOL, CREATING A JK TO GRADE 8 SCHOOL.
  - THAT HARROW PUBLIC SCHOOL BE A FEEDER SCHOOL TO KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL. THE IN-DISTRICT STUDENTS TRANSITIONING FROM HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL TO KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR BUSSING.
- 2. THAT WESTERN SECONDARY SCHOOL CLOSE EFFECTIVE JUNE 2016 AND BE DECLARED SURPLUS TO THE BOARD'S NEEDS. ALL THE LOCALLY DEVELOPED CURRICULUM COURSE (LDCC) STUDENTS WILL TRANSITION TO THEIR LOCAL IN-DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL BASED ON THEIR RESIDENCE. ALL HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE GECDSB OFFER THE LDCC PROGRAMMING. TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS IN DISTRICT BASED ON TRANSPORTATION POLICY.
- 3. THAT THREE ADDITIONAL STRATEGICALLY PLACED ADAPTIVE BASIC (AB) PROGRAMS BE CREATED AT THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOLS: GENERAL AMHERST HIGH SCHOOL, KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, AND BELLE RIVER DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL. TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED TO ALL STUDENTS IN DISTRICT OF THE NEWLY CREATED ADAPTIVE BASIC PROGRAM BOUNDARIES FALLING IN LINE WITH TRANSPORTATION POLICY.

#### Proposed new boundary for AB program at BRDHS

Students entering the AB program that reside in the current Tecumseh Vista Academy, the current Belle River District High School, and the current Essex Public School boundaries would enroll in the AB program at BRDHS.

## Proposed new boundary for AB program at GAHS

Students entering the AB program that reside in the current General Amherst High School, the current Sandwich Secondary School, and the current Colchester North Public School boundaries would enroll in the AB program at GAHS.

#### Proposed new boundary for AB program at KDHS

Students entering the AB program that reside in the current Kingsville District High School, the current Learnington District Secondary School, the current Harrow District High School, and the current Gosfield North Public School boundaries would enroll in the AB program at KDHS.

4. THAT THE PRINCIPALS OF THE AFFECTED SCHOOLS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THEIR SCHOOL COUNCILS, WORK WITH SENIOR ADMINISTRATION TO IMPLEMENT AND COMMUNICATE THE CHANGES THROUGH A TRANSITION COMMITTEE.

- 5. THAT UPON APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION #1, RECOMMENDATION #2, AND RECOMMENDATION #3, A BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROPOSED NEW JK-12 CONSOLIDATED HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, WESTERN SECONDARY SCHOOL LDCC AND AB STUDENTS IN THE PROPOSED NEW BOUNDARIES, KINGSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL, AND JACK MINER PUBLIC SCHOOL BE SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.
- 6. THAT UPON APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION #2 AND RECOMMENDATION #3, A BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROPOSED NEW GRADE 9-12 GENERAL AMHERST HIGH SCHOOL WITH THE WESTERN SECONDARY SCHOOL LDCC STUDENTS AND AB STUDENTS IN THE PROPOSED NEW BOUNDARIES BE SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

## **Analysis**

The Greater Essex County District School Board is responsible for operating and maintaining its schools as effectively and responsibly as possible with an emphasis on programming that will support student achievement. When a PARC is initiated, all schools identified become part of the review, and as a result may have their accommodation status changed.

As the Program and Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) embarked on the task specified and reviewed all of the schools identified within the PARC, the following challenges emerged.

- 1. Low utilization rates in all the schools
- 2. Enrolments are projected to remain low and continue to decline as a whole
- 3. Programming opportunities and staffing concerns due to low enrolments
- 4. Aging infrastructure, and increasing renewal needs

#### General

As mentioned previously, this accommodation review involved five schools – General Amherst High School (GAHS), Harrow District High School (HDHS), Harrow Public School (HPS), Western Secondary School (WSS), and Kingsville District High School (KDHS). All of the schools are located in the county and their respective boundaries are shown in Fig #1. The schools are somewhat different in the programming and/or grade structure: GAHS is a grade 9 to grade 12 school, KDHS is a grade 9 to grade 12 school, HDHS is a grade 7 to grade 12 school, HPS is a JK to grade 6 school, and WSS is a grade 9 to grade 12 special education school. Western Secondary School does draw students from the entire county.

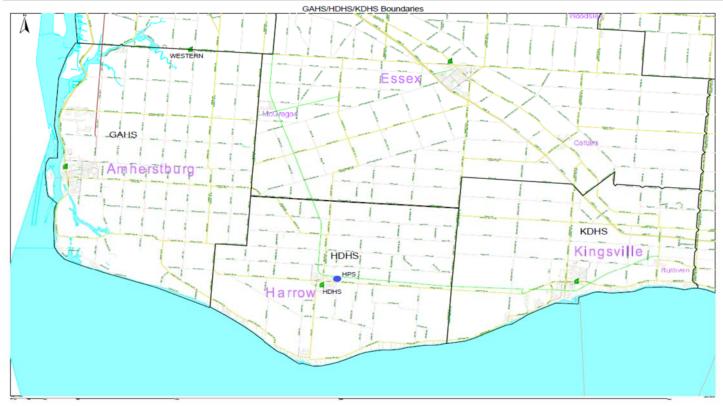


Fig #1

## **Enrolment Review (Fig #2)**

Based on the data used throughout the PARC process and demographic information provided by the 2011 census, it is our belief that overall enrolment will continue to decline. Enrolment projections indicate that utilization rates will remain low over the next 10 years. The enrolment based on the October 31, 2014 actuals along with the On the Ground Capacity (OTG), empty space and utilization rates of the five schools are outlined below in Fig #2.

## **Utilization Rates (2014) of the Five Schools**

	GAHS	HDHS / Int.	HPS (K-6)	WSS	KDHS	TOTAL
OTG	1146	484	467	627	906	3630
Enrolment	678.5	254 / 110	368	311	568	2279.5
<b>Empty Spaces</b>	467.5	230 / 120	99	316	338	1350.5
<b>Utilization</b> %	59%	52.5% / 75.2%	78.8%	49.6%	63%	62.8%

Fig #2

General Amherst High School is going to experience a decline in enrolment over the next 10 years, as will several of our other secondary schools. The school's utilization rate will hover around 50%. Within five years, the school's Facility Condition Index (FCI) will reach 108% and renewal needs will be over \$30 million. In terms of ranking for FCI, within the next five years, this school will be in the poorest condition. These challenges need to be addressed. Fig #3 below shows the enrolment projections for GAHS.

## ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR GENERAL AMHERST HIGH SCHOOL

General Amherst High School	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	Total
2015-2016	154	158	165	199	676
2016-2017	155	154	155	190	654
2017-2018	153	154	151	177	635
2018-2019	154	153	152	174	633
2019-2020	160	154	150	176	640
2020-2021	142	160	151	174	627
2021-2022	148	141	157	175	621
2022-2023	144	148	139	182	613
2023-2024	133	143	145	162	583
2024-2025	116	133	141	168	558
2025-2026	136	116	130	163	545
2026-2027	143	136	114	151	544
2027-2028	127	143	134	132	536
2028-2029	133	127	140	155	555
2029-2030	131	133	124	163	551

Fig #3

The community of Harrow continues to experience declining enrolment, aging infrastructure and increasing renewal costs in its schools. Accommodation challenges have been ongoing for years. There has been no recent residential activity in Harrow. As of September 2012, a grade restructuring took place. Students in grades JK to 6 are accommodated at the Senior school site and grades 7-12 students are accommodated at the high school. The junior school site was closed. The K-grade 6 school has already experienced a decline in enrolment. It is currently operating at 79% utilization rate. There are currently 99 empty spaces in the K-grade 6 building. Fig #4 below shows the projected enrolment for HPS.

#### **ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR HARROW PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Harrow Public School	JK	SK	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Total
2015-2016	41	40	44	40	44	49	52	51	361
2016-2017	36	41	41	44	40	44	49	52	347
2017-2018	28	36	41	41	44	40	44	49	323
2018-2019	31	28	36	41	41	44	40	44	305
2019-2020	31	31	28	36	41	41	44	40	292
2020-2021	30	31	31	28	36	41	41	44	282
2021-2022	30	31	31	31	28	36	41	41	269
2022-2023	30	30	31	31	31	28	36	41	258
2023-2024	29	30	30	31	31	31	28	36	246
2024-2025	29	30	30	30	31	31	31	28	240
2025-2026	29	29	30	30	30	31	31	31	241
2026-2027	28	29	29	30	30	30	31	31	238
2027-2028	28	29	29	29	30	30	30	31	236
2028-2029	28	28	29	29	29	30	30	30	233
2029-2030	28	28	28	29	29	29	30	30	231

Fig #4

Starting February 2004, the Board provided transportation for those Harrow students who expressed a desire for a program not offered at Harrow DHS to attend Kingsville or General Amherst high schools. This motion was not met favourably by the community and one of the recommendations of the PARC which concluded in June 2011 was to eliminate the transportation. Trustees voted that effective September 1, 2014, the motion of February 2004 is rescinded. Those Harrow students currently attending either Kingsville or General Amherst high schools will continue to receive this transportation, but any new area students wishing to attend a school other than Harrow High School must provide their own transportation. This is common practice for out of district secondary attendance throughout the Board.

Harrow District High School's enrolments continue to decline. It is increasingly difficult to provide viable programming and timetable for a secondary school of only 237 students. There are also 99 additional students in the secondary school space that are actually grade 7 and 8 students. Over the next 10 years, secondary enrolments will experience a significant decline. It must be noted that the utilization rate of the secondary students only, is at 50% currently; this is projected to decrease to only 34% in the next 5 years, making timetabling even more challenging. The viability of maintaining the current arrangement is questionable. Fig #5 and Fig #6 below show the enrolment projections.

## ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL + GRADE 7-8

Harrow Intermediate	Gr 7	Gr 8	Total
2015-2016	44	55	99
2016-2017	50	46	96
2017-2018	51	52	103
2018-2019	48	53	101
2019-2020	43	50	93
2020-2021	39	45	84
2021-2022	43	41	84
2022-2023	41	44	85
2023-2024	40	42	82
2024-2025	35	41	76
2025-2026	28	37	65
2026-2027	31	29	60
2027-2028	30	32	62
2028-2029	30	31	61
2029-2030	30	31	61

Fig #5

Harrow District High School	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	Total
2015-2016	52	54	60	71	237
2016-2017	50	49	54	70	223
2017-2018	41	47	49	63	200
2018-2019	47	39	47	58	191
2019-2020	48	45	39	56	188
2020-2021	45	46	45	48	184
2021-2022	40	43	46	53	182
2022-2023	36	38	43	54	171
2023-2024	41	34	38	51	164
2024-2025	38	39	35	46	158
2025-2026	38	36	39	42	155
2026-2027	33	36	36	45	150
2027-2028	26	32	36	43	137
2028-2029	29	25	31	43	128
2029-2030	29	28	25	38	120

Fig #6

The Town of Kingsville saw population growth over the last five years but much of Kingsville's housing is home to retired "empty nesters." This does not create a need for new student spaces. Some modest development growth is being forecast over the longer term in the Ruthven area and should it actualize, the

effect will not be significant. Aging infrastructure and increasing renewal needs also add to the challenges. Kingsville District High School presently has approximately 340 empty student spaces with a utilization rate of 63%. Enrolment is expected to increase that rate to 70% within the next ten years. With or without new development actualizing, the school will continue to have significant excess space available into the future. Fig #7 below are the projected enrolments for KDHS.

#### ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Kingsville District High School	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	SCSE	Total
2015-2016	152	146	124	162	10	594
2016-2017	128	151	146	132	10	567
2017-2018	133	128	151	156	10	578
2018-2019	121	133	128	162	10	554
2019-2020	129	122	134	138	10	533
2020-2021	122	131	123	144	10	530
2021-2022	151	124	131	134	10	550
2022-2023	153	153	125	143	10	584
2023-2024	122	154	153	135	10	574
2024-2025	141	124	155	165	10	595
2025-2026	140	143	124	168	10	585
2026-2027	147	141	143	135	10	576
2027-2028	129	148	142	156	10	585
2028-2029	140	131	149	154	10	584
2029-2030	142	141	132	161	10	586

Fig #7

Recommendations of the PARC process which concluded in October 2012 recognize the challenges facing the Kingsville Family of Schools. Trustees approved the submission of the business case to the Ministry of Education, being the construction of a new JK-grade 12 dual track school. Upon its construction, Kingsville District High, Kingsville Public and Jack Miner Public schools would be closed.

This project was initially submitted as a Capital Priority in 2013-2014. It was not approved at that time due to a lack of an immediate need as identified by the Ministry. It was also submitted in 2014-2015 under the new School Consolidation Capital funding program, but was not approved. It was recommended the Board consider a more cost effective proposal for future funding consideration. The Board believes the inclusion of HDHS students, the Adaptive Basic and Locally Developed Curriculum Course students from WSS into the initial recommendation from 2012 for a new JK-12 facility will be considered from the Ministry standpoint as a more cost effective proposal that will hopefully receive funding.

As the current philosophy of delivering curriculum in education recognizes differentiated instruction within a students' home school, further consideration must be given to reviewing the model of program delivery within the special education school setting. This paralleled with a low utilization rate, increasing FCI and uncertain enrolment over time warrants a review. Following Century's reformation to a neighbourhood

secondary school, Western remains as the Board's only special education magnet school, drawing students from across the entire county.

Enrolment at Western Secondary School has been declining as locally developed courses are now available in every secondary school in the GECDSB. The school's utilization rates will hover around 50% over the next ten years. With every secondary school now offering LDCC programing, the enrolment may experience a significant decline as the appropriate courses are being offered in the student's neighborhood school. Fig #8 below shows the projected enrolment of WSS.

#### **ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR WESTERN SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Western Secondary School	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	Total
2015-2016	66	55	76	119	316
2016-2017	66	62	59	125	312
2017-2018	66	62	66	108	302
2018-2019	66	62	66	115	309
2019-2020	66	62	66	115	309
2020-2021	66	62	66	115	309
2021-2022	66	62	66	115	309
2022-2023	66	62	66	115	309
2023-2024	66	62	66	115	309
2024-2025	66	62	66	115	309
2025-2026	66	62	66	115	309
2026-2027	66	62	66	115	309
2027-2028	66	62	66	115	309
2028-2029	66	62	66	115	309
2029-2030	66	62	66	115	309

Fig #8

As of September 2014, Westview Freedom Academy, a comprehensive secondary school offering full academic programming as required, opened on the former Century site. Former Century students had the option of attending Westview to access the adaptive basic programming being offered for them or they had the option to attend their neighbourhood secondary school where locally developed courses are offered. The concentration of the majority of ESL secondary students from across the city were relocated to Westview Freedom Academy.

## **Facility Analysis**

In terms of building infrastructure HPS was first constructed in 1965, with additions in 1967 and 1970. GAHS was first constructed in 1922, with additions following up to 1966. HDHS was first constructed in 1952, with additions in 1962 and 1973. KDHS was first constructed in 1953, with additions up to 1994. WSS was constructed in 1975, with additions in 1994 and 1999. The range of age in these schools is from 93 years old to 40 years old, with all but one school being over 50 years old. Often with aging infrastructure comes a high FCI and high renewal needs.

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School	Current Renewal	Renewal Backlog	Site Acreage	Current FCI	FCI in 10 years
	Backlog \$	\$ in 10 years			
GAHS	\$5,716,935	\$37,267,706	3.516	20.56%	117.64%
HPS	\$4,634,952	\$8,909,410	9.04	44.4%	91.63%
HDHS	\$7,916,462	\$13,659,677	13.45	60.9%	86.95%
KDHS	\$18,315,061	\$24,876,587	14.82	79.31%	98.31%
WSS	\$3,718,995	\$11,027,831	66	23.55%	61.52%
Total	\$40,302,405	\$95,741,211			

Fig #9

After reviewing enrolments, projected enrolments, and facility conditions, the following summarizes the current situation of the five schools in the review:

- There are significant renewal needs
- Utilization rates are extremely low and are projected to decline further and remain low
- The aging infrastructure is a concern
- Current and future FCI of the schools is a concern
- Renewal needs of schools are disproportionate to the total renewal amount received by the Board.
- The amount of empty space is disproportionate with the empty space existing throughout the Board.
- Appropriate programming and staffing is a concern
- New school builds are necessary

#### **Community Hubs**

Community Hubs were a topic of debate and conversation throughout the review. A report was produced by the advisory group working with the Ministry. Examples were referred to in the Community Hub report. Many community hubs appear to require capital funding in terms of rebuilding or building new structures. In addition, a full cost recovery model is necessary, yet more difficult with aging infrastructure.

#### **Community Input**

Community input has been received at community meetings, and via correspondence to trustees and staff, and the PARC e-mail box implemented by the Board. Meetings and conversations with members of the Town Councils occurred. Various ideas were presented by each respective community.

During the course of its work, the PARC Committee developed Terms of Reference which were of assistance in making decisions as it examined over 25 various scenarios. It was evident throughout the course of the PARC meetings that the committee would not likely reach consensus on the recommendations they put forth. A 'Nil' report was suggested, but defeated. A 'majority / minority' report was suggested, but defeated. The committee report was provided to the Trustees on June 2, 2015.

Staff reviewed all community input and have taken into consideration the concerns noted. Staff firmly believe that its recommendations presented below provide sustainable programming with a fiscally responsible allocation of resources.

#### AS PREVIOUSLY STATED ABOVE, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS:

- 1. THAT HARROW DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL CLOSE EFFECTIVE JUNE 2016 AND BE DECLARED SURPLUS TO THE BOARD'S NEEDS. THE GRADE 9-12 STUDENTS WILL TRANSITION TO KINGSVILLE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL. THE GRADE 7 AND GRADE 8 STUDENTS WILL TRANSITION BACK TO HARROW PUBLIC SCHOOL, CREATING A JK TO GRADE 8 SCHOOL.
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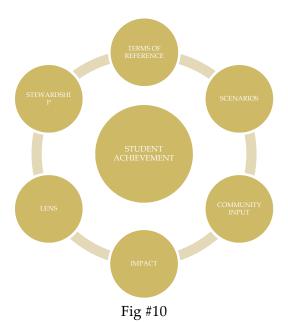
Students entering the AB program that reside in the current Kingsville District High School, the current Leamington District Secondary School, the current Harrow District High School, and the current Gosfield North Public School boundaries would enroll in the AB program at KDHS.

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## **Considerations for Recommendations**

Similar to any PARC process, there is an abundance of information, data, and emotion. In the end, the Director's recommendations are based on what is best for our system. Recommending the closure of any school is not a condemnation of the people or the excellent things that are happening in a building. Senior administration firmly believes that excellence is pervasive at all of our schools. To ensure that we can continue to support that excellence throughout our entire system, we are challenged to make some very difficult decisions. Some of the considerations involved with this decision are depicted in Fig #10.



Terms of Reference

In this PARC study, status quo was said not to be a viable option. Senior Administration strongly believes we need to responsibly operate our system. The Board cannot support the delivery model currently existing within the schools of this study.

Scenarios

Over 25 scenarios were reviewed with the PARC Committee in an attempt to meet the mandate of the PARC, as set out by Trustees.

Community Input It was evident that the maintenance of a community high school was a priority.

Impact Loss of a school and the difficulties associated with the decision.

All students do have the opportunity to transition together.

No capital investment required. Empty student spaces will be filled.

Student programming strengthened along with more opportunity.

A more effective and responsible allocation of resources.

Builds a strong business case to Ministry for capital funding toward new schools.

Lens Some of the committee and community understand that a change is necessary,

while some of the committee and community feel change is not necessary.

Stewardship Improved program opportunity and staffing efficiencies, asset utilization, cost

savings, fiscal responsibility, and a reduction in renewal costs.

Student Achievement Much has been discussed with respect to the benefits and challenges of small

schools. Administration continues to reinforce that it is not the building that people are in but the people that are in the building that make the difference.

## **Overview**

Staff developed the following recommendations based on numerous factors. One extremely important factor was recommending scenarios that would create strong business cases to the Ministry of Education in hopes of funding approval for new schools that are desperately needed. The Ministry currently has funding available under School Consolidation Capital and Capital Priorities Programs. Staff will submit business cases as noted in the recommendations. Staff feel the recommendations below present strong cases to receive approval for a new JK-12 Kingsville Consolidated School, as well as a new grade 9-12 General Amherst Consolidated School. These, if approved, would be two submissions, among others, to the Ministry requesting funding.

Recommendations #1, #2, and #3 are recommended by staff and do not require funding for new construction. We wish to emphasize that these recommendations can be achieved and are necessary regardless of whether funding is approved. Recommendations #5 and #6 are independent of the other recommendations and require funding.

Below are further considerations related to recommendations #1, #2, and #3.

#### Recommendation #1

In terms of recommendation one, the capacity of KDHS is such that it is able to accommodate all the HDHS grade 9 to grade 12 students without any modifications to the building. The HDHS student body is able to transition as a whole. Further, the grade 7 and 8 students housed in the high school can be accommodated back in the JK to grade 6 Harrow Public School as a whole (Fig #11), thus making it a traditional JK to grade 8 elementary school once again.

## **Enrolment Forecast for September 2016 – Proposed Change**

Schools	OTG	Enrolment
HDHS + KDHS	906	790 (223 + 567)
HPS + Grade 7-8	467	443 (347 + 96)

Fig #11

Currently, HDHS has approximately 75 eligible walkers. The remainder of the students attending are bussed. Thus, transportation indicates that two additional busses would be required to transport the current HDHS walkers to KDHS, along with all the other students who are currently bussed to HDHS. The distance between HDHS and KDHS is approximately 14 km. The distance from the boundary (Arner Townline) is approximately 7 km. The distance between HDHS and GAHS is approximately 20 km, with the boundary at Malden Center being approximately 9 km. Fig #12 provides an overview of the current HDHS boundary with the red dots indicating where the students live in that boundary attending HDHS.



Fig #12

Program opportunities with the increased enrolment in the high school will be more beneficial to our students. Appropriate class sizes and more student choice will allow our confident learners to achieve individual success in the pathway of their choice. Certainly, our resources will be allocated in a more responsible manner.

HPS has a utilization rate of under 80%. This computes to approximately 110 student spaces unused. There are approximately 100 students in the current grade 7 and 8 classes at HDHS. This is projected to stabilize for the next few years but then begin to decline significantly as the school has lower JK enrolments over time. The model of delivery would go back to a traditional JK to grade 8 model that exists throughout the majority of the Board. At present, with minor modifications, the grade 7 and 8 students could be accommodated in HPS, moving it to just under a 100% utilization rate.

## **Potential Savings**

There are potential cost savings that can be identified in the operations, utilities, maintenance, including the elimination of renewal needs. The savings would be initially over \$449,000, excluding the renewal needs. Because of the school top-up funding being eliminated over the next 3 years, funding will continue to be reduced. It should be noted that these are estimated costs and they may not be realized fully as the building will still have to be maintained. Further savings would be expected in terms of staffing efficiencies and resource allocation.

To summarize the first recommendation, Fig #13 provides the projections if HDHS were to be closed, with the transitioning of the students into KDHS. The projections of the proposed JK to grade 8 school, with the grade 7 and grade 8 students remaining in the elementary school are provided (Fig #14).

## **ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR KDHS + HDHS - PROPOSED CHANGE**

Kingsville DHS and Harrow DHS Combined (from Baragar)	Gr 9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	SCSE	Total
2015-2016	204	200	184	233	10	831
2016-2017	178	200	200	202	10	790
2017-2018	174	175	200	219	10	778
2018-2019	168	172	175	220	10	745
2019-2020	177	167	173	194	10	721
2020-2021	167	177	168	192	10	714
2021-2022	191	167	177	187	10	732
2022-2023	189	191	168	197	10	755
2023-2024	163	188	191	186	10	738
2024-2025	179	163	190	211	10	753
2025-2026	178	179	163	210	10	740
2026-2027	180	177	179	180	10	726
2027-2028	155	180	178	199	10	722
2028-2029	169	156	180	197	10	712
2029-2030	171	169	157	199	10	706

Fig #13

## ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR HPS (JK-8) – PROPOSED CHANGE

Harrow JK-8	JK	SK	Gr 1	Gr 2	Gr 3	Gr 4	Gr 5	Gr 6	Gr 7	Gr 8	Total
2015-2016	41	40	44	40	44	49	52	51	44	55	460
2016-2017	36	41	41	44	40	44	49	52	50	46	443
2017-2018	28	36	41	41	44	40	44	49	51	52	426
2018-2019	31	28	36	41	41	44	40	44	48	53	406
2019-2020	31	31	28	36	41	41	44	40	43	50	385
2020-2021	30	31	31	28	36	41	41	44	39	45	366
2021-2022	30	31	31	31	28	36	41	41	43	41	353
2022-2023	30	30	31	31	31	28	36	41	41	44	343
2023-2024	29	30	30	31	31	31	28	36	40	42	328
2024-2025	29	30	30	30	31	31	31	28	35	41	316
2025-2026	29	29	30	30	30	31	31	31	28	37	306
2026-2027	28	29	29	30	30	30	31	31	31	29	298
2027-2028	28	29	29	29	30	30	30	31	30	32	298
2028-2029	28	28	29	29	29	30	30	30	30	31	294
2029-2030	28	28	28	29	29	29	30	30	30	31	292

Fig #14

## Recommendation #2

In terms of recommendation 2, all the students attending Western Secondary School are bussed from across the entire county. This bus ride is extremely lengthy for many of our students. Fig #15 provides an overview of the distribution of all the students attending Western Secondary School across the county with the red colour being students in the LDCC program, and the green colour being students in the AB program.



Fig #15

Below in Fig #16 is a map with all the current county Secondary School catchment areas with the total number of students from that catchment area, and overall percentage, who are attending Western Secondary School.

## All Students Attending Western Secondary School

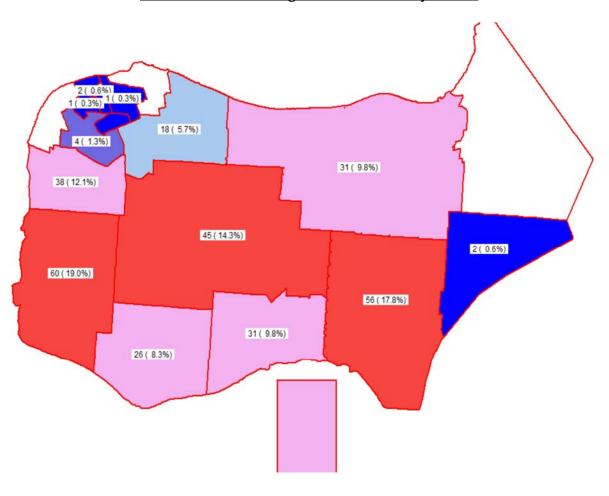


Fig #16

Every Secondary School in the GECDSB offers the LDCC program for the students. It is our belief that the students enrolling in this program can do so much closer to home in their local school. This alleviates the extensive amount of time our students are required to be on a bus. Fig #17 is a map with all the county Secondary School catchment areas with the number of LDCC students from that area, and the percentage, who are currently attending Western Secondary School.

## Locally Developed Curriculum Course Students Attending Western Secondary School

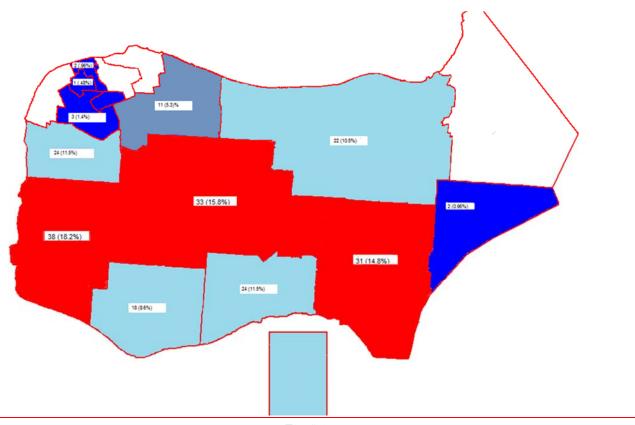


Fig #17

It is our belief the addition of the LDCC students to the local Secondary Schools will strengthen the program by providing a larger critical mass of students, while more opportunities in programming will also be an option that may not have existed previously. Some such opportunities may come in the Cooperative Education placements being in close proximity to their Secondary School and in the community they reside. Further, integration of our students at all levels is imperative to rich Secondary experience, which we believe will be evident with this recommendation. It must be noted that most of our Secondary Schools have the STEPS program that is flourishing across the system in our schools.

Throughout the county as a whole, there is an abundance of space in our Secondary Schools. The projected student enrolment of the Secondary Schools, excluding BRDHS, GAHS, and KDHS is shown in the charts below. It is evident that our schools have the capacity to accommodate the LDCC students across the county.

# ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR SCHOOLS WITH ONLY LDCC STUDENTS – PROPOSED CHANGE

Essex DHS	Gr9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	SCSE	LDCC from Western	Total
2015-2016	176	163	170	195	12	34	750
2016-2017	157	180	165	199	12	33	746
2017-2018	173	161	182	193	12	32	753
2018-2019	165	177	162	213	12	33	762
2019-2020	166	169	179	191	12	33	750
2020-2021	149	170	171	211	12	33	746
2021-2022	151	153	172	203	12	33	724
2022-2023	168	154	154	204	12	33	725
2023-2024	142	173	156	184	12	33	700
2024-2025	152	145	175	185	12	33	702
2025-2026	173	155	147	207	12	33	727
2026-2027	142	178	157	175	12	33	697
2027-2028	143	146	180	187	12	33	701
2028-2029	145	146	147	213	12	33	696
2029-2030	144	149	148	175	12	33	661

Fig #18

Leamington	Gr9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	SCSE	LDCC from Western	Total
2015-2016	193	208	242	269	14	32	958
2016-2017	178	203	212	269	14	31	907
2017-2018	200	197	207	237	14	30	885
2018-2019	192	220	198	233	14	31	888
2019-2020	195	192	221	217	14	31	870
2020-2021	184	194	193	243	14	31	859
2021-2022	192	185	195	209	14	31	826
2022-2023	202	192	186	208	14	31	833
2023-2024	184	202	193	195	14	31	819
2024-2025	185	184	203	212	14	31	829
2025-2026	189	186	185	219	14	31	824
2026-2027	180	190	187	200	14	31	802
2027-2028	177	191	203	202	14	31	818
2028-2029	182	180	192	207	14	31	806
2029-2030	182	185	182	196	14	31	790

Fig #19

Sandwich	Gr9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	SCSE	LDCC from Western	Total
2015-2016	226	243	239	243	10	25	986
2016-2017	246	225	258	247	10	24	1010
2017-2018	243	244	238	266	10	23	1024
2018-2019	247	242	258	245	10	24	1026
2019-2020	261	244	254	266	10	24	1059
2020-2021	252	258	256	263	10	24	1063
2021-2022	242	249	270	264	10	24	1059
2022-2023	262	239	261	279	10	24	1075
2023-2024	277	259	250	269	10	24	1089
2024-2025	262	272	270	256	10	24	1094
2025-2026	268	257	282	279	10	24	1120
2026-2027	292	264	266	290	10	24	1146
2027-2028	267	288	272	274	10	24	1135
2028-2029	275	262	299	279	10	24	1149
2029-2030	272	272	270	307	10	24	1155

Fig #20

Tecumseh Secondary	Gr9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	LDCC from Western	Total
2015-2016	155	139	175	157	11	637
2016-2017	160	151	136	180	11	638
2017-2018	148	156	146	140	11	601
2018-2019	160	145	150	152	11	618
2019-2020	167	156	142	157	11	633
2020-2021	180	163	150	147	11	651
2021-2022	198	176	155	158	11	698
2022-2023	198	194	168	166	11	737
2023-2024	203	195	184	179	11	772
2024-2025	164	200	183	198	11	756
2025-2026	178	162	189	199	11	739
2026-2027	198	176	155	204	11	744
2027-2028	182	196	170	167	11	726
2028-2029	185	180	188	182	11	746
2029-2030	186	183	173	201	11	754

Fig #21

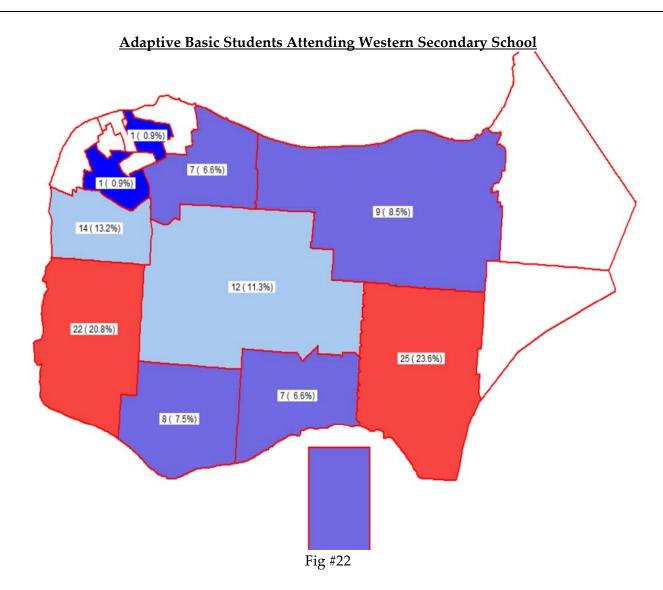
## **Potential Savings**

There are potential cost savings that can be identified in the operations, utilities, maintenance, including the elimination of renewal needs. The savings would be initially over \$610,000, excluding the renewal needs. Because of the school top-up funding being eliminated over the next 3 years, funding will continue to be reduced. It should be noted that these are estimated costs and they may not be realized fully as the building will still have to be maintained. Further, savings would be expected in terms of staffing efficiencies and resource allocation.

100% of the students are bussed to Western Secondary School. With students being transitioned to their local Secondary School, bus costs will decrease. The distance travelled will decrease and because there are other students attending the local school in their neighbourhood, existing bus routes would already exist. Thus, a potential decrease in busses on the street is possible.

#### Recommendation #3

In terms of recommendation 3, all the students attending Western Secondary School are bussed from across the entire county. This bus ride is extremely lengthy for many of our students. The GECDSB currently has two secondary schools that house the Adaptive Basic (AB) program, Western Secondary School and Westview Freedom Academy. With a proposed closure of Western, the Board would create and develop three additional new AB program sites that are strategically placed throughout the county so that there is access to the programming with much less transit for the students, while staying much closer to their residence and community. It is our belief that the students enrolling in this program can do so much closer to home, in or near their local school. This alleviates the extensive amount of time our students are required to be on a bus. Further, the three new sites for the AB program also have ample space to house the students. Fig #22 is a map with the county Secondary School catchment areas and the number of AB students from that area, and the percentage, who are currently attending Western Secondary School.



It is our belief the addition of the AB students to the more local Secondary Schools will have a large enough critical mass of students to develop an excellent opportunity for our students. Some such opportunities may come in the Cooperative Education placements being in close proximity to their Secondary School and, in or closer, to the community they reside. Further, integration of our students at all levels is imperative to a rich Secondary experience, which we believe to be evident with this recommendation. It must also be noted that most of our Secondary Schools have the STEPS program, which is flourishing across the system.

Throughout the county as a whole, there is an abundance of space in our Secondary Schools. The projected student enrolment of the three Secondary Schools of the proposed new AB programs, along with the LDCC students from WSS, is indicated in the charts below. It is evident that our schools have the capacity to accommodate the LDCC students across the county, as well as the AB students in the three new proposed schools.

# ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS OF SCHOOLS WITH LDCC + NEW AB STUDENTS – PROPOSED CHANGE

Belle River DHS	Gr9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	SCSE	LDCC from Western	АВ	Total
2015-2016	189	192	197	197	19	23	21	838
2016-2017	176	195	191	222	19	22	21	846
2017-2018	185	182	194	218	19	21	21	840
2018-2019	194	189	181	221	19	22	21	847
2019-2020	194	201	188	207	19	22	21	852
2020-2021	172	199	200	214	19	22	21	847
2021-2022	187	178	198	230	19	22	21	855
2022-2023	184	194	176	226	19	22	21	842
2023-2024	172	186	193	204	19	22	21	817
2024-2025	179	178	185	220	19	22	21	824
2025-2026	165	183	176	212	19	22	21	798
2026-2027	174	169	181	203	19	22	21	789
2027-2028	175	177	167	207	19	22	21	788
2028-2029	166	179	176	191	19	22	21	774
2029-2030	160	168	177	200	19	22	21	767

Fig #23

GAHS	Gr9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	LDCC from Western	AB	Total
2015-2016	154	158	165	199	39	43	758
2016-2017	155	154	155	190	38	43	735
2017-2018	153	154	151	177	37	43	715
2018-2019	154	153	152	174	37	44	714
2019-2020	160	154	150	176	37	44	721
2020-2021	142	160	151	174	37	44	708
2021-2022	148	141	157	175	37	44	702
2022-2023	144	148	139	182	37	44	694
2023-2024	133	143	145	162	37	44	664
2024-2025	116	133	141	168	37	44	639
2025-2026	136	116	130	163	37	44	626
2026-2027	143	136	114	151	37	44	625
2027-2028	127	143	134	132	37	44	617
2028-2029	133	127	140	155	37	44	636
2029-2030	131	133	124	163	37	44	632

Fig #24

Kingsville DHS	Gr9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	SCSE	LDCC from Western	AB	Total
2015-2016	152	146	124	162	10	43	45	682
2016-2017	128	151	146	132	10	42	45	654
2017-2018	133	128	151	156	10	41	45	664
2018-2019	121	133	128	162	10	41	46	641
2019-2020	129	122	134	138	10	41	46	620
2020-2021	122	131	123	144	10	41	46	617
2021-2022	151	124	131	134	10	41	46	637
2022-2023	153	153	125	143	10	41	46	671
2023-2024	122	154	153	135	10	41	46	661
2024-2025	141	124	155	165	10	41	46	682
2025-2026	140	143	124	168	10	41	46	672
2026-2027	147	141	143	135	10	41	46	663
2027-2028	129	148	142	156	10	41	46	672
2028-2029	140	131	149	154	10	41	46	671
2029-2030	142	141	132	161	10	41	46	673

Fig #25

## **Potential Savings**

There are potential cost savings that can be identified in the operations, utilities, maintenance, including the elimination of renewal needs. The savings would be initially over \$610,000, excluding the renewal needs. Because of the school top-up funding being eliminated over the next 3 years, funding will continue to be reduced. It should be noted that these are estimated costs and they may not be realized fully as the building will still have to be maintained. Further savings would be expected in terms of staffing efficiencies and resource allocation.

100% of the students are bussed to Western Secondary School. With students being transitioned to a more local Secondary School, bus costs will potentially decrease. The distances travelled will decrease and because there are other students attending the local school in their nearby area, existing bus routes might already exist. Thus, a potential decrease in the number of busses may result.

The proposed new boundaries for the three additional AB program schools are outlined below in Fig #26.

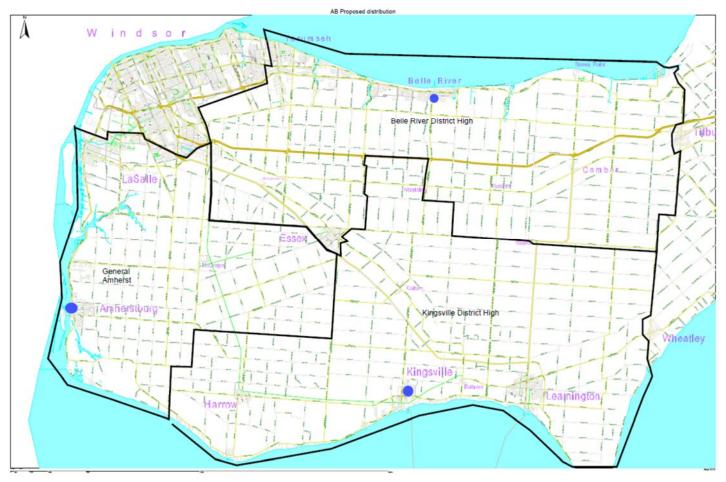


Fig #26

These boundaries were chosen because of geographic proximity to the Secondary Schools. It was also felt the existing boundaries in the Essex District High School area of the feeder elementary schools would be appropriate to use so that students attending elementary school together would have the opportunity to remain with their peers to enhance the ease of transition into their secondary school.

As mentioned throughout the report, Fig #27 outlines the projected enrolment of the proposed consolidation of HDHS, KDHS, and the WSS students in the LDCC and AB programs that fall in the new proposed boundaries for the consolidated school for the grade 9-12 students.

# ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS FOR HDHS, KDHS, WSS (AB + LDCC STUDENTS IN BOUNDARY) – PROPOSED CHANGE

Kingsville DHS and Harrow DHS with Western LDCC and AB	Gr9	Gr 10	Gr 11	Gr 12	SCSE	LDCC from Western	АВ	Total
2015-2016	204	200	184	233	10	43	45	919
2016-2017	178	200	200	202	10	42	45	877
2017-2018	174	175	200	219	10	41	45	864
2018-2019	168	172	175	220	10	41	46	832
2019-2020	177	167	173	194	10	41	46	808
2020-2021	167	177	168	192	10	41	46	801
2021-2022	191	167	177	187	10	41	46	819
2022-2023	189	191	168	197	10	41	46	842
2023-2024	163	188	191	186	10	41	46	825
2024-2025	179	163	190	211	10	41	46	840
2025-2026	178	179	163	210	10	41	46	827
2026-2027	180	177	179	180	10	41	46	813
2027-2028	155	180	178	199	10	41	46	809
2028-2029	169	156	180	197	10	41	46	799
2029-2030	171	169	157	199	10	41	46	793

Fig #27

## **Transitional Issues and Next Steps**

Selecting implementation dates of June and September 2016, allows the Board time to work with the affected communities and families. The timeline will provide opportunities to make any necessary adjustments. The dates also provide the Board and schools time to plan effective implementation strategies to complete the proposed recommendations.

It must be noted that our Capital requests must be submitted to the Ministry by October 31, 2015. The GECDSB has submitted a new JK through grade 12 Kingsville school in past submissions, which were not approved. Our belief is that the consolidation of Harrow District High School, Kingsville District High School, Kingsville Public School, Jack Miner Public School, the Locally Developed Curriculum Course students, and the Adaptive Basic students from Western Secondary School will build an extremely strong business case for our submission under the School Consolidation Capital to the Ministry with the hope of being approved the funding necessary for a new state of the art JK-12 school in Kingsville. This funding is specifically allocated for new schools, retrofits and additions that support school consolidations.

Further, the consolidation of some of the Western Secondary students in the Locally Developed Curriculum Courses and the students in the Adaptive Basic programs, paralleled with the extremely high renewal needs of GAHS will also present a legitimate business case to the Ministry to attain funding for a new grade 9-12 High School in the Amherstburg area.

## **Conclusion**

This has been a complicated and emotional Program and Accommodation Review. The committee has spent an extensive amount of time analyzing a large variety of data. Many scenarios were scrutinized. Bearing in mind all the considerations reflected in this report, it is Staff's strong belief that its recommendations above are both fiscally responsible and provide viable programming solutions. After an extensive review process, staff are not looking to the past, but rather are looking forward, to building tomorrow together for our students.