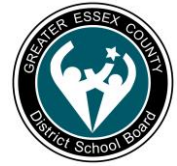


**Greater Essex County District School Board**  
**2015 PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW**  
**Report of a Committee Meeting held on**  
**Monday, April 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**in the library of Harrow DHS**

---



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.**

**Present:**

General Amherst HS: Hazel Keefner, Principal, Amy Soucie, Staff Rep, Mary Lippert and Kim Laframboise, parents

Harrow DHS: Mary Edwards, Principal, John Konopaski, Staff Rep, Bill Parr and Sheri Dzudovich, parents

Harrow PS: Michelle Sprague- Keane, Principal, Teri Gorick, Staff Rep, Rebecca Robinson, Trudy Richards, parents

Kingsville DHS: Dina Salinitri, Principal, Chris Clements, Staff Rep, Michelle Hedge and Bill Orawski, parents

Western SS: Melissa McIntyre, Principal, Alison Oldfield, Staff Rep, Valerie Cormier, and Robin Trepanier, parents

Community Reps: Barry Mannell, Pat Catton, Elaine Mailloux, Mary MacLauchlan

**Regrets:** nil

**Facilitator:** Superintendent, Todd Awender

**Recorder:** Lynne Hornby

There was 1 observer in the audience

**1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Chairperson Orawski thanking everyone for their attendance and Principal Edwards for once again hosting the meeting.

**2. Review of notes of committee meeting of April 8**

As requested at the last committee meeting, the notes of the April 8 meeting have been circulated to the committee. There were no changes and they will now be posted to the website.

**Business Arising:**

Nil

**3. Community Input to date and Information Responses since April 8 to date**

Input received via the parc email box was distributed. It was noted that this input is posted on the website periodically. A period of time was allocated for review.

**4. Determine final recommendations and rationale**

A committee member moved that Colchester North PS and Malden Central PS should be removed from any recommendations.

Discussion took place.

A secret ballot was taken. The motion CARRIED.

The two schools will be removed from the recommendations.

Discussion ensued in an attempt to arrive at the final recommendations to be presented at the last community meeting. The three revised recommendations are:

#### Recommendation 1

- Maintain WSS and expand programming;
- Implement community hubs in each community/school
- JK-12 facility in Harrow and JK-12 new build in Kingsville
- Status quo at General Amherst HS

##### Advantages

Schools stay in community.

Overcomes a large renewal backlog from sites closed if Ministry funding provided.

Savings on operations, utilities and maintenance by consolidating schools.

"State of the art" facility and equipment of Ministry provides funding.

Partnerships with community.

Increased stability in community.

Possibility of income for Board through community hub.

Western SS is status quo – special needs of students will be met.

Meets the Board's mission statement.

Meets the goals of the Board's strategic plan.

Maintains OYAP at Western SS.

Provides skilled trades classes for hand-on learners at Western SS.

Physical space accommodates physical limitations.

Accessible washrooms, showers, lifts etc.

##### Disadvantages

Capacity issues not addressed without funding from Ministry.

Secondary programming not addressed.

Ministry funding not likely to happen for all scenarios. In 2011, the Ministry was not supportive of building a new JK-12 school in Harrow due to Kingsville DHS and Essex DHS within 24 km to existing Harrow DHS with surplus capacity.

What programs to be expanded at Western ??

Cost of an addition. Current JK-12 population will not fit into either facility.

Secondary School size not addressed.

Students attending Western SS have long bus ride.

Secondary schools throughout the system with larger populations compensate for smaller schools.

Timeline for a new build is 3 yrs - Board deficit not addressed.

#### Recommendation 2

- Implement community hubs in Amherstburg, Harrow and Kingsville
- JK-12 facility in Harrow and JK-12 new build in Kingsville
- Close WSS and transition to General Amherst as a separate program
- A newly built General Amherst High School in Amherstburg on board/town approved site, possible school within a school

##### Advantages

Secondary school consolidation builds a stronger business case for Ministry funding for a new build for GAHS.

Schools stay in community.

Overcomes a large renewal backlog from sites closed if Ministry funding provided.

Savings on operations, utilities and maintenance by consolidating schools.

"State of the art" facility and equipment of Ministry provides funding.

Minimal decrease in transportation costs.

Possibility of increased revenue from community partnerships.

##### Disadvantages

Capacity issues not addressed without funding from Ministry.

Secondary programming not addressed in all schools.

Ministry funding not likely to happen for all scenarios. In 2011, the Ministry was not supportive of building a new JK-12 school in Harrow due to Kingsville DHS and Essex DHS within 24 km to existing Harrow DHS with surplus capacity.

GAHS not barrier free; associated costs to make it barrier free.

Cost of an addition. Current JK-12 population will not fit into either facility.

Secondary School size not addressed.

Secondary schools throughout the system with larger populations compensate for smaller schools.

Timeline for a new build is approx. 3 yrs so Board deficit not immediately addressed.

Lengthy bus rides will continue for many students.

Western SS would need 18 classrooms due to class size restrictions

No available data to support West View's success or failure.

### Recommendation 3

- Consolidation of HDHS and KDHS – close Harrow DHS; Grade 7 and 8 students transition back to Harrow PS; KDHS new JK-12 school
- Close WSS and move AB program to General Amherst as a separate program
- Current LDC student population from WSS have option to go to home school or follow WSS to new location; any future LDC students would attend local high schools
- A newly built General Amherst High School in Amherstburg on board/town approved site, possible school within a school

#### Advantages

Secondary school consolidation builds a stronger business case for Ministry funding for a new builds.

Improved program opportunities for secondary students.

Overcomes a large renewal backlog from sites closed if Ministry funding provided

"State of the art" facility and equipment of Ministry provides funding.

Savings on operations, utilities and maintenance by consolidating schools.

Overall transportation savings with Western's LDC students attending home schools and AB program relocated to General Amherst.

Travel time decreased for LDC students from Western SS.

2 of 3 community schools continue to remain in community.

Improves utilization rates and decreases empty student spaces.

Improved efficiencies aids Board deficit.

HDHS and WSS students can be accommodated in current KDHS and GAHS facility without renovation.

Western AB programming is maintained.

Students can enroll in LDC classes and continue to have tech. opportunities.

Land swap so no cost involved for purchase of land for building new facility in Amherstburg

If the Board deems this cost effective.

Leaves 2 secondary schools in close proximity to coterminous board schools (strategic).

Co-op opportunities available in own communities.

Barrier free issues addressed with new build.

#### Disadvantages

Completion of any new build is a 3 year period.

Potential loss of ability to walk to school for about 80 HDHS students.

Possible disruption to students, particularly special education students.

Loss of one community school.

Some Harrow students possibly unable to participate in extra curricular activities, co-op, etc due to transportation issues.

Possible loss of students to coterminous board.

Loss of support staff due to different ratio at WSS.

Loss of student well-being.

No available data to support West View's success or failure.

Minor accommodations may have to be made in Harrow PS for return of all grade 7 and 8 students.

A committee member requested floor plans for each of the schools to assist the committee in an exercise to look at right sizing the school as well as addressing countable floor space.

The committee member clarified by using the example, Harrow is too big of a building so we could board up some rooms to right size it. If 12,000 square feet of the Harrow DHS building was to be demolished then the school's capacity would increase to 89% capacity. It's not an operational expense. The Superintendent clarified that we need ministerial permission to demolish. Another committee member noted that Community hubs is a vital part of the community in rural areas. We need a vital solution for community hubs. She added that the Board can charge \$6 per sq foot per month to rent the space so its lots of money coming in rather than going out. Lots of revenue for the Board.

The Superintendent noted that some organizations are non-profit and don't usually pay rent.

A committee member also cautioned that you would have to do this exercise in conjunction with timetable of each room. It was countered that there are enough professionals in the room that can do this. The groups undertook the exercise.

**5. Discussion:**

**Final report and presentation at 12 Community Meeting**

**Drafts to be prepared for Committee review at April 30 Committee meeting**

Writing team: Bill Orawski, Pat Catton, Trudy Richards and Robin Trepanier

**6. Questions and clarifications**

Questions were answered in general discussion throughout the meeting.

**7. Adjournment at 10:15 p.m.**