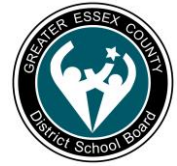


**Greater Essex County District School Board**  
**2015 PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION REVIEW**  
**Report of a Committee Meeting held on**  
**Monday, February 9, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**In the library of Harrow District High School**

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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, Sheri Dzudovich, parent

Harrow PS: Michelle Sprague- Keane, Principal, Teri Gorick, Staff Rep, Trudy Richards and Rebecca Robinson, 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, Robin Trepanier and Valerie Cormier, parents

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

**Regrets:** T. Lyons. Bill Parr

**Facilitator:** Superintendent Todd Awender

**Recorder:** Lynne Hornby

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Chairperson Orawski thanking everyone for their attendance and Principal Edwards for hosting the meeting. Introductions were made. Everyone was seated in working groups.

**2. Review of minutes**

The minutes of the January 26 meeting have been circulated to the committee and posted to the Board website under the PARC icon. They were reviewed and there were no changes. No questions generated from the minutes.

**3. Review of Annual Accommodation and Capital plan**

Superintendent Awender provided a powerpoint that he has shared with staff. A copy is attached.

Question: Harrow DHS OTG has changed significantly over the last little while. In 2011 it was 429. It is now 505

Explanation:

- CR 132, which is a classroom between the two technical areas was never rated with any capacity. It was added and rated at 21. This brought the OTG from 429 to 450.
- OF10, adjacent to the library, is now being used as a resource room but was never rated as such. It was added and rated at 12. This brought the OTG from 450 to 462.
- During the separation of the school for Harrow Intermediate, 5 room went from a rating of 21 (secondary capacity) to 23 (elementary capacity) increasing the OTG by 10. This brought the OTG from 462 to 472.
- During the renovations of the school for Harrow Intermediate, a new resource room was created CR 129A which was added and rated at 12. This brought the OTG from 472 to 484.

- During the separation of the space from HDHS to Harrow Intermediate, a room was mistakenly left on HDHS (CR139) which should have been removed but, due to a computer glitch, was never removed. This room was rated at 21 which brought the OTG from 484 to 505.

With the removal of the CR139 which was left on HDHS in error, the OTG will be 484.

\*\*Please note that this has now been corrected on the master and new copies of enrolments will be provided to the committee at the meeting on February 23. We have also amended the Room Summaries Template that appears on the Board's website.

Question: Why do some Boards now have a surplus?

Explanation: One reason that individuals have indicated a surplus is that some Boards in the province have been progressive in consolidating and closing schools to reduce empty student spaces. One example is the Simcoe DSB.

Room templates were reviewed briefly. It was noted that the templates along with the MoE (Ministry of Education) instructions for inputting data for calculations are now posted on the Board website under the Student Accommodation icon.

A committee member had issue with MoE calculations for the Western SS room template. This will be reviewed further with Facility Services staff and Superintendent of Special Education and a response will be brought back to that member.

#### 4. **Community input to date and Information responses**

We have received one piece of community input that was shared with the committee. It was noted that Community input received is placed on the website and updated as received, from time to time.

#### 5. **Break into working groups**

The committee broke into working groups to brainstorm possible solutions to the mandate. The Superintendent added that no ideas were to be discounted at this time, they are all open for discussion. He asked that the committee remember during this exercise that "status quo is not an option." There are some capacity concerns in this group of schools, and we are hoping to find some creative solutions for dealing with the excess capacity.

A committee member felt it is disingenuous not to mention that there will probably be at least one school closure. He asked that the topic not be treated like "the elephant in the room."

Group discussion took place for 30 minutes and ideas were developed.

The committee then took a short tour of Harrow DHS, before regrouping to chart the brainstorming ideas.

#### 6. **Charting of ideas for work groups**

Ideas were not charted but were collected to be discussed further at the next meeting. It was clarified that the OTG data for Essex DHS is the data for the new building.

Keep every school in every community and make them all JK-grade 12.

WSS becomes a trade school, possibly funded by industry.

Close all 4 high schools; build a mega school equidistant from each community.  
Transition all students to the mega school.

Consolidation of KDHS and HDHS school populations in one building. One of the schools closes.

Grade 7 and 8s transition back to Harrow Elementary School.

Consolidation of GAHS and WSS consolidation. At least one school closes, possibly both, if a new school is built using a "Pod" model of program delivery

K-12 school at WSS, specializing in tech. programs; allow other high schools to use the shops as needed

Consolidation of HDHS and KDHS –one school closes

Consolidation of WSS and GAHS - one school closes

Possibility of a new facility near Amherstburg arena for the consolidation of WSS and GAHS – both schools close

WSS closes, transition WSS students into the Harrow DHS building;

Current HDHS boundary is revised so students transition to either KDHS or GAHS depending on address.

Implement an FI program in Amherstburg. Dual track programming at both Amherstburg PS and GAHS

WSS closes: transition the full WSS program into another school

Close all 4 high schools and students transition to a new facility, a newly constructed mega school with separate campuses - schools within schools – like a university campus

Boundary adjustment for changes to take place with Essex for Kingsville, so that the Cottam area feeds into KDHS. Gosfield North would no longer be EDHS feeder school

#### **7. Alternate Recommendation**

The alternate recommendation is not specific but includes a necessary outcome.  
Input from the community needs to include consolidations, closure, program.

#### **8. Review of School Information Profiles to Date and Presentation of School Information Profiles at Second Community Meeting – how?**

Information as completed to date was shared. There is still a fair amount of information to be added. There was discussion as to how this will be presented at the second community meeting. It will be made very clear at the beginning of the presentation that Western SS has a unique student population and that it is a Special Education school. A committee member felt that LDC courses should be highlighted along with workplace courses. Further lengthy discussion was necessary in order to agree on the task. A committee member reminded everyone that the concept is to try and fill capacity and/or consolidate. While the questions on the School Information Profiles might be identical, it was explained that the answer will always be different. It is a tool for sharing information. It is not a comparison apparatus but is to be used to try and ensure best practices are not lost, whatever the outcomes of the PARC process might be. It was pointed out by a committee member that it is widely recognized that scores of Western SS students are not comparable to other schools in the system. An important point was made that The School Information Profile is for sharing this information only; not to try and highlight one school over another. It was pointed out by a committee member that it is necessary for the committee to work as a team to solve the mandate. After much discussion, by consensus, the committee determined to speak in general terms about the profiles and the type of information contained in them rather than speaking specifically. A member felt that the information contained in them is not going to influence any decisions made by this committee. Discussion then took place as to whether any information in the School Information Profile should be changed. A vote was taken and it carried (3 members were opposed). The School Information Profile template will remain as is. It was clarified that a letter will go home to families later this week containing information about the next community meeting. This letter states that the committee will provide an update on progress to date and will review the School Information Profile. A synervoice message will go out early next week after the Family Day Holiday and a general news release will also outline the format for the March 2 community meeting. The news release will also note that the draft School Information Profiles are found on the website. Mr. Orawski, Ms. Hedge and Ms. Richards volunteered to present the School Information Profiles at the March 2 Community meeting

#### 9. Questions

Superintendent Awender noted that any requests for information are to be made via the Chairperson.

#### 10. Next steps

Brainstorming ideas from this evening's meeting will be discussed and advantages/disadvantages will be charted.

#### 11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8: 50 p.m

The next meeting is at 5:30 p.m. on February 23 at Western SS. The focus will be on how the School Information Profiles will be presented at the next Community Meeting, while developing further ideas as to a possible solution.