

**REGULAR BOARD, PUBLIC SESSION  
REPORT TO BOARD**

**FROM: Jim Costello, Director of Education**

**DATE: May 24, 2016**

**SUBJECT: Addendum to the Final Staff Report on the Consolidation of South Plympton and Wyoming Public Schools**

The LKDSB Pupil Accommodation Report 2015/2016 and Initial Staff Report on the Consolidation of South Plympton and Wyoming Public Schools were presented to the Board in compliance with LKDSB Regulation *Pupil Accommodation* No: R-AD-106 on November 24, 2015.

On April 26, 2016, Trustees received the Final Staff Report on the Consolidation of South Plympton and Wyoming Public Schools. This Addendum to the Final Staff Report on the Consolidation of South Plympton and Wyoming Public Schools provides Trustees with a final summary of the community consultation process and presents final recommendations for Trustees' decisions. The Final Staff Report, as presented on April 26, 2016, is included.

**Delegations to the Board**

Date	Wyoming Area Public Schools Accommodation Review Public Delegations	Synopsis
April 26, 2016	Regular Board Meeting	Jolene and Jordan McCallum spoke about concerns regarding children's safety and wellbeing. They acknowledged that the schools need to be consolidated and commented on their displeasure with the accommodation process. Their discussion focused on student safety, transition process and walk distances. They talked about the benefits of South Plympton Public School site as a better option for the consolidated school.
May 10, 2016	Regular Board Meeting	Valerie Riess commented on the lack of financial analysis provided for the basis of the ARC and to support this decision making process. She commented that there is no bottom line of the capital cost items. She commented on the architects estimates of larger costs at South Plympton and questioned the details of the costs. Valerie Riess stated that their seemed to be too large a focus on what is the best decision to support securing the capital funding from the Ministry rather than what is the best overall value to the Board, community and the students. She advised that she could see the merits of both schools and agreed that consolidation made sense. She encouraged Trustees to consider information from a different perspective.

**Administration's Final Rationale for the Recommendations**

Throughout the Pupil Accommodation Review process, the majority of ARC and community members recognized the advantages of consolidating South Plympton and Wyoming Public Schools; however, there has been some disagreement over the most appropriate site for the consolidation, the timeline for implementation and the safety concerns that would arise in choosing the site.

Senior Administration has followed both the Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline and LKDSB Regulation No: R-AD-106. Administration has been objective in its analysis of both schools and remains confident in its original recommendations for the following reasons:

**1. Program Opportunities for Students**

Benefits of Kindergarten to Grade 8 in one school:

Transitions can be stressful for students, especially those in the primary grades. A transition from one school to another brings a different facility, unfamiliar teachers and administrators, new groups of friendships and classmates, as well as different expectations. One school will eliminate a large transition for students at the end of grade three. With a consolidated site, more siblings could attend one school together. A Kindergarten to Grade 8 school allows for more opportunities for mixed sessions for remediation, tutoring, or enrichment activities. Teachers are more informed about students and their specific strengths and needs from an earlier vantage point as there are more staff in the same site. This allows teachers to participate in collaborative problem-solving to determine solutions for behavioral/academic challenges and view progress in individual students. A Kindergarten to Grade 8 school provides increased opportunities for students from a greater span in age groups to interact with each other. A school approach to literacy and numeracy allows a continuous plan to be developed for students from Kindergarten to Grade 8.

As part of the student consolidation at the Wyoming site, a pre-school room and Before and After school program would be included in the child care plan for the site. There is also the potential of expansion of services to include younger children subject to funding approval from the Ministry, appropriate service demand and participation from the child care provider.

**2. Transportation Operating Costs**

CLASS believes that with a complete routing redesign of all existing Wyoming elementary buses and integration with the local coterminous Board routes, all eligible students can be transported with fewer routes than are currently in place. There are currently six buses servicing the three elementary schools in Wyoming and if the school consolidation were to be at the Wyoming Public School site, CLASS believes that they would only require four or five shared buses to transport all of the eligible students. This reduction will provide minor, incremental mileage cost reductions for both school boards annually and will also support our commitment to environmental stewardship and continuous efficiency improvements.

New route designs will also provide comparable ride times for existing students. The reduction of elementary buses will not result in fleet reductions for CLASS as all of the existing buses are multi-tier, servicing other schools. It is however anticipated that there will be incremental mileage reduction cost savings for the school boards with the new routes. Note: this routing solution and associated cost savings projections are based upon key assumptions outlined below.

Key Assumptions:

- 1) Existing bus loading (max 60) and ride time (max 60 minutes) parameters  
Complete route redesign for all bus runs to maximize efficiency
- 2) New Bell times for Wyoming Public School to be 9:05am and 3:25pm. (Currently 9:00am/ 3:20pm).  
The new bell times will support integration of bus runs with the coterminous elementary school in Wyoming to maximize existing fleet resources.

**3. Rationale for Choosing the Wyoming Public School Site**

South Plympton Public School was built in 1962 and Wyoming Public School was built in 1965.

	South Plympton Public School	Wyoming Public School
FCI – Five year The Ministry of Education looks favourable on a site with a lower FCI.	53.82% \$2,168,717	33.71% \$1,964,587
<u>Building and Land Size</u> The larger building size can	Building - 1,466 sq. m. Land - 3.04 hectares	Building - 1,964 sq. m. Land - 2.43 hectares

accommodate more students with less construction of new classroom space. This will be an advantage in the Ministry grant application.	(7.511 acres) Capacity – 144	(6.004 acres) Capacity - 219
<u>Operating Costs</u> 2014/2015 School Year The operating costs slightly favour Wyoming Public School.	\$231,029.95	\$216,400.71
<u>Architectural Costs</u> ROA has estimated that the capital renewal and addition costs would be higher at the South Plympton Public School site due to the construction of additional classrooms and the replacement of the septic system. Based on the architect analysis, the cost to install a new septic system is approximately \$200,000. The cost for sewer at the Wyoming site is approximately \$5,000 per year.	Higher	Lower
<u>Location of Building</u> The majority of students live in the vicinity of Wyoming Public School.	74 students live within 1.6 km of South Plympton Public School	167 students live within 1.6 km of Wyoming Public School
Transportation Costs	Slight increase in costs	Small savings

**4. Revisions to Initial Staff Report**

- Implementation Timelines
  - Due to concerns from parents and staff the timeline was extended from a consolidation at the Wyoming Public School site in September 2016 to consolidation at the Wyoming Public School site in September 2017. This will increase the timeframe for construction and the Transition Committee by a full calendar year.
- Safety for Student Arrival at School
  - CLASS will work with the school Principal to establish parameters regarding priority for courtesy applications for the consolidated school. All courtesy seat applications must meet the approved courtesy seat criteria and parameters (found at: <https://www.schoolbusinfo.com/courtesy-login.asp>) however a Kindergarten to Grade 3 priority could be applied to approved applications under the direction of the school Principal. Courtesy bus stops cannot be located within the walk boundary for any school; students are required to meet the school bus at an existing stop or along the path of the bus outside of the walk distance boundary.
  - Parents expressed a desire to have a crossing guard assigned to the intersection of Broadway Street and Niagara Street. The Town of Plympton-Wyoming has an established process for requesting crossing guards. Their process is initiated by a formal request in writing for their review and consideration. If the Trustees approve the consolidation of the schools at Wyoming Public School site, CLASS will consult with the school Principal to confirm request details and then submit this formal request to the Town in 2016/17 with a proposed start date to align with the consolidation of the schools. A school crossing guard is governed by the rules outlined in the Highway Act.
- Construction Safety Plan for Student and Staff Safety

- Due to concerns expressed by parents in regard to construction while students and staff are in the building, architects outlined a potential strategy to complete updates at Wyoming in phases as outlined in the Final Staff Report.

#### **5. Transition Plan**

If Board approves the consolidation of the Schools, a Transition Committee will be formed as soon as possible to address the transition of students and staff. Transition Committee membership will consist of:

- Superintendent(s) of Education or designate(s)
- CUPE and ETFO President/Vice President
- Principal from Wyoming Public School and Vice-Principal from South Plympton Public School
- two teachers from both sites
- two students
- two School Council Chair members
- clerical staff from both sites
- parent/community members from both sites
- educational assistants and early childhood educators from both sites

Subcommittees are developed as needed and may have members who are not on the Transition Committee. The Transition Committee would be responsible for such things as school orientation/transition, memorabilia, resources and equipment, special events (including graduation and awards), extra-curricular activities, mascot and logo.

#### **6. Naming Committee For the Consolidated School**

The practice of the Board has been to establish a Naming Committee when schools are consolidated. In accordance with Board Regulations R-AD-105, when schools are consolidated into one school, the process of naming and/or renaming of Board facilities will be followed. This requires the Director of Education to establish an ad hoc committee to recommend a name to the Board.

The Committee is to be comprised of:

- (a) two trustees, appointed by the Board (one to chair the committee),
- (b) one facility administrator (principal or principal designate if applicable) appointed by the Director,
- (c) two representatives of the School Advisory Councils (if applicable) appointed by the Director,
- (d) two community representatives appointed by the Director,
- (e) two LKDSB staff members,
- (f) one member of the senior administration appointed by the Director.

The Director will communicate to Principals and School Council Chairs information regarding the selection process for Naming Committee Members.

Administration is recommending that the Naming Committee be established as of September 6, 2016. As per Board By-laws, Ad Hoc committees exist for a period of three months.

Administration is recommending that the Naming Committee meet before September 30, 2016 in order to establish criteria for the new consolidated school name and a process to gather input from appropriate stakeholders. The Naming Committee will be asked to submit a final report containing a recommended name for the consolidated school to the Board for approval for the January 10, 2017 Board Meeting.

**Recommendation #1**

**“That the Board approve the consolidation of South Plympton Public School and Wyoming Public School at the Wyoming Public School site in September 2017.”**

**Recommendation #2**

**“That the Board dissolve the Wyoming Area Schools Accommodation Review Committee.”**

**Recommendation #3**

**“That the Board approve the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to recommend to the Board a name for the consolidated South Plympton and Wyoming Public Schools and appoint two Trustees to serve on the Committee.”**