



News Release

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LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES **PUPIL ACCOMMODATION CHANGES**

After careful consideration and deliberation, Trustees of the Lambton Kent District School Board approved the closure of Devine Street School and the consolidation of Devine Street School and Johnston Memorial School into a new school on the current Johnston Memorial site. The Board accepted the recommendations put forth by Administration and the Devine Street School Accommodation Review Committee.

The Devine Street School Accommodation Review Committee studied the accommodation issues at the school from November 2007 to May 2008. The Committee was comprised of parents, Trustees, the Principal, a student, a community representative and the Director of Education. The School Council Chair of Devine Street Public School was selected to act as Chair of this committee. Five public meetings were held in the library of the school. The Accommodation Review Committee worked through a School Valuation Template that encouraged discussion on the positive and negative aspects of the school.

The Committee reported to the Board at a public meeting on May 27, 2007 with recommendations supporting the closure of Devine Street Public School and the consolidation of its students with the students of Johnston Memorial Public School into a new school on the current Johnston Memorial site. The Director provided a Response to the Report September 23 which allowed time for public response prior to the final recommendations being presented to the Board in October.

A public information meeting will be held on November 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at Johnston Memorial School for parental and public input on steps to be taken in the planning of the new school. Parents and interested community members are encouraged to attend. Architects will be present to explain potential site drawings and hear the opinions of the public.

The estimated date of opening the new school would be September 2010 requiring alternative arrangements for students until the school is built. Possible options will be discussed at the November 4 Meeting.

A Planning Committee for Johnston/Devine Street School Consolidation has been established. The closure and consolidation dates are dependent on the final recommendations of the Planning Committee for Johnston/Devine School Consolidation. The Committee is comprised of parents, teachers and administrators from both schools, Trustees and Board staff. The Committee Meetings will be open to the public providing an opportunity for on going consultation.

The process of disposing of the Devine Street School property will commence immediately following the closure of the school.

“Trustees were faced with difficult decisions,” stated Chair Scott McKinlay. “Throughout the entire process the goal has remained to provide quality education in an equitable manner throughout the entire district. Students remain at the centre of all the decisions and actions taken by the Board. We are looking forward to enhancing the learning environment for these students with the construction of a new school.”

Lambton Kent District School Board

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