



News Release

200 Wellington Street, Sarnia, N7T 7L2 (519) 336-1500

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French Immersion Program Review

At the November 9, 2010 Board Meeting Trustees received the Interim Report from the French Immersion Program Review Committee. The Committee was formed in the fall of 2009 to review the current delivery model. Due to continuing declining enrolment in the French Immersion program, the viability of maintaining each of the sites has become a concern. French Immersion is an optional program that school boards may choose to offer. French Immersion is offered at eight combined elementary sites and three secondary schools across the Lambton Kent District School Board.

The main issues facing the current French Immersion Program delivery model have been identified as: the challenge of maintaining a critical mass of students in each site to ensure a viable program; the funding shortfall; a considerable cost to the Transportation Department if the catchment areas were expanded; and that resource support in the French language is not available at each dual-track school.

Next steps may include:

1. Reduction of the number of dual-track sites due to the funding implications of the current model. The French Immersion programs at Brooke, Hillcrest/Queen Elizabeth II Petrolia, Sir John Moore and Harwich Raleigh be phased out beginning in the 2011-12 school year and students currently enrolled in these programs be allowed to complete their French Immersion programs through to Grade 8 if enrolment maintains the current level.
2. Consideration of a middle or late immersion delivery model in future years in the rural areas of the District.
3. Consolidate the French Immersion School sites in the City of Sarnia
4. Possible creation of a single-track French Immersion school in Sarnia and Chatham-Kent if warranted by enrolment and providing program funding could sustain the program.

Trustees will be asked to make decisions on recommendations at the November 23, 2010 Regular Board Meeting held at the Sarnia Education Centre.

Annual Pupil Accommodation Review

Trustees received the annual Pupil Accommodation Review report at the November 9, 2010 Board Meeting. The purpose of the report is to summarize data to provide an overview of accommodation issues across the wide geographic area of the Lambton Kent District School Board. The study of current student enrolment data, demographic issues and Ministry of Education initiatives is key to future planning. The financial section of the report reviews the Board's 2010/11 Budget including any funding changes for the next school year.

The focus for 2010/2011 school year is to continue to implement the Board accommodation decisions made in June 2010 that resulted from the three 2009/2010 Accommodation Review Committees that were based in the Ridgeway, Dresden and Petrolia areas, as well as any recommendations approved as a result of the French Immersion Program Review.

The Naming Committee for Consolidated Elementary School in Ridgetown has been formed to consider possible names for the consolidated elementary school. The first meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School. The Ridgetown Transition Committee has been formed and will hold its first meeting on November 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School.

Public meetings are planned in Petrolia on November 25, 2010 at Hillcrest School and December 9, 2010 at Queen Elizabeth II School Petrolia.

The implementation of the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program (FDELKP) is affecting the capacity of all of our elementary schools and in many cases, is creating a need for additions to be built onto some of our schools. Board staff are currently reviewing all elementary school capacities and enrollment projections to determine which schools are best suited for year 3 implementation. As per Ministry regulations, the Board is required to consult with our coterminous board and municipal partners as part of the school selection process.

Board Approves Audited Financial Statements

Trustees approved the Lambton Kent District School Board's audited financial statements for the period September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010, as presented by the Chartered Accounting Firm of Bailey Kearney Ferguson at the November 9, 2010 Board Meeting. As directed by the Ministry of Education, Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) standards have been used to compile and present the Board's financial position on August 31, 2010. The Ontario Government, Ontario municipalities and Ontario School Boards are now all using PSAB standards to produce their financial reporting

In the opinion of auditors of the firm of Bailey Kearney Ferguson the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Board as at August 31, 2010 and the results of its operations for the year in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Chair Carmen McGregor declared, "Through the collective efforts of the Trustees and all Staff, the Lambton Kent District School Board is once again pleased to be able to report successful financial operations for the fiscal period ending August 31, 2010."

Elementary Administrative Changes

- Chris Moore was transferred to the position of Elementary Principal at Indian Creek Road Public School, effective January 3, 2011.
- Mary Anne Patterson was appointed to the position of Elementary Principal at Wheatley Area Public School, effective January 3, 2011.

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For additional information contact:

Carmen McGregor Chair 519-627-1933

Jim Costello, Director of Education, 519-336-1500, Ext. 31297

For reference information contact:

Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer 519-336-1530, Ext. 31230

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