



# News Release

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

[www.lkdsb.net](http://www.lkdsb.net)

## **Board Approves Name for Consolidated Elementary School in Ridgetown - Naahii Ridge Public School**

As of September 2011, the consolidated Elementary School in Ridgetown will be called *Naahii Ridge Public School*. Trustees approved the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Naming Committee which was comprised of Trustees, Senior Administration, Principals, School Staff Members, School Council Representatives, Community Representatives and First Nation Representatives from both Ridgetown Public School and Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School.

The name Naahii is distinctive and specific to this Lunaapeew community as opposed to the Lunaapeew community upstream located East of the Delaware Nation community. Naahii means downstream or where we reside which is Delaware Nation Territory.

Uniting our peoples of this area is done most accurately by geographic location and the commonality of waters. The Lunaapeew people were referred to as “Naahii”, the people downstream, while the other inhabitants identified by the “ridge”.

This gravel ridge, the highest point in the county, forms the dividing watershed between the waters to the south which find their way to Lake Erie, and the waters to the north enroute to Lake St. Clair.

The ridge marks the old shoreline of the post glacial lake, Lake Warren which was the forerunner of the present day Lake Erie. Lake Warren was much larger because it drained the torrents of glacial waters toward the east.

Just as the river carried the identity of the Lunaapeew people downstream, the ridge carried the identity of the people who tilled its lands.

As of September 2011, *Naahii Ridge Public School* will be located on the current Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School site and offer a program for kindergarten to Grade 6 students. The program for Grade 7 and 8 students will be offered at Ridgetown District High School.

### **Reconfiguration of Petrolia Elementary Schools Approved**

After careful consideration of the information and input received, Trustees approved the following recommendation at the January 25, 2011 Regular Board Meeting.

*“That the Board approve the reorganization of program delivery to offer JK to Grade 8 French Immersion in a single track model at Hillcrest Public School, Petrolia, with Queen Elizabeth II Public School Petrolia offering regular JK to Grade 8 program effective September 2011.”*

In June 2010 the Board directed Senior Administration to conduct consultation sessions to seek input on the following options for the two elementary schools in Petrolia:

- i) a boundary change to convert Hillcrest Public School to a JK-8 regular program facility and Queen Elizabeth II Public School a dual track JK-8 regular program and French Immersion school
- ii) a reorganization of program delivery to offer JK-8 French Immersion in a single track model at Hillcrest Public School with Queen Elizabeth II offering regular JK-8 program.

Consultations sessions were held on November 25, 2010 at Hillcrest Public School and December 9, 2010 at Queen Elizabeth II Public School in Petrolia.

Consultation sessions indicated that the Petrolia community wanted to see a new configuration of their schools in order to accommodate enrolment growth. Hillcrest Public School will be the first school within the Board to offer a single track French Immersion delivery model. Single track delivery allows students and parents to make a decision based on French Immersion program and not solely on school location and thus reduce attrition. This change will also align the Lambton Kent District School Board with other school boards in the area. It is also less disruptive to Petrolia families as it does not require significant boundary change.

Over the next few months Administration will be working with the Principals to determine how many students will register at Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth II Public Schools under the new configurations. Other issues to be addressed include: teaching and support staff complements, transportation for eligible riders, team/club alignment, determination of the size of addition required at Queen Elizabeth II Public School and follow up with the Ministry of Education regarding funding.

**- 30-**

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

January 25, 2011

2010/2011:12