

Report To Board

FROM: Gayle Stucke, Director of Education

DATE: June 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Pupil Accommodation Report for the Petrolia Area of Schools

The Mission and Belief Statements of the Board focus on student achievement and well being. It is the responsibility of the Lambton Kent District School Board to provide quality education equitably across the district in as cost effective a way as possible. The optimal use of all available resources is intended to achieve these goals. Determination of a school's viability must give consideration to educational value for students as well as monetary affordability for the Board.

The purpose of the final Pupil Accommodation Report is to summarize all information compiled through the Accommodation Review process as well as any additional pertinent data that has been presented or researched in the intervening months. Recommendations regarding changes in pupil accommodation status, including the timelines for implementation are made based on all available information in accordance with Ministry of Education Guidelines, Provincial funding and Policies of the Lambton Kent District School Board.

"It is the policy of the Lambton Kent District School Board to operate and maintain its schools as effectively and efficiently as possible to support student achievement while exploring all opportunities to enhance the learning environment." –P-AD-106-09.

At the October 13, 2009 Board Meeting, Trustees approved the following recommendation: "That the Board approve the commencement of an Accommodation Review Process and the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee" for the following Areas of Schools:

Petrolia Area of Schools, including Hillcrest Public School, Queen Elizabeth II Public School, Lambton Centennial Public School and Lambton Central Collegiate Vocational Institute;

Dresden Area of Schools, including Lambton Kent Composite School, Dresden Area Central School, Dawn-Euphemia School, Thamesville Area Central School and Zone Township Central School;

Ridgetown Family of Schools, including Ridgetown District High School, Ridgetown Public School and Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School.

In accordance with Regulation No.:R-AD-106-09-Pupil Accommodation/School Closure the following Accommodation Review Committee Meetings were held in a public forum in schools within each study area:

Petrolia Area of Schools – 4 Meetings held on November 12, 2009; January 7, 2010; February 4, 2010; March 4, 2010

Dresden Area of Schools – 5 Meetings held on November 16, 2009; January 27, 2010; February 17, 2010 (rescheduled from February 10); March 3, 2010; March 31, 2010

Ridgetown Area of Schools – 4 Meetings held on November 23, 2009; January 25, 2010; February 24, 2010 (rescheduled from February 22); March 29, 2010

Accommodation Review Committee Reports for each of the study areas were presented by parent members at the April 13, 2010 Regular Board Meeting. Trustees received the written Reports in advance of the meeting and had an opportunity to ask questions for clarification.

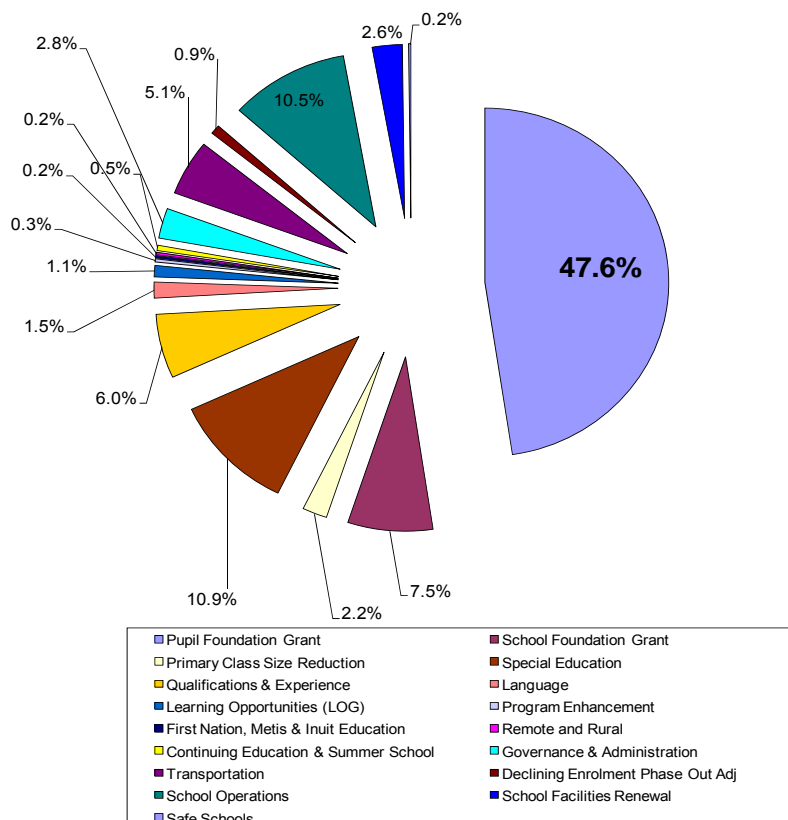
Administration’s Response to the Accommodation Review Committee Reports was presented at the April 27, 2010 Regular Board Meeting held at Lambton Kent Composite School. Members of the public had the opportunity to request a ten minute delegation at Board Meetings on May 11, May 25, June 8 and June 22.

Representatives of the Petrolia Accommodation Review Committee and the Dawn-Euphemia Support Our School Committee made presentations at the Regular Board Meeting on June 8, 2010.

FINANCIAL:

Education Funding Background:

School Boards are funded through the Ministry of Education - Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Funding Model. A school board’s revenue is dependent on student enrolment, benchmark parameters, and in some of the grants a base level of funding is provided that may also be supplemented with an enrolment component. The grants in the education funding formula fall into three broad categories – Foundation Grants, Special Purposes Grant and the Pupil Accommodation Grant. For the 2009/2010 school year, the contribution of each grant allocation for the Board is illustrated in the following pie chart.



The Pupil Foundation Grant is a per-pupil allocation that supports the components of a classroom education including teachers and classroom resources. The School Foundation Grant has both school site and per-pupil parts to fund in-school administration.

The Pupil Accommodation Grant is comprised of the school operations and facilities renewal components, which provide funding to operate and maintain schools.

The remaining thirteen special purpose grants noted in the above pie chart, provide funding to support specialized programs & services ranging from special education needs to student transportation.

Declining Enrolment Funding Impact:

For as long as declining enrolment in Lambton Kent continues at a significant rate, areas where financial challenges are created from this enrolment pressure will need to be addressed. The strategies to address any loss of funding must include:

- seeking efficiencies in board operations and,
- changes in school accommodation that ensures the board provides the best possible programs for its students in a fiscally responsible manner.

The Ministry provides to Boards in declining enrolment, a "Declining Enrolment Adjustment grant". The Declining Enrolment adjustment grant phases out funding support by providing boards with a 3 year time period to adjust their cost structures in response to declines in enrolment.

In the future, the extent of financial support from this grant is likely to be changed. The Ministry Declining Enrolment Report of February 2009, recommends that this funding be adjusted to reinforce its purpose as short-term transitional funding, by providing most of the support over a shorter period so that school boards have a stronger incentive to make adjustments. If this recommendation is implemented, a board's ability to maintain status quo would be restricted.

Other Ministry of Education School Facility Initiatives:

- a. Best Start Daycare Facilities - The communities of Chatham-Kent and Lambton were a demonstration pilot project that resulted in about \$6.7M Dollars invested in constructing full day care hub facilities or before/after school programs at 20 elementary school sites.
- b. Primary Class Size - In the 2007-08 school year the Ministry program to lower JK to Gr. 3 class sizes to a maximum cap of 20 students was fully implemented. During the 4 year phased-in implementation, \$4.2M in operational funding and \$4M in capital project funding has been provided.
- c. Good Places to Learn - The Ministry of Education provided 4 stages of this funding to be used to repair school buildings, totaling \$30M. No further stages or commitment of this funding have been announced.
- d. Prohibitive to Repair - \$8.8M dollars, provided for the consolidation and replacement of the two oldest elementary schools in the City of Sarnia.
- e. Energy Efficient Schools Funding - \$5.8M dollars, to reduce energy consumption.
- f. Full Day Early Learning Program - \$1.7M dollars. In the fall of 2009 the Ministry of Education provided the first phase of funding approval to support the implementation of Full Day 4&5 year old learners.
- g. Ontario Disabilities Act - No funding currently provided, board allocates \$50,000/year from existing funds.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD:

Summary of Enrolment Decline from October 31, 2008 to October 31, 2009:

	October 31, 2008 Actuals		October 31, 2009 Actuals		Enrolment Decline	
	F.T.E.	Total Students	F.T.E	Total Students	F.T.E.	Total Students
Elementary	14,267.00	15,679	14,044.50	15,469	222.50	210
Secondary	9,574.17	9,632	9,261.25	9,305	312.92	327

Note: October 31, 2009 enrolment numbers will be averaged with March 31, 2010 enrolment numbers to determine the Average Daily Enrolment (A.D.E.). Grants are calculated on the Average Daily Enrolment for the full school year.

In September 2009, enrolment in ten of our elementary schools within the LKDSB had dropped below 175.0 F.T.E. and three of our secondary schools had enrolment below 375.0 F.T.E.

Birth Rate Trends:

The birth rate in Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton is showing more stability than in years past, when decline was evident each year. In 2008, there were 118 more births than in 2007. Identifying trends in the number of births in each of our school attendance areas provides us with indicators of long-term changes to the population distribution for our schools. The number of births will be used as a basis for projecting future enrolment trends. The number of births this year indicates the number of JK/SK children that will be eligible to enrol in our schools in 4 or 5 years.

Change in 3 Year Average of Births			Actual Number of Births by Year					
Change in 3 Year Avg.	Recent 3 Yr. Avg. 2006-2008	Earlier 3 Yr. Avg. 2003-2005	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Increase of 100 Births 4% Increase	2,332	2,232	2,400	2,282	2,315	2,239	2,275	2,182

Change in School Aged Population Each Year:

Each year, the age distribution of school-aged children within the Lambton Kent District School Board changes. Children are born, children move in and out of the area, and children graduate from the school system. The importance of identifying changes in age distribution is to determine the degree to which a change in population will influence current and future enrolment projections. Although the birth rate in 2008 increased, the overall school-aged population has declined by 2.0%.

Population Change Since Last Year in Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton				
Age 1 to 4	Age 5 to 8	Age 9 to 12	Age 13 to 16	Total Population Change (%)
-0.4%	-0.9%	-2.9%	-3.3%	-2.0%

Full Day Learning:

The implementation of full day learning in September 2010 will have an impact on the capacity and spaces available in our elementary schools. In September 2010, the Lambton Kent District School Board will have 19 classes offering full day learning in eight school sites. Each year, additional full day learning classes will be added, with full implementation planned for 2015. The full day learning will mean our junior and senior kindergarten students will be attending on a daily basis, doubling the number of classrooms required to offer program to our 4 and 5 years old. This also will increase their FTE from .50 to 1.00 for grant purposes.

Enrolment History and Projections

Petrolia Area of Schools, including Hillcrest Public School, Queen Elizabeth II Public School, Lambton Centennial Public School and Lambton Central Collegiate Vocational Institute

ENROLMENT HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS - HILLCREST PUBLIC SCHOOL											
HILLCREST/QUEEN E				HILLCREST PUBLIC SCHOOL							
Capacity 213	Oct. 2004	Oct. 2005	Oct. 2006	Oct. 2007	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Proj. 2010	Proj. 2011	Proj. 2012	Proj. 2013	Proj. 2014
JK	47	46	46	56	64	62	63	71	67	69	75
SK	60	53	46	50	56	68	65	65	73	69	70
GR.1	63	59	60	49	48	65	68	65	65	73	69
GR.2	52	60	59	58	52	52	65	67	65	65	73
GR.3	44	51	61	42	58	50	52	65	67	65	65
GR.4	43	47	57								
GR.5	52	46	45								
GR.6	63	52	47								
GR.7	51	60	52								
GR.8	59	55	59								
Totals	534	529	532	255	278	297	313	333	337	341	352
F.T.E.	480.50	479.50	486.00	202.00	218.00	232.00	249.00	265.00	267.00	272.00	279.50
%Full	98.46%	98.26%	99.59%	94.84%	102.35%	108.92%	116.90%	124.41%	125.35%	127.70%	131.22%

ENROLMENT HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS - QUEEN ELIZABETH II											
HILLCREST/QUEEN E				QUEEN ELIZABETH II - PETROLIA							
Capacity 253	Oct. 2004	Oct. 2005	Oct. 2006	Oct. 2007	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Proj. 2010	Proj. 2011	Proj. 2012	Proj. 2013	Proj. 2014
JK	47	46	46								
SK	60	53	46								
GR.1	63	59	60								
GR.2	52	60	59								
GR.3	44	51	61	13							
GR.4	43	47	57	63	55	57	51	49	65	63	68
GR.5	52	46	45	62	60	56	57	51	50	65	63
GR.6	63	52	47	47	60	60	56	57	51	50	60
GR.7	51	60	52	52	48	56	60	55	58	51	51
GR.8	59	55	59	52	51	53	55	60	54	58	51
Totals	534	529	532	289	274	282	279	272	278	287	293
F.T.E.	480.50	479.50	486.00	289.00	274.00	282.00	279.00	272.00	278.00	287.00	293.00
%Full	98.46%	98.26%	99.59%	114.23%	108.30%	111.46%	110.28%	107.51%	109.88%	113.44%	115.81%

ENROLMENT HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS - LAMBTON CENTENNIAL											
Capacity 340	Oct. 2004	Oct. 2005	Oct. 2006	Oct. 2007	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Proj. 2010	Proj. 2011	Proj. 2012	Proj. 2013	Proj. 2014
JK	22	29	17	31	19	21	21	26	26	25	26
SK	25	24	30	19	30	20	24	23	27	27	26
GR.1	29	26	26	29	24	31	24	24	24	30	29
GR.2	32	29	27	28	29	23	31	24	25	25	30
GR.3	30	33	27	25	27	30	23	33	24	25	24
GR.4	36	31	34	25	27	29	29	24	32	24	25
GR.5	43	36	31	34	26	27	28	31	24	32	24
GR.6	33	41	38	32	34	26	27	30	31	23	31
GR.7	43	33	41	37	34	34	26	27	30	32	24
GR.8	49	41	32	42	37	35	34	26	27	29	31
Totals	342	323	303	302	287	276	267	268	270	272	270
F.T.E.	318.50	296.50	279.50	277.00	262.50	255.50	244.50	243.50	243.50	246.00	244.00
%Full	85.27%	79.38%	74.83%	81.47%	77.21%	75.15%	71.91%	71.62%	71.62%	72.35%	71.76%

ENROLMENT HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS - LAMBTON CENTRAL C.V.I.											
Capacity 1218	Oct. 2004	Oct. 2005	Oct. 2006	Oct. 2007	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Proj. 2010	Proj. 2011	Proj. 2012	Proj. 2013	Proj. 2014
Gr. 9	250	266	258	249	248	224	222	228	217	216	213
Gr. 10	290	256	263	260	251	249	231	224	230	219	219
Gr. 11	282	297	260	266	253	255	247	230	224	230	219
Gr. 12	373	367	379	358	332	324	320	317	300	294	300
SPEC.	17	18	17	18	18	21	20	20	20	20	20
Totals	1212	1204	1177	1151	1102	1073	1040	1019	991	979	971
F.T.E.	1210.00	1203.00	1174.50	1147.00	1099.50	1073.00	1040.00	1019.00	991.00	979.00	971.00
%Full	99.34%	98.77%	96.43%	94.17%	90.27%	88.10%	85.39%	83.66%	81.36%	80.38%	79.72%

Change in 3 Year Average of Births in the Petrolia Area ARC Elementary Schools	Change in 3 Yr. Average	Recent 3 Yr. Avg.	Earlier 3 Yr. Avg.	2008 Births	2007 Births	2006 Births	2005 Births	2004 Births	2003 Births
Hillcrest Public School (JK-3)	9%	58	53	63	65	46	53	50	55
Queen Elizabeth II (Petrolia) (Gr 4-8)	9%	58	53	63	65	46	53	50	55
Lambton Centennial Public School	-5%	36	38	38	40	30	39	34	41

The student population has increased over the past 4 years at the Hillcrest JK-3 facility resulting in the need for 3 portable classrooms this school year. The over capacity issue is predicted to gradually impact Queen Elizabeth II as primary students move into grade 4 and through grade 8.

Projections indicate continued increase in the number of primary students over the next 5 years. Reports from the Town of Petrolia predict continued growth in the community with significant increase in the number of building permits. However, the actual enrolment for Kindergarten at Hillcrest at the current time does not support this projection of growth. Of the anticipated 63 new students entering Junior Kindergarten only 37 students have registered. The real anomaly is within the French Immersion enrolment which had been rapidly increasing at Hillcrest. Based on past trends there was a projection of 28 students and only 6 children are currently registered for French Immersion. This break in the trend of enrolment increases will have an impact on additional space required at Queen Elizabeth II for the next few years. If the JK enrolment at Hillcrest did not return to the projected numbers there would not be the anticipated capacity pressure at either Petrolia school. Birth rates are the usual best predictor of future enrolment and have varied significantly over the past years.

This study is complicated by the fact that the elementary schools in Petrolia are organized with Hillcrest Public School housing JK-3 students and Queen Elizabeth II Public School enrolling grades 4-8. This organization was established in 2000 as a result of a Board decision based on recommendations from a Community Consolidation Committee studying the decrease in enrolment at Hillcrest Public School and imbalance of student population among the 3 elementary schools in the study. At that time it followed the Wyoming and South Plympton Public School model of a "Blended School" with a Principal at the larger school overseeing the smaller school and a part time teaching Vice Principal managing daily activity. As a result of increased enrolment at the primary school and based on public consultation, it was decided in 2007 to separate the two Petrolia schools from the blended organization with a Principal assigned to each but to keep the JK-3 and grade 4-8 division of grades. There is no evidence that a primary and junior division split between two separate schools is a good model for enhancing student achievement. The lack of opportunity for sharing and collaboration of staff between primary and junior divisions is identified by administration as problematic in continuity of program and teaching strategies. A solution for the over capacity issue could address this concern.

The Petrolia Review is further impacted by French Immersion and regular programs being offered in both of the elementary schools and uncertainty of parent program selection year to year. There are French Immersion Reviews ongoing at both provincial and board levels. The studies are reviewing a variety of delivery models, including grade of entry into the program, ratio of instruction in French and English languages and single and dual track organizations.

The Town of Petrolia Municipal Council had requested the Board build a new school to consolidate the students of the two existing elementary schools into one new facility. Administration acknowledged advantages to this option, including the program preference of having consistency in curriculum practices between primary and junior divisions that would be facilitated by having those classrooms in the same school. The combined enrolment is projected to be 615 students in 2012-13, but as large as 687, which would allow for a larger staff and overall efficiencies in resources. Based on calculations of the classroom space required, a minimum cost of \$12.5 million is estimated to build a new school.

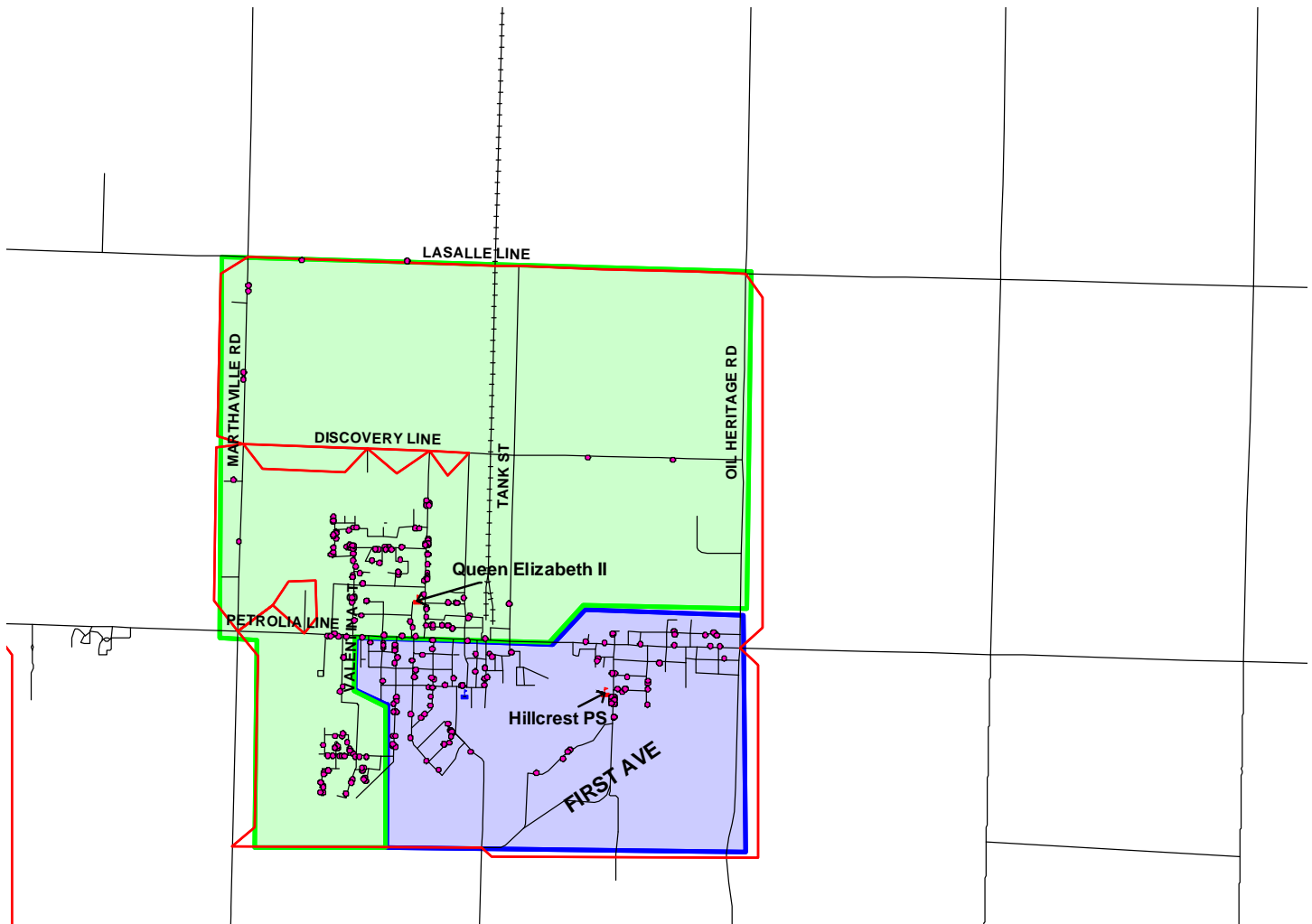
To expand the capacity of each of the elementary schools in Petrolia to accommodate enrolment projections would be considerably less expensive than building a new school and would be the option causing the least disruption to students and their families. This option was recommended unanimously by the Accommodation Review Committee representing 4 schools in the Petrolia Area study. Based on projections for 2012-13, Hillcrest would require a 6 room addition for its 337 students (FI and regular program) without portable classrooms at an estimated cost of \$2.8 million. The 278 students projected for 2012-13 at Queen Elizabeth II (FI and regular program) would require 2 additional classrooms which combined with the construction of a new gymnasium, would have an estimated cost of \$3.4 million. The total cost of additions at both schools would be approximately \$6.2 million, about half of the cost of a new school.

The Administration Response to the Accommodation Review Committee Report, April 27 2010, supported the recommendations of the two additions made by the Committee with the clarification that financing would have to be approved and supported by the Ministry of Education. Since then there has been follow up with the Town of Petrolia and new information has been added to the facts leading to the recommendations.

In response to the question of potential sharing of costs to enhance one or two additions through community use of library, gymnasium or meeting rooms, a representative of the Town Council clarified that the municipality supports the ARC's Recommendations; however, had recently invested in a new community centre and library, thus precluding a financial investment in the local schools.

The Director and Superintendent of Business had an opportunity to present the rationale for adding capacity to the schools in Petrolia in a meeting with staff from the Finance Department of the Ministry. Ministry of Education staff acknowledged that additional classrooms will be required to accommodate current and future students; however, there was no support for the proposal of building a new school or building additions on two schools in the same community. Financial restraint was the clear theme of the discussion and it was evident that throughout the province only the most efficient capital proposals would be considered. This realization caused staff to give further attention to other options.

An option not considered by the Accommodation Review Committee has since that time been explored by staff. The entire JK-8 French Immersion Program could be offered at Queen Elizabeth II with regular program offered at both Petrolia schools for students JK-8. This is the model that existed prior to the Blending of the schools following the 1999 Petrolia Community Consolidation study. It would require a change of boundaries and upon study of that possibility it was recognized that the growth in Petrolia school aged population has actually been in the westerly part of the community rather than in the Hillcrest area. Possible boundary divisions seem impractical as many students would require transportation to Hillcrest for their entire elementary school career in order to meet its capacity. It would create a situation not unlike that which was faced ten years ago.



The blue shaded area represents potential boundary area required to relocate JK-8 regular program students to Hillcrest to meet capacity requirements. The dots represent where students live who are currently registered in regular program in the 2009-10 school year.

A viable option to the Hillcrest Public School over capacity issue, from both program and economic perspectives, would be a change in the delivery model of French Immersion. Many Boards across the province have French Immersion programs in schools designated solely to that program. These are called single track schools. There are curriculum, staffing and financial reasons to support that model while some families indicate a preference for our current dual track program. The Program Department has determined from provincial and international research that there are significant advantages to a single track French Immersion organization both from a language acquisition and learning point of view.

There are important accommodation reasons for consolidation of French Immersion sites, particularly in areas where these programs have low enrolment. If there were to be a consolidation of French Immersion programs into fewer sites, greater supports could be provided in terms of resources, including staff, special education and libraries. In a single track school, the students would continue to have the same division of French and English instruction as mandated by the Ministry of Education. This option is one likely to be considered by the French Immersion Review Committee as it looks at program and accommodation issues throughout the district, particularly in Sarnia Lambton where there are currently 6 schools offering French Immersion in spite of very low numbers in many Junior and Intermediate classes.

Hillcrest Public School could accommodate the 224 JK-8 French Immersion students with the addition of one classroom or the reduction of two of the current three portable classrooms. If Queen Elizabeth II School became a JK-8 school for regular program, it would have an enrolment of 391 students. This would require an addition of 6 classrooms, including a new gymnasium which is currently identified in the Board’s Capital Plan. The preliminary cost estimate for that addition is \$5 million.

Currently the Board does not have a specific capital funding source to build major new building additions or new school construction projects. All school boards are provided with a Pupil Accommodation grant that funds the daily costs of operating a school and this grant contains a school renewal component directed to fund replacing or rebuilding worn out building components.

To fund an addition will require submitting proposals to the Ministry of Education for assessment and seeking favourable project and funding approval. In 2006 the Ministry implemented new accountability and approval measures for planning capital building projects. These measures were developed to ensure board’s capital project plans are consistent with Ministry approved building programs and within the financial abilities of the board. Ministry of Education staff has agreed to work with the Board in developing a cost sharing plan.

In the 2010 Provincial Budget, the government has provided for about \$245M in capital funding targeted to specific programs. This capital funding is being provided over the next 2 years to address capital needs related to the Early Learning Program and a part of the allocation will be used to support the most urgent and pressing capital needs in the sector.

Project Funding - Pursuing the Options

The preliminary budget estimate for the additions to both the Queen Elizabeth II and Hillcrest schools has been projected at \$6.2M dollars. This budget estimate would be updated when schematic plans outlining the scope of the proposed additions are developed.

It is anticipated that a combination of the various funding options may be needed to put together a financially acceptable plan.

The following table outlines the various funding options and combinations the Board may pursue:

<u>Possible Funding Sources</u>	Plan A	Plan B	Plan C
1. Ministry provides specific Capital Funding Approval for this project.	■		
2. LKDSB Capital Priority Allocation (See Note 1.)		■	
3. LKDSB Reserves (Requires Ministry Approval)		■	■
4. LKDSB School Renewal Grant (See Note 2.)		■	■
5. Implementation of the Ministry’s Early Learning Program - Capital Funding JK/SK Classrooms (2012/13)	■	■	■

Note 1: A new gym addition at Queen Elizabeth II in Petrolia has been on the Board's Capital project priority submission made to the Ministry, currently ranked as priority #17. Consideration may be given to moving up the priority ranking.

Note 2: The Board may propose to allocate a part of its annual school renewal funding to finance a long term loan to provide part of the proposed project financing needs.

In the event that the approved funding is insufficient to build the entire additions being proposed, the Board may need to consider using a blend of portable classroom units and permanent construction.

While there is no definitive best solution with the many options considered, it is acknowledged that additional classroom space is required in Petrolia to accommodate the current and future students of the Lambton Kent District School Board residing in that community. There continue to be concerns contributing to lack of confidence in the earlier recommendations to build additions at both Hillcrest and Queen Elizabeth II Public Schools.

In conclusion, there are four significant factors leading to final recommendations for the Petrolia Area Accommodation Review:

I) Past Odour Issues

The potential of environmental issues being discovered with further drilling on the Hillcrest site has been identified as a deterrent to building an addition of any significant size at that school by some community members and staff. At the existing Hillcrest Public School Site an extensive subsurface and air quality investigation study was conducted during 2007 and 2008. This study was undertaken due to the repeated presence of an intermittent odour within the Hillcrest Public School building. During the course of this study an oil well that was discovered in the parking lot of the Hillcrest School was plugged and decommissioned. However due to the historical presence of numerous oil wells throughout the Petrolia area and the odour events at the Hillcrest Public School, both of the Petrolia school properties would need to have the appropriate Environmental Site Assessment studies undertaken before new construction plans could proceed.

II) Enrolment projections

Kindergarten registration for September 2010 at Hillcrest Public School is significantly below projections in regular programs and even more significantly in French Immersion. If in fact, there are 26 fewer students than anticipated that is one or two classrooms that would not be required this fall or as those students moved through the grades. There has been an increase in the number of permits for single dwelling building lots in Petrolia and studies contracted by the Town of Petrolia predict continued growth. However, given fluctuating birth rates and times of economic restraint it is difficult to estimate with any certainty the actual increases in numbers of school aged children entering our schools over the next 10 years.

III) Funding

Capital funding for two school additions will not be provided by the province but the Ministry's Finance Staff is willing to work with the Board in a shared funding approach for an addition at Queen Elizabeth II Public School.

IV) French Immersion program plays a key role in the delivery of program and distribution of students in the two schools. Further study of a JK-8 single track French Immersion program at the smaller school and JK-8 regular program at the larger school could meet both the goal of ongoing improvements in student achievement and accommodation needs.

Recommendation #1

“That the Board develop a proposal for an addition on Queen Elizabeth II Public School; and that the Board move the gymnasium project for this school in the major capital priority plan from position #17 to position #1.”

Recommendation #2:

“That the Board hold public consultation meetings with the Petrolia community during the fall of 2010 in conjunction with the French Immersion District Review to seek input on the remaining options:

- 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.”

Recommendation #3:

“That the Board defer a final decision regarding the delivery model for French Immersion and regular programs to be offered at the two Petrolia elementary schools and determination of the number of classrooms required for an addition at Queen Elizabeth II Public School until February 2011.”

Note:

Trustees were provided with copies of the School Profiles for all the schools involved in the ARCs as well as copies of the Records of Action from all or the Meetings at the April 22 Board Meeting. Members of the Public can find this information on the Board’s website www.lkdsb.net.