

Accommodation Review Committee
Petrolia Area of Schools
Questions and Answers Following the February 4, 2010 Meeting

Question

Will tech courses and family studies be added back into the Grade 7 & 8 curriculum in the near future with the current emphasis being placed on the trades? Will additional space be required for these?

Answer

Technology is an important part of curriculum through all grades and the direction of the Ministry has been to integrate it into all subject areas. There is no indication that we will see a return to a stand alone Tech and Family Studies in elementary schools.

Question

If a new school is the option chosen as the solution for the Town schools, and Lambton Centennial School is left alone, we could be back at the table again in five years time with declining enrolment in Lambton Centennial. What are the future population trends for Oil Springs with regard to Lambton Centennial School?

Answer

Projections for Lambton Centennial suggest that the school will level off in enrolment staying at around 270 students for the foreseeable future. Those numbers make for a viable elementary school. The extra classrooms needed for full time Kindergarten will decrease concerns that might exist about excess capacity.

Another encouraging piece of data is shown in the Change in School Age Population chart. There was an increase in age 1-4 year olds of .7% in the past year and 13.5 % more students in the age 5-8 group from which to draw.

While additional students would be a welcome addition the data does not seem to predict Lambton Centennial would be under review or at risk of closure five years from now.

Question

Since Hillcrest School is overcrowded could it work to have Hillcrest School a junior kindergarten to grade 3 school for regular program students only and put the regular program students grade 4 to 8 at Queen Elizabeth II School and all the French Immersion students, junior kindergarten to grade 8?

Answer

That option has not come up at an ARC meeting but it could be considered.