

WALLACEBURG ACCOMMODATION REVIEW

What is being considered?

The Wallaceburg Accommodation Review Committee has put forward the following idea:

"to support the proposed recommendation of the school organization model of grade 7 and 8 students from the 4 WDSS feeder schools moving to WDSS as "a school within a school". The 3 elementary schools in Wallaceburg would be consolidated into 2 schools, with those schools as well as Riverview, offering program for students JK to 6."

Timeline

2012 – 2013: Accommodation Review Committee meets a minimum of 5 times and develops a recommendation for the LKDSB Trustees by March 2013.

June 2013: Trustees will make a final decision.

If there is a decision to make a change:

2013 – 2014: WDSS Family of Schools work on a transition plan for the course of action.

September 2014: The course of action is implemented.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why are we having a review of the Wallaceburg schools?

Recently, the Lambton Kent District School Board reviewed enrollment numbers across the region. This study, Vision 2020, identified that Wallaceburg was being challenged with declining enrollment and empty classrooms in the foreseeable future.

Q: Why is the committee proposing a recommendation of grades 7 & 8s at Wallaceburg District Secondary School as a ‘school within a school’?

The committee has researched and visited schools with this format of grades 7 & 8 as a ‘school within a school’. These schools have demonstrated that students are safe and secure within this separate space. The students also are excited by the opportunity to use more specialized resources such as science labs, cafeterias, fitness rooms, wood shops, technology classrooms, and drama rooms with their classroom teachers. The committee members have stated that this model is expected to improve the education experience for students while becoming more efficient. W.D.S.S. would also benefit as it would be used more fully.

Q: What did the grade 7 & 8 students say who were at Ridgetown District High School?

All grade 7 & 8 students reported feeling safe and mentioned that they rarely saw the grade 9 – 12 students. Twenty of twenty-three students were most pleased with making new friends. They were pleased with their classrooms in a separate wing of the school as well as separate washrooms for grade 7 & 8 students. The highlights were having a locker, better facilities, science labs, more hands on activities, and feel more prepared for grade 9.

Q: Why is the committee proposing a recommendation of JK – grade 6 schools?

The committee also researched and visited JK – grade 6 schools. These school communities reported that their academics improved as the schools had a more similar and consistent focus with fewer grades. The increased number of teachers and classrooms allowed the sharing of best practices between teachers and greater success for students. These school communities also shared that the climate in each school improved with grade 5 and 6 students taking a leadership role.

All the Accommodation Review Committee meetings are public. The information from each meeting is posted on the website: www.lkdsb.net

Questions or comments?
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