

Report To Board

FROM: Jim Costello, Director of Education

DATE: April 23, 2013

SUBJECT: Administration's Response to the Recommendations Submitted by the
Wallaceburg Area of Schools Accommodation Review Committee

"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.

The Vision, 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.

At the October 9, 2012 Board Meeting, Trustees approved the following recommendation: "That the Board approve the commencement of the Accommodation Review process and the establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee for the following schools in Wallaceburg area: Wallaceburg District Secondary School, A. A. Wright Public School, D.A. Gordon Public School, H. W. Burgess Public School and Riverview Central School."

In accordance with Board Regulation R-AD-106, Pupil Accommodation/School Closure, the Accommodation Review Committee Meetings were held in a public forum on November 28, 2012 at A.A. Wright Public School, January 9, 2013 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School, January 23, 2013 at D.A. Gordon Public School, February 27, 2013 at Riverview Central School, and March 27, 2013 at H.W. Burgess Public School. Attendance of the public averaged approximately 30 individuals at the first four meetings while approximately 60 participated in the final meeting.

The Accommodation Review Committee Report was presented by ARC members at the April 9, 2013 Regular Board Meeting. Trustees received the written Report in advance of the meeting as part of the Board Agenda for the April 9, 2013 Meeting and had an opportunity to ask questions for clarification at the Board Meeting.

The Wallaceburg Area Accommodation Review Committee presented the following recommendations:

Recommendation A

1. *The three elementary schools in Wallaceburg be consolidated into two schools with the closure of D.A. Gordon Public School at the end of the 2013/2014 school year.*
2. *A.A. Wright Public School, H.W. Burgess Public School and Riverview Central School become JK-6 schools. D.A. Gordon JK-6 student to be reassigned to A.A. Wright and H.W. Burgess based on new boundaries to be determined during transition period.*
3. *Grade 7 and 8 students from Wallaceburg and Riverview elementary schools to attend W.D.S.S. as a "school within a school".*
4. *Implementation of the JK-6 and 7-8 at W.D.S.S. model to occur in September 2014.*
5. *Transition planning to begin in September 2013 with the involvement of parents, staff and students on a variety of planning committees.*

Recommendation B

That the LKDSB consider the viable, economic and sustainable reuse of the D.A. Gordon building and property and that while statutory obligations are followed, the Board commence discussions with the community and the Municipality respecting the opportunity that reuse of this property might offer the community. Further, that the Board give these same considerations to all future school closings in the Lambton Kent Board jurisdiction.

The purpose of this report is to share Administration’s review and analysis of the recommendations presented by the Accommodation Review Committee and Administration’s responding recommendations. The Director of Education will present the final recommendations to the Board for a decision at the June 11, 2013 Board Meeting.

FINANCIAL:

Education Funding Background:

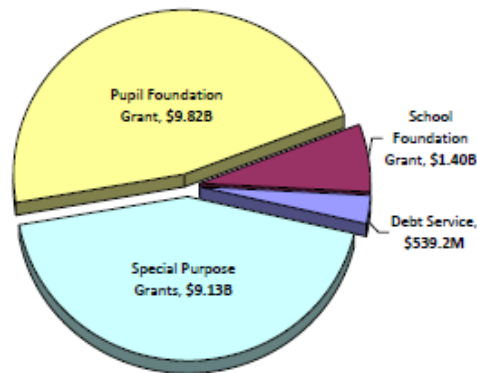
School Boards are funded through the Ministry of Education - Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Funding Model. A school board's revenue is dependent on student enrolment, benchmark parameters, and in some of the grants a base level of funding is provided that may also be supplemented with an enrolment component.

The grants in the education funding formula fall into three broad categories – Pupil Foundation Grant, School Foundation Grant and the various Special Purpose Grants.

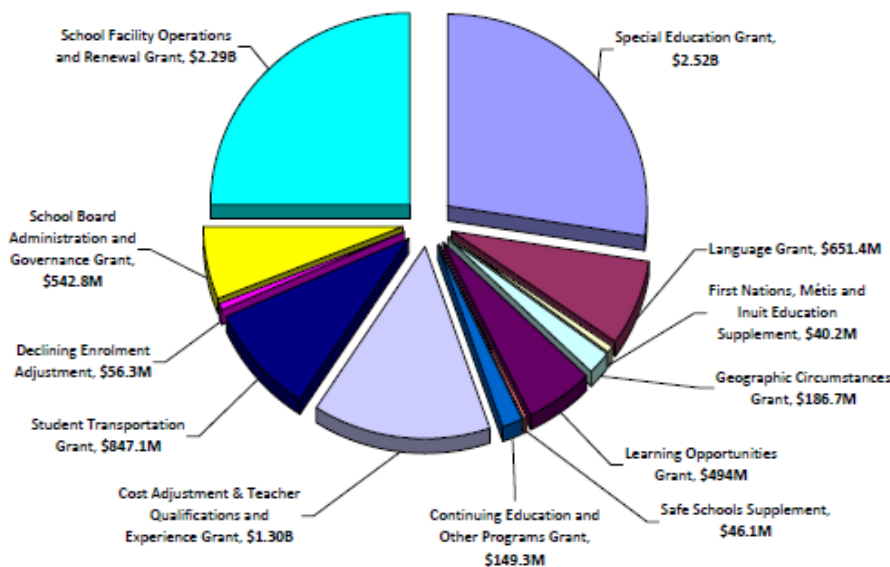
For the 2012-13 school year, the contribution of each grant allocation is illustrated in the following charts.

2012–13 Grant Allocations (Projections)

Total: \$20.94B*



Special Purpose Grants



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 twelve special purpose grants noted in the 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 school 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 school board's ability to maintain status quo would be restricted.

Other Ministry of Education School Facility Initiatives:

- a. Full Day Early Learning Program - In the fall of 2009 the Ministry of Education introduced the first phase of funding approval to support the implementation of Full Day 4&5 year old learners. This is the 3rd year of the phase in period and the implementation of the Full Day learning program will be completed in the 2014-15 school year.
- b. Capital Priorities Program – The Ministry has provided the Board with \$2,007,000. to upgrade the Queen Elizabeth II School in Petrolia.
- c. Ontario Disabilities Act - The Board allocates \$50,000/year from existing funds as there is no specific grants provided for this initiative.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD:

Summary of Enrolment Decline from October 31, 2011 to October 31, 2012:

	October 31, 2011 Actuals		October 31, 2012 Actuals		Enrolment Decline	
	F.T.E.	Total Students	F.T.E	Total Students	F.T.E.	Total Students
Elementary	13,608.00	15,039	13,420.50	14,847	187.50	192
Secondary	8,802.00	8,827	8,561.78	8,599	240.22	228

Note: Student funding is calculated on the Average Daily Enrolment (A.D.E.) for the school year. The A.D.E. is calculated by averaging the October 31, 2012 enrolment numbers with the March 31, 2013 enrolment numbers.

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 2011, there were 45 more births than in 2010. 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. Recorded birth data is used as a basis for projecting future enrolment trends. The number of children born in 2011 identifies the potential number of JK/SK aged children that will be eligible to enroll 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. 2009-2011	Earlier 3 Yr. Avg. 2006-2008	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Number of Births	2,350	2,327	2,385	2,340	2,324	2,400	2,282	2,300

Change in School Aged Population Each Year:

Each year, there is a change in age distribution of school-aged children within the Lambton Kent District School Board. 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. While the overall population change indicates a decline of 0.4%, the eligible population at the elementary level (ages 4 to 12) shows a positive trend, while the larger decline is being experienced at the secondary age level (students over the age of 13).

Population Change Since Last Year in Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton Based on October 31, 2012 Enrolment Numbers				
Age 1 to 4	Age 5 to 8	Age 9 to 12	Age 13 to 16	Total Population Change (%)
1.0%	0.7%	0.2%	-3.3%	-0.4%

Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program:

The implementation of Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten (FDELKP) in September 2010 has had an impact on capacity and helped to fill available spaces in our elementary schools. In 2012-13, the Lambton Kent District School Board offers the program at 24 elementary locations, with an additional 16 schools being added in the 2013-14 school year. The remainder of our elementary schools will be added in 2014-15, the 5th and final year of implementation. The FDELKP program will mean our junior and senior kindergarten students will be attending on a daily basis, increasing the number of classrooms required to offer program to our 4 and 5 years old.

Wallaceburg Family of Schools, including Wallaceburg District Secondary School, A.A. Wright Public School, D.A. Gordon Public School, H.W. Burgess Public School & Riverview Central School

ENROLMENT HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS - A.A. WRIGHT											
259	Oct. 2007	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Oct. 2010	Oct. 2011	CURRENT OCT. 2012	Proj. 2013	Proj. 2014	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2016	Proj. 2017
JK	27	19	17	17	20	21	20	20	20	19	18
SK	19	28	19	18	17	17	21	21	21	18	19
GR.1	23	17	29	22	15	20	20	21	22	21	17
GR.2	15	24	18	28	21	18	19	21	21	20	19
GR.3	31	17	23	21	21	20	16	17	21	17	20
GR.4	18	28	17	24	20	22	20	17	18	19	17
GR.5	26	17	25	19	22	25	23	21	16	17	20
GR.6	21	24	19	26	22	23	23	23	21	16	17
GR.7	35	17	27	22	21	21	23	23	22	21	15
GR.8	33	32	16	24	25	23	18	22	22	21	21
SPEC.	5	5	7	12	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Totals	253	228	217	233	211	217	210	213	211	196	190
F.T.E.	230.00	204.50	199.00	215.50	192.50	217.00	210.00	213.00	211.00	196.00	190.00
%Full	88.80%	78.96%	76.83%	83.20%	74.32%	83.78%	81.08%	82.24%	81.47%	75.68%	73.36%

ENROLMENT HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS - D.A. GORDON											
401	Oct. 2007	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Oct. 2010	Oct. 2011	CURRENT OCT. 2012	Proj. 2013	Proj. 2014	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2016	Proj. 2017
JK	31	24	15	22	12	18	14	13	17	15	15
SK	24	20	27	16	26	12	18	17	16	20	18
GR.1	19	25	25	29	15	19	14	20	18	19	21
GR.2	25	16	23	25	20	12	21	15	19	19	18
GR.3	23	23	17	23	25	20	12	21	17	21	18
GR.4	32	16	25	15	22	21	22	12	21	16	20
GR.5	19	29	18	22	16	17	21	22	13	23	16
GR.6	32	19	23	19	24	13	18	24	22	14	23
GR.7	22	33	22	24	18	27	16	18	24	21	13
GR.8	22	21	31	22	26	19	26	16	19	22	21
SCSE	8	11	9								
Totals	257	237	235	217	204	178	182	178	186	190	183
F.T.E.	229.50	215.00	214.00	217.00	204.00	178.00	182.00	178.00	186.00	190.00	183.00
%Full	57.23%	53.62%	53.37%	54.11%	50.87%	44.39%	45.39%	44.39%	46.38%	47.38%	45.64%

ENROLMENT HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS - H.W. BURGESS											
259	Oct. 2007	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Oct. 2010	Oct. 2011	CURRENT OCT. 2012	Proj. 2013	Proj. 2014	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2016	Proj. 2017
JK	18	23	24	26	18	18	23	24	25	20	21
SK	18	20	25	27	25	22	21	25	26	19	20
GR.1	20	18	20	27	27	23	22	22	23	20	20
GR.2	23	21	19	23	30	28	25	24	22	22	20
GR.3	27	25	23	21	21	24	29	24	23	22	23
GR.4	26	22	26	19	22	23	24	30	25	19	24
GR.5	29	24	25	25	19	19	20	24	30	27	19
GR.6	20	28	24	24	24	22	19	20	25	28	27
GR.7	28	19	29	20	27	22	19	21	20	26	28
GR.8	25	25	18	30	19	26	23	19	20	21	26
SPEC.											
Totals	234	225	233	242	232	227	225	233	239	224	228
F.T.E.	216.00	203.50	208.50	215.50	210.50	227.00	225.00	233.00	239.00	224.00	228.00
%Full	83.40%	78.57%	80.50%	83.20%	81.27%	87.64%	86.87%	89.96%	92.28%	86.49%	88.03%

ENROLMENT HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS - RIVERVIEW CENTRAL											
248	Oct. 2007	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Oct. 2010	Oct. 2011	CURRENT OCT. 2012	Proj. 2013	Proj. 2014	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2016	Proj. 2017
JK	15	23	14	16	13	17	16	15	15	15	13
SK	17	16	24	14	20	18	16	17	17	16	17
GR.1	23	17	17	25	16	20	18	18	19	17	16
GR.2	18	21	19	18	24	16	22	18	17	17	18
GR.3	23	15	21	19	16	27	15	21	18	13	17
GR.4	25	25	17	19	20	14	24	16	21	16	13
GR.5	26	26	21	19	19	19	16	24	16	25	19
GR.6	27	26	27	23	16	22	18	16	24	19	25
GR.7	25	27	24	27	20	18	20	18	16	27	18
GR.8	21	27	28	23	28	21	17	20	18	18	26
SPEC.											
Totals	220	223	212	203	192	192	182	183	181	183	182
F.T.E.	204.00	203.50	193.00	188.00	175.50	174.50	166.00	183.00	181.00	183.00	182.00
%Full	82.26%	82.06%	77.82%	75.81%	70.77%	70.36%	66.94%	73.79%	72.98%	73.79%	73.39%

ENROLMENT HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS - WALLACEBURG D.S.S.											
1185	Oct. 2007	Oct. 2008	Oct. 2009	Oct. 2010	Oct. 2011	CURRENT OCT. 2012	Proj. 2013	Proj. 2014	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2016	Proj. 2017
Gr. 9	176	173	190	160	174	164	163	133	132	132	141
Gr. 10	187	174	173	187	157	171	153	166	137	133	129
Gr. 11	170	179	160	165	186	153	161	146	159	138	131
Gr. 12	233	251	242	236	249	261	235	235	213	236	210
SPEC.	17	17	18	22	22	21	20	20	20	20	20
Totals	783	794	783	770	788	770	732	700	661	659	631
F.T.E.	782.50	794.00	781.50	770.00	787.50	766.00	732.00	700.00	661.00	659.00	631.00
%Full	66.03%	67.00%	65.95%	64.98%	66.46%	64.64%	61.77%	59.07%	55.78%	55.61%	53.25%

There are obvious accommodation reasons to consolidate elementary schools within the town of Wallaceburg and to maximize the capacity of the secondary school, which is well equipped to provide enhanced educational opportunities, such as science labs, to students in a grade 7/8 wing at WDSS.

Consolidation of Wallaceburg Schools into JK to Grade 6 Configuration

2014-15 PROJECTION - JK to Gr. 6			
Grade	AA Wright	DA Gordon	HW Burgess
JK	20	13	24
SK	21	17	25
1	21	20	22
2	21	15	24
3	17	21	24
4	17	12	30
5	21	22	24
6	23	24	20
TOTAL	161	144	193

AA Wright Capacity = 259 - 161 = 98 available pupil spaces

HW Burgess Capacity = 259 - 193 = 66 available pupil spaces

Available Pupil Spaces of 164 will accommodate population of DA Gordon

WDSS UTILIZATION CAPACITY - GR 7 TO 12 - INCLUDING A.A. WRIGHT, D.A. GORDON, H.W. BURGESS, RIVERVIEW CENTRAL

ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS - WALLACEBURG D.S.S.					
Ministry Capacity 1185	Proj. 2014	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2016	Proj. 2017	Proj. 2018
GR. 7	80	82	95	74	90
GR. 8	77	79	82	94	74
GR. 9	133	132	132	141	148
GR. 10	166	137	133	129	139
GR. 11	146	159	138	131	128
GR. 12	235	213	236	210	200
SCSE	20	20	20	20	20
Total 7-12	857	822	836	799	799
% Utilization	72.32%	69.37%	70.55%	67.43%	67.43%
Vacant Spots	328	363	349	386	386

WDSS UTILIZATION CAPACITY - GR 7 TO 12 - INCLUDING AA WRIGHT, DA GORDON, HW BURGESS & EXCLUDING RIVERVIEW

ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS - WALLACEBURG D.S.S.					
Ministry Capacity 1185	Proj. 2014	Proj. 2015	Proj. 2016	Proj. 2017	Proj. 2018
GR. 7	62	66	68	56	66
GR. 8	57	61	64	68	56
GR. 9	133	132	132	141	148
GR. 10	166	137	133	129	139
GR. 11	146	159	138	131	128
GR. 12	235	213	236	210	200
SCSE	20	20	20	20	20
Total 7-12	819	788	791	755	757
% Utilization	69.11%	66.50%	66.75%	63.71%	63.88%
Vacant Spots	366	397	394	430	428

The Wallaceburg Family of Schools was involved in a community study in 1999 that resulted in consolidation of four of its elementary schools to three with the closure of W.T Laing Public School in 2000. At that time there were 778 students in the three elementary schools and the 2011 enrolment was 637. Decline is projected to continue through 2020 with a combined student population of 604. At the same time an even more serious enrolment decline has been seen at Wallaceburg District Secondary School (WDSS). Since 2000 enrolment at WDSS has declined by 212. WDSS had 788 students in 2011, in 2012 there were 770 students and 732 students are projected for September 2013. The enrolment is projected to drop to 661 by 2015 and as low as 634 students by 2020. WDSS will be an excellent facility at half its capacity.

With the success of the relocation of Grade 7 and 8 students at Ridgetown District High School, Senior Administration feels that this school organization model would provide an enhanced learning environment for the Wallaceburg students.

Business Aspects of the Wallaceburg ARC Recommendations

The primary cost elements of operating these schools are as follows:

- o Administration staff - Principal & Secretarial
- o Teachers, Resource staff & Educational Assistants
- o Classroom teaching materials & furnishings
- o Custodial staff
- o Utilities - Gas, Electricity, Water, Communications
- o Grounds keeping - garbage collection, grass cutting & yard maintenance, snow removal
- o Custodial & Housekeeping supplies
- o Maintenance supplies & services
- o Capital Building Upgrade and Improvement projects

Financial Impact of the Consolidation

As noted in the earlier general section of the Report, the education grant model provides funding in large part based on the overall student enrolment of the Board. Therefore the enrolment based funding is not dependent on the number of school sites operated by the Board.

The school administration funding has both a base amount tied to the school site and an enrolment component. The closure of D.A. Gordon Public School is estimated to save the province about \$124,000 per year as the net result of saving on school administration costs.

The overall pupil accommodation grants the Board receives to operate and maintain a school is based on enrolment with a top-up component. For schools with enrolment below capacity, there is a base top-up grant allocation for up to 15%. The closure of D.A. Gordon Public School and consolidation into the remaining two school sites is estimated to save the province about \$118,000 per year in total top-up funding costs.

Consolidation of the existing three Wallaceburg elementary schools into two school sites will result in an improvement in the Board's financial ability to maintain the remaining 2 schools sites. The estimated capital savings to the Board total \$5.8 Million dollars over the next five years.

The estimated annual increased cost to bus the students to the consolidated school sites is \$54,000. The operational savings in staffing, maintenance and utility costs would offset the additional transportation cost.

More important than the accommodation or financial reasons, however, is the impact such a re-organization has on a student's achievement and well being.

To facilitate the transition process a Transition Committee would be formed with representatives from all the schools involved. Information sessions for parents and opportunities for staff, School Councils and First Nation representatives to plan together would need to be facilitated. Students moving into a new building, elementary or secondary facility would be provided opportunities to get to know other students and staff well before the start of the new school year. Relationships with parents and community members fostered through the Accommodation Review process would be the basis for continued consultation and decision making. Safety issues, such as, crossing guards, bus loading zones and sidewalks would be addressed with community partners during the transition period.

Boundary changes would be necessary to reassign the JK-Grade 6 D.A. Gordon Public School students to A.A. Wright Public School or H.W. Burgess Public School. Administration would obtain school and community input prior to making any recommendations to the Trustees.

RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

ARC Recommendation A

1. The three elementary schools in Wallaceburg be consolidated into two schools with the closure of D.A. Gordon Public School at the end of the 2013/2014 school year.

Administration supports this recommendation. The capital and maintenance costs of \$5.8 million to maintain D.A. Gordon Public School over the next five years are prohibitive. Also, the enrollment decline in the area schools allows for the consolidation of the schools. The transition from three to two elementary schools can be done with no decline in learning conditions; in fact, Administration thinks that the learning environment will improve as demonstrated by the reconfiguration of schools in Ridgetown.

2. A.A. Wright Public School, H.W. Burgess Public School and Riverview Central School become JK-6 schools. D.A. Gordon JK-6 student to be reassigned to A.A. Wright and H.W. Burgess based on new boundaries to be determined during transition period.

Administration agrees with part of this recommendation. Administration supports the reconfiguration of the JK to Grade 6 students attending the three elementary schools in Wallaceburg into A.A. Wright Public School and H.W. Burgess Public School.

Riverview Central School represents a complex part of the decision. We have had difficulty in determining what the Riverview Central School community would prefer. As consensus was not likely to be attained in the ARC decision-making process, the Facilitator conducted a vote regarding Riverview Central School's inclusion in the recommendation. That vote result was 8-4 in favour of inclusion. While Administration appreciates that the Riverview Central School Council Chair sent a survey to all 116 students' families in an attempt to come to a consensus regarding their views on the issue, only 16 surveys were returned. This is not a representative sample.

The majority of Riverview parents who attended the ARC meetings were small in number but resolute in their wish that Riverview Central School not be included in the recommendation. While none of these parents had the experience of attending the Goderich and Ridgetown School visits, the fact that they attended the meetings to express their point of view is not to be regarded lightly.

It is important that the implementation of Grade 7-12 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School (WDSS) opens smoothly in the fall of 2014. Possible ill feelings among a divided school community will not be helpful to the overall success of the startup and could negatively impact the learning environment for the students. It is therefore the recommendation of Administration that Riverview Central School be excluded from the recommendation. Trustees may decide to change this recommendation depending on possible delegations in the month of May.

3. Grade 7 and 8 students from Wallaceburg and Riverview elementary schools to attend W.D.S.S. as a "school within a school".

Administration supports this recommendation with one exception – Riverview Central School students be excluded.

The Lambton Kent District School Board has seen success with the Grade 7-12 reconfiguration of school in Ridgetown. Our spring 2012 survey of students, staff and parents in the Ridgetown schools demonstrated strong support for the model. Also, the ARC visit to Goderich where the Avon Maitland District School Board has been implementing Grade 7-12 at Goderich District Collegiate Institute (GDCI) for ten years demonstrates sustained success over a longer time period. Not only do we think this model will be successful for Wallaceburg, we think it is worthy of replication in other communities in the Lambton Kent District School Board. The proposed wing at WDSS where the grade 7 and 8 students would be placed was built in 2001 by St. Clair College and is in outstanding condition as a result given the frequency of use over the last 11 years.

It has a separate and secure entrance, five class rooms, elevator, washrooms and office facilities. It is ideally suited for the Grade 7 and 8 reconfiguration and does not require capital and maintenance work to be ready for September 2014.

4. Implementation of the JK-6 and 7-8 at W.D.S.S. model to occur in September 2014.

Administration agrees with this recommendation. Implementing of the reconfiguration in September of 2014 allows for a one year transition period, during which time a "Transition Committee" can be struck as was done in the Ridgetown Family of Schools.

5. Transition planning to begin in September 2013 with the involvement of parents, staff and students on a variety of planning committees.

Administration agrees with this recommendation. The Transition Committee would oversee all "on the ground" details of closing D.A. Gordon Public School and reconfiguring A.A. Wright and H.W. Burgess Public Schools into JK-Grade 6 schools as well as assisting with the preparation of W.D.S.S. into a Grade 7-12 school. These would include items such as: trophies and awards, scholarships, school mascot, teams and uniforms. This committee will be invaluable to the success of the reconfiguration.

Administration will consult with the elementary school communities, transportation department and Planning Officer to develop possible new elementary school boundaries for the schools in Wallaceburg as part of the transition process. Trustees will be asked to approve the revised boundaries for September 2014.

As part of the transition process, Administration is also proposing that the area in Wallaceburg District Secondary School where the Grade 7 and 8 students will be located be renamed the D.A. Gordon Wing. The Board's regulations on *Naming and Renaming Board Facilities* would guide this process.

ARC Recommendation B

That the LKDSB consider the viable, economic and sustainable reuse of the D.A. Gordon building and property and that while statutory obligations are followed, the Board commence discussions with the community and the Municipality respecting the opportunity that reuse of this property might offer the community. Further, that the Board give these same considerations to all future school closings in the Lambton Kent Board jurisdiction.

Administration supports this recommendation. Under the *Education Act*, Regulation 444-99 Disposition of Surplus Real Property establishes the rules for the handling of surplus sites.

In accordance with Regulation 444, the Board would follow a process of offering the D. A. Gordon site to appropriate public sector organizations. If no public sector organizations wished to purchase the site, the Board would subsequently engage potential purchasers, including the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, in order to insure a lawful sale of the property. Similar to members of any community, Administration has been disappointed to see school sites, which have been sold to purchasers, be neglected. There have been successful sales of school sites where new owners have respectfully reconfigured the site for commercial purposes.

NEXT STEPS

The following recommendations will be presented for approval at the June 11 2013 Regular Board Meeting. It should be recognized that new information provided by the public or Board staff could cause modifications to these recommendations.

Administration Recommendation #1:

"That the Board close D.A. Gordon Public School in June 2014."

Administration Recommendation #2

"That the Board reorganize A.A. Wright Public School and H.W. Burgess Public School as JK to Grade 6 schools as of September 2014."

Administration Recommendation #3

"That the Board reorganize Wallaceburg District Secondary School as a Grade 7 to 12 school as of September 2014."

Administration Recommendation #4

"That the Board reorganize the boundaries for the elementary schools in Wallaceburg."

Members of the public have the opportunity to request to make a ten minute delegation at Board Meetings on May 14, May 28. New information provided by the public or Board staff could cause modifications to the above recommendations. The Director of Education will present the final recommendations to the Board for a decision at the June 11, 2013 Board Meeting.

Note:

Trustees have been provided with copies of the School Profiles for all the schools involved in the ARC as well as copies of the Records of Action from all the Meetings.

Members of the Public can find this information on the Board's website www.lkdsb.net.