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I would like to bring you back to the basis of the recommendations contained in the Initial Staff Report. They are:

- made in the best interest of all students regarding more equitable access to programs,
- made in the interest of maintaining fiscal responsibility over the long term,
- based on an assessment of the age and quality of LKDSB building.

Made in the Best Interest of all Students Regarding More Equitable Access to Programs

No one can dispute the fact that St. Clair and SCITS must be consolidated to provide more equitable access to programs. This is after all about the students.

The risk associated with not obtaining full grant approval for St. Clair's capital renewal needs will have a direct impact on student programs.

* SCITS students will have to settle for a partial manufacturing shop not a full size shop they currently appreciate

* The auditorium at SCITS is used as a daily learning space and this will be a tremendous loss to the High Skills Major in the Arts and Culture Program

* The swimming component of the physical education program will be lost

* Air conditioned classrooms students currently learn in are in jeopardy

Although scholarships are not directly linked to programs, they do assist students in selecting their programs in pursuit of an affordable postsecondary education.

For the record, it has been confirmed by Bill Chong, Board Member of the Catherine Wilson Foundation and Mrs. Gladdy who provides the Dr. P. Gladdy Memorial Scholarship, and also Denise Pyne who provides the Reanna Pyne memorial scholarship that these financial awards will cease if SCITS is closed. This amounts to seven scholarships totalling \$17,500. This is in addition to the \$15,000 the Catherine Wilson Foundation provides to SCITS as needs arise. If this is truly about the students, consolidate St. Clair to SCITS so that all students have the opportunity to work toward the 95 scholarships totalling over \$85,000 that SCITS offers.

Made in the Interest of Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility over the Long Term

SCITS has a lower backlog in the short term. The long term capital requirements are based on Board projections, not Ministry data. A good example of variation is the 2019 capital projection of \$4 million for SCITS that is for electrical and HVAC work. SCITS HVAC system was installed in 2003, and would have a service life beyond 16 years. When SCITS is Ministry assessed again in 2019, there is a strong likelihood VFA will not make this a priority.

Of the two school SCITS has the greatest potential to generate revenue for the board by offering broader community access to its amenities.

The Catherine Wilson Foundation does not only provide scholarships to SCITS but also contributes an additional \$15,000 annually for the school as needed. The foundation provided

for the refurbishing of the library along with books and has also assisted for payment of late school buses. It has been confirmed with Bill Chong, a board member of the Catherine Wilson Foundation that this generous financial assistance is tied to SCITS and will cease if SCITS is closed.

When planning for long term fiscal responsibility, it is important to consider the financial contributions that come from city residents, alumni and legacies. It is with these entities that you want to preserve a strong, long term relationship with as the Ministry moves toward a focus on community partnerships. Although St. Clair has a much larger property, it is also more costly to maintain. The Ministry also encourages Boards with an abundance of green space to include community partners. Past track and field upgrades at LKDSB schools have been in the range of \$700,000 – not a low-cost undertaking.

We must also not forget that funding is adjusted for boards that have older schools with unique features such as wide hallways, large shop spaces and auditorium spaces. I would hope that staff takes this into consideration when grant applications are submitted.

The City of Sarnia's Planning Department indicates residential growth east of Modeland and the Final Staff Report states these areas are located in closer proximity to St. Clair. This is a residential growth area that does not cater to affordable housing for young families. This area has been experiencing residential growth for many years but has not slowed the declining enrollment at St. Clair or its family or schools.

Based on 10 year enrollment projections, the LKDSB projects the St. Clair family of schools will experience a 14.97% enrollment decline. The SCITS family of schools has a projected decline of 9.50%. When planning for long term ministry funding, it appears the SCITS family of schools offers a healthier financial opportunity.

The LKDSB enrollment projections are based on current boundaries. With the proposed boundary change, if they choose, Point Edward and Errol Village students can attend Northern Collegiate. This would result in St. Clair being too large for an area experiencing declining enrollment. By consolidating students at SCITS which has a lower capacity, the odds are in favour of maintaining a higher more stable utilization rate.

Because St. Clair is due for a Ministry condition assessment this year, capital renewal needs are minimal because beyond 2015, are Board projections. Since the full \$14 million required capital funding application may not be approved for St. Clair, the end result will be a school with much higher renewal needs than that of SCITS.

In the Q&A section of the LKDSB ARC website, I'd like to follow up on a comment made in an answer to question #61

"It is preferable to apply for a consolidation grant with a lower FCI." It is my understanding that Ministry funding is tied to the Condition Assessment Program which shows St. Clair with an FCI of 40% and SCITS with an FCI of 22%. This is where it gets confusing. If a lower FCI is referable, it looks like the Board needs to get SCITS off the inventory list to quantify its reasoning to apply for funding for St. Clair. Why is there such an urgency to do this?

Would it not make more financial sense to close St. Clair, remove \$13 million from the LKDSB backlog and capitalize on the sale proceeds from St. Clair?

Based on an Assessment of the Age and Quality of LKDSB Buildings
SCITS

Based on the Ministry's Condition Assessment Program, in 2014 SCITS had an official FCI of 18.82%% and a comparable FCI of 22%. This is a testament to the quality of the building. Since 2014, SCITS has had capital improvements which would further lower the FCI.

Contrary to what some people believe, SCITS has been maintained. Figures shown on page 10 of the Final Staff Report, indicates SCITS has received approximately \$6 million in capital work since 2003. New HVAC and air conditioning including all classrooms was part of this total.

Built in an era where building material and workmanship were designed to last, her bones are good and solid for her age.

The architectural design and aesthetics are an integral part of the learning environment

The quality of the auditorium speaks for itself with the majority of improvements supported through fund raising, not Board resources.

St. Clair

Based on the Ministry's Condition Assessment Program, in 2011 St. Clair had an official FCI of 37.10% and a comparable FCI of 40.18%. The 40% FCI is unchanged from 2011.

St. Clair has had capital improvements totalling \$2,229,098 since 2003 and currently has a backlog of \$13 million. This demonstrates that the St. Clair site has not been maintained. It too has outlived its 50 year remaining service life and to the untrained eye is evident, unlike SCITS.

Long Term Fiscal Responsibility

There are two secondary schools that require more facility work 2015-2024 than SCITS. Chatham-Kent \$22,848,373 (77% utilization) and Wallaceburg District \$19,639,790 (55% utilization).

SCITS ranks #12 on the FCI (2015-2024)

Top Up Funding Loss by 2018 (pgs. 17 & 18 ISR)

Total of \$1,960,027 for the next 8 phases. SCITS represents 6% of this. SCSS represents 7%. If the loss of funding is such an issue, what about the remaining 87% loss in the next two years, amounting to \$1,704,723?