

SCITS ARC PROPOSAL FOR FINAL REPORT

We (SCITS ARC) have referred to the Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) Initial Staff Report and Pupil Accommodation Report 2015/2016, dated November 24, 2015 recommendations and rationale pertaining to the proposed closure of Sarnia Collegiate & Technical Institute (SCITS) site and consolidating students to the St. Clair Secondary School (SCSS) site.

Under each LKDSB heading (hi-lited), we have provided an agree and a disagree statement to the LKDSB rationale. For the disagree statements, we have provided our rationale.

PG. 6 Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline

Initial Staff Report

Prior to establishing a pupil accommodation review, the initial staff report to the Board of Trustees must contain one or more options to address the accommodation issue(s). Each option must have a supporting rationale.

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The recommendations contained in this report are:

- o made in the best interests of all students regarding more equitable access to programs**
- o made in the interest of maintaining fiscal responsibility over the long term**

OUR RATIONALE FOR SUPPORTING THE ABOVE STATEMENTS

10 Year Renewal/Upgrades/Additions/Enrolment for the SCSS and SCITS:

- Proposed renewals, upgrades and additions to the SCSS building total \$26 million
- Projected 10 year renewal needs for SCITS building total \$17,695,459
- Difference of (\$8.3 million excess) for the SCSS building
- SCITS has an existing auditorium, no need to build one at SCSS
- Based on 10 year enrolment projections the combined school populations will be 1006 students.
- Utilization in 2025 consolidating students to SCSS would be approximately 85% based on current capacity of 1197 OTG capacity
- Utilization in 2025 consolidating students to SCITS would be approximately 96% based on current capacity of 1050 OTG capacity

Conclusion to the above recommendations and rationale:

- Consolidating students will provide more equitable access to programs,
- It is not responsible fiscal long term planning to consolidate students at the SCSS site.

o based on an assessment of the age and quality of LKDSB buildings

OUR RATIONALE TO SUPPORT THE SCITS SITE TO CONSOLIDATE STUDENTS TO

Ministry threshold 35%

SCITS FCI 21.99% Below Ministry Threshold

SCSS FCI ^{31.75%} ~~30.75%~~ Above Ministry Threshold

- The SCITS building has been better maintained so shows minimal correlation between age and quality according to the FCI
- The SCSS building has not been maintained based on the FCI
- Funding applications are based on 5 year renewal needs as set out by the Ministry

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Rationale for Sarnia South Secondary – Initial Staff Report for the Consolidation of St. Clair Secondary School (SCSS) and Sarnia Collegiate Institute & Technical School (SCITS)

Summary of Accommodation Issue for the Schools Under Review

In the City of Sarnia, both SCSS and SCITS are significantly under capacity for student enrolment. In addition the schools are three km apart geographically and their catchment areas border one another. Due to their low enrolment and proximity the LKDSB will be combining the two populations into one building.

AGREE

- The building proposed to consolidate students to should be at the SCITS site

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Summary of Building Services Report Although major repairs have been made to SCITS in the past 10 years to maintain its mechanical systems, the LKDSB would need continue investing heavily in the capital needs of SCITS. It would be extremely difficult to make the necessary improvements to SCITS to become energy efficient due to the age of the building. SCITS is one of the highest consumers of energy at present in our Board. SCSS has a lower FCI and is located on a larger piece of property.

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DISAGREE

OUR RATIONALE FOR DISAGREEING

- The Ministry has funding provisions in place for renewal needs of older schools
- The Ministry is providing a 7% increase to apply to electricity costs
- There are grants available to make buildings more energy efficient
- If/when the proposed renewals and additions occur at SCSS, it will be more equal in size to SCITS and demand the same energy needs
- The water and heat consumption is equal between schools even with SCITS being 24,062 square feet larger. This means SCITS is more efficient than SCSS in this area.

SCITS is one of the highest consumers of energy at present in our Board.

RATIONALE – There is a reason for this:

- SCITS is a larger school than SCSS by 24,062 square feet
- SCITS has a 7,622 square foot auditorium, 1,692 square foot balcony and heated indoor pool
- To have a fair comparison, SCITS should be compared to a school of equal size and amenities
- SCITS has air conditioned classrooms, SCSS does not

SCSS has a lower FCI and is located on a larger piece of property.

DISAGREE

RATIONALE FOR DISAGREEING

SCSS does not have a lower FCI as per Ministry guidelines.

Pg. 17 Ministry of Education, Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline

DEFINITION OF FACILITY CONDITION INDEX (FCI):

A building condition as determined by the Ministry of Education by calculating the ratio between the five-year renewal needs and the replacement value for each facility.

According to the Ministry of Education the FCI formula is as follows:

SCSS $\$13,076,479 / \$32,899,870 \times 100 = 39.75\%$ FCI

SCITS $\$6,496,333 / \$29,536,110 \times 100 = 21.99\%$ FCI

Pg. 6 PARG Consultation November 2014

2) Land use planning/green space – Envisioned to have municipalities and school boards work together to protect green space in growing communities.

With declining enrolment, the LKDSB is not in a district that is growing. Having a larger piece of property does not convert to learning space. There will be no need for expansion based on 10 year enrolment projections at the secondary level. Therefore, this is a moot point.

CONCLUSION:

Based on rationale and research, we (SCITS ARC) agree that SCITS and SCSS need to be consolidated for the benefit of student program accessibility. We are firm in our agreement that the two schools should NOT be consolidated to the SCSS site for financial and facility condition reasons.

Therefore, consolidation of students should be at the SCITS site and the SCSS site should be considered for alternative educational use by the LKDSB or closed.