

PARC 16B - Final Report - Executive Summary

In November 2006 the parents of Ward 5 voiced concern to the Halton District School Board regarding the current configuration of schools in the community. At that time a Program & Accommodation review was proposed to address the issues, quoting the Ministry of Education's mandate that "the education program needs of students must lead decisions concerning buildings and grounds" and that "there is a strong link between the standard of the physical environment and good outcomes, such as better student performance and higher teacher retention".

There were a number of concerns outlined for each school in the community. Overall the key issues were:

- High enrollment and over-crowding in the French Immersion schools;
- Low enrollment and lack of resources in the English track schools resulting in low EQAO and low teacher retention;
- Aging infrastructure in all schools under review within this community of schools (Lorne Skuce, Munns, Sunningdale, Montclair);
- And all existing issues resulting in a less-than-ideal learning environments and reduced opportunities for all the children.

The PARC committee, developed and mandated by the Ministry of Education Accommodation Policy, recommends the following proposal for the Group of Schools in question.

- End state to be (2) French Immersion Schools, grades 1-8.
- The French Immersion boundary to follow existing Secondary school boundary for the French Immersion population.
- End state to be (1) English track school, grades JK-8, combining all three existing English populations.
- A transition plan to be implemented in September 2008, with minimal disruption to the students of all schools.
- A transition plan to be implemented that is as close to our end goal as possible.

Note: The full recommendation can be found in the following document (2 - PARC 16B - Final Recommendations.doc).

Our recommendations are based on the needs of the children and the operational requirements that we agreed to be the best suited based on population, forecasted enrolment and resource needs and allocations. The PARC Committee did not presume to select the sites for the final recommended configuration of schools. This is mainly due to lack of expertise in site or facilities knowledge of the PARC committee members. The HDSB Planning and Facilities department is better suited to make these critical decisions based on their policies and procedures for site selection of schools. Please refer to the site criteria documents in this report that outline the PARC committee's added criteria proposed to meet our requirements for final site selection

When reviewing the PARC 16B report and recommendations, please consider the following points:

- Our focus was on understanding WHAT the issues were and WHAT could be recommended to resolve them, not the specifics of HOW to accomplish.
- This report is NOT a professional consulting exercise. It was prepared by members of the PARC 16B community of schools.
- Responses to any mandated components were done to the level appropriate to this PARC's recommendations.
- If there are errors or omissions this PARC expects that the spirit of the intent is clear
- All data, documentation and research used to form the basis of the recommendations were provided by the Board Staff supporting the PARC PE16B committee.