

February 13, 2009

Mr. Martyn Beckett
Director of Education
Durham District School Board
400 Taunton Road East
Whitby, Ontario
L1R 2K6

Dear Mr. Beckett,

The Central Whitby Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) members have directed us to submit the enclosed "Accommodation Review Committee Report to the Director of Education" on their behalf.

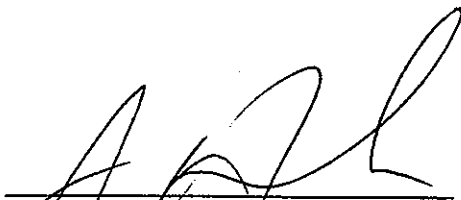
The members appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the first ARC for the Durham District School Board (DDSB). Although there was a great deal of information to consider, as well as many meetings to attend, the journey was fulfilling. Entrusting the future accommodation of students and staff in the Central Whitby area was not taken lightly by this Committee. There was one focus, improving, our students overall learning environment.

Please accept this report for the consideration of the Board of Trustees for the DDSB. We, as a Committee, hope that staff and Trustees find this report to be useful.

As the journey concludes, know that we, as a Committee, are available for further assistance if there are questions or further opportunity for refinement.

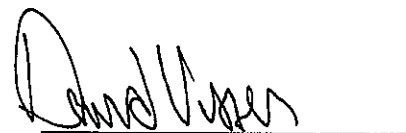
Sincerely,

Central Whitby Accommodation Review Committee



Joe Hircock
ARC Chair

and



David Visser
ARC Secretary

2008-09 ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)
PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW -- CENTRAL WHITBY
JUNE 25, 2008 TO FEBRUARY 13, 2009

REPORT TO: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
 DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT FROM: ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
 -- CENTRAL WHITBY

SUBMITTED ON: FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Section 1 - Purpose

To provide to the Director of Education of the Durham District School Board (DDSB), a school valuation report, as well as recommendations, resulting from the Accommodation Review Committee - Central Whitby's review of six schools that began in June, 2008 and concluded in February, 2009.

Section 2 - Background

2.1 Background of an Accommodation Review Committee Process

2.1.1 During the 1980's and 1990's, the Province of Ontario experienced significant student enrolment growth. Boards across the Province were building new schools/additions to meet these increased needs. However, as the 21st century approached a new phenomenon began to unfold. The need to close/consolidate schools as a result of:

- (1) aging facilities that are in need of significant repair and;
- (2) modifying schools through a combination of building/closure/consolidation to meet the changing enrolment trends.

In the case of the Central Whitby Review Area of the DDSB, these changing trends are represented by areas of continued enrolment growth for specialized programs (e.g., French Immersion (FI), Gifted) combined with Regular Track Programs that are experiencing a declining enrolment trend.

2.1.2 In 2002/2003, in order for the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) to assist School Boards with the assessment of individual repair needs, as well as to obtain a clearer assessment of the overall Provincial need for school building repair requirements, a building condition analysis using the ReCAPP software package was undertaken. To facilitate this analysis, the Ministry engaged a number of consultants to review each component of every school in the Province to determine the state of repair required.

ReCAPP data was reviewed for every school in the DDSB system (and Province-wide). All schools assessed were assigned a Facility Condition Index (FCI). This is the dollar value of repair work needed in each school, as calculated within the ReCAPP system, divided by the replacement value for the school. A high condition index is indicative of growing repair needs in a school. The Ministry of Education assessed any school with an FCI of 65% or greater as Prohibitive-to-Repair (PTR). The Ministry indicated to school boards that capital funding may be available to support the construction of replacement schools for students in buildings deemed PTR.

The ReCAPP analysis had identified the following DDSB Central Whitby schools in need of significant repair:

	FCI Previous (2003)	FCI Current (2008)	FCI Future (2013)
Florence M. Heard Public School	73.96%	88.48%	91.47%
Leslie McFarlane Public School	75.77%	86.53%	113.52%
Palmerston Avenue Public School	65.65%	77.13%	99.82%

2.1.3 In October, 2006 the Ministry of Education introduced the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines, "to provide direction to school boards regarding public accommodation reviews undertaken to determine the future of a school or group of schools." These guidelines are attached as Appendix A.

Essentially, the Guidelines provide a framework for all school boards across the Province to establish individual board policies and procedures surrounding school consolidations and potential closures. The DDSB's School Consolidation and Closure Policy #7113 and Procedure #7113 are attached as Appendix B. This Policy and Procedure had been created and approved by the Board of Trustees of the DDSB and are in accordance with the Ministry of Education Guidelines.

2.2 Establishment of an Accommodation Review Committee

2.2.1 On May 20th, 2008 the Board of Trustees approved the Staff Report to establish an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for Central Whitby. This report is attached as Appendix C.

Contained within this Staff Report, was a Business Case for the consideration of the ARC with the goal to provide the staff and students with the possibility of improving the educational environment located at the three Prohibitive to Repair schools identified above. The opportunity for improvement was provided through a combination of new construction (new school and an addition) as well as the transfer of students located at the older buildings previously identified, to more updated constructed buildings. Through the ReCAPP data, significant repairs were identified at these three facilities. These schools lacked accessibility and specialized classroom space such as science labs, art and music rooms.

In order for the Board to maximize the accommodations best suited to benefit the greatest number of students in Central Whitby, three additional schools were included in the Central Whitby Business Case. Along with the three PTR candidate schools for review, the following schools were included in the Accommodation Review for consideration for enrolment and program moves:

- Captain Michael VandenBos Public School
 - The school currently offers both a Regular Track Program and a French Immersion Program. The school is experiencing significant overcrowding and as such, was included as part of the accommodation review in order to explore solutions to reduce the overcrowding.
- Jack Miner Public School
 - The school currently offers both a Regular Track Program and a Gifted Program. The school is experiencing significant overcrowding and as such, was included as part of the accommodation review in order to explore solutions to reduce the overcrowding.
- Pringle Creek Public School
 - The school operates a single track program; however, it is also temporarily holding students who will be attending the Unnamed Tormina Public School. Once Tormina Public School opens in September 2009, Pringle Creek Public School could potentially provide accommodation for one of the programs within the review area.

The "May 20, 2008 Board Report", (Appendix C) provides more details regarding the program and boundary changes proposed in the Business Case, as submitted to the Ministry (found in Appendix B of the May 20, 2008 Board Report).

2.2.2 Contained within the May 20, 2008 report (Appendix C) was the approved motion of the ARC Central Whitby:

That, the Durham District School Board, approve the establishment of the Accommodation Review Committee as requiring the Committee to review and make recommendations concerning the Central Whitby school accommodation options including school closures and that the Accommodation Review Committee's report and recommendations on the accommodation options be submitted to the Director of Education.

- a. *That, the Durham District School Board approve the Accommodation Review of Pringle Creek Public School.*
- b. *That, the Durham District School Board approve the Accommodation Review of Leslie McFarlane Public School.*
- c. *That, the Durham District School Board approve the Accommodation Review of Florence M. Heard Public School.*

- d. *That, the Durham District School Board approve the Accommodation Review of Captain Michael VandenBos Public School.*
- e. *That, the Durham District School Board approve the Accommodation Review of Jack Miner Public School.*
- f. *That, the Durham District School Board approve the Accommodation Review of Palmerston Avenue Public School.*

2.2.3 The ARC was to have been comprised of a number of school and community members, through an invitation to participate, as outlined below:

- One representative from the Town of Whitby (Mayor or delegate).
- One business representative.
- The principal from each of the six schools.
- One teacher delegate from each of the six schools.
- One non-teacher delegate (i.e., custodian, secretary, educational assistant) from each of the six schools.
- Up to two parent representatives (i.e., School Community Council Members) as selected by the principal for each of the six schools.
- Durham District School Board officials.

The committee could have had a maximum of 32 representatives, dependent upon whether a school selected one or two parent representatives and, whether outside organizations chose to participate. The actual active number of voting representatives was 29, as there was one school with only one parent representative, the Town of Whitby declined participation and, the Business Improvement Association had not replied. A complete list of the committee representatives can be found at the beginning of this report. In addition, two DDSB staff members fulfilled the non-voting roles of Committee Chair and Committee Secretary.

The DDSB's Procedure #7113 regarding Pupil Accommodation Review did not require trustee participation on the ARC. As such, there were no trustee representatives included in the ARC membership.

2.3 Process of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)

2.3.1 The Accommodation Review process consisted of ARC Working Meetings where the ARC prepared materials for presentation at the four Public Meetings. At the Public Meetings, the ARC sought community input into the process. The process that the Committee undertook was lengthy, consultative and detailed. Information supplied to the ARC was posted on the DDSB's Website, under the School Accommodation/ARC Updates link.

The timeline for the Central Whitby ARC is attached as Appendix D. In summary, there were:

- Four Public Meetings
- Public Meeting #1 -- Pringle Creek Public School
- Public Meeting #2 -- Jack Miner Public School
- Public Meeting #3 -- Captain Michael VandenBos Public School
- Public Meeting #4 -- Pringle Creek Public School

These locations were selected for the Public Meetings since the schools were fully accessible.

- Fourteen ARC Working Committee Meetings - all held at the DDSB office.

The working committee meetings provided members with the opportunity to work collaboratively with all stakeholders, including ARC Resource Staff to review data, make suggestions, as well as request additional information.

A summary of the four Public Meeting dates and the purpose of each meeting held is provided below:

- First Public Meeting - Tuesday, September 30, 2008 - Pringle Creek Public School
 - Review of mandate and timeframe of the ARC process.
 - Provision of background information and issues to be addressed.
 - Description of how the generic School Valuation Framework has been customized.
- Second Public Meeting - Wednesday, November 5, 2008 - Jack Miner Public School
 - Presentation of Draft School-Specific Valuation Reports, included community input from first Public Meeting.

- Third Public Meeting - Wednesday, December 10, 2008 - Captain Michael VandenBos Public School
 - Presentation of alternative accommodation options that reflected the best interest of the affected students; also included community input from the second Public Meeting.
- Fourth Public Meeting - Wednesday, January 28, 2009 - Pringle Creek Public School
 - Presentation of draft Accommodation Review Committee Report and Recommendations to the Director of Education that resulted from the consideration of the School-Specific Valuation Reports, the accommodation options, the background information provided to the ARC and community input from all previous meetings.

In addition to the meetings above, on September 16, 2008, the ARC toured each of the six schools in order to understand the layout, location and characteristics of each location.

2.4 Stakeholders' Opportunity to Provide Input to the Accommodation Review Committee

The ARC afforded the public/stakeholders with multiple opportunities for input as well as questions, the options were as follows:

- All public community members were permitted to attend the four Public Meetings to receive information and provide feedback about what was presented at the individual meetings.

The minutes of each of the four Public Meetings are attached as Appendix E. It was encouraging to see the number of community members in attendance at the meetings. (A complete listing of the participants who signed in is attached to each set of the minutes as noted in Appendix E).

- First Public Meeting - 184 Participants Signed In
- Second Public Meeting - 175 Participants Signed In
- Third Public Meeting - 113 Participants Signed In
- Fourth Public Meeting - 44 Participants Signed In
- All public/stakeholders were permitted to attend the fourteen ARC Working Meetings as observers. At breaks during these meetings, as well as through the ARC email and voicemail, the public/stakeholders had the opportunity to provide and receive information.

The minutes of each of the fourteen ARC Working Meetings is attached as Appendix F. Although there were relatively few public stakeholders present at any of these meetings, there was significant feedback received through:

- ARC Email
- ARC Voicemail
- Comment/Feedback Sheets

Specifically, the ARC reviewed all feedback received and provided input and approval for all correspondence sent in reply.

- At the four Public Meetings as well as the fourteen ARC working group meetings, minutes were taken and posted on the Board's Website.
- ARC updates were provided at the ongoing School Community Council (SCC) meetings. This allowed further opportunity for ARC members to provide and receive feedback.

2.5 Resources Available to the Accommodation Review Committee

2.5.1 In advance of the timing required within the DDSB's School Consolidation and Closure Policy and Procedure #7113 (attached as Appendix B), a meeting was scheduled with the ARC on June 25, 2008. The purpose of that meeting was to provide the ARC with background information in preparation for the Accommodation Review. The ARC members were requested to review the compilation of binder information during the summer months. Following their review, the ARC members commenced with the scheduled series of meetings which ran from September 2008 to February 2009.

The information provided to the ARC for consideration, and updated accordingly throughout the process was as follows:

- DDSB Policy on School Closures #7113.
- DDSB Procedures, Pupil Accommodation Review #7113.
- Standard School Valuation Framework.
- Ministry Guidelines, Pupil Accommodation Review.

Overall, resource staff worked collaboratively with the ARC to provide information as requested:

- DDSB May 20, 2008 Report - "Accommodation Review and Establishment of Accommodation Review Committee - Central Whitby".

- The timelines for the fourteen ARC Working Committee Meetings and the four Public Meetings.
- DDSB Policy and Regulation #3313 - School Boundaries.
- DDSB Policy and Regulation #3545 - Transportation.
- Information for each of the six schools under consideration by the ARC Central Whitby review process as identified below:
 - School profiles which included building/property information, Ministry Inventory Data, Facility Utilization Percentages, Facility Condition Index, Operational Costs and Revenues, Community Use, Transportation, Parking and Accessibility.
 - Boundary Maps.
 - Site Plans.
 - Activities.
 - Core and Enhanced Programs.
 - Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Reports - 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.
 - Staffing Summaries.
 - Multi-year Student Enrolment Information.
 - Renewal Maintenance Requirements for the three PTR identified schools, including an updated Facilities Condition Report.
 - Enrolment Projections Rationale.

Section 3 - Analysis

3.1 As outlined in the DDSB Policy: School Consolidation and Closure Policy #7113 (Attached as Appendix B), the ARC was required to consult with the community throughout the process through a series of four Public Meetings. The tasks the ARC was required to accomplish were structured around the presentation of this work at each of the four Public Meetings.

3.2 First Public Meeting

The first Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 30, 2008, at Pringle Creek PS. The goal of this meeting was to:

- Review the Mandate and Timeframe of the ARC process.
- Provide background information and issues addressed.
- Describe how the generic School Valuation Framework had been customized.

The Standard School Valuation Framework, is a 'tool' available to an ARC in order to identify four areas of consideration:

- Value to the student.
- Value to the community.
- Value to the school board.
- Value to the local economy.

The customization process allows ARC members and the community to identify any additional factors which should be considered during an ARC. The customization process also provides ARC members and stakeholders the opportunity to better understand all schools involved with an ARC.

In order to prepare for this first Public Meeting, the ARC met on the following dates. The meeting highlights are as follows:

September 3, 2008

- Reviewed the ARC mandate.
- Reviewed information contained in the ARC binder.
- Reviewed the DDSB approved Standard School Valuation Framework (Attached in Appendix G).
- Reviewed the Customization of the Standard School Valuation Framework (Attached in Appendix G).

September 10, 2008

- Commenced with the Customization of the Standard School Valuation Framework.

September 17, 2008

- Finalized and approved the presentation of the Draft Customized School Valuation Framework for the first Public Meeting.

First Public Meeting

At the first Public Meeting 184 participants signed in. The minutes of this meeting can be found in Appendix E. The Customized School Valuation Framework was presented. Feedback on the Framework and other concerns were raised by participants at that meeting.

At the October 8, 2008, ARC Working Meeting, the feedback from the first Public Meeting was considered. Specifically, each comment for further customization of the Framework was considered and voted on by the committee. The Customized School Valuation Framework was finalized by the ARC.

3.3 Second Public Meeting

The second Public Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2008, at Jack Miner PS. The goal of this meeting was to draft a School-Specific Valuation Report for each of the six schools involved. The development of these reports provided ARC members and stakeholders with the chance to familiarize themselves with all factors that each school provides. This learning process provided insight on the creation of alternative accommodation scenarios for the students in Central Whitby.

In preparation for this second meeting, the ARC met on the following dates. The meeting highlights are as follows:

October 8, 2008

- Commenced the valuation of all 6 schools utilizing the ARC-approved, Customized School Valuation Framework.
- Each group was required to value their school independently, as well as each of the other five schools under consideration of the ARC Central Whitby.
- It should be noted that this meeting lasted four hours, double the usual meeting length.

October 8, 2008 to October 29, 2008

- During this time, resource staff, with the assistance of Watson & Associates, consolidated the 36 valuations (6 groups valuing each of the 6 schools) along with comments, on a single spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is attached within Appendix G.

October 29, 2008

- Reviewed the spreadsheet containing the summary of the 36 valuations.
 - The group then reviewed the comments made for each school and discussed whether or not these comments should be revised to ensure clarity, deleted as not being relevant or, remain as originally stated.
- Approved the spreadsheet for presentation at the second Public Meeting.
 - Each school prepared the presentation material for their individual school. A representative from each school presented five slides which included the ARC's key findings regarding the Value to the Student, Value to the Community, Value to the Board, Value to the Local Economy and, a conclusion.

Second Public Meeting

At the second Public Meeting, 175 participants signed in. The minutes for this meeting can be found in Appendix E. The consolidated school valuation spreadsheet was provided and each school had the opportunity to present school specific slides. The community had an opportunity to provide input on what was presented.

Community input for the ARC's consideration increased as the ARC progressed through its appointed tasks.

3.4 Third Public Meeting

The third Public Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at Captain Michael VandenBos PS. The goal for this Public Meeting was:

- To present alternative accommodation options that reflected the best interest of the affected students.
- To receive input from the community on the alternative accommodation options presented.

In preparation for the third Public Meeting, the ARC met on the following dates. The meeting highlights are as follows:

November 12, 2008

Resource staff and ARC members prepared parameters utilizing Ministry of Education criteria for consideration when developing possible scenarios. The final version of this ARC Accommodation Scenario Criteria is provided below:

ARC PARAMETERS	MINISTRY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3 PTR identified schools- Captain Michael VandenBos - Portables- Jack Miner Portables/Grass- Pringle Creek - Capacity/Grass- Board's Policy to reduce portables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Enrolment trends- Analysis of entire Business Case- Utilization of facility at 80% over 10 years- ARC Process- Non-split class sizes- Bussing- Use of facility- 10 % of kids are in portables- consider site size of addition

- DDSB staff provided the ARC with three Board Staff-developed scenarios for its consideration.
 - Scenario 1 - Was the original Business Case that was prepared for Central Whitby and referenced earlier in this report (Attached as Appendix H).
 - Scenario 2 - Retained the concept of the proposed rebuild at the existing Leslie McFarlane PS site for French Immersion (FI), but contemplated a smaller addition at Pringle Creek PS, while constructing a 10-classroom addition at Jack Miner PS in order to retain the Gifted Program at its current location. In this Scenario, a portion of the FI Program was retained at Captain Michael VandenBos PS.
 - Scenario 3 - Retained the concept of the proposed rebuild at the existing Leslie McFarlane PS site for FI, while retaining a Regular Track Program at this new school. A smaller addition for Pringle Creek PS was presented. A proposed rebuild on the Palmerston Avenue PS site for a dual track school (Regular and Gifted) was also included. Captain Michael VandenBos PS would also continue as a dual track school (Regular and FI).
- These two new scenarios were presented by resource staff having taken into consideration the vast amount of feedback received from the first two Public Meetings, including:
 - Palmerston Avenue PS to remain open.
 - Retain Gifted Program at Jack Miner PS.

- Retain the Regular Track Program at Leslie McFarlane PS.
- Retain Captain Michael VandenBos PS as a dual track school (Regular and FI).
- After breakout sessions and ARC member consideration during the process of possible alternatives, each school provided base information and conceptual outlines for scenarios to be considered by the ARC. ARC resource staff was instructed to prepare the write up and create the multi-year spreadsheet analysis of each of the suggested scenarios.

November 19, 2008

Based upon information generated from the ARC Working Meeting of November 12, 2008, the following scenarios were generated:

Scenario 4 - Proposed by Jack Miner Public School

- Build an FI school on the current Leslie McFarlane PS site and move the Florence M. Heard PS students and the FI students attending Captain Michael VandenBos PS who are not within walking distance of the school to the new FI school.
- Build a 4-classroom addition at Pringle Creek PS and move the Leslie McFarlane PS students to Pringle Creek PS.
- Build a 4-classroom addition to Captain Michael VandenBos PS for FI students within walking distance of the school and relocate Palmerston Avenue PS students to Captain Michael VandenBos PS.
- Construct a 10-classroom addition at Jack Miner PS and continue to operate as a dual track (Regular and Gifted) school.

Scenario 4a Proposed by Jack Miner Public School

- This scenario retained all of Scenario 4, with the adjustment to build a 10-classroom addition at Pringle Creek PS and move approximately half of the Gifted Program from Jack Miner PS to Pringle Creek PS. As a result, the previously contemplated addition at Jack Miner PS (see Scenario 4) would not be required.

Scenario 5 Proposed by F.M. Heard Public School

- Build an FI replacement school on the existing Leslie McFarlane PS site and move the Florence M. Heard PS students and the FI students attending Captain Michael VandenBos PS who are not within walking distance of the school to the new FI school.
- Construct a 4-classroom addition at Pringle Creek PS and relocate the Leslie McFarlane PS students to Pringle Creek PS.

- Build a replacement school at Palmerston Avenue PS for its existing students and relocate the entire Gifted Program to Palmerston Avenue PS. Operate Captain Michael VandenBos PS as a dual track (Regular and FI) school.

Scenario 6 Proposed by Pringle Creek Public School

- Build an FI replacement school on the existing Leslie McFarlane PS site and move the Florence M. Heard PS students and the FI students attending Captain Michael VandenBos PS who are not within walking distance of the school to the new FI school.
- Maintain Captain Michael VandenBos PS as a dual track (Regular and FI students within walking distance) and move all of Palmerston Avenue PS students to this site.
- Construct an 8-classroom addition to Pringle Creek PS for the Leslie McFarlane PS students and approximately half of the Gifted Program from Jack Miner PS.
- Jack Miner PS would operate as a smaller dual track (Regular and Gifted) school.

Scenario 7 Proposed by Palmerston Avenue Public School

- Build a replacement school on the existing Leslie McFarlane PS site and move the Florence M. Heard PS students to the new FI school while retaining a portion of the Regular Track Program.
- Operate Captain Michael VandenBos PS as a dual track program (Regular and FI).
- Build a replacement school on the existing Palmerston Avenue PS site, for the existing students, a portion of the Leslie McFarlane PS Regular Track students, and the entire Gifted Program from the Jack Miner PS.

Scenario 8 Proposed by Leslie McFarlane Public School

- Build a replacement school on the existing Leslie McFarlane PS site for the existing Leslie McFarlane PS students, and move the Florence M. Heard PS students to the new dual track (Regular and FI).
- Build an 8-classroom addition to Pringle Creek PS and move the Captain Michael VandenBos PS FI students, who are not within walking distance, to Pringle Creek PS.
- Captain Michael VandenBos PS would remain as a dual track school.

- Build a replacement school on the existing Palmerston Avenue PS site and for the existing students and move the entire Gifted Program from Jack Miner PS to Palmerston Avenue PS.

Scenario 9 Proposed by Captain Michael VandenBos Public School

- Build a replacement school on the existing Leslie McFarlane PS site, and move the Florence M. Heard PS students to the new FI school, as well as, the Captain Michael VandenBos PS FI students who are not within the Captain Michael VandenBos PS walking distance. Retain the Leslie McFarlane PS Regular Track Program.
- Build an 8-classroom addition to Pringle Creek PS and relocate the entire Gifted Program from Jack Miner PS to Pringle Creek PS.
- Construct a 10-classroom addition to Captain Michael VandenBos PS and move the Palmerston Avenue PS students to Captain Michael VandenBos PS, while retaining the existing Regular Track Program, the FI walking students and a portion of the FI students who are not within walking distance at Captain Michael VandenBos PS.

Scenario 9a Proposed by Captain Michael VandenBos

- This scenario was developed based upon Scenario 9, by retaining only the Regular Track Program and the walking FI students at Captain Michael VandenBos PS. The Captain Michael VandenBos PS FI students who are not within the walking distance would attend the proposed new FI school located on the Leslie McFarlane PS site. This would result in a reduction of the proposed addition at Captain Michael VandenBos PS from 10 classrooms to 4 classrooms.

Based upon the evaluation parameters developed during the previous meeting on November 12, 2008 (found in Section 3.4 of this report), the ARC voted on which of the eleven scenarios warranted further consideration. From this review Scenarios 4a and 6 were retained for further consideration by the ARC. There was a friendly amendment to Scenario 5 creating Scenario 5a. Further, as a result of some communication difficulty Scenario 9b was created. As a result of this meeting, there were four scenarios on the table for the consideration of the ARC, namely Scenarios 4a, 5a, 6 and 9b.

December 3, 2008

- Scenario 9b essentially represented Scenario 4a with a larger addition to Captain Michael VandenBos PS which would eliminate the need for portables after ten years. Scenario 4a would require two portables at the end of ten years.
- As a result the Committee removed Scenario 9b from further consideration.

- Scenario 5a proposed by Palmerston Avenue PS. This scenario adjusts Scenario 5, by splitting the relocated Leslie McFarlane PS students between Pringle Creek PS and the proposed new school at Palmerston Avenue PS site.
- At this time the Committee had Scenarios 4a, 5a and 6 for consideration. Upon review and deliberation it was voted and recommended to present Scenarios 4a and 5a to the community on December 10, 2008 (thereby Scenario 6 was no longer considered).

The scenarios described above are set out in Appendix H.

Third Public Meeting

The third Public Meeting was held on December 10, 2008. At the third Public Meeting, 113 participants signed in. Minutes for this meeting can be found in Appendix E. At this meeting, the two approved scenarios were presented by ARC Members - Scenario 4a was relabeled as Scenario 1 and Scenario 5a was relabeled as Scenario 2 for purposes of presentation to the community. Also the original Board Business Case scenario was presented as a base point, keeping in mind that it had been previously eliminated by the ARC for future consideration.

- In addition to the criteria being presented, the ARC also shared with the meeting participants other considerations the ARC felt were important in their analysis of each of the scenarios and key comments they had heard or received from the local community:

➤ Considerations

- a. Three schools previously identified as Prohibitive-To-Repair due to:
 - i. Significant repair needs
 - ii. Lack of enhanced program spaces
 - iii. Accessibility issues
- b. Site size - ability to accommodate an addition/new school.
- c. Incremental changes to the bussing of students.
- d. Strong, logical Business Case - in its entirety.
- e. Fiscal responsibility, especially in financially difficult times.
- f. ARC Process.

- Community Feedback during the two previous ARC meetings
 - ❖ Reduce portables:
 - Need more green space/play area.
 - ❖ Retain accessibility to specialized programs for students within walking distance of the program(s):
 - People purchased homes in area because of availability of specialized program(s).
 - ❖ Consider building a replacement school and operating it as a dual track (English/Specialized Program) school.
 - ❖ Consider not closing neighbourhood schools.
 - ❖ Use existing school to its full potential.
 - ❖ Improve condition of school for students by constructing a new school facility.
- To this point in the process the ARC had considered thirteen scenarios to attempt to best meet the needs the community had identified.
- Feedback on the scenarios presented by the ARC at the third Public Meeting was highlighted in the minutes for the meeting, not only for the consideration of the committee but also to be reviewed by the broader community through the DDSB Website.

3.5 Fourth and Final Public Meeting

The fourth and final Public Meeting in the ARC process was held on Wednesday January 28, 2009 at Pringle Creek PS. The goal for this Public Meeting was:

- The ARC's draft report will be presented to the public for their input.

In preparation for the fourth meeting, the ARC met on the following dates, with meeting highlights:

January 7, 2009

- The Committee considered and reviewed input received at the December 10, 2008, third Public Meeting.

- Staff provided the ARC with four Community-based scenarios as a result of information received at or after the December 10th, 2008, Public Meeting.
- Community Scenario A was proposed at the December 10, 2008, third ARC Public Meeting. The proposal was to consider the ARC's Scenario 2 amended to include moving all of the Leslie McFarlane PS students and the Jack Miner PS Gifted Program to a rebuilt Palmerston Avenue PS.
- Community Scenario B was proposed via e-mail on December 11, 2008. The proposal was to consider a new FI school at the Palmerston Avenue PS site and a 7-classroom addition at Pringle Creek PS.
- Community Scenario C was proposed via e-mail on December 30, 2008. The proposal was to consider the ARC's Scenario 2 amended to include moving all of the Leslie McFarlane PS students and a portion of the Jack Miner PS Gifted Program to a rebuilt Palmerston Avenue PS.
- Community Scenario D was proposed via e-mail on January 2, 2009. The proposal was to consider the ARC's Scenario 2 amended to include moving all of the Leslie McFarlane PS students and a portion of the Jack Miner PS Gifted Program to a rebuilt Palmerston Avenue PS.
- At the January 7, 2009, meeting the ARC reviewed the Community generated scenarios. Based upon the criteria established, the ARC voted to no longer consider all four Community scenarios for future consideration.
- The ARC agreed to institute a cut-off date of Friday, January 9, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. for any further community input relating to the scenarios. This was communicated on the ARC Website.

January 14, 2009

- The ARC continued its review of community-based scenarios that were received prior to the deadline date mentioned above. Resource staff provided the ARC with six additional community-based scenarios.
- Community Scenario E was proposed via e-mail on January 6, 2009. The proposal was to consider the ARC's Scenario 2 amended to include moving all of the Leslie McFarlane PS students along with the existing Palmerston Avenue PS students to a new school constructed on the Palmerston Avenue PS site. The size of the school was proposed at 392 pupil places compared to Scenario 2 where a 443 pupil place school was proposed.
- Community Scenario F1 was proposed via e-mail on December 17, 2008. The proposal was to consider the ARC's Scenario 2 amended to include moving all of the Leslie McFarlane PS students and the Jack Miner PS Gifted students along with the existing Palmerston Avenue PS students to a new school constructed on the Palmerston Avenue PS site. The proposal also considered an expansion of

the Captain Michael VandenBos PS FI attendance boundary so that the result would be a reduction in the overcrowding at the proposed new FI school on the Leslie McFarlane PS site.

- Community Scenario F2 was proposed via e-mail on December 17, 2008. The proposal was to consider the ARC's Scenario 1 amended to expand the Captain Michael VandenBos PS FI attendance boundary so that the result would be a reduction in the overcrowding at the proposed new FI school on the Leslie McFarlane PS site.
- Community Scenario G1 was proposed via e-mail on January 9, 2009. The proposal was to consider the ARC's Scenario 2 amended to include moving all of the Leslie McFarlane PS students and half of the Jack Miner PS Gifted students along with the existing Palmerston Avenue PS students to a new school constructed on the Palmerston Avenue PS site. The proposal also considered an expansion of the Captain Michael VandenBos PS FI attendance boundary so that the result would be a reduction in the overcrowding at the proposed new FI school on the Leslie McFarlane PS site.
- Community Scenario G2 was proposed via e-mail on January 9, 2009. The proposal was to consider the ARC's Scenario 2 amended to include moving all of the Leslie McFarlane PS students along with the existing Palmerston Avenue PS students to a new school constructed on the Palmerston Avenue PS site. The proposed new school would be smaller at 392 pupil places compared to the proposed school in Scenario 2 which considered a 443 pupil place school. The proposal also considered an expansion of the Captain Michael VandenBos PS FI attendance boundary so that the result would be a reduction in the overcrowding at the proposed new FI school on the Leslie McFarlane PS site.
- Community Scenario H was proposed via e-mail on January 9, 2009. The proposal was to consider the ARC's Scenario 1 amended to include closing Palmerston Avenue PS and moving the students to Captain Michael VandenBos PS. The scenario considered retaining the status quo at Jack Miner PS and reviewing the situation in two years. At that time, the proposal recommended moving the Jack Miner PS Gifted students to a new school in south Whitby.

The Community-based scenarios stemmed from the original two scenarios presented to the community by the ARC at the third Public Meeting on December 10, 2009. As such, community recommendations to expand the FI attendance boundary for Captain Michael VandenBos PS was based on the proposal in Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 to retain an FI program at Captain Michael VandenBos PS for those students within walking distance of the school.

To facilitate the requested expansion of the FI boundaries, ARC Resource Staff made certain assumptions based on their planning expertise. As a result, all of these proposed community-based scenarios considered the inclusion of FI students within walking distance of Captain Michael VandenBos PS as well as those students whose home schools included Col. J.E. Farewell PS, E.A. Fairman PS, Jack Miner PS, Ormiston PS, Palmerston Avenue PS, R.A. Sennett PS, West Lynde PS and Williamsburg PS.

- The ARC members were given an opportunity, within their six groups, to discuss the scenarios presented as well as the two scenarios presented to the community at the third Public Meeting. The groups were to select two scenarios and rank them as the groups' first and second choices for an accommodation solution in Central Whitby.
- Of all of the scenarios considered by individual groups, the Committee selected Scenario 1 (presented at the third Public Meeting) as the top ranked scenario. Four of the groups selected Scenario 1 as their first choice while one group selected it as its second choice. The second ranked scenario was Scenario G2, as selected by two groups as their first choice. None of the groups selected Scenario G2 as their second choice.
- The Chair asked if there was a desire by the ARC to include two scenarios in the Report to the Director. The response back indicated a preference for one scenario only. As such, individual members were requested to vote on whether or not Scenario 1 should be the recommendation in the Draft Report to the Director to be brought forward to the fourth Public Meeting for community feedback.
- There were 29 ARC members in attendance at the meeting. Of the 27 ARC members with voting rights, the vote was 20 to 6 in favour of bringing Scenario 1 forward as the ARC's recommendation for community input. There was one abstention in the group.

The options described above are found in Appendix H.

A summary of how all 23 scenarios outlined in this document compares to the ARC-established criteria is found in Appendix I.

January 21, 2009

- The Committee reviewed the Draft Report to the Director for content and grammar. Through group discussion they made several stylistic amendments and

clarified certain points in preparation for presenting this Draft Report at the fourth Public Meeting in which they expected to receive community feedback on the Report.

Fourth Public Meeting

The fourth Public Meeting was held on January 28, 2009. At the fourth Public Meeting, 44 participants signed in. Minutes for this meeting can be found in Appendix E. At this meeting the ARC's Draft Report to the Director, containing Scenario 1 as its proposed recommendation, was presented to the community for input.

The community was provided with the opportunity to give the ARC feedback, not only at the fourth Public Meeting, but also to provide feedback no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 30, 2009. The community did not provide any feedback that was specific to the contents of the ARC's Draft Report to the Director, or the recommendation contained within. The community continued to express concerns about the Board not closing their local schools.

3.6 Finalizing the Report

Following the fourth Public Meeting held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 the next steps identified in the process were implemented.

- The ARC members met and participated in two Working Committee meetings held on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 and Wednesday, February 11, 2009. At these meetings the Committee met to discuss:
 - February 4, 2009 - The Committee considered input from the Fourth Public Meeting of January 28, 2009. The ARC members discussed community feedback from the fourth Public Meeting. Upon review of the minutes, as well as some further discussion, the ARC did not change the contents of the ARC's Draft Report to the Director of Education. The ARC members, through group discussion, did develop further recommendations to include in their Report.
 - February 11, 2009 - The Committee reviewed the final Report to the Director of Education to ensure that the points raised at the February 4, 2009, meeting had been accurately reflected. They considered the contents of the covering letter accompanying the Report and approved both the Final Report and the covering letter. They directed the Chair

of the ARC to submit the report as approved by them to the Director on February 13, 2009.

3.7 Steps Required Following Report Submission

February 18, 2009

- The DDSB Whitby Superintendent to go to the Director of Education through Administrative Council with the ARC's Final Report. A Staff Recommendation Report will be submitted to Administrative Council which will provide Staff's perspective associated with the ARC Central Whitby recommendation.

March 2, 2009

- The ARC's Recommendation Report and Staff's Recommendation Report to go before the Standing Committee as presented by the Chair of the ARC.

March 23, 2009

- The ARC's Report and Staff Report go before the Durham District School Board for consideration. Public input is received at this Board meeting.

May 26, 2009

- Final approval is reached at the Board Meeting, which is at least 60 days after the initial report on March 23, 2009.

Section 4 - Conclusion

During this ARC process there were fourteen ARC Working Committee Meetings, one tour of all six schools, four Public Meetings, significant community input through emails and voicemail messages and, countless hours reviewing possible solutions that best met the needs of students in the Central Whitby area. In total, 23 scenarios were considered. Based upon the criteria established through the ARC, after the third Public Meeting, only two final scenarios resulted for consideration by the ARC after receiving all public input.

SCENARIO 1

- Construct a 10-classroom addition at Pringle Creek Public School:
 - Close Leslie McFarlane Public School and move the students to Pringle Creek Public School.
 - Relocate part of the Jack Miner Public School Gifted Program (approx. 125 students) to Pringle Creek Public School.
- Rebuild a new 605 pupil place elementary school on the existing Leslie McFarlane Public School site:
 - Close Florence M. Heard Public School which is a single track French Immersion (FI) school and move the students to the new elementary school constructed on the Leslie McFarlane Public School site.
 - Relocate the FI students residing south of Taunton Road, who are outside of walking distance and attending Captain Michael VandenBos Public School to the new elementary school constructed on the Leslie McFarlane Public School site.
- Construct a 4-classroom addition at Captain Michael VandenBos Public School:
 - Close Palmerston Avenue Public School and move the students to Captain Michael VandenBos Public School.
 - Retain an FI Program at Captain Michael VandenBos Public School for students within walking distance.
 - Retain the Regular Track program at Captain Michael VandenBos Public School.
- Continue to operate Jack Miner Public School as a dual track school with a smaller Gifted Program.

SCENARIO G2

In this scenario, the FI attendance boundary for Captain Michael VandenBos Public School contemplates the inclusion of students within walking distance of Captain Michael VandenBos Public School as well as those students whose home schools include: Col. J.E. Farewell Public School, E.A. Fairman Public School, Jack Miner Public School, Ormiston Public School, Palmerston Avenue Public School, R.A. Sennett Public School, West Lynde Public School and Williamsburg Public School. This reflects the area north of Highway 401, east of Lakeridge Road and south of Taunton Road and west of Brock Street up to Dryden Boulevard, turning east to Garden Street then heading north to Taunton Road.

- Rebuild a new 605 pupil place elementary school on the existing Leslie McFarlane Public School site:
 - Close Florence M. Heard Public School which is a single track French Immersion (FI) school and move the students to the new elementary school constructed on the Leslie McFarlane Public School site.
 - Relocate the FI students residing south of Taunton Road **not in the area noted above but attending Captain Michael VandenBos Public School** to the new elementary school constructed on the Leslie McFarlane Public School site.

- Rebuild a 392 pupil place Palmerston Avenue Public School on the existing site:
 - Close Leslie McFarlane PS and relocate the students to Palmerston Avenue Public School.
 - Retain the existing Palmerston Avenue Public School program.

- Retain an FI Program at Captain Michael VandenBos Public School for students within the **expanded attendance boundary noted above** and retain the Regular Track program at Captain Michael VandenBos Public School.

- Relocate half of the Jack Miner Public School Gifted Program to Pringle Creek Public School along with its existing program (would not require an addition).

- Continue to operate Jack Miner Public School with its existing Regular Track Program and half of the Gifted Program.

Section 5 – Recommendations

In accordance with Board Policy and Procedure #7113, the ARC is submitting the following recommendations to the Director of Education for the DDSB as follows:

1. That the DDSB consider Scenario 1 (attached as Appendix J) as a viable option to address the needs of the identified Central Whitby area, as outlined in this report.

Construct a 10-classroom addition at Pringle Creek Public School:

- Close Leslie McFarlane Public School and move the students to Pringle Creek Public School.
- Relocate part of the Jack Miner Public School Gifted Program (approx. 125 students) to Pringle Creek Public School.

Rebuild a new 605 pupil place elementary school on the existing Leslie McFarlane Public School site:

- Close Florence M. Heard Public School which is a single track French Immersion (FI) school and move the students to the new elementary school constructed on the Leslie McFarlane Public School site.
- Relocate the FI students residing south of Taunton Road, who are outside of walking distance and attending Captain Michael VandenBos Public School to the new elementary school constructed on the Leslie McFarlane Public School site.

Construct a 4-classroom addition at Captain Michael VandenBos Public School

- Close Palmerston Avenue Public School and move the students to Captain Michael VandenBos Public School.
- Retain an FI Program at Captain Michael VandenBos Public School for students within walking distance.
- Retain the Regular Track program at Captain Michael VandenBos Public School.

Continue to operate Jack Miner Public School as a dual track school with a smaller Gifted Program.

Section 5 - Recommendations

- 2) **An early step in the ARC process would be to have all members of the ARC visit all identified schools.**
- 3) **ARC to establish deadline dates for receipt of information.**
- 4) **Reduce the amount of time spent on valuation framework and increase the time spent discussing the scenarios.**
- 5) **Dedicate a working session to brainstorm multiple scenarios earlier in the ARC process.**
- 6) **The Ministry of Education provides criteria against which it would be evaluating ARC Business Case proposals.**
- 7) **Make the ARC Website more user-friendly to ease access to information.**

Section 6 - Report Submission

Report Submitted on Behalf of the 2008-09 Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)
Pupil Accommodation Review - Central Whitby - June 25, 2008 to February 13, 2009 by:

Joe Hircock, ARC Chair

David Visser, ARC Secretary