

Primary Class Size Reduction  
Proposed Additions

1 of 3

David Visser, Superintendent of Education/  
Facilities Services  
Martyn Beckett, Director of Education

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the proposed location of additions required to accommodate Primary Class Size reduction (PCS).

2. Background

Further to the reports that the Board received on October 1, 2007 regarding Capital Funding Models, in 2005 the Ministry of Education announced its Primary Class Size reduction plan.

For the purpose of determining PCS space needs, the capacity of each elementary school was recalculated. The Ministry worked with school boards to review the PCS pupil place need for each school. Following the review, staff was provided with a Ministry approved listing of PCS spaces for all elementary schools. Durham District School Board was approved for 2484 spaces or the equivalent of 108 classrooms which generates \$39,200,000.

The Ministry is not requiring boards to use the funding only at the school that generated the allocation. The funds allocated from several schools can be pooled and used to construct an addition at one particular school

3. Analysis

3.1 Even though many schools had 1 or 2 classrooms approved by the Ministry, it is not necessary, or fiscally feasible to construct one or two room additions. Through the fall, staff met numerous times and consulted with various staff to determine where the need and the proposed additions would be most beneficial.

3.2 The following factors were considering in determining recommended additions:

- School capacities
- Facility Condition Index (FCI) for 2005 and 2007, related to RECAPP
- Proposed growth schools and their effect
- Enrolment projections to 2011
- Enrolment trends and utilization based on projections
- Room usage and portable needs
- Prohibitive to Repair Candidate schools
- Number of existing kindergarten rooms (oversized with washrooms)
- Full-time kindergarten enrolment numbers
- Daycare locations and out of area numbers at these schools
- Additions proposed in the Capital Plan
- School site size
- Current number of students per acre
- Washroom capacity at facility where addition proposed
- Portables, Relocatable Classroom Module (RCM) or portapak on site
- Special Education and accessibility needs

3.3 Facilities Services staff, including Construction, Energy, and Maintenance have indicated that the proposed additions can be facilitated, based on preliminary review.

3.4 A total of 17 school additions (87 classrooms), in two phases, is being proposed by staff. The first phase of additions is anticipated to start in the late spring/summer 2008 year. Phase two is proposed to commence construction in the spring of 2009.

It is staff's intention to commence the design of all 17 additions concurrently. The determining factors for an addition to be included in phase I or phase II would be the ease in which an addition can be integrated with the school, the speed at which the design can be completed with school consultation and finally the

construction approval process. All affected schools will be communicated with throughout the process.

3. Analysis (Continued)  
3.4 Continued

The following is a summary of the schools which staff recommend receive additions from PCS funding:

<u>List of Schools</u>	<u>Total Rooms Proposed</u>
Altona Forest PS, Pickering	4
Bellwood PS, Whitby	4
Carruthers Creek PS, Ajax	6
Cartwright Central PS, Scugog	6
Fallingbrook PS, Whitby	4
Harmony Heights PS, Oshawa	4
John Dryden PS, Whitby	6
Joseph Gould PS, Uxbridge	8
Lester B. Pearson PS, Ajax	4
Lord Elgin PS, Ajax	4
McCaskill's Mills PS, Brock	6
Pringle Creek PS, Whitby	3
SA Cawker PS, Scugog	6
Stephen Saywell PS, Oshawa	4
Walter E. Harris PS, Oshawa	6
Westcreek PS, Pickering	4
Winchester PS, Whitby	8

In addition to the 87 classrooms, 30 portables were purchased in the spring of 2007 to accommodate PCS needs. The cost of these portables is also included as part of the PCS spaces.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposed Primary Class Size additions as outlined above be approved.

Report reviewed and submitted by:

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David Visser, Superintendent of Education/Facilities Services

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Martyn Beckett, Director of Education

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