



**Date of Meeting:** 2008 March 25  
**Item #:**

**REPORT TO:** BOARD  
 COMMITTEE

Public  In Camera  
 Public  In Camera

**PRESENTED FOR:**  Approval

**SOURCE:** Administrative Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Karen Dalton, Executive Superintendent of Operations

**SIGNATURE:**

**SUBJECT:** SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE TO THE OXFORD 2 ARC (DRUMBO CENTRAL AND PRINCETON CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

- RECOMMENDATION:**
- 1.0 THAT a new JK-Grade 8 elementary school be constructed on the existing Drumbo school site at 32 Wilmot St. S., Drumbo,
  - 2.0 THAT the students of Princeton Central Public School be accommodated at the new school on the Drumbo site;  
and  
THAT the Princeton Central Public School at 40 Elgin St. E., Princeton, be closed and declared surplus.
  - 3.0 THAT the students of Drumbo Central Public School be accommodated at the new school on the Drumbo site;  
and  
THAT the Drumbo Central Public School at 32 Wilmot St. S., Drumbo, be demolished.
  - 4.0 THAT a Design Committee be appointed for a potential new school(s) and commence its work immediately following the Board's receipt of the report of 2008 March 25. (amended 2008 March 25)
  - 5.0 THAT the Oxford 2 Accommodation Review Committee be disbanded.

- Purpose**
- To receive the Administrative response to the Oxford 2 Accommodation Review Committee's Final Report.
  - To receive the input from the Oxford 2 Accommodation Review Committee as summarized in their Final Report.

**Content** The Oxford 2 Accommodation Review Committee has completed its task to:

"review accommodation issues affecting Drumbo Central and Princeton Central Public Schools"

as recommended and approved by the Board at its 2007 April 10 meeting.

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The ARC Committee completed its process with a final public input meeting on 2008 March 04 after which the final ARC Report was forwarded to the Senior Administration for their response. (Appendix A - Oxford 2 ARC Report)

Senior administration does not support the recommendation of the Oxford 2 ARC. Thus the recommendations listed above are not reflective of the Oxford 2 ARC's report.

Oxford 2 ARC recommended:

THAT a new school be built in the Princeton community and in the Drumbo community to replace the current facilities.

**Administrative Response**

The Senior Administration is unable to support the ARC's recommendation and is recommending action as outlined above for the following reasons:

- a) The business case submitted to the Ministry for Prohibitive to Repair funding has been approved for the amalgamation of students from Drumbo Central and Princeton Central Public Schools.
- b) Amalgamating the students on one site will allow for the accommodation of all students from both schools, and provide the number of students necessary to construct a school with all the program and opportunities as recommended by the Board's standards.
- c) One site allows the construction of a school that will maximize the program opportunities for the maximum number of students.
- d) The Drumbo site has sufficient size to accommodate the new school with the amalgamated population and has both Municipal services of sanitary and water.

The motion to establish immediately a Design Committee for the new school on the Drumbo site is made in an effort to have the design of the potential new school ready in the event that the Board of Trustees decides in favour of the Senior Administration's recommendations to build a new school on the Drumbo site. If the Design Committee awaits the final vote of the Board of Trustees (in 60 days hence), there would be no potential of the design and construction process to be completed for the new school for a September 2009 opening. It is the feeling of the Senior Administration that a two month delay in beginning the work of the Design Committee is not worth the delay of one year to open the new school. It is to be noted that the work of the Design Committee in no way determines the outcome of the final decision of the Board of Trustees. The Superintendent assigned to the Design Committee would explain that the work of the Committee would be the result of the approval of the Senior Administration's recommendation (to offer the possibility of a September 2009 opening), and that, should the recommendations be defeated, the work of the Committee would not be utilized.

Recommendation 6.0 disbands the ARC as per the Thames Valley District School Board's procedure on "***Pupil Accommodation and Facility Organization***". Appreciation is extended to the ARC Committee members and the personnel of the Thames Valley District School who provided an invaluable resource to the Committee. The work completed, the time spent, and the careful deliberations of the members contributes to providing the maximum program opportunities for the maximum number of students.

**Cost/Savings** To be determined upon design completion.

Funding Sources:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • Prohibitive to Repair  | \$4,061,530 |
| • Primary Class Size   | 740,000     |
| • Proceeds from disposition of Princeton Central Public School | T.B.D.      |

**Timeline** Recommendations to be considered by the Board at the meeting of 2008 April 08.

September 2010      Opening of the new school in Drumbo.  
Closing of Princeton Central Public School

**Appendices**      Appendix A      Oxford 2 ARC Report

**REPORT OF THE OXFORD STUDY AREA 2; DRUMBO AND PRINCETON  
SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**March 04, 2008**

**CHAIRPERSON: Graham Hart**

**Recommendations**

In support of the Committee's mandate to respond to the Senior Administration's recommendation, the Oxford Area 2: Drumbo and Princeton Accommodation Study Committee approved the following recommendation on Wednesday, February 13, 2008.

The Committee recommends:

**THAT a new school be built in the Princeton community and in the Drumbo community to replace the current facilities.**

**Background**

The Thames Valley District School Board approved the following motion on April 10, 2007.

**THAT TRUSTEES APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOLLOWING  
ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

- **OXFORD STUDY AREA 2  
DRUMBO CENTRAL, PRINCETON CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

**Oxford Study Area 2:**

**That an ARC be established to review accommodation issues affecting  
Drumbo Central and Princeton Central Public Schools.**

**Given the condition of the current buildings, the fact that the anticipated  
student population could be accommodated in one larger school, and the  
possibility of prohibitive-to-repair funding assisting in building a new school,  
it is recommended that this ARC proceed this year.**

The seven Committee members, representing two school communities, met on the following dates:

Wednesday, June 18, 2007  
Wednesday, October 24, 2007  
Wednesday, November 21, 2007  
Wednesday, January 9, 2008  
Wednesday, February 13, 2008

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Representatives of the Thames Valley District School Board included Trustee Graham Hart who presided over the meetings. Administrative support was provided by Sandra Thornton, Supervisor, Operations Services, Kevin Bushell, Projects Manager, Kaja Havelka, Superintendent of Education, Jim Empringham, Superintendent of Education, Mary Ellen Smith, Superintendent of Education, and Principals Bill Osgerby, Drumbo Central P.S., Cathy Johnston, Drumbo Central P.S., Susan Davis, Princeton Central P.S. and Jim Rivard, Princeton Central P.S.

During the course of its meetings, the Committee considered, discussed and investigated the benefits, issues, concerns and considerations for the Administrative recommendation. The Committee members informed and consulted their respective communities. One individual presented to the Committee and Committee members shared correspondence received. School newsletters included information on the dates, times, and location for meetings of the Accommodation Review Committee.

### **Post-Analysis Senior Administration's Recommendation**

The draft capital plan criteria allowed for a review of the present physical condition of each of the Thames Valley schools. Given the Prohibitive to Repair (PTR) potential, the present physical condition of both Drumbo Central and Princeton Central Public Schools, and the future enrolment projections, it is proposed that pupils could be accommodated in one school.

Senior Administration recommends consolidation of students from Drumbo Central and Princeton Central Public School at a new school. The new school would be constructed on the Drumbo Central Public School site after the demolition of the existing school and would accommodate students from Princeton and Drumbo Central. Princeton Central Public School would close.

Estimated Costing Breakdown for Senior Administration's Recommendation:

Oxford Study Area 2	Estimated Total Cost
New Drumbo P.S. - School Construction	\$6,750,000

\*Includes demolition costs of existing school

During the course of its meetings, the Committee was presented with the options of:

- New School in Drumbo
- New Schools in both Drumbo and Princeton
- New School located between the two communities
- A combined public and separate school in Princeton

The Committee examined:

1. Pre Valuation templates for each school involved
2. Post Valuation templates for the resulting schools in the Senior Administrative recommendation
3. Resource Binder which was copied for each school community
4. Ministry funding and TVDSB expenditures related to school administration, facilities and operations
5. Information on transportation costs
6. Enrolment projections
7. Program Benefits for Students in Elementary Schools of at Least 400 Students

## **Alternatives**

The committee reviewed various options. The building of two new schools with one in each community is reflected in the Committee's recommendation. For a new school to be built between the two communities, it would require the purchase and development of a new site resulting in increased costs. To have a combined public and separate school in Princeton is not a viable alternative at this time.

## **Committee Membership**

### **School**

Drumbo  
Princeton

### **Representative**

Natasha Mahlman  
Cretia Brittain

### **Citizen**

Drumbo  
Princeton

Cindy Dale  
Wendy Kipp

### **Business**

Drumbo  
Princeton

Robbie Savage  
Craig Hunter

### **Municipal Leader**

Township of Blandford-Blenheim Mayor Kenn Howling

### **Trustee**

Graham Hart

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