

**REPORT OF THE MIDDLESEX 1: Caradoc Central, Caradoc North,
Caradoc South, Ekcoe Central, Metcalfe Central Public Schools
SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
2008 April 28
CHAIRPERSON: Sarah Doub**

Recommendations

In support of the Committee's mandate to respond to the Senior Administration's recommendation, the Middlesex 1: Caradoc Central, Caradoc North, Caradoc South, Ekcoe Central, Metcalfe Central Public Schools Accommodation Study Committee approved the following recommendations on 2008 March 4.

The Committee recommends:

- 1.0 **THAT the five schools, namely Caradoc Central Public School, Caradoc North Public School, Caradoc South Public School, Ekcoe Central Public School and Metcalfe Central Public School, remain open, viable, and the hubs of each of their respective communities. (Appendix 1)**
- 2.0 **THAT the current building that houses Caradoc South Public School be demolished except for the existing gym/general purpose room and existing kindergarten room. (Appendix 2)**
- 3.0 **THAT the students of Caradoc South Public School be placed in portables on the existing school property while the existing school is under construction. (Appendix 2)**
- 4.0 **THAT the portion of Caradoc South Public School being demolished be reconstructed at an estimated cost of \$1,700,000 to \$1,900,000 using the Prohibitive to Repair monies that were allocated to the Thames Valley District School Board from the Ministry in regards to Caradoc South Prohibitive to Repair designation in the amount of \$3,200,000. (Appendix 2)**
- 5.0 **THAT the remaining Prohibitive to Repair monies in the estimated amount of \$1,300,000 to \$1,500,000 be redirected to Caradoc Central Public School for the construction of a new gymnasium and general arts/resource room. (Appendix 2)**
- 6.0 **THAT the Thames Valley District School Board enter into discussions with the Munsee-Delaware First Nations to possibly relocate their children from Westminster Central Public School in London to Caradoc South Public School in Melbourne. (Appendix 2)**
- 7.0 **THAT the boundaries of Ekcoe Central and Caradoc Central be reviewed to increase the number of students at Caradoc South Public School to 150-200 students. (Appendix 2)**
- 8.0 **THAT the Middlesex County Public Library, currently located in Melbourne, be relocated into the renovated Caradoc South Public School to create a partnership with the Thames Valley District School Board and be a shared facility for the community and the students. (Appendix 2)**
- 9.0 **THAT the Thames Valley District School Board keep Caradoc South Public School in Melbourne and Metcalfe Central Public School in Adelaide-Metcalfe Township open. (Appendix 2)**
- 10.0 **THAT the Thames Valley District School Board may, if necessary, acquire additional land to rebuild Caradoc South Public School. (Appendix 2)**

- 11.0 **THAT the Thames Valley District School Board review the boundaries of Metcalfe Central Public School to include a new subdivision from Strathroy to increase the student population of Metcalfe Central Public School with an addition to Metcalfe Central Public School if necessary. (Appendix 3)**
- 12.0 **THAT empty pupil places at Caradoc North Public School be filled with transferring some of the French Immersion pupils currently in portables at Colborne Street Public School in Strathroy. (Appendix 4)**
- 13.0 **THAT a principal or custodian be scheduled for one afternoon or evening shift during a week allowing the school to be open for community use thus decreasing custodial costs for those events.**

Background

The Thames Valley District School Board approved the following motion 2007 April 10:

THAT AN ARC BE ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW ACCOMMODATION ISSUES AFFECTING CARADOC CENTRAL, CARADOC NORTH, CARADOC SOUTH, EKCOE CENTRAL AND METCALFE CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

MIDDLESEX:

The regional meeting was held 2007 March 08. It recommended that the Board consider establishing two ARCs for the area. Administration recommends the following:

Middlesex Study Area 1:

That an ARC be established to review accommodation issues affecting Caradoc Central, Caradoc North, Caradoc South, Ekcoe Central and Metcalfe Central Public Schools.

The Draft Capital Plan identified this area as critical for review purposes. Given the available prohibitive-to-repair funding of \$3.2 million and the possibility of serving the anticipated student population in fewer schools including a major enhancement to at least one school, it is recommended that this ARC proceed this year.

The 15 Committee members, representing 5 school communities, met on the following dates:

2007 June 13, September 12, October 24, November 29

2008 January 17, February 13, March 4

The committee drafted its recommendations on Tuesday, 2008 March 4. An additional meeting to provide an opportunity for further public input on their recommendations is being held on Monday, 2008 April 28 at Ekcoe Central Public School at 7:00 p.m.

Representatives of the Thames Valley District School Board included Trustee Sarah Doub, who presided over the meetings. Administrative support was provided by Theresa Glithero and Cathy Bear, Gil Owens (Planning Officer), Kevin Bushell (Projects Manager), Karen Dalton, Executive Superintendent of Operations Services, Paul Tufts, Superintendent of Education, and Principals Ron Van Belois for Caradoc Central, Patricia Jones for Caradoc North, Barb Desjardins for Caradoc South, Sue Bandeen for Ekcoe Central, and Christine Knight-Smith for Metcalfe Central. In addition, Trustees Joyce Bennett, Peggy Sattler, Sharon Peters, Monica Hendrick and Tracy Grant attended meetings.

During the course of its meetings, the Committee considered, discussed and investigated the benefits, issues, concerns and considerations for the Administrative recommendation. The Committee heard from 16 individuals and 4 groups, and received 10 pieces of correspondence.

The Committee members informed and consulted their respective communities through their School Councils, School Newsletters, a common letter home to parents, and specific letters to their community announcing information and public input meetings. Information regarding dates of meetings, the process and public input was communicated by individual school communities and through the Board's website.

Senior Administration’s Recommendation:

The draft capital plan review criteria included seeking opportunities for consolidation into fewer schools to address the learning needs of student populations who would otherwise be served by schools with low and declining enrolment. There are several small schools in this Middlesex County area. Given the Board’s declining enrolment forecasts and limited funding, the students may be better served and accommodated in a consolidated schools configuration.

Senior Administration recommends the consolidation of students from Caradoc South and Metcalfe Central Public Schools. The students would be accommodated at Caradoc Central, Ekcoe Central and Caradoc North Public Schools. It is recommended that an addition be constructed at Caradoc Central Public School to improve program and provide permanent accommodation for the additional students. It is also recommended that portables be placed at Caradoc North and Ekcoe Central Public Schools to accommodate additional students and provide space for instrumental music. Caradoc South and Metcalfe Central Public Schools would close.

Estimated Costing Breakdown for Senior Administration’s Recommendation:

Caradoc Central P.S. ①	Estimated Costs
Addition & Renovations	\$ 3,007,000

① *Renewal costs to be determined during design process*

Caradoc North PS	Estimated Costs
Additional Portables (+3)	\$ 30,000

Ekcoe Central PS	Estimated Costs
Additional Portable (+1)	\$ 10,000

MIDDLESEX STUDY AREA 1	Estimated Total Costs
Caradoc Central PS ①	\$ 3,007,000
Caradoc North PS	30,000
Ekcoe Central PS	10,000
	\$ 3,047,000

① *Renewal costs to be determined during design phase*

The Committee received and examined:

1. Pre Valuation templates for each school involved.
2. Post Valuation templates for the resulting schools in the Senior Administrative recommendation.
3. Background resource materials for individual sections of the templates.
4. Post Analysis Assumptions - All Elementary Schools.
5. Post Analysis Senior Administration’s Recommendation including a cost breakdown.
6. Boundary maps for each of the schools involved in the ARC.
7. Boundary maps for Delaware, Adelaide, Colborne, and Southdale.
8. Site map for Caradoc South.
9. Program Benefits for Students in Elementary Schools of at Least 400 Students.

10. Program Benefits for Students in Elementary Schools Under 200 Students.
11. Answers to questions posed by the committee members.
12. Requests for specific information from the committee members.
13. Five year EQAO data for the five schools.

Alternatives

In addition to the recommendations at the beginning of this report the Committee considered the following alternatives:

- 1.0 THAT Caradoc South Public School close with those students transferred to Caradoc Central Public School and THAT the Metcalfe Central Public School situation be reviewed.
- 2.0 THAT the boundary between Caradoc Central Public School and Delaware Central Public School should be adjusted to ease the student population pressures at Caradoc Central Public School, and to increase the student population at Delaware Central which currently has empty pupil spaces.
- 3.0 THAT gray zones of flexible boundaries be established around urban areas, rather than the Thames Valley District School Board's current inflexible boundaries. This would allow board administration to fluctuate boundaries within these gray zones to make the best use of public school spaces, and without the need for formal boundary review committees.

Committee Membership

<u>School</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Caradoc Central	Sandra Paisley
Caradoc North	Lisa Lutowicz
Caradoc South	Millar Nicol
Ekcoe Central	Flora MacKellar Deller
Metcalfe Central	Jenny Gough

<u>Citizen</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Caradoc Central	Cheryl McFadden
Caradoc North	Dan Smith
Caradoc South	Roxanne McDougall
Ekcoe Central	Mavis Bedford
Metcalfe Central	Rob Langford

Business
 Karen Albrechtas
 Susan Clark

<u>Municipal Leader</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc	Mayor Mel Veale
Municipality of South-West Middlesex	Jeanette McDougall
Municipality of Adelaide Metcalfe	Mayor John Milligan

Trustee
 Sarah Doub