

**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

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**

<b><u>School</u></b>	<b><u>Representative</u></b>
Drumbo Princeton	Natasha Mahlman Cretia Brittain
<b><u>Citizen</u></b>	
Drumbo Princeton	Cindy Dale Wendy Kipp
<b><u>Business</u></b>	
Drumbo Princeton	Robbie Savage Craig Hunter
<b><u>Municipal Leader</u></b>	
Township of Blandford-Blenheim	Mayor Kenn Howling
<b><u>Trustee</u></b>	Graham Hart