

DRAFT REPORT

APPENDIX 'A'

REPORT OF THE OXFORD STUDY 1: *East Oxford and Sweaburg Public Schools*
SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
2008 May 07
CHAIRPERSON: Graham Hart

Recommendations

In support of the Committee's mandate to respond to the Senior Administration's recommendation, the Oxford Study 1: East Oxford and Sweaburg Public Schools Accommodation Study Committee approved the following recommendations on 2008 May 07.

The Committee recommends:

THAT Sweaburg Public School remain open as a viable school in Sweaburg.

THAT the Board provide to the Sweaburg community an opportunity to present results of The Township of South West Oxford and Sweaburg Public School Partnership Study prepared by the Township of South-West Oxford. (see Appendix B)

THAT the Board receive the Township of South-West Oxford's Draft Resolution and consider future partnerships across the district. (see Appendix C)

THAT should Thames Valley District School Board vote against the Accommodation Study Committee's recommendations and consolidate East Oxford and Sweaburg Public Schools, the Board's administration will discuss with the community issues pertaining to program enhancements, transportation, facility upgrades and, student programming and supports, including additional washrooms, emergency exits in the gymnasium, and reconfiguration of the main office to allow for enhanced security.

Background

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

1. THAT TRUSTEES APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOLLOWING ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Oxford Study Area 1: East Oxford Central and Sweaburg Public Schools

OXFORD:

Postponed because of weather from its scheduled date of 2007 March 05, this regional meeting was held on 2007 March 19. It recommended that the Board consider establishing three ARCs for the area listed below. Administration recommends the following:

Oxford Study Area 1:

That an ARC be established to review accommodation issues affecting East Oxford Central and Sweaburg Public Schools.

The closure of Sweaburg Public School with its very small enrolment of JK-3 students was formally proposed through the draft Capital Plan. Given the current and anticipated enrolment of that school and given that its pupils could be accommodated at East Oxford Central Public School without an addition, *it is recommended that this ARC proceed this year.*

The six (6) committee members, representing two school communities, met on the following dates:

Wednesday, 2007 November 07
 Wednesday, 2007 November 28
 Thursday, 2008 January 17
 Wednesday, 2008 February 13
 Wednesday, 2008 March 05
 Wednesday, 2008 May 07

The committee finalized their recommendation on Wednesday, 2008 May 07. An additional meeting has been set within 30 days following to provide an opportunity for further public input on their recommendation. That meeting is being held on Wednesday, 2008 June 04 at 7:00 p.m. at Sweaburg United Church.

Representatives of the Thames Valley District School Board included Trustee, Graham Hart, who presided over the meetings. Administrative support was provided by Susan Livesey, Secretarial Assistant to the Superintendent of Education; Gil Owens, Planning Officer; Bill Tucker, Director of Education (former Superintendent of Education), and Principal Linda Baker. In addition, Vice-Chairperson/Trustee James Stewart and Superintendent Lynne Griffith-Jones 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 seven (7) presentations from individuals and one (1) group presentation. The committee received three (3) correspondence letters.

The Committee members informed and consulted their respective communities. Monthly school newsletters and school signage included reminders about upcoming meetings.

Post-Analysis Senior Administration’s Recommendation

The draft capital plan criteria included reviewing unique situations and programs as well as identifying opportunities for consolidating future students into fewer schools.

Senior Administration recommends that students currently at Sweaburg be consolidated at East Oxford. Minor renovations at East Oxford would provide space for an instrumental program. Sweaburg Public School would close.

Estimated Costing Breakdown for Senior Administration’s Recommendation:

Oxford Study 1	Estimated Total Cost
East Oxford Central Public School - Renovations	\$50,000

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. Boundary maps for each of the schools involved in the ARC
4. Independent Procedure - Pupil Accommodation and Facility Organization
5. Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Template Definitions / Parameters / Component Value Factor Guidelines
6. Resource Binder Contents Summary
7. Post-Analysis Senior Administration’s Recommendation
8. Enrolment and OTG for East Oxford and Sweaburg Public Schools
9. Presentation by Gil Owens on East Oxford and Sweaburg boundaries
10. Thames Valley District School Board Enrolment - Actual Enrolment 1998-1999 to 2007-2008 (FTE) and Projected Enrolment 2008-2009 to 2012-2013 (FTE)

Committee Membership

<u>School</u>	<u>Representative</u>
East Oxford Central	Ronnie Zivcic

Sweaburg Central

Randy Silverthorne

Citizen

East Oxford Central
Sweaburg Central

Representative

Rob Harris
Rob Dempsey

Business

Jakeman's Maple Products

Representative

Bob Jakeman

Municipal Leaders

Township of South-West Oxford

Representative

Jay Heaman

Trustee

Graham Hart

BT/sl
2008 May 07

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The Township of South West Oxford & Sweaburg Public School Partnership Study

The future of Sweaburg Public School, the last remaining school in South West Oxford Township is once again up for review for closure by the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB). The school has continued in spite of the threat of closure as early as 1978. The school provides a social network for not only the students but also the entire SWOX community.

Your Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) of East Oxford & Sweaburg Public Schools, along with the support of the SW Oxford Township sees an opportunity to partner with the TVDSB to create a sustainable presence in your community. We are asking you if you support this approach, and if so, to what degree.

This building is so much more than just a school. The grounds continue to provide the community with an ice rink in the winter, practice fields, playground, and a meeting place for young and old. This facility is a place to learn, care, socialize, be active, vote, promote health, and with your help can be so much more. But this is up to you, the residents of South West Oxford Township.

To find out more about the Sweaburg and East Oxford School study, please visit <http://www.tvdsb.on.ca/areastudy/arc/oxford1.shtml>

Your answers to the following questions are pivotal to the future of Sweaburg Public School

1. How long have you been a resident of South West Oxford Township (SWOX)?
(Please circle one)
0-5 yrs 6-10 yrs 11-15 yrs 15yrs and more

2. How important do you believe it is to have a school in our Township?
(please rate from 0 to 5, zero being not important and 5 being very important)
0 1 2 3 4 5

3. How significant was the presence of a community school in your decision to locate in SWOX?
(please rate from 0 to 5, zero being not significant and 5 being very significant)
0 1 2 3 4 5

4. Have you or any of your family attended Sweaburg Public School?

Yes No

5. In the past, have you been frustrated by the possible closing of Sweaburg Public School?

Yes No

Has this threat impacted your decision to send your child to Sweaburg Public School?

Yes No

6. Are you in favour of sharing the school facilities with the community for local services and/or events?

Yes No

7. Are you willing to support a shared arrangement between the Municipality and the School Board through the use of existing tax dollars?

Yes No

Comments:

Name (optional):

Address (optional):

Please mail completed survey by June 1 2008 to:
Township of South West Oxford Attn: ARC SURVEY
312915 Dereham Line
R. R. # 1
Mt. Elgin, On N0J 1N0

Alternatively, you can drop survey off at Sweaburg Daisy Mart.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Township of South-West Oxford

WHEREAS there are schools in the Township of South-West Oxford that are part of the public school system and that are currently or may in the future be under review for possible closure;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of South-West Oxford is concerned about the impact that the closure of these schools as centres of social, cultural and recreational activity would have on the communities in which they are situated;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of South-West Oxford supports the concept that the municipal and educational sectors should work together to maintain and develop the role of schools as community hubs for social, cultural and recreational activity in addition to their traditional educational functions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that

- 1) The Minister of Education be requested to investigate ways to promote community partnerships in the use of school facilities.
- 2) The Minister of Education be requested to review its funding policies for school facilities so that surplus school space may be used by community partners (with funding from the community partner) and the space so used not included as surplus/vacant space in the determination of occupancy rates in a way that negatively affects funding for school facilities and thereby promotes school closures.
- 3) That the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) be requested to study the development of community partnerships in the use of school facilities from the municipal perspective and look for ways to maintain and enhance the role of schools as centres for community social, cultural, recreational and other activities.
- 4) That the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford support the concept that community partnerships for the use of school facilities be developed that are:
 - a) Sustainable,
 - b) Beneficial to local communities,
 - c) And will achieve efficiencies and cost savings when considered from the perspective of the community as a whole.