



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board

FROM: John Forbeck, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board

RE: **Haldimand Secondary School Accommodation Review – Committee Report**
Haldimand Secondary School Accommodation Review – Senior Administration Report

DATE: June 9, 2014

Recommended Action: It was moved by _____, seconded by _____
 THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Haldimand Secondary School
 Accommodation Review – Committee Report as information.

Recommended Action: It was moved by _____, seconded by _____
 THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Haldimand Secondary School
 Accommodation Review – Senior Administration Report as information.

Recommended Action: It was moved by _____, seconded by _____
 THAT the Grand Erie District School Board receive the Haldimand Secondary School
 Accommodation Review – Committee Report and Senior Administration Report for consideration
 at the Committee of the Whole #2 meeting in November 2014.

Background Information

These reports were prepared in accordance with Policy FT5 Pupil Accommodation Reviews.

Respectfully submitted,

John Forbeck
 Director of Education and Secretary



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: John Forbeck, Director and Secretary

FROM: Haldimand Secondary School Accommodation Review Committee

RE: **HALDIMAND SECONDARY SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW – COMMITTEE REPORT**

DATE: June 4, 2014

*This report is submitted to the administration of the Board
in accordance with Policy FT 5.*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Haldimand Secondary School Accommodation Review Committee was established to ensure viable school organizations are consistent with available funding, efficient use of school buildings and appropriate accommodation and programming for students in Haldimand County secondary schools. The schools included in the review are Cayuga Secondary School, Dunnville Secondary School, Hagersville Secondary School and McKinnon Park Secondary School.

A review of all buildings, utilization, and capital investments was completed by the Board's Quality Accommodations Committee. The Quality Accommodations Committee determined the long-term enrolment projections for the four Haldimand secondary schools. The current utilization is 69% which calculates 1,011 surplus spaces), the 5 year projected utilization is 62% and the 10 year projected utilization is 55%. Also reviewed were future utilization, renewal, and capital costs.

Throughout the process, all information presented to the Haldimand Secondary School Accommodation Review Committee was available at the schools involved in the review and on the Board's website.

Demographic school profiles were completed for each of the four schools that included:

- five year enrolment history
- percentage of student population bused
- number of portables
- gymnasiums, library, accessibility (stages)
- number of students attending that are not in the school's catchment area
- number of students from the school's catchment area attending other Grand Erie District School Board schools
- five year projected enrolment
- Ministry rated capacity of the school
- facility upgrades identified over the next five years
- well or septic systems

School valuation templates were completed for each of the schools that included:

- value of the school to the student
- value of the school to the community
- value of the school to the school system
- value of the school to the local economy

Phases of the review included:

- public review
- public consultation period (90 days)

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

Brian Doyle – Trustee (Chair), Arlene Everets - Trustee, Marion Macdonald – Trustee, Andy Nesbitt - Superintendent of Education, Anthony Whitman - OSSTF, Lynn Dunstall – CUPE, Greg Carruthers – Principal, Cayuga Secondary School, David MacDonald, Acting Principal, Dunnville Secondary School, Leanne Majerovich, Principal, Hagersville Secondary School, Darren Duff, Principal, McKinnon Park Secondary School, Angela Cnossen, Parent Representative, Cayuga Secondary School, Carolyn O’Connor-McDaid, Parent Representative., Dunnville Secondary School, Brenda Lofthouse, Parent Representative, Hagersville Secondary School, Kim Zeller, Parent Representative, McKinnon Park Secondary School, Lorne Boyko, Municipal Councillor, Haldimand County, Jenny Bryce, Chamber of Commerce Representative

OTHER PERSONNEL:

John Forbeck - Director of Education, Jamie Gunn - Superintendent of Business, Dave Abbey – Assistant Superintendent of Education, Shawn McKillop, Public Relations Officer, Michelle O-Reilly – Planning Officer, and Heather-Jo Causyn, Recording Secretary

DATES AND LOCATIONS OF MEETINGS:

- November 21, 2013 Cayuga Secondary School
- January 22, 2014 McKinnon Park Secondary School
- March 5, 2014 Dunnville Secondary School
- March 25, 2014 Hagersville Secondary School
- April 9, 2014 McKinnon Park Secondary School (Delegations)
- April 30, 2014 Cayuga Secondary School
- May 15, 2014 Dunnville Secondary School

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION FROM SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

- seek partnerships to create shared use of schools
- remove surplus space from school buildings
- review attendance boundary areas to direct more students to underutilized schools
- close Cayuga Secondary School or Hagerville Secondary School or Dunnville Secondary School and re-direct students to underutilized schools
- develop programming to attract additional students

DELEGATIONS:

The following delegations from community members and interested stakeholders were heard:

Don Flicker, Parkway Day Care Centre
Pat Hyslop, Cayuga Gymnastics Club
Rob Phillips, Community Member
Sarah Compton, Staff Member of Hagersville Secondary School
Melissa Turner, Staff Member of Hagersville Secondary School
Robert Phillips, President of the Hagersville & District Chamber of Commerce
Melissa Turner, Staff Member of Hagersville Secondary School
Melissa Turner, Staff Member of Hagersville Secondary School
Bernie Corbett, Community Member*
Christine Schweyer, Student at Hagersville Secondary School
John Edelman, President of Cayuga and District Chamber of Commerce, President of Haldimand Motors, President of Blue Barn Furnishings
Shayna Chang, Student at Cayuga Secondary School
Hayden Fox, Student at Cayuga Secondary School
Karen Sandy, Community Member
*Denotes read by B. Doyle in Mr. Corbett's absence.

Letters were provided from:

Dwayne Whiting
Jill Morrison

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE:

The Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) has identified over-arching recommendations that encompasses all secondary schools in Haldimand County, as well as recommendations for each school in the review.

1. Appoint a Grand Erie staff member(s) to investigate and be the primary contact with potential partners for Haldimand high schools. The purpose of this process is to attract, co-ordinate and manage potential partnerships.
2. Investigate partnerships with post-secondary institutions. Some examples could include, but are not limited to: Mohawk College, Fanshawe College, and McMaster University.
3. Investigate partnerships with daycare providers who would utilize excess pupil space in Haldimand Secondary Schools.
4. Investigate the development of trades/apprenticeships centres to be located in Haldimand secondary schools where space is available.
5. Identify a potential secondary school site with available space for the students currently in the French Immersion Dual Track program at Caledonia Centennial Public School.
6. School based staff work together to promote programs in Haldimand schools that will attract students who are residents of Six Nations and New Credit.
7. Initiate an advocacy plan to the Ministry of Education to recognize Tuition Agreement Students to assist in capital funding.

Recommendations for Each School in the Accommodation Review:

Cayuga Secondary School (CSS)

1. School will remain open.
2. Investigate partnership with Haldimand County to explore the possibility of a library being located in CSS.
3. Investigate developing a focus program in the agricultural sector.
4. Investigate a partnership with Mohawk College (any post-secondary institution) to locate a training centre on site.

Dunnville Secondary School (DSS)

1. School will remain open.
2. Right-size DSS by removing classroom space that will not include the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Relocate the library inside the footprint of the building to reduce pupil spaces.
3. Investigate developing a focus program in the agricultural and the health and wellness sectors.

Hagersville Secondary School (HSS)

1. School will remain open.
2. Investigate partnership with West Haldimand General Hospital to determine if they would have a need to utilize excess pupil space at HSS.
3. Explore offering programs in the health and wellness sector and examine possible Specialist High Skills Major connections.
4. Investigate partnerships with daycare providers who would utilize excess pupil space in HSS.
5. Investigate enhancing a sports focus program (i.e. lacrosse).
6. Explore opportunities for partnerships with:
 - a) agencies that support pregnant teens
 - b) Artist in Residence
 - c) the agriculture sector
7. Host summer school programming at the school.

McKinnon Park Secondary School (MPSS)

1. School will remain open.
2. Initiate a review to explore reducing the number of portables at MPSS.

APPENDICES:

- Appendix A - Minutes of meetings - attached
- Appendix B - School Valuation templates - attached
- Appendix C - Data presented – attached
- Appendix D - Written submissions from Delegations - attached

Respectfully submitted,

Haldimand Secondary School
Accommodation Review Committee



GRAND ERIE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

TO: John Forbeck, Director of Education & Secretary

FROM: Executive Council

RE: **Haldimand Secondary Accommodation Review**

DATE: June 9, 2014

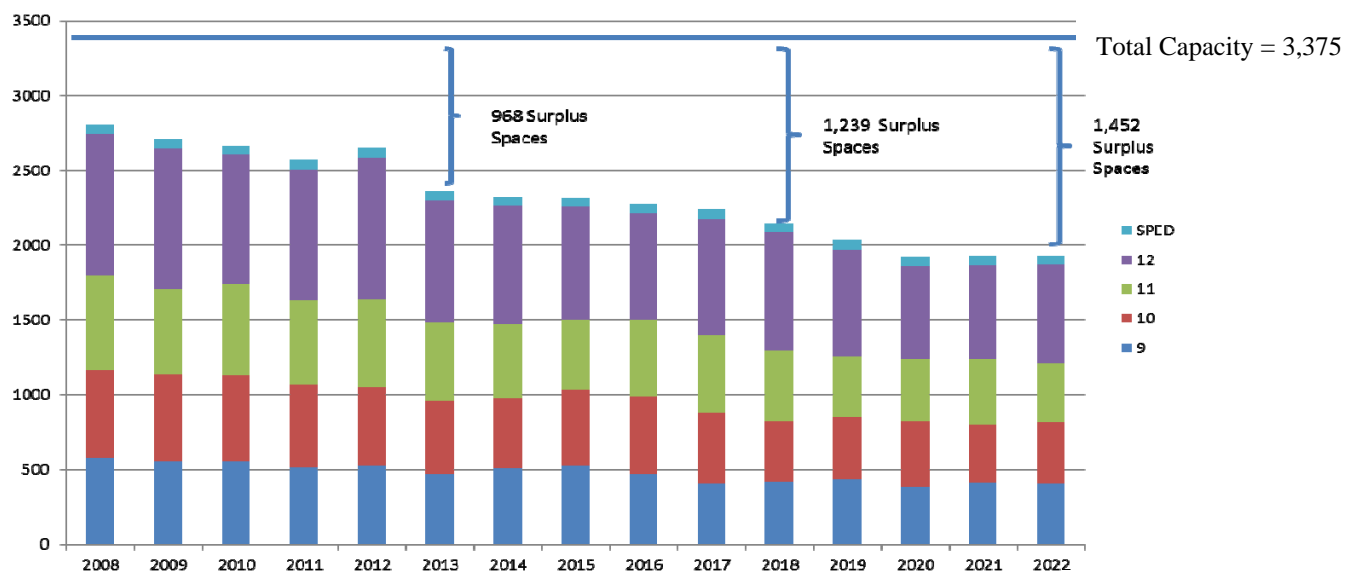
Recommended Action: It was moved by _____ Seconded by _____
 THAT the Grand Erie District School Board

1.0 Background:

Following the recommendation of the Quality Accommodations Committee, the Board initiated the review of student accommodation in the Haldimand Secondary Review area. The schools in the review area met the criteria set out in Pupil Accommodation Review Policy FT5. Specifically, one or more of the schools in the review area are operating below 75% of the Ministry rated capacity (OTG); the student population in the area is projected to decline or there is no projected growth for the schools that are more than 25% under their student capacity and; the viability of the operation of some of the schools from a program perspective is in question.

Declining birth rates have proven to generate smaller cohorts in the elementary schools that feed Haldimand's secondary schools. This has resulted in declining secondary school enrolment in recent years with the decline expected to continue into the foreseeable future. The following table (Figure 1) demonstrates the effect of the enrolment decline on Grand Erie's secondary enrolment in Haldimand County.

Figure 1 – Projected Enrolment in Haldimand Secondary Schools

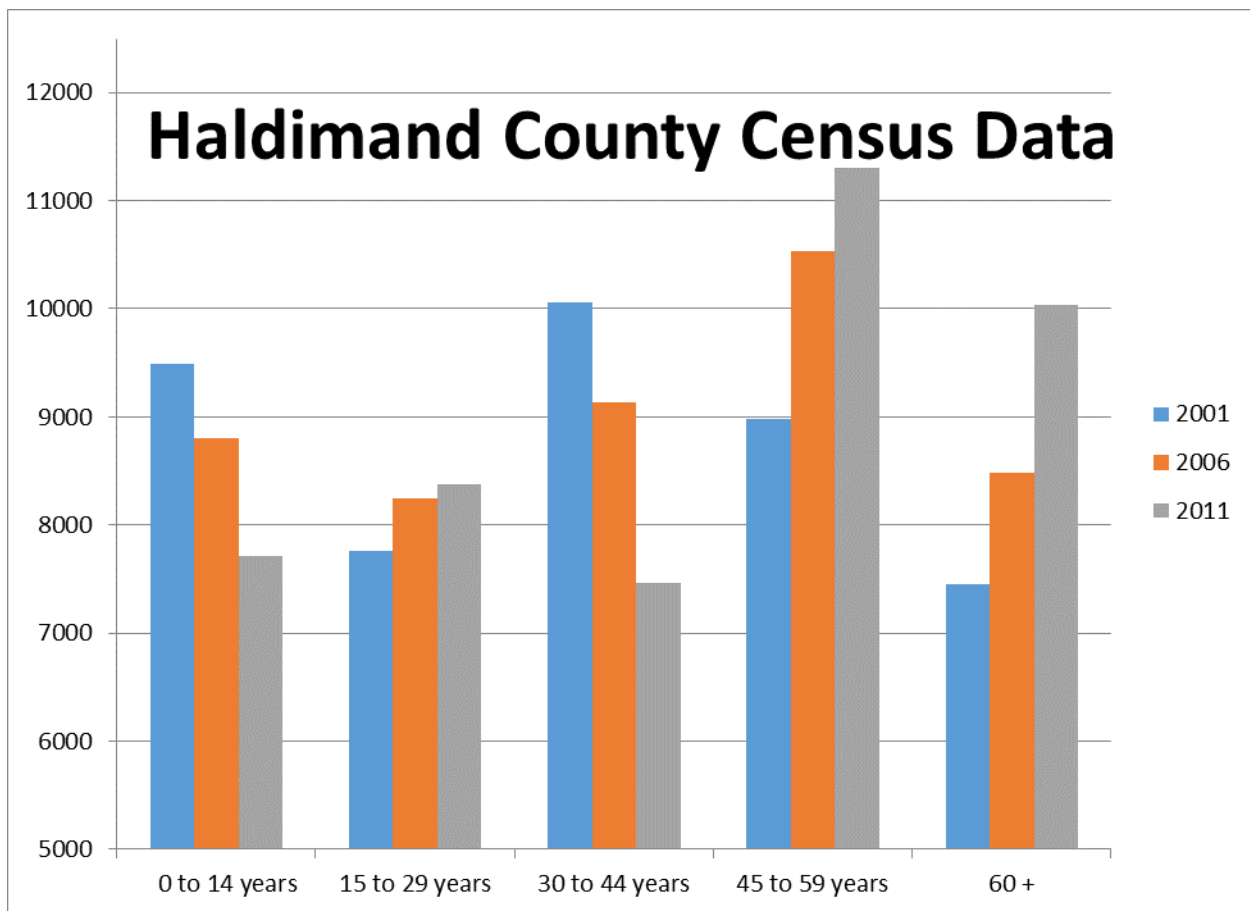


The October 2013 actual enrolment was 2,407 compared to Ministry rated capacity of 3,375 leaving 968 surplus spaces. When you follow the cohorts currently in the elementary feeder schools through the Haldimand secondary schools, the surplus space is expected to increase by another 484 to 1,452 in ten years (once the current JK students transition to grade 9).

Statistics Canada Census data confirms the decline in the school aged population in Haldimand County. Between the 2001, 2006, and 2011 census reports that the population of children (ages 0 – 14) in Haldimand County declined by 1,770 or 18.66%. (See Figure 2 below).

More troubling for future school enrolment is the decline in persons aged 30 to 44 in Haldimand County as reported by Statistics Canada. The population in this age group, who are the parents of most of our elementary students, declined by 2,600 or 25.8% in Haldimand County between 2001, 2006, and 2011. Total population in Haldimand County is up 1,150 or 2.6% between 2001 and 2011 with the majority of the growth in persons aged 45 and over.

Figure 2



Quality Accommodation Data, Statistics Canada Census and actual enrolment in the Haldimand elementary schools that feed the secondary schools all confirm the issue at hand. Failing a population boom of young families in Haldimand County, our secondary schools face a sustained decline in enrolment that will increase the number or surplus pupil spaces from just under 1,000 to over 1,400 in the next ten years.

2.0 Accommodation Review:

The Pupil Accommodation Review Policy requires Board administration to share the Board's data and at least one student accommodation recommendation option with the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). Administration carefully considered its recommendations guided by the belief that the Accommodation Review process should consider the following key factors in providing quality accommodations for all students.

- **Program needs** – consider organizing schools with enough students to provide programs with expert staff, utilizing space for efficiency.
- **Aging Buildings** – many GEDSB schools were built prior to the 1960's. The board has a backlog of deferred renewal needs for our current buildings. Schools built 50 years ago or more may not be equipped to offer optimum learning spaces for the classroom of 2011. Focusing scarce capital resources where it best impacts learning is an important outcome of the ARC process.
- **Declining enrolment** – while the implementation of full day learning for kindergarten students has reduced the rate of decline, our elementary schools have suffered from a decade of declining enrolment. This decline is will continue to affect secondary schools for the foreseeable future. Recommending the right sized school to serve the community now and into the future is a key goal.
- **Pressures in both operating and capital funding** – Operations funding is enrolment based. Heating, cleaning and maintaining under-used schools uses funding that could be directed for more supports and better program for students. Schools occupied at less than capacity make funding maintenance and upgrades challenging by spreading the capital resources thinly.

3.0 Options presented by administration for ARC consideration and discussion points.

Administration presented the following options at the second meeting of the committee as discussion points for consideration.

- **Right size capacity at underutilized schools by finding suitable partners to occupy and pay for unused space or removal of portions of the school building where appropriate**
 - Not all partners are suitable for shared occupancy of a secondary school building.
 - Some shared uses are possible i.e. the County Public Library within a school also acting as the school library.
- **Change attendance boundaries to direct more students to underutilized schools**
 - While attendance boundaries should be reviewed as part of any recommendation, changing boundaries will not resolve the net surplus space issue. i.e. We could remove all of the portables from McKinnon Park Secondary and still have the same amount of surplus space because the portable classrooms are not considered in the total school accommodation capacity.
 - Changing boundaries alone will only shuffle the amount of surplus space between schools. Other options should be considered along with boundary reviews.

- **Close Cayuga Secondary or Hagersville Secondary or Dunnville Secondary and re-direct students to underutilized schools**
 - No single remaining school could accommodate the full population of any of the proposed schools so student communities would be split.
 - The separate school board could acquire any closed building to establish a catholic secondary school in Haldimand. This would certainly result in further decline in public secondary enrolment at remaining schools.
- **Develop programming to attract additional students to Haldimand Schools.**
 - Increase share of school aged population attending Grand Erie schools by attracting students currently attending separate schools and private schools or crossing into Niagara or Hamilton to attend secondary school.

4.0 Accommodation Review Committee Recommendations:

A complete report from the ARC committee along with copies of written delegations, minutes and all data presented at the committee meetings is provided to the Board of Trustees in a separate report.

The Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) has identified over-arching recommendations that encompasses all secondary schools in Haldimand County, as well as recommendations for each school in the review.

4.1 Haldimand Secondary School Recommendations

1. Appoint a Grand Erie staff member(s) to investigate and be the primary contact with potential partners for Haldimand high schools. The purpose of this process is to attract, co-ordinate and manage potential partnerships.
2. Investigate partnerships with post-secondary institutions. Some examples could include, but are not limited to: Mohawk College, Fanshawe College, and McMaster University.
3. Investigate partnerships with daycare providers who would utilize excess pupil space in Haldimand Secondary Schools.
4. Investigate the development of trades/apprenticeships centres to be located in Haldimand secondary schools where space is available.
5. Identify a potential secondary school site with available space for the students currently in the French Immersion Dual Track program at Caledonia Centennial Public School.
6. School based staff work together to promote programs in Haldimand schools that will attract students who are residents of Six Nations and New Credit.
7. Initiate an advocacy plan to the Ministry of Education to recognize Tuition Agreement Students to assist in capital funding

4.2 School Recommendations

Cayuga Secondary School (CSS)

1. School will remain open.
2. Investigate partnership with Haldimand County to explore the possibility of a library being located in CSS.
3. Investigate developing a focus program in the agricultural sector.
4. Investigate a partnership with Mohawk College (any post-secondary institution) to locate a training centre on site.

Dunnville Secondary School (DSS)

1. School will remain open.
2. Right-size DSS by removing classroom space that will not include the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Relocate the library inside the footprint of the building to reduce pupil spaces.
3. Investigate developing a focus program in the agricultural and the health and wellness sectors.

Hagersville Secondary School (HSS)

1. School will remain open.
2. Investigate partnership with West Haldimand General Hospital to determine if they would have a need to utilize excess pupil space at HSS.
3. Explore offering programs in the health and wellness sector and examine possible Specialist High Skills Major connections.
4. Investigate partnerships with daycare providers who would utilize excess pupil space in HSS.
5. Investigate enhancing a sports focus program (i.e. lacrosse).
6. Explore opportunities for partnerships with:
 - a. agencies that support pregnant teens
 - b. Artist in Residence
 - c. the agriculture sector
7. Host summer school programming at the school.

McKinnon Park Secondary School (MPSS)

1. School will remain open.
2. Initiate a review to explore reducing the number of portables at MPSS.

5.0 Executive Council Review of the ARC Committee Recommendations:

Keeping all four Haldimand Secondary Schools Open – for the reasons already discussed in this report, closing any of the Haldimand secondary schools may cause a further erosion of the secondary school population in Haldimand County. Many participants of the ARC meetings told us how important each school is to the students, the community and to the local economy. It seems apparent that one of the important pieces to keeping these building viable and open is to find appropriate partners to become tenants in the schools. The community can be of assistance in helping the County and other partners understand the need to come to the table willing to consider new community uses for these facilities. Without major partners, it may be impossible to keep all four schools open in the future.

Enhancing programing has been suggested in a number of the committee recommendations. This will produce positive change for the schools and their students. The enhanced programming will likely attract some of the Haldimand students who currently attend the separate board, a private school or travel to Hamilton or Niagara. However, the numbers of students who might migrate to a Grand Erie secondary school are not expected to be significant. The ARC received data showing that Haldimand Secondary schools already attracts 46% of the grade 8 graduates from Haldimand Catholic Elementary schools. It is not reasonable to suggest that 100% of these students would choose to attend a Haldimand Public Secondary School, but even if it were possible, this would not fill the surplus capacity. The ARC also reviewed data that showed the number of students transitioning from Grand Erie elementary schools to other secondary schools is not a large number.

Exploring partnership opportunities requires a serious commitment of time and resources. Not all potential partners are able to gain approval from their governing bodies as quickly as we might like. The likely solution will involve several partnerships from many levels both of public and private sector entities. Any plan considered by the Board should support the appropriate human resource and provide a reasonable time line to explore and develop the full partnership potential that has been identified.

5.1 Senior Administration Recommendations for Each School in the Accommodation Review Area:

Over the course of the past year, members of senior administration received many requests for information and data from the Haldimand Secondary Accommodation Review Committee. The research into a variety of unique program options and deliberations by the committee has had an impact on the development of the following recommendations from senior administration:

Cayuga Secondary School (CSS)

1. Seek partnerships with post-secondary institutions, local businesses and the federal government to locate a skills training centre on site.
2. Encourage the Haldimand Public Library Board to consider the benefits of locating the new Cayuga Public Library Branch at Cayuga Secondary School as a shared use facility.
3. Encourage Haldimand County to consider consolidation of county services and sub-offices by relocating them to Cayuga Secondary School.
4. Investigate possible implementation of an agricultural focus program.

Dunnville Secondary School (DSS)

1. Encourage the Haldimand Public Library Board to consider the benefits of locating the Dunnville Public Library Branch at Dunnville Secondary School as a shared use facility.
2. Right size the building by removing Queen Elizabeth Hall and adjoining classroom space or engage Haldimand County in a lease of QE Hall as a county recreational facility.
3. Investigate and develop a partnership with Haldimand War Memorial Hospital which may include locating administrative offices and staff development and training facilities in surplus space at Dunnville Secondary School.
4. Investigate and develop a partnership with Grandview Lodge which may include locating a staff development and training centre in surplus space at Dunnville Secondary School.

Hagersville Secondary School (HSS)

1. Investigate and develop a partnership with West Haldimand General Hospital which may include locating administrative offices and staff development and training facilities in surplus space at Hagersville Secondary School.
2. Pursue the possibility of locating the Haldimand-Norfolk Safety Village at Hagersville Secondary School.
3. Investigate and develop partnerships with daycare providers who would utilize excess pupil space in Hagersville Secondary School.
4. Investigate possible implementation of a First Nation Focus Program at Hagersville Secondary School aligning with the Environment, Engagement and Achievement including native language, cultural programming and elders in residence.

5. Consider implementation of a specialist high skills major program at Hagersville Secondary School for Not for Profit Sector Administration including business, economics and political science programming.
6. Implement School within a College dual credit programs in Foods and Native Language.
7. Implement a sports focus program featuring Lacrosse.

McKinnon Park Secondary School (MPSS)

1. Initiate a review to explore reducing the number of portables at MPSS.
2. Consult with Six Nations Education Council to determine an appropriate capped number of students for acceptance at grade nine. A cap of 35 grade nine students would result in 155 tuition agreement students at McKinnon Park Secondary School in four years (a reduction of 100 from 2013-14).
3. Initiate an attendance boundary review for pupils of the board and stand firm on the defined school boundary.
4. Grandfather all current students enrolled until graduation
5. Consider re-assigning the McKinnon Park Secondary School Turning Point program, located at the Iroquois Lacrosse Arena, to Hagersville Secondary School.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Council