




South East Norfolk ARC

OPTIONS



Option 1: Status quo.

Rationale:

- The Board would not have to close any schools.

Consideration:


- There are 504 excess pupil spaces in the five schools involved in the South East Norfolk Accommodation Review.

Option 2: South East ARC Recommendation:

- * Close West Lynn Public School. Reassign students from the West Lynn population to Elgin and Lakewood
- Reassign portions of the Walsh population to attend Elgin and Lakewood
- Apply to the Ministry of Education for School Consolidation Capital support to renovate and redevelop Elgin.

Rationale:


- an 85% utilization rate would be achieved
- Elgin has space available to accommodate an expanded school.
- Application for funding renovations at Elgin has previously been made.



Option 3: Similar to Option 2, except that West Lynn students scheduled to attend Lakewood would, instead, be reassigned to either Elgin or Lynndale.

Rationale:

- Several ARC speakers cited the disadvantages to West Lynn students and families of being relocated to Lakewood Elementary, in the event of the closure of West Lynn: extended bus rides, inability for some parents to access the Lakewood Before and After School program, inability of students to participate in Lakewood extracurricular activities, inability to participate in after-school community activities in Simcoe.



Option 4: Create a single-track French Immersion school in South East Norfolk. Two scenarios were presented.

- a) Convert Walsh to a single-track French Immersion school. Students not enrolled in the FI program would be moved to either Lakewood or Elgin (assuming the closure of West Lynn).

Rationale:

- the FI component of Walsh has grown significantly, to the point that the FI portion of the school will be over 50% of the school enrolment in the near future.
- With available space, a K-8 FI model could be accommodated at Walsh.

Option 4: Create a single-track French Immersion school in South East Norfolk. Two scenarios were presented.


b) Relocate the Walsh FI program to another South East Norfolk school.

Rationale:

- With increasing FI numbers at Walsh as additional grades are introduced, there is less available space for the non-FI population.
- With available space at a new school, a K-8 FI model could be accommodated.

Consideration:

- Without FI students, and with the numbers of non-FI students decreasing, the Walsh school population would be significantly below capacity.
- While no specific school was suggested, such a decision could result in the relocation of that school's non-FI students to another location.



Option 5: Create a second FI program in South East Norfolk, leaving Walsh's FI program intact. The second FI program could, as suggested by various speakers, be at Lakewood, an expanded Elgin or an expanded West Lynn.

Rationale:

- Walsh's enrolment has grown substantially since the introduction of FI, and is over capacity.
- By introducing a second FI site, Walsh would have the space available to introduce additional grades into its FI program.
- The boundaries for non-FI students could remain the same so no English students would have to be moved from Walsh school.



Option 6: Purchase the Landon property and build a new school; offer to sell Elgin Avenue to Norfolk County; turn West Lynn into a seniors' home.

Rationale:

- Ample room for a large, new school.
- Norfolk General Hospital could be expanded on the former Elgin site

Considerations:

- No property could be sold to the County without the Board adhering to Regulation 444/98 (amended), which presents the process for disposing of Board property.
- This option is dependent on other decision-making bodies.

Option 7: Keep West Lynn open and, instead, close Elgin.

Rationale:

- Enhanced utilization rates over Elgin, immediately and in 10 years.
- No non-FI students would attend school out of their home communities.
- Renovations would be cheaper and less disruptive.
- Repurposing the Elgin property would present more revenue-generating possibilities than the West Lynn property.
- West Lynn's single-storey building is more accessible.

Considerations:

- Any expansion plans at West Lynn depend on availability of the property behind the school and funding from the Ministry.
- The owner of the property behind West Lynn has indicated a willingness to sell the property to the Board at fair market value.
- Application for Ministry funding could be made for an expansion project at West Lynn.