



## **REVITALIZING RAINBOW SCHOOLS**

**Accommodation Review  
FINAL REPORT of the Administrative Council  
On Sudbury West Area Schools  
Copper Cliff Public School  
George Vanier Public School  
Jessie Hamilton Public School  
R.H. Murray Public School  
Lively District Secondary School**

**February 19, 2008**

### **Appreciation**

Rainbow District School Board's Administrative Council continues to express its appreciation to the Accommodation Review Committee for Sudbury West Area Schools. The Administrative Council also thanks members of the public who have provided input throughout the review process.

### **Mandate**

The mandate of Administrative Council has been to make recommendations for student accommodations which will maximize student learning within the resources available to the Board in keeping with two guiding principles:

1. To ensure that all students continue to have access to the best programming possible in quality school facilities.
2. To reduce surplus space.

In making recommendations, Administrative Council considered student learning as the first and foremost priority.

## Data

### Facility Condition Index (FCI)

Definition

$$\text{FCI} = \frac{\text{Facility Renewal and Repair Costs}}{\text{Replacement Cost of Asset}}$$

(Building Industry Standard to determine the building condition index)

	<b>FCI (Facility Condition Index) Rating:</b>
	Good FCI Rating = Less Than 5%
	Fair FCI Rating: 5% to 10%
	Poor FCI Rating: 10% to 30%
	Critical FCI Rating: Greater Than 30%
	Prohibitive to Repair: 65% or Greater

[illegible]

**Process**

Superintendents Lesleigh Dye and Sharon Speir facilitated the meetings of the Accommodation Review Committee for Sudbury West Area Schools. Members of Rainbow District School Board's Administrative Council attended the four public meetings.

**Public Meeting No. 1**

Thursday, May 24, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

**Shared the data**

**Public Meeting No. 2**

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

**Explored What is.... What could be**

**Public Meeting No. 3**

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

**Presented options developed by the Committee**

**Public Meeting No. 4**

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

6:30 pm

Lively District Secondary School

**Received public input on options developed by the Committee**

**Board Meeting**

Monday, December 17, 2007

6:30 pm

Lockerby Composite School Auditorium

**Presentation of ARC report and Admin Council recommendations to the Board**

**Board Meeting**

Monday, January 21, 2008

6:30 pm

Council Chambers, Tom Davies Square

**Public input**

The Board's Administrative Council has continued to meet since the January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 Board meeting to review all of the information available to them, including public input, the mandate, the data, the School Valuation Reports, the minutes of meetings, and the Accommodation Review Committee report for Sudbury West Area Schools.

Following the January Board meeting, Administrative Council provided alternatives to the closing of R.H. Murray Public School, as requested by Trustees. Many of the alternatives had been presented in the original Accommodation Review Committee report.

## **Final Recommendations**

### ***That Lively District Secondary School remain open***

The Accommodation Review Committee indicated clearly that maintaining a secondary school presence in Sudbury West is a priority for the community. The Administrative Council supports this option.

Administrative Council put forth the possibility of including R.H. Murray Public School in the construction of a new green school. This decision was based on our commitment to creating healthy learning environments for students and staff. In 2001 and 2005, the School Council at R.H. Murray Public School was asked to rate the condition of the school as part of a survey of facilities. At that time, in several areas School Council members indicated that the school needed improvements or was unacceptable.

During ongoing public input, however, the community did not indicate support for including R.H. Murray in the construction of the new green school, preferring the status quo for JK to Grade 8.

Therefore, Administrative Council is recommending that...  
***R.H. Murray Public School, JK to Grade 8, remain open.***

### ***That Grades 7 and 8 students from Jessie Hamilton Public School and George Vanier Public School be transferred to Lively District Secondary School effective September 2008***

Public input throughout the accommodation review process indicated support for this proposal. It is our hope that the Grade 7 and 8 students will be more likely to continue their secondary school education at Lively District Secondary School. This will have the potential to increase future enrolment, improving the long-term viability of the school.

In recommending that Grade 7 and 8 students be transferred to Lively District Secondary School in September 2008, Administrative Council considered the decision from both educational and business perspectives.

Creating a Grade 7 and 8 elementary school in the secondary school for September 2008 will reduce excess space at Lively, enabling the Board to achieve immediate efficiencies. It will also alleviate some of the accommodation pressures currently being experienced at Jessie Hamilton Public School.

With the move complete by the fall, Board staff will be able to focus its attention on the second phase of the program of revitalization in Sudbury West - building a new green school. This phased-in approach will minimize disruption for both students and staff, and, more importantly, allow us to move forward with this learning opportunity for our Grade 7 and 8 students.

With the new compressed curriculum, concepts once covered in high school are introduced to students at an earlier grade. This has created curriculum challenges, particularly in the area of math. The larger number of students will result in greater flexibility in setting timetables with dedicated teachers. We look forward to working with the Grade 7 and 8 teachers and parents in the weeks ahead to ensure the best possible accommodation and programming for all students.

Administrative Council's initial report to trustees outlined the further educational value of this recommendation.

Including Grades 7 and 8 students in Lively District Secondary School will not only improve academic opportunities for students, it will ease the transition from elementary school to secondary school and give students access to enhance facilities - technological education equipment, a bigger gymnasium, an expanded library collection, computer resources, science labs, and instrumental music. Students will also have access to more special education programs and services.

Interested students will be introduced to the Specialist High Skills Major in Mining at Lively District Secondary School. The Specialist High Skills Major allows students to focus on a career path that matches their interest in mining. The major bundles 6 to 12 courses with a mining focus. Students who choose this major learn in school, on the job with employers, and at skills training centres. Students earn valuable industry certifications. Peer mentoring with older students benefits the younger students.

Including Grade 7 and 8 students in Lively District Secondary School will benefit elementary staff who will become part of a broader professional learning community with their secondary peers. This includes guidance personnel who prepare students for Grades 9 to 12. Grade 7 and 8 teachers will also have greater access to central resource staff. Collaborative teams will use data to make decisions about how students learn and implement differentiated strategies for continuous improvement. A broader professional learning community has a direct impact on student success.

Lively District Secondary School can be reconfigured to meet the needs of Grade 7 and 8 students, ensuring that they are accommodated in a designated area of the building. The younger students will have a separate supervised lunch break.

***That George Vanier Public School and Jessie Hamilton Public School be consolidated into a new JK to Grade 6 green school offering English and French Immersion programs (dual track)***

A new school would accommodate students from JK to Grade 6 in the English and French Immersion programs, with room for expansion should there be a future need. Jessie Hamilton and George Vanier students in JK to Grade 6 in English and French Immersion will remain at their respective schools until a new school is built.

Replacing two aging facilities with one new energy-efficient building offers many benefits from educational, economic, health and environmental perspectives. This would be an opportunity for the Board to create a healthy learning environment for students and staff in an efficient, durable, and sustainable facility.

Investing in a new green school today will generate savings tomorrow. At Valley View Public School, Rainbow District School Board is realizing significant savings in energy consumption with the green features incorporated into the building. The facility is expected to operate at half the energy cost of a typical school. The green school will also serve as an excellent teaching tool for children. We will be instilling sound environmental practices in the leaders of tomorrow.

Principles of sustainable development will be embedded in every facet of the learning opportunities for students in the new school, that is, the sustainability of our environment, the sustainability of our economy and, perhaps most importantly, the sustainability of our just, humane, democratic and respectful society. Enough for all forever.

The Ministry of Education is committed to a provincial funding strategy to address aging facilities. We will take advantage of this window of opportunity by the Ministry's funding strategy to seek funds for the new school.

Further, the advantages of a new green school were outlined in the original report.

Valley View Public School, Rainbow District School Board's first new school in 40 years, is a model for sustainable development as a high performance green school. A green school in Sudbury West would, once again, demonstrate Rainbow District School Board's commitment to sustainability by putting sound environmental practices in place to support global thinking at a local level.



Planning for a sustainable design would promote social and environmental awareness within the school and the community. It will also develop a culture of conservation while minimizing operating expenses. Students and staff will have input into the design of their learning environment, including specialized space. Students at Valley View Public School, for instance, collected the recycled glass used in the concrete floors.

The school would incorporate industry best practices for resource consumption, waste management, building materials and interior environmental quality.

The new school will be barrier-free and have space for lower class sizes in the primary grades as well as physical education, instrumental music, visual arts, computer technology, a library and special education. The school will also have the potential to accommodate a daycare, before/after school programs, and early intervention programs in state-of-the-art facilities. This would consolidate services, providing seamless entry to school in one central location.

Students in the R.H. Murray Public School catchment area who are enrolled in the French Immersion Program are currently bused to George Vanier Public School. These students will attend French Immersion in the new green school for JK to Grade 6 and Lively District Secondary School for Grades 7 and 8.

A separate motion to approve sources of funding for the school will be brought forward at a later date.

***That Copper Cliff Public School remain open and continue to be a feeder school for Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and Lockerby Composite School***

The rationale for this recommendation is laid out in the original report from Administrative Council.

Copper Cliff has traditionally been part of the City of Sudbury. The majority of students who attend Copper Cliff Public School walk to school.

Copper Cliff Public School used to be a secondary school. The building is architecturally sound and fully accessible. It is a Best Start Hub, with daycare and before/after school programs available in one convenient location. The school also offers an Intensive Behaviour Intervention (IBI) program for students with autism throughout the Greater Sudbury area.

Making Copper Cliff Public School a feeder school for Lively District Secondary School will not increase program offerings at Lively.

Parents/guardians across the Greater Sudbury area, including Copper Cliff, will continue to have the option of enrolling their children in the School of Integrated Technology at Lively District Secondary School should they choose to do so.

***That non-student use be considered for Lively District Secondary School***

In addition to moving Grade 7 and 8 students into the secondary school, the Board's Administrative Council will continue to support other uses of excess space at Lively District Secondary School. This will result in more operational efficiencies.

In particular, not-for-profit organizations in Sudbury West are encouraged to become part of the Lively District Secondary School community through our community use of schools policy.

***That a French Immersion program be offered at Lively District Secondary School providing there is a cohort of 25 students in the academic program in Grade 9***

This recommendation was explained in the original report.

During the Accommodation Review, a number of residents expressed a desire to have French Immersion at their neighbourhood secondary school. A French Immersion program will be offered providing there is a cohort of 25 students in the academic program in Grade 9. The viability of the program is contingent upon this minimum number. Smaller cohorts would result in split level classes which minimize the educational advantage for students. It is anticipated that the cohort would decrease in size as students withdraw from French Immersion during their secondary school career. This would create further pressures on the school's ability to offer a full spectrum of courses.

It is important to note that, to date, none of the 27 families of Grade 8 students at George Vanier Public School has indicated an interest in a French Immersion Program at Lively District Secondary School for the 2008-2009 school year.

## **Final Recommendations**

***That Lively District Secondary School remain open;***

***That R.H. Murray Public School, JK to Grade 8, remain open;***

***That Grades 7 and 8 students from Jessie Hamilton Public School and George Vanier Public School be transferred to Lively District Secondary School effective September 2008;***

***That George Vanier Public School and Jessie Hamilton Public School be consolidated into a new JK to 6 green school offering English and French Immersion programs (dual track);***

***That Copper Cliff Public School remain open and continue to be a feeder school for Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School and Lockerby Composite School;***

***That non-student use be considered for Lively District Secondary School;***

***That a French Immersion program be offered at Lively District Secondary School providing there is a cohort of 25 students in the academic program in Grade 9.***