



PAMELA B. REINHOLDT
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October 2, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may know, your school is part of the Central Mountain Elementary Accommodation Review (ARC) currently taking place at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB). At HWDSB, we want to give our students the best schools. We have schools with empty spaces and in need of expensive renovations. This is why Accommodation Review Committees (ARCs) have been set up – to look at groups of schools and recommend a path for the Board’s decision-making.

The ARC is a months-long process that involves input from parents, community members, principals, students, teachers and staff. As part of the process, a Board staff option is presented to each committee in order to provide the foundation that forms its discussions. While this option does name schools for potential closure, it does not necessarily mean a school will close.

At last night’s meeting of the Central Mountain Accommodation Review, Board staff presented a preliminary option. This option is a starting point for community discussion. The Board staff option is:

- **Close Queensdale and Eastmount Park in June 2014. Students, depending on address, will attend G.L. Armstrong or Franklin Road, which will each need two-room renovations for full-day kindergarten.**
- **Close Linden Park in June 2014. Students, depending on address, will attend Ridgemount or Pauline Johnson. Ridgemount will add two full-day kindergarten rooms and six classrooms; construction estimated to be completed for September 2016.**
- **Establish Pauline Johnson as a primary school for grades JK-3 and Cardinal Heights as a junior/intermediate school for grades 4-8 ,in September 2014. If the Board is able to secure funding for the construction of a new 550 pupil place JK-8 school on the existing site, both schools would close once the new school is constructed.**

Over the coming months, the ARC meetings will study this information and develop its own recommendation(s). The Board of Trustees will consider all recommendations and input before making a final decision.

An ARC involves two types of meetings: at working meetings, committee members ensure that information is prepared for presentation at each of the public meetings; at each of the four public meetings, your participation in table discussions will contribute to creating accommodations options for our schools.

The Central Mountain ARC will have a public meeting from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at Cardinal Heights Elementary School (70 Bobolink Rd., Hamilton).

You can also participate by visiting our ARC website to find agendas, minutes, overviews and more at www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementaryarc. You can comment on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/hwdsb or write our ARC assistant at arcinfo@hwdsb.on.ca.

Thank you for having your say as we strive to give all students great schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela B. Reinholdt". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Pamela B. Reinholdt
Executive Superintendent of Student Achievement