

January 26, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may know, your school is part of the Secondary Accommodation Review (ARC) currently taking place at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB). The accommodation review is looking at the future of secondary accommodation across Hamilton in order to ensure that we have the optimal number of facilities as well as creating innovative learning environments for the 21st century that support student achievement.

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

At last night's ARC meeting, Barton Secondary School was one of the schools recommended for closure. Over the next year, the committee will be looking at this information as well as forming its own recommendation. These recommendations, along with the ARC recommendations, will be presented to trustees in December 2011. Trustees won't make a final decision until spring 2012.

Public consultation is at the heart of the accommodation review process. A minimum of four public meetings are to be held by each of the accommodation review committees, as well as a number of additional working meetings. The goal is to engage a wide range of school and community groups to participate in the consultation before the recommendations are presented to trustees. The first Public Meeting of the South ARC is scheduled to take place on February 15, 2011 at Hill Park Secondary School from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

We will continue to keep you up-to-date on the ARC's progress as we move through this process. If you have any questions, please visit our website at www.hwdsb.on.ca/arc.

Sincerely,



Ken Bain
Associate Director of Education

cc: Chair Judith Bishop
Trustee Laura Peddle
SOSA M. Figueiredo