

Administrative Recommendation – Decision Criteria:

Background:

The Senior Administration of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board prepared an administrative recommendation for the South ARC as required by policy. As outlined by Associate Director Ken Bain at Working Group Meeting #2 (January 25, 2011), the purpose of this recommendation was to inform the committee and the South ARC communities as to the initial thinking of administration regarding possible school closures and student relocation.

Initial Recommendation Considerations:

- Reduction in the number of unused pupil spaces to address the long-term impact of declining enrolment and to increase utilization rates in the remaining schools.
- Creation of secondary schools of a reasonable size so that a broad range of program may be offered. This will help to ensure that HWDSB schools both now and in the future can deliver the kind of relevant and engaging programs that our student need and deserve. The redirection of facility renewal resources enhances program delivery and student achievement.
- Facility condition and the short and long term funding required to renew each school.
- Making the best use of facility renewal dollars.
- School Location and distribution of students across the mountain

Sherwood Secondary has the highest FCI of all the schools in the South ARC. In addition, it has the second largest capacity (1,308) of the five schools. Removing Sherwood from the Board's inventory provides an excellent combination of space reduction and building renewal savings. Sherwood's location does not facilitate the redistribution of students as effectively as other schools.

Mountain Secondary has a high FCI and is projected to operate at less 31% of its rated capacity by 2020. The closure of Mountain provides another good combination of pupil space reduction and building renewal savings. In addition, it fits with the Board's Program Strategy plan.

HWDSB does not have a secondary school south of the LINC. It is this area that is experiencing the most growth in population. The recommendation to close Barton and build a new school south in Ward 6 addresses this reality.

Summary:

Senior Administration's initial recommendation was not intended to be the conclusive or definitive statement on school closures in the South ARC but rather its initial "high level" thoughts on the matter. It is provided for information only because the final recommendation may not mirror the present one. Senior Administration will be informed by the work of the ARC and through public input. This may influence the final recommendation, which will be sent to the Board of Trustees along with report of the ARC.