

Central Mountain Accommodation Review Staff Recommendation

Cardinal Heights – Eastmount Park – Franklin Road – G.L.
Armstrong – Linden Park – Pauline Johnson – Queensdale –
Ridgemount

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
Board - March 24, 2014

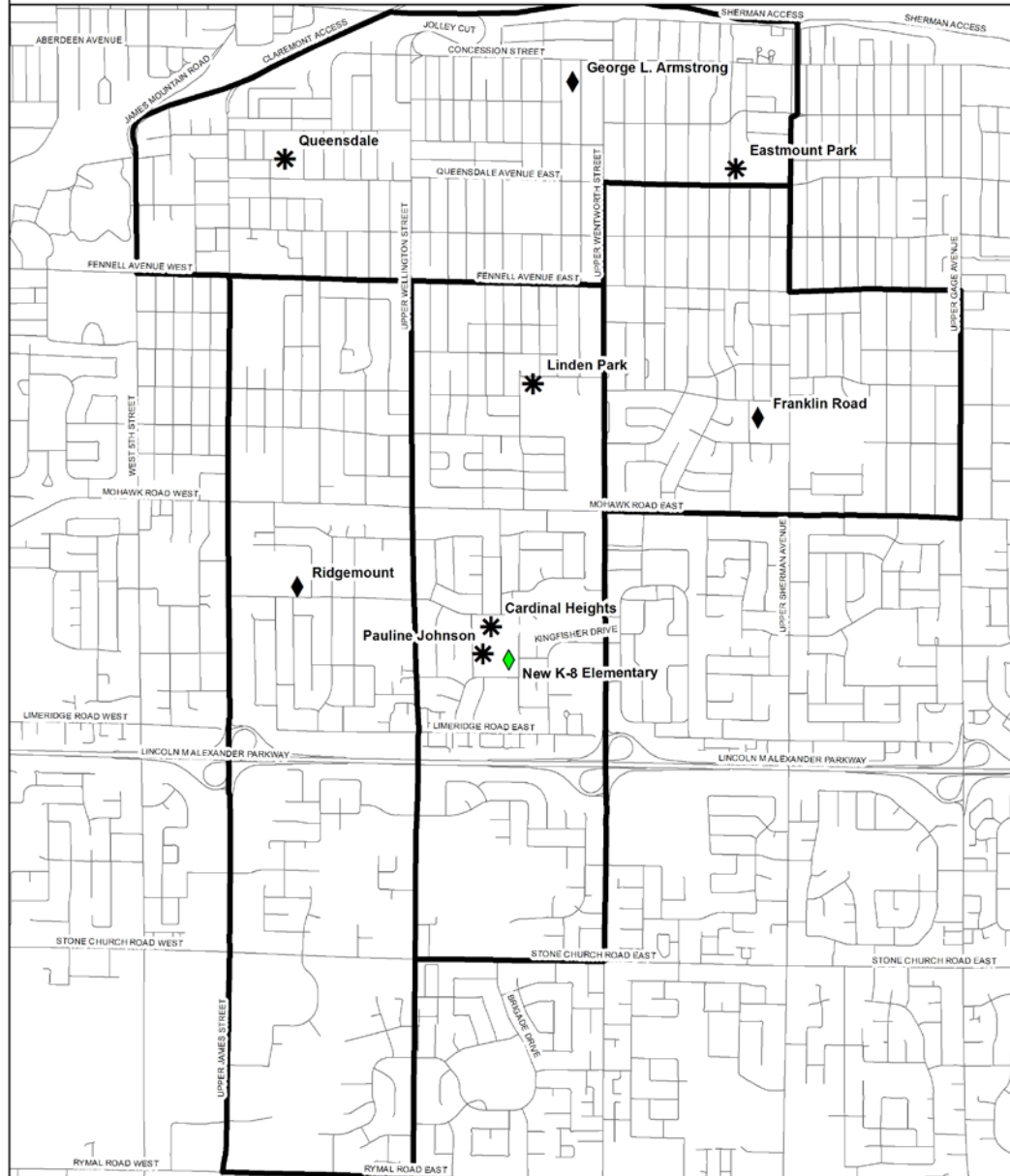
Original Staff Option

- 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.

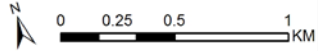
- Close Linden Park in **June 2014**.
 - Students, depending on address, will attend Ridgemount or Pauline Johnson. Ridgemount will add two full-day kindergarten rooms and six classrooms; construction estimated to be completed for September 2016.

- 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.

Original Staff Option



- ▲ Jr Elementary
- * Closed School
- ◻ Elem Boundary
- ◆ K-8 Elementary
- Middle School
- ◆ Proposed New K-8 Elementary



Revised Staff Recommendation

Close Eastmount Park in **June 2015**.

- All students attend G.L. Armstrong for JK-8.
- George L. Armstrong receives full day kindergarten renovation.

Close Linden Park in **June of 2015**.

- Depending on address, students will attend Queensdale or Franklin Road for JK-8.
- Franklin Road receives full day kindergarten addition.

Close Cardinal Heights in **June of 2015**.

- Depending on address, students attend Pauline Johnson, Ridgemount, Queensdale or Franklin Road for JK-8.
- Pauline Johnson receives two full day kindergarten and two classroom addition to accommodate JK-8 students.
- Ridgemount receives a four room addition to accommodate JK-8 students.

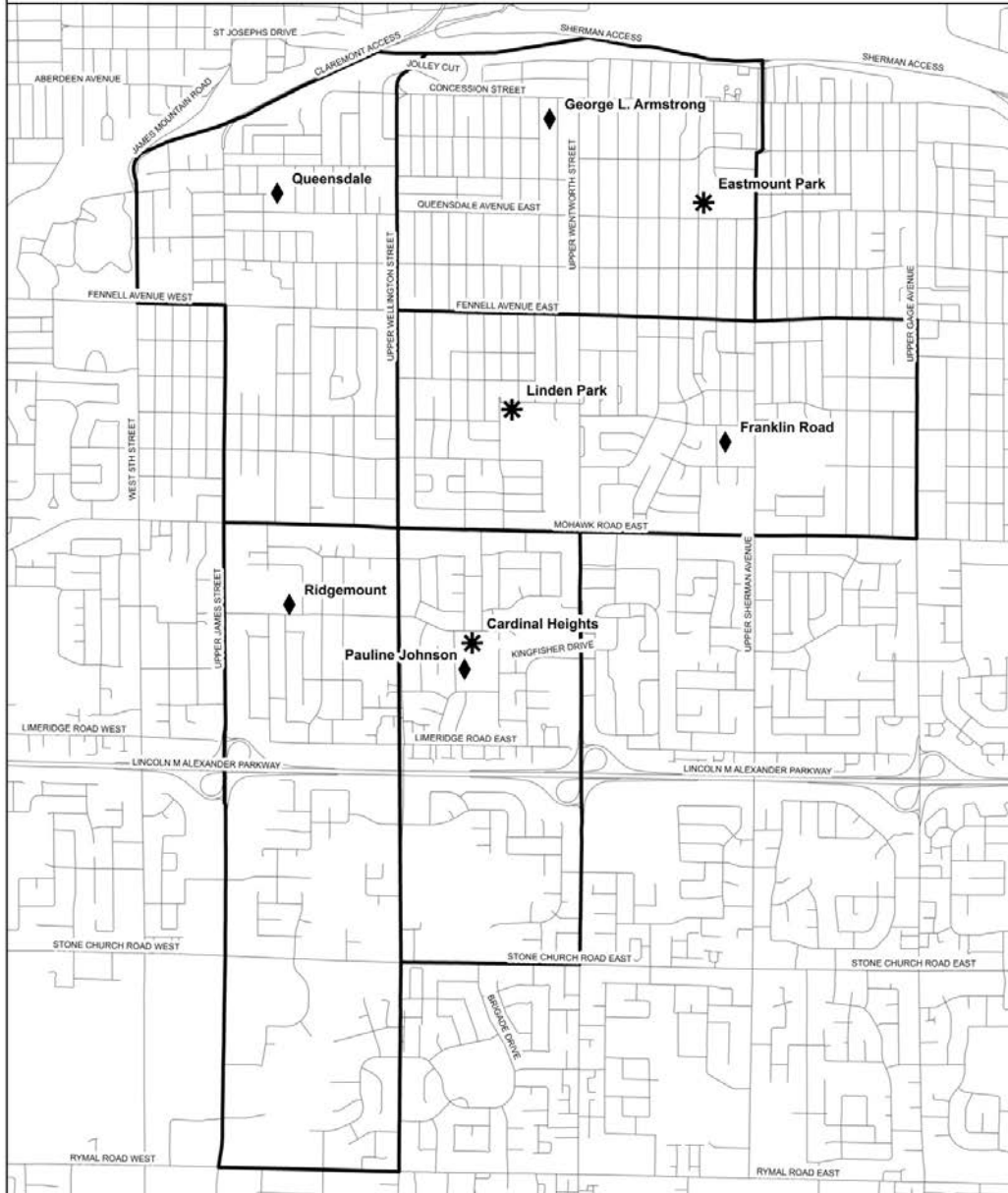
Queensdale grade organization becomes JK-8.

- Full day kindergarten addition required.

Revised Staff Recommendation

- ❑ Staff is recommending that once the accommodation review decision has been finalized, the special education programs within these 8 schools are reevaluated and appropriate locations for these programs are determined.
- ❑ The proposed classrooms and FDK room additions are initial estimated values. Once a final decision has been made by Trustees, staff would finalize the capital needs at each school that will be remaining open to ensure proper accommodation for the students and best use of funding.

Revised Staff Recommendation



- ▲ Jr Elementary
- ◆ K-8 Elementary
- Middle School
- * Closed School
- ◻ Elem Boundary



Reference Criteria

- Facility Utilization:** Facility Utilization is defined as enrolment as a percentage of “on-the-ground” capacity. The goal is to maximize the use of Board owned facilities over the long-term.
- ✓ Utilization for the grouping of schools is proposed to increase from 71% to 93% in 2015 upon implementation.
- ✓ Reduction of approximately 750 pupil places.
- ✓ Four of the five schools are projected to remain above 90% utilization through 2022.

Reference Criteria

- ❑ **Permanent and Non-permanent Accommodation:** Permanent accommodation refers to “bricks and mortar” while non-permanent construction includes structures such as portables and port-a-paks. The goal is to minimize the use of non-permanent accommodation as a long-term strategy while recognizing that it may be a good short-term solution.

- ✓ HWDSB staff recommendation does not require the use of portables or portapaks to accommodate students over the long-term. Temporary accommodation may be needed while any renovations at the schools are completed.

Reference Criteria

- Program Offerings:** The Accommodation Review Committee must consider program offerings, each with their own specific requirements, at each location.

- ✓ All students attend schools with JK-8 model.

- ✓ All students will also continue to have the same access to program, extra-curriculars and learning resources.

Reference Criteria

- Quality Teaching and Learning Environments:** The Accommodation Review Committee should consider the program environments and how well they are conducive to learning.
- ✓ Multiple classes per grade in the school allows for teacher collaboration with grade and division teams.
- ✓ Larger school often offers greater choice for co-curricular (e.g., school events, excursions) and extra-curricular activities (e.g., clubs, athletics).
- ✓ All schools are JK-8 facilities which reduces the number of transitions before secondary school.

Reference Criteria

- Transportation:** The Accommodation Review Committee should consider the Board's existing Transportation Policy and how it may be impacted by or limit proposed accommodation recommendations.
- ✓ Recommendation will adhere to HWDSB Transportation Policy.
- ✓ Currently 9 buses (not including special education) are required for the Central Mountain.
- ✓ An estimated additional two buses are required to meet the needs of students who qualify for transportation.

Reference Criteria

- Partnerships Opportunities:** As a requirement of the Policy and Ministry guidelines, the Accommodation Review Committee should also consider opportunities for partnerships.

- Equity:** The Accommodation Review Committee should consider the Board's Equity Policy, specifically as it relates to accessibility, both in terms of the physical school access as well as transportation and program environments.

- ✓ HWDSB has considered and inquired about potential partnership opportunities with no appropriate responses.

- ✓ The recommendation will adhere to HWDSB's Equity policy noting that almost all facilities still require upgrades meet the physical accessibility standard.



Long Term Facilities Master Plan

Guiding Principles

- ✓ **School Utilization** – Optimal Utilization rates of School facilities is in the range of 90%-110%.
 - Central Mountain Planning Area utilization would increase 71% (2012) to 93% (2015)

- ✓ **School Capacity** – Optimal school capacity would be 500 to 600 students, which creates two to three classes for each grade.
 - Currently 6 of 8 schools have a capacity of less than 350
 - Recommendation would create 5 schools larger than 350. Average school capacity would increase from 369 to 439.

- ✓ **School Grade/Organization** – Kindergarten to-Grade 8 facilities.
 - Current: Three JK-5, two JK-6, two JK-8, one 6-8
 - Recommendation: Five JK-8

- ✓ **School Site Size** – Optimal elementary school site size would be approximately 6 acres.
 - Average school site size would increase from 5.7 acres to 6.7 acres

Capital Requirements

Once a final decision has been made by Trustees, staff would finalize the capital needs at each school that will be remaining open to ensure proper accommodation for the students.

- George L. Armstrong receives full day kindergarten space.
- Franklin Road receives full day kindergarten space.
- Pauline Johnson receives two full day kindergarten and two classroom addition to accommodate JK-8 students.
- Ridgemount receives a four room addition to accommodate JK-8 students.
- Queensdale receives full day kindergarten addition.

Funding Strategy

Funding: Develop a funding strategy to address any capital works that are contemplated in the recommendations above.

Estimated cost of initial staff recommended projects: **\$3.6 M**

Proposed Funding Strategy:

Estimated proceeds of disposition: \$3.6 M

One Year Operational Savings: \$655 K

Full Day Kindergarten Funding: \$2.1M

Renewal Needs

Status Quo: Currently there is a combined estimated \$37 M in renewal needs for all eight schools.

Staff Recommendation estimated renewal needs, MOE benchmark and accessibility (1-10 years): **\$22.2 M**

Remaining Renewal:

Renewal Costs-High and Urgent 1-5 years : \$5.8 M

Remaining Renewal 6-10 years: \$ 13 M

Allowance to meet MOE benchmark: \$ 2.7. M

Accessibility: \$710 K

Summary

- ❑ Staff have recommended the closure of Cardinal Heights, Eastmount Park and Linden Park.
- ❑ Through the closure of Cardinal Heights, Eastmount Park and Linden Park the board would eliminate an estimated \$12.8 M in renewal.
- ❑ Upon completion of this analysis, that the staff recommendation will serve the short and long term needs of the community and the Board as a whole. The decision to close schools is never easy, but the staff recommendation attempts to maintain viable learning environments, walkability and school communities.

Next Steps and Key Dates

<p>Trustees receive the Central Mountain Accommodation Review Reports and defer a final decision for at least 60 calendar days, as per the Board's Pupil Accommodation Review Policy and Ministry of Education guidelines.</p>	<p>March 24, 2014</p>
<p>Meeting to receive public delegations</p>	<p>May 6, 2014</p>
<p>Board of Trustees to make final decision (Standing Committee)</p>	<p>June 9, 2014</p>
<p>Board of Trustees to ratify Standing Committee minutes (Board Meeting)</p>	<p>June 16, 2014</p>