



PUPIL ACCOMMODATION PLANNING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Capital Strategic Plan:

1. What is the status of the ALCDSB Capital Strategic Plan?

An October 31, 2006 letter to School Board Chairs from Education Minister Kathleen Wynne clarified that capital plans prepared by Boards at the request of the Ministry should be viewed as "interim documents that provide a first step in the ongoing capital planning process". The ALCDSB intends to use the capital planning process as an opportunity to dialogue with school communities to determine priorities for the future.

2. Has the ALCDSB approved the Capital Strategic Plan?

The ALCDSB Capital Strategic Plan is an ongoing process. The Board has authorized Administration to begin public consultation on the Capital Strategic Plan. The Board will use this consultation process to develop priorities for funding approval; however, the Board will not be approving the Capital Strategic Plan in its entirety.

3. Will the Ministry of Education approve the ALCDSB Capital Strategic Plan?

The Ministry, like the ALCDSB, views the Capital Strategic Plan as an ongoing process, and will not be approving capital plans submitted by Boards, but may provide funding approval for specific projects identified during the planning processes of the Board.

Pupil Accommodation Review Process:

4. What is the Pupil Accommodation Review Process?

The Pupil Accommodation Review Process is guided by the Board's new Pupil Accommodation Review Policy which responds to the Ministry of Education's Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines. These documents are available on the ALCDSB Pupil Accommodation website at www.alcddb.on.ca.

The Pupil Accommodation Review Process involves representatives from school communities in areas with accommodation challenges such as aging school facilities, program demands, and declining enrolment; by enabling them to consider whether there are ways to organize themselves differently to accommodate students who live in the area, while maintaining or enhancing the quality of program and experience.

5. Who sits on an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) and how are they selected?

Each Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) shall include representatives from each affected school, including school Principal or designate, one teacher representative, one non-teaching staff representative and at least one parent, one of whom will be the school council chair or designate. The school Principal and school council chair will oversee the appointment of ARC representatives for each school community.

The ARC shall also include two or more Trustees, at least one of whom represents the area under study and School Superintendent or designate. The ARC shall be co-chaired by a Trustee, who does not represent the area under study, and the School Superintendent or designate. Once each ARC has been formed, it will invite, at least, one municipal councilor or designate and member of the business community to join the ARC.

6. How long is an Accommodation Review Process likely to last?

Once an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) is formed, then there must be a minimum of two months' notice before the first public input meeting is held. An ARC must hold a minimum of four public consultation meetings scheduled over a period of at least three months (not including holidays). Individual ARC's may decide to add additional public input meetings as appropriate. We anticipate a duration of approximately 12 months between the Board recommendation to form an ARC and a Board vote on the recommendations of the ARC.

7. What factors must the ARC consider during the public meetings?

ARC's are required to seek public input to determine the value of each school to the students, the community, the Board and the local economy. A valuation template will be available for use by the ARC, and may be customized as appropriate. Based on the results of the valuation, ARC's are required to consider whether any changes should be recommended to the schools involved, including whether a school (or schools) should be closed and options for accommodating students who would be affected by a school closure. Options can include renovations to existing schools and/or new school construction.

8. When will Board Trustees make a decision on the recommendations of the ARC?

After an ARC completes its work and submits a report to the Board, there will be a period of at least two months before Trustees vote on the recommendations of the ARC.

9. How may I stay informed?

Updated information including: meetings dates, notices and minutes of public meetings, etc. will be posted on the Pupil Accommodation website at www.alcdsb.on.ca.