

Following the Board decisions about interim solutions to the overcrowding issues in many of our Kanata Schools, the two Kanata Accommodation Review Committees (North and South) have continued their work, looking for longer term solutions to student enrolment concerns.

At this point, the Kanata South working group wishes to share with the community an update on its progress. The committee has established some guiding principles and is beginning the complex task of generating potential solutions to the imbalances in enrolment in the Kanata South area. The committee is committed to considering the following principles in making any proposals:

- providing dual track (English and French) schools where programs are sustainable;
- minimizing disruption to families;
- creating community-based schools wherever possible;
- considering the needs of all of Kanata's elementary and secondary schools (North and South of the Queensway); and
- supporting a 9-12 model for secondary school in Kanata South.

The complexity of the task has become clear to the members of the committee. There are many factors the committee must consider when developing potential solutions. These include but are not limited to:

- program choice for families,
- transportation of students,
- safety for walking to school (ie: crossing wide and busy thoroughfares like Hazeldean, Eagleson and Castlefrank Roads),
- school attachment for students,
- space available in other schools,
- number of schools a student would attend in his/her academic career,
- long term impact on school communities,
- the capacity and specialized features of each school facility,
- home development projects in the vicinity,
- current school boundaries,
- projected enrolments for the next five years,
- and the list continues.

With all of that in mind the ARC's proposals may include and are not limited to changes to:

- grade structures of schools (K-6, K-8, K-3, 4-8, 7&8)
- programs offered in schools (Regular English, Early French Immersion, Middle French Immersion);
- attendance boundaries.

As the ARC begins to generate options, the community can rest assured that each solution will be measured against the guiding principles, understanding that they may not be achieved in all of our schools. Opportunities for parental and community input are already available through discussions at School Council meetings, and will be provided through a formal public consultation process in the near future. In the meantime, please access either the school newsletter or website to remain informed of the progress of the Kanata South working group. The committee will be meeting twice in May to continue the discussions.