



Date: 2016 11 29

**Subject: PUPIL/SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW:
Initial Staff Report – Arthur Henderson Public School**

1.0 Background

The Algoma District School Board's (ADSB) recent capital planning dates back to 2003 when ADSB undertook an assessment of all 63 schools and other facilities with the resulting profiles prepared and posted to the ADSB website. The Ministry directed that facility data be entered into a School Facilities Information System (SFIS) database in 2005 and required that Board staff develop a corresponding draft capital plan. This initial draft capital plan was submitted to the Ministry in April 2006 with a public release in late 2006. In subsequent years, the capital plan is annually revised by Senior Administration to determine and confirm capital priorities as well as identify schools that ought to be reviewed through the Accommodation Review Process.

The capital planning process recognizes the significance of ensuring quality programs as well as the fiscal responsibility of right-sizing the organization as the population of students change within the communities of the Board. Declining enrolment of school-aged children over the past decade, coupled with an aging infrastructure, requires planning to maintain effective programming while maximizing the enrolment capacity of schools. This planning will ensure the Board's ability to maintain facilities while continuing to offer high quality learning environments for all students well into the future.

On June 14, 2016, at its regular Board meeting, the Board approved the placement of Arthur Henderson Public School on 'Under Review Status':

"It is recommended that Arthur Henderson Public School be placed on "Under Review Status." The review would focus on the possibility of school closure, accommodating the JK-3 program and students currently housed at Arthur Henderson Public School in nearby existing elementary schools.

Following the Board's approval for the review, the Director informed the school stakeholders that their school was identified as "Under Review Status" and was being reviewed for closure.

2.0 Summary of Accommodation Issue

The identification of Arthur Henderson Public school, requiring review of its status, dates back to the full Capital Plan for Central Algoma schools back in 2011.

Arthur Henderson PS was first placed “Under Review Status” during the analysis of all Central Algoma Schools on 2011 05 17. Meetings took place throughout the Accommodation Review (ARC) process which resulted in the final report to the Board of Trustees on 2014 02 11. Senior Administration supported the ARC recommendation to allow the school to remain open as a JK-6 school. It was also noted though in the minutes of an ARC meeting on 2013 04 16 that the community was advised that in the future, the senior administration may consider moving a division within the school without entering into a formal ARC process, if/when the enrolment in a division or programs constitutes less than 50% of the enrolment of the school.

In the Director’s Report to the Board on 2016 06 14, for the 2016-17 school year, it was determined that in order to improve programming for students, the Grade 4-6 students at Arthur Henderson P.S. would be moved to the Central Algoma Elementary School (CAES) site. This avoided triple grades which would have existed if the students remained at Arthur Henderson PS for the 2016-17 school year. The move resulted in no triple grades at either Arthur Henderson PS or CAES.

3.0 Rationale for Utilizing the Modified Pupil Accommodation Process

If the Board determines that the potential pupil accommodation options are deemed to be less complex, the Board may find it appropriate to undertake a modified process.

The factors to consider when determining to conduct a modified pupil accommodation review process are to be based on two or more of the following factors:

- a) Distance to nearest available accommodation;
- b) Utilization rate of the facility;
- c) Number of students enrolled at the school;
- d) When the Board is planning the relocation of a program, in which the enrolment constitutes more than or equal to 50% of the school’s enrolment at the time of the relocation, or the first phase of a relocation carried over a number of school years).

Based on these above factors, the distance to the next closest school is 14.8 km west to Central Algoma Elementary (CAES) and 18.8 km east to Thessalon Public School. The utilization rate of the school is 37.5% with 60 students in JK-3 and the capacity of the building is 161. With these factors considered, senior management believes it is prudent to conduct a Modified Accommodation Review Process.

4.0 Recommended Option

In order to provide better programming and a better learning environment for students at other sites within the Board, the recommended option would be to close Arthur Henderson P.S. and transition existing students to nearby schools. This would allow the Board to submit a proposal to the Ministry of Education to request Capital funding for an addition to the Central Algoma Elementary School to accommodate the increase in students and if approved, could result in the students at Arthur Henderson P.S. transitioning to CAES in 2018 or sooner based on the timing of the construction project. As part of this recommendation, the Board will develop a transition plan for all students of Arthur Henderson P.S. to ensure a smooth transition to their new school which will include the review of boundaries.

Please see the School Information Profile (SIP – Attachment B.3 #2) for the school which is provided with this initial staff report and posted on the Board's website. The rationale for this recommendation is based on the following facts from the SIP:

Arthur Henderson was constructed in 1945. The Facility Condition Index (FCI) for Arthur Henderson is 123%. This is considered extremely high as a FCI of 65% or greater is considered Prohibitive to Repair (PTR) by the Ministry of Education. The FCI is used for long-term planning and maintenance of buildings. The higher the number of repairs that are needed in a school, the higher the FCI. The FCI is calculated by comparing the cost of repairs to a school compared to the cost of replacing the building. The higher the FCI, the less likely funding would be available to repair or replace a building. Over the next five years, Arthur Henderson would require \$8,160,847 worth of renovations and upgrades. The entire building could be replaced for \$6,634,835. School Boards require Ministry approval to spend \$1,000,000 or more on capital projects – something not usually supported for Prohibitive to Repair structures, especially when capacity is available to accommodate students in neighbouring schools.

In recent years, grade 7 and 8 students moved to CAES with all other Central Algoma School grade 7 and 8 students Central Algoma Intermediate School. As mentioned above, beginning in September 2016 the Board made the decision to move the junior division of Grade 4-6 students to CAES based on the small numbers of students which would have required triple grades at Arthur Henderson P.S.

Grade Enrolment	JK	SK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
Oct 31 2010	10	11	6	9	9	16	11	9	11	13	105
Oct 31 2011	13	11	9	6	10	9	14	11	10	11	104
Oct 31 2012	11	14	11	11	6	11	9	15	10	9	107
Oct 31 2013	11	8	13	12	11	6	13	8	0	0	82
Oct 31 2014	11	14	9	14	12	10	10	12	0	0	92
Oct 31 2015	11	13	14	12	15	13	13	10	0	0	101
Oct 31 2016	8	13	11	15	13	0	0	0	0	0	60

In addition to the FCI concerns and enrolment history at the school, Senior Administration wishes to emphasize the following considerations:

- The rationale for consolidation is also based on ensuring the sustainability of quality programming opportunities as well as continued access to the personnel and resources required to support student needs in the receiving schools.
- A larger school population will provide students:
 - expanded leadership and social opportunities;
 - opportunity to experience a variety of teaching styles;
 - increased access to special education and other support services
 - increased opportunities for co-curricular and extra-curricular programming.
- The two schools recommended by Senior Administration to receive students from Arthur Henderson are as follows:

Central Algoma Elementary School (CAES) (14.8 km)
Thessalon Public School (18.8 km)

- A transition plan would be implemented to facilitate a supportive transition of the students and families involved from the existing school to the receiving school.

5.0 Conclusion

As part of this initial staff report, the option identified in the report is to consider the consolidation of Arthur Henderson P.S. students in neighbouring schools through a Modified Accommodation Review Process.