

**Report to Committee of the Whole
May 9, 2011**



**Waterloo Region
District School Board**

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the Director of Education.

Director of Education

SUBJECT: Area Enrichment Program Relocation September 2011-12

ORIGINATOR: This report was prepared by Mary Lou Mackie, Executive Superintendent of Education, Mark Harper, Superintendent of Learning Services, Ian Gaudet, Controller of Facility Services, Chris Smith, Manager of Planning, and Jim Berry, Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services - Special Education, in consultation with Executive Committee.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to inform the board of the planned relocation of the Area Enrichment Program for September 2011, currently located at Suddaby Public School.

BACKGROUND:

The Area Enrichment Program was originally located at McQuarrie P.S. and moved to Suddaby P.S. as a temporary location in September of 1999. The Area Enrichment Program is offered to students in grade 4 through 8, one day per week beginning the first Monday in September until the last Friday in June. The students are transported from across Waterloo Region, as this is the only site for this program. Through the school based multi-disciplinary team, students are identified as requiring additional enrichment programming. Individual student placement in the program is reviewed annually. The students remain on their home school register and participate in their regular class the other four days of the week. Currently there are three full time teachers assigned to the program. Reporting of student achievement is completed twice per year aligned to the two achievement report cards.

Suddaby P.S. requires substantial mechanical infrastructure renovations beginning in July of 2011 to convert its existing steam boiler plant to hot water plant. The work at Suddaby P.S. will be phased in over multiple years. The Facilities Department has undertaken similar work in the past but typically has had the advantage of utilizing empty classrooms and/or portables to move classes to facilitate ongoing construction. Site constraints and a lack of classroom space at Suddaby P.S. will not allow for additional portables or the offering of Area Enrichment classes once renovations commence. The space currently occupied by the area enrichment program will need to be utilized to accommodate the classes being displaced during the renovations.

The renovations include replacing the existing steam boilers with hot water, installing new ventilation systems, installing fire sprinkler systems in the building, asbestos and lead abatement, and restoring ceilings and other impacted spaces.

STATUS:

The Area Enrichment Program is currently located at Suddaby Public School. Suddaby P.S. is scheduled for infrastructure renovations beginning in the summer 2011. In addition, the Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) Program will be introduced in either Year 4 or 5 (i.e., September 2012 or 2013) of the implementation. These changes will require the use of the classroom space currently occupied by the Area Enrichment classes. The implementation of FDK and the boiler replacement project will require the relocation of the Area Enrichment Program to other schools beginning in September of 2011. In considering the relocation of the Area Enrichment Program, a more equitable geographic distribution would be achieved by having "north", "mid" and "south" locations.

In consultation with Planning and Facilities, the preferred sites for the relocation of the Area Enrichment Program are Northlake Woods, A.R. Kaufman and Parkway schools. These schools have the capacity to include the Area Enrichment programs within their current and long-term projections for enrollment. The relocation of these programs will further enhance the alignment of delivering Special Education programs and services within the home community. The teaching staff from the Area Enrichment program will be reassigned to these schools beginning September 2011.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The change in program location will require a comprehensive communication plan. This will include informing the parents of students attending the Area Enrichment class, updating SEAC, meeting with the staff involved and consulting with the transportation consortium. This communication will be aligned with the acceptance of placement communication that occurs in late May.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

No financial implications. There may be some minor transportation savings due to reduced distances to the new school locations.

SYSTEM SUCCESS PLAN:

An area of opportunity from the Special Education Review highlights the importance of aligning the special education programs services with optimizing learning and achievement for all students. By relocating the programs to permanent locations, students and staff participating in the area enrichment class will enhance the ongoing focus on student achievement, instructional leadership, and the further development of a safe, caring and inclusive environment for all students.

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation. For information only.