

WEST GALT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ACCOMMODATION REVIEW - ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mission

- The purpose of the ARC is to conduct an accommodation review of the West Galt Elementary Schools to advise and provide recommendations that will inform the final decision made by the Board of Trustees about the future of student accommodation in the West Galt community of Cambridge.

Vision

- To strengthen the quality of learning experience for students

Goals

- To establish grade configurations that provide the best learning opportunities for students and staff
- To establish sustainable/long-term enrolments that provide equitable learning opportunities for students and staff
- To increase equity of facilities necessary to deliver curriculum and support student achievement
- To establish/maintain facilities and boundaries that are long-term (approx. 10 years), and consider:
 - *walking distances (community/neighbourhood-level schools)*
 - *efficiency of transportation*
 - *capacity of schools*
 - *current and future population density and demographics*
 - *proximity to other schools*
 - *impact on feeder and surrounding schools*
- To minimize the impact on students where changes are proposed (consideration for grandparenting, phasing, transitions, etc.)
- To improve the long-term opportunity for the Board to make a solid business case for additional capacity funding as residential development plans progress in Cambridge West

Objectives

- To reorganize the JK-5, 6-8 school organizations in favour of JK-6, JK-8 or 7-8
- To reduce the number of students currently attending Highland P.S. to better match the enrolment to the schools' built capacity
- To reduce the potential for combined grades at schools by moving towards the following criteria (*from Board Policy 3002*):
 - *JK-6 facilities between 350 and 400 students (approx. 2 classes/grade)*
 - *JK-8 facilities between 500 and 650 students (approx. 2 classes/grade JK-6, 2+ classes/grade 7-8)*
- To increase the number of students within walking distance to their assigned school
- To reduce the reliance on portable classrooms for long-term student accommodation
- To reduce unused (surplus) capacity by organizing schools and boundaries to achieve utilization rates (enrolment/capacity) that exceed 80% over the long-term (approx. 10 years)
- To maintain those school buildings that can provide appropriate, purpose-built facilities (kindergarten rooms, gyms, libraries, etc.)
- To reduce the cost to achieve legislated accessibility requirements by 2025