



Renfrew County District School Board

MEDIA RELEASE

May 26, 2008

RCDSB to Review School Facilities in Petawawa

At its meeting of May 26, 2008, the Renfrew County District School Board initiated a review of pupil accommodation within the Petawawa Family of Schools that includes General Panet High School; General Lake Public School; Pinecrest Public School; Herman Street Public School; and Pine View Public School. In August 2008, the Board will form a Local Accommodation Review Committee to begin the process of analyzing data, seeking input, and developing scenarios for consideration of the Board.

The Board last analyzed enrolment and facility data for the Petawawa Family of Schools in 2003-2004 but did not proceed with an accommodation review at that time. Since then, enrolment in the Petawawa Family of Schools has continued to decline and capacity now exceeds enrolment such that one-third of the space is considered surplus. At the same time, annual operating costs for the five schools are over a million dollars and projected capital costs for the next five years are in excess of 14 million dollars.

The Renfrew County District School Board has identified three key outcomes that guide decision-making: excellence in teaching and learning; safe, caring and respectful learning environments; and wise use of resources. Board Chairperson Dave Shields comments, "The Board works hard to preserve and enhance programs and services for students and to ensure that the resources made available by the Province are used to improve the quality of education. Given enrolment and financial pressures, the Board wishes to consider how it can best serve students in the Petawawa community. The Board's review committee will include a representative from each school council and from the Town of Petawawa and Base Petawawa.

The Ministry of Education provides direction regarding reviews of pupil accommodation, including the formation of a Local Accommodation Review Committee that considers each school in light of a School Valuation Framework and seeks input on potential scenarios for school consolidation and/or closure. The rigorous review process, which includes public consultation, will begin in the fall. The Board would be in a position to receive the report from the local committee in the spring of 2009.

"We are looking forward to working together with the Petawawa community to achieve the best possible learning environment for our students," added Chairperson Shields.

Dave Shields
Chairperson

Eleanor Newman
Director of Education