

**DRAFT REPORT  
OF THE  
SHERWOOD FOREST ARC:  
Orchard Park P.S., Sherwood Forest P.S., and University Heights P.S.**

**ACCOMMODATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**2011 February 07**

**CHAIRPERSON: Joyce Bennett**

**Recommendations**

In support of the Committee's mandate to respond to the Senior Administration's recommendation, the Sherwood Forest ARC (Orchard Park Public School, Sherwood Forest Public School and University Heights Public School) Accommodation Review Committee approved the following recommendations on 2011 January 27.

The Committee recommends:

THAT

1. The Board recognize that University Heights is a community and in the best interest of the students and the community that University Heights Public School be JK-8.
2. The Board merge the student populations of Sherwood Forest and Orchard Park Public Schools.
3. In the best interest of the students and community, all three schools remain open as educational facilities and the Board take steps to bolster enrolment. Options should include, but not be limited to, French Immersion, boundary adjustments, holding zones, Adult Education, ESL, full day kindergarten, daycare and special education programs.
4. None of the three properties be declared surplus or disposed of.
5. The Board meet and consult with the City of London and the residents of the affected area, in the context of The City of London's "Strengthening Neighbourhoods" Strategy, to consider the current and future needs of the community and potential uses of the properties.

## **Background**

In the 2009 November 24 Report to the Board, entitled, Annual Pupil Accommodation Report, the motion was approved that the Board forward the recommended Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for Orchard Park, Sherwood Forest and University Heights Public schools to the Capital Planning Advisory Committee for its consideration and opportunity for input to the Board.

*Orchard Park, Sherwood Forest, University Heights Public Schools:*

*Projected future pupil enrolment, available capacity, and the possibility of implementing the Board's elementary JK - 8 program delivery model at these schools suggest that this review is warranted.*

*Administration recommends that the ARC would consider the closure of Sherwood Forest Public School, consolidating the pupils of Sherwood Forest at Orchard Park, and returning the grade 7 and 8 students from Orchard Park to University Heights. This results in both remaining schools being organized in the preferred JK - 8 model. Renovations, additions and program enhancements would be recommended at Orchard Park Public School. Program enhancements and renovations would be recommended at University Heights.*

The Thames Valley District School Board approved the following motion on 2010 January 26:

*That the Orchard Park, Sherwood Forest and University Heights Public School ARC proceed as presented.*

The 8 Committee members, representing 3 school communities, met on the following dates:

2010 March 30  
2010 May 05  
2010 June 09  
2010 September 08  
2010 October 13  
2010 November 02  
2010 November 11  
2010 December 04  
2011 January 27

The Committee compiled their recommendations on 2011 January 27. An additional meeting has been set within 30 days following the posting of the Draft Report to provide an opportunity for further public input on their recommendation. That meeting is scheduled for 2011 March 09 at 7 p.m. at University Heights Public School.

Representatives of the Thames Valley District School Board included Trustee Joyce Bennett who chaired the meetings. Administrative support was provided by Executive Member John Thorpe and Superintendent of Education Marion Moynihan; Gil Owens, Planning Officer; Kevin Bushell, Executive Officer, Capital Planning; Carol McRae, Administrative Assistant to Marion Moynihan; Janice Graham, Administrative Assistant; and Principals Cindy Kissau, Orchard Park P.S., Mary Roes (September 2009 - June 2010) followed by Les Howarth (from September 2010), Sherwood Forest P.S., and Carol Edy, University Heights P.S.. Peggy Sattler, Trustee for the study area, attended a meeting to understand the communities' perspectives.

During the course of its meetings, the Committee considered, discussed and investigated the benefits, issues, concerns and considerations of the Administrative recommendation. The Committee received 31 individual requests for public input, 1 group request for public input, and 14 pieces of written correspondence. The written submissions / notes, where permission was given for publication, have been included in Appendix A. The presentations and written submissions to the ARC were thoughtful, constructive and heartfelt.

### Communication/Consultation

The Committee members informed and consulted their respective communities as follows:

The Committee received and/or examined:

1. Independent Procedure - Pupil Accommodation and Facility Organization
2. School Information Profiles for each school involved.
3. Resource Binder Contents Summary
4. Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Template Definitions / Parameters.
5. Boundary maps for each of the schools involved in the ARC.
6. Historical and projected enrolment data for the three schools involved in the ARC.
7. Thames Valley District School Board Enrolment versus Capacity Summary, 2009-2010.
8. Edulog presentation by Gil Owens including boundary data.
9. Presentation by John Fleming, Director of Land Use Planning for the City of London, providing information on demographics for the three study area schools and on City initiatives.
10. Presentation by Kevin Bushell, explaining the School Information Profiles and costs associated with the recommendation.
11. Tours of each of the schools involved were arranged prior to the start of the meetings which were rotated among the three schools.
12. A cost analysis of alternate student accommodations as requested by the committee.

Post-Analysis Senior Administration's Recommendation:

*Drawn from the Capital Plan and the Annual Pupil Accommodation Report:*

The draft capital plan included reviewing the current condition of all school facilities, as well as seeking opportunities where student enrolment could be accommodated in fewer facilities. The administration is looking to consolidate students in order to create the preferred model of JK - 8 for elementary school organization. Sherwood Forest and University Heights Public Schools are JK -6 schools with students in grades 7 and 8 attending Orchard Park P.S.. This coupled with the projected decline in future pupil enrolment suggested that this review was warranted.

Administration recommends that Sherwood Forest P.S. be closed as of June 2013 and declared surplus. The students at Sherwood Forest P.S. would be consolidated at Orchard Park P.S. and the University Heights P.S. grade 7 and 8 students would remain at University Heights P.S.. This consolidation would result in both Orchard Park P.S. and University Heights P.S. being organized in the preferred JK - 8 model for September 2013.

An addition of a Learning Resource Center and renovations to create a Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) room and administrative area are proposed at Orchard Park P.S.. The addition of an FDK room and a General Arts classroom are also proposed at University Heights P.S. along with minor renovations to create additional classrooms and improve program space.

Estimated Costing Breakdown for Senior Administration's Recommendation:

<i>SHERWOOD FOREST ARC</i>	
<i>Orchard Park P.S.</i>	<i>Estimated Total Cost</i>
Addition and Renovation	\$1,474,000*

*\*not including School Renewal items*

<i>SHERWOOD FOREST ARC</i>	
<i>University Heights P.S.</i>	<i>Estimated Total Cost</i>
Addition and Renovation	\$765,000*

*\*not including School Renewal items*

<i>SHERWOOD FOREST ARC</i>	
<i>Total Cost of Recommendations</i>	<i>Estimated Total Cost</i>
Orchard Park P.S. Addition and Renovation	\$1,474,000
University Heights P.S. Addition and Renovation	\$765,000
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$2,239,000</b>

Committee Membership:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Representative(s)</i>
School	
Orchard Park	Susanne Schmid (School Council Representative)
Sherwood Forest	Michele Mannering (School Council Representative)
University Heights	Sigalit Ephrat (School Council Representative; March 30, 2010 to June 09, 2010)
	Tracy Goodman (Commencing October 13, 2010)
Citizen	
Orchard Park	Kyle Zinn
Sherwood Forest	David Magahey
University Heights	Stefanie Zagrodnik
Community	Janice Jarmain
Municipal Leader City of London	Councillor Nancy Branscombe