

October 28, 2011



Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you are no doubt aware, after reviewing available and relevant information, and after extensive community consultation and contributions, with regret the Board has approved the consolidation of Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School (PCVS) into Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute, Crestwood Secondary School, Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute and Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School, effective September 2012.

We realize that this is a troubling and emotional time for our students and parents, within both the PCVS community and broader City of Peterborough. We wanted to take a moment and express to all how truly disappointed we are that our enrolment realities have led us to make such a very difficult decision.

This decision was made following an accommodation review that was initiated because of the current and projected enrolment of these schools, and the number and variety of programs they are able to provide to students based on this enrolment. There has been a decline of over 900 students within these schools in the past 10 years – together, the schools are currently over 1,000 students below the capacity of their buildings. By 2015, enrolment projections indicate that the schools will be over 1,700 students below the capacity of their buildings.

As a result of significant enrolment decline, a reality not just locally but across the province, our students have not been able to experience the range of educational programs we believe necessary for their successful future.

By consolidating four schools into three facilities, our schools will provide a greater number of course and program offerings to choose from, and a greater number of extra-curricular activities in which to participate.

As educators, the decision to close a school is by its very nature the most challenging to consider. Having said that, we have a responsibility to our present and future students to make decisions in their best interests. As difficult as it was, we believe that we have met this obligation.

We are moving forward with our transition planning for students, and believe that the PCVS school site lends itself well as a centre for alternative student programs. We will also be exploring the many different community programs that may have interest in locating there in order to keep a strong, viable educational and community service presence in downtown Peterborough.

For more information on the school consolidation, and how it may impact PCVS students, and those within its feeder elementary schools, please review the attached questions and answers.

We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward with these important student accommodation discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Lloyd".

Diane Lloyd  
Chairperson of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.R. Hick".

W.R. (Rusty) Hick  
Director of Education

**Trustees:**

*Diane Lloyd*  
(Chairperson)

*Angela Lloyd*  
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*Rose Kitney*  
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*Wes Marsden*  
*Shirley Patterson*  
*Roy Wilfong*

*Christopher Grouchy*  
(Student Trustee)

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*W.R. (Rusty) Hick*  
Director of Education

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## KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

City of Peterborough Secondary Schools:  
Group Pupil Accommodation Review

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**Q.** *The Board has decided to consolidate Peterborough Collegiate and Vocational School (PCVS) into Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute, Crestwood Secondary School, Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute and Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School, effective September 2012. What does this mean for the students of PCVS? Where will they go to school now?*

**A.** The decision made by the Board will result in the following changes for PCVS students:

The Integrated Arts program, and students within that program, will move to Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School effective September 2012.

All current senior students will be given the option of moving with their fellow students to Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School for the remainder of their high school years, and be provided transportation in accordance with Board policy.

Junior students currently in Grades 9 and 10 (other than Integrated Arts program students) will be relocated to either Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute (for those in the Highland Heights Public School and Queen Mary Public School catchment areas), Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute (for those located in the Prince of Wales Public School catchment area), or Crestwood Secondary School (for those living in the Westmount Public School catchment area).

Students will continue to be able to attend French Immersion at Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute and the International Baccalaureate program at Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute regardless of home location.

In addition, all students may apply for out-of-boundary status on an individual basis.

An implementation committee of students, staff and community members is working to consider how to best transition students from one school to another.

**Q.** *Will the decision to close PCVS be subject to provincial review? Will the Board wait until that review has been completed before moving forward?*

**A.** Yes, it is our understanding that members of the PCVS school community are applying for a provincial review. We respect their right to do so, and welcome any consideration of our decision.

A provincial review will focus on our accommodation review process and would not make a judgement on whether PCVS was the correct decision, or school, to be chosen for closure. Our review policy is aligned with provincial directives, and we believe that we have followed our policy, and process, in an appropriate manner. For that reason, and to reasonably plan for a smooth and seamless transition for our students, we are moving forward with our realignment of students and programming. Should a review result in our re-examining our decision, we could suspend any planning to-date.

Q. *Is Kenner Intermediate School being closed as well?*

A. No. At the October 27, 2011 Board meeting, Trustees decided not to adopt this action.

Q. *What will happen now to the PCVS school building?*

A. We take seriously our role as community partners, and feel that the PCVS school site lends itself well as a centre for alternative student programs. We will also be exploring the many different community programs that may have interest in being housed there in order to keep a strong, viable educational and community service presence in downtown Peterborough.

Q. *What will happen now to the Board's Integrated Arts program at PCVS?*

A. The Integrated Arts program, and students within that program, will move to Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School.

Q. *How does the Board's decision affect the current elementary schools that are connected to PCVS?*

A. Highland Heights Public School and Queen Mary Public School students, when they graduate, will attend Adam Scott Collegiate Vocational Institute. Prince of Wales Public School graduates will attend Kenner Collegiate Vocational Institute, and Westmount Public School graduates will attend Crestwood Secondary School.

Q. *Why did the Board consider closing a school?*

A. Enrolment is declining. There are 900 fewer students in these schools than there were 10 years ago. Enrolment at the four schools is currently 1,000 students below the capacity of the buildings. By 2015, enrolment projections indicate the schools will be 1,700 students below the capacity of the buildings; in other words, the four schools will have 1,700 fewer students than they were built to house.

As the number of students declines in a secondary school there are fewer programs available and the choice of programs for current students becomes increasingly limited. The declining student population reduces the number of teachers which, in turn, reduces the breadth of teaching expertise, and available supports for extra-curricular activities.

With current enrolment levels, some courses are already offered in multi-grade settings and others only in alternate years. This means, for example, that Grade 10 and 11 French or Music courses may be combined within one class, or that a Grade 12 Biology course may be offered only every other year.

Q. *What will happen to the teachers and staff at PCVS?*

A. Teacher or staffing levels are determined by the number of students – not the number of schools. With the consolidation of four schools into three we will still need the same number of teachers.

There will be a process to arrange for current PCVS teachers to teach at other schools.

Q. *On what basis did the Board make its decision?*

A. The accommodation review was based on two key reasons: the impact of fewer students on programming, and the excess capacity of the four secondary schools.

Among the key considerations identified as part of the Board's decision included:

- projected enrolment
- size of the PCVS school site
- the physical assets of the school facility
- the benefit of distributing enrolment across other Peterborough schools
- the school's strong location for alternative usage

Q. *When will PCVS be closed?*

A. The existing programs and students will be moved effective September, 2012.