

Recommendation

Madoc Township Public School K-8 (MTPS) and consolidate Madoc Public School and Centre Hastings Secondary School

Scenario

Bring back the MTPS grade 7 and 8s to MTPS and develop MTPS into a K-8.

Consolidate MPS and CHSS

Rationale

The Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) is to put the needs of students first!

- School boards across Ontario have always closed old schools where the population of students has shifted (Guideline to Pupil Accommodation Review, Changing Demographics). According to the Watson Report page 100, 4 out of the 5 elementary schools (Earl Prentice, MPS, Marmora Sr and Tweed) are expected to experience a decline in their utilization rates, with the exception of MTPS which will increase its utilization by approximately 11% during the forecast term! It can be noted that this increase MTPS will give the school an almost 75% utilization rate. To fill pupil spaces, we would bring the 7 and 8 classes back. This has been requested by MTPS Council since December 2014.
- Initial reason the 7/8s transitioned to MPS was to access home economic, shop, drama and other classes at CHSS but this has not happened for many years. Bringing back the 7/8s will ensure an inclusive dynamic environment for MTPS. Bringing back intermediate students has already been done in Foxboro and Harmony.
- Programming opportunities

- Leadership and mentoring across ALL grade levels (for example, all grades play together at recess)
- Ease overcapacity at MPS, due to the new French Immersion program. Each school year MPS will need an additional classroom for FI grades.
- Providing community with a choice for schooling by keeping MTPS open as an alternative to MPS. Where there is choice there is a stronger strive for excellence!
- Improves the learning environment for ALL students
- MTPS has a state of the art playground!
 - 2 soccer fields
 - 1 baseball diamond
 - Track
 - Long jump
 - A sun shelter with 4 picnic tables
 - Play structure and swings
- MTPS will provide outdoor education and experiential learning opportunities for students. As in the Long Term Capital Accommodation Plan (page 14, Section 2.5) “Consideration should be given to planning outdoor learning spaces on school properties to enhance experiential learning, creativity, fitness, well-being and student inquiry across all curriculum areas.”
- Community use of MTPS’ green space
- MTPS is not prohibitive to repair
- The AVS report is outdated (Nov 2012) and most of the recommendation for renewal needs and costs has already been completed. Therefore projected costs to maintain the building site are not accurate and MTPS building is in very good condition.
- MTPS is in better condition than both MPS and CHSS (\$4 million over 20 years, according to VFA, to maintain MTPS, \$8 million MPS and \$40 million CHSS)
- MTPS’ VFA report states that doors will cost \$79,040.00 and library carpet will cost \$23,390.00. This is an outrageous amount. Also, all windows at

MTPS have been replaced, except 3, so this will further decrease MTPS funding needed for renewal.

- MTPS boasts accessibility features with respect to entry movement and outdoor play space; MPS does not
- Safety of ALL students are considered at MTPS.
 - MTPS has orderly bus drop off and pick up; MPS does not (chaos at morning and afternoon drop off and pick up). Overcrowded parking is an issue. MPS is located in downtown Madoc and streets and parking are full during drop off and pick up times.
 - MTPS has the main office located at the front door. MTPS staff can easily see who is needing to gain access to school, both physically and with the use of cameras. MPS' office is not located at front door. MPS staff cannot physically see who is needing to gain access to their school.
- MTPS has sufficient enrolment to support sports teams and other extra curricular activities.
- Having two school (MTPS and MPS) would allow a greater opportunity for more students to get involved with school sports teams as there would be less students trying out for the same team if all in one school.
- Maintains MTPS' unique cultural identity of rural
- MTPS would be able to retain the employment for a custodian, secretary and principal thus contributing to job employment numbers to this area.
- MTPS' solid school system supports students in achieving academic excellence
- Smaller schools are effective places for students to learn. Due to their typically intimate nature they often represent the best chance of academic success for disadvantaged students and those more prone to become disengaged. This has been proven by students entering MTPS from other school areas and becoming academically and socially successful.
- Smaller school environments are well disposed to facilitate a move toward personalized instruction, as seen at MTPS

- Smaller schools' extra-curricular participation and satisfaction from such participation are higher, as seen at MTPS
- Parent and community member volunteers at MTPS are one great reason why student academic success and well-being are a success. If MTPS were to close, parent and community member disengagement will most likely occur, due to distance and unfamiliarity of MPS. Parent engagement matters. Student achievement improves when parents take an active role in their children's education.
- MTPS supports all aspects of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan
 - Achieving Excellence & Equity
 - Learning & Leadership
 - Public Confidence
 - Well-Being
- The ability to sustain a school in Madoc Township allows for a sustainability for the feeder communities such as Queensboro, Eldorado, Deloro, Gilmour. Without the attraction of a local public school these communities do not have much to offer young families looking at purchasing land and houses.
- MPS student population would fill the CHSS to capacity. The current recommendation would not make a significant impact on CHSS capacity/surplus space or high school programming to entice high school students to stay in this school.