

**YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
2016 – 2020 CAPITAL STRATEGY**

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**Background:**

Last year, Trustee's approved the 2015 – 2019 Capital Strategy Report which was a comprehensive review of all schools in the Region including school by school enrolment projections, capacity and school utilization information, and portable use. It also provided information on small schools, French Immersion and residential development trends.

The 2016 - 2020 Capital Strategy builds on the comprehensive review undertaken in 2015.

This year's Strategy reports on new pupil place requirements which will serve as the basis for the Board's multi-year capital funding request to the Ministry of Education; elementary and secondary utilization; and proposed pupil accommodation reviews.

1. Capital Strategy Goals:

The goals of the Board's Capital Strategy are provided below. The implementation of each goal is subject to Ministry approvals and funding.

- A. To provide community schools for all students wherever possible.
  - Designate school sites in new community areas.
  - Review residential development applications as part of the municipal planning process to determine school accommodation requirements.
- B. To provide permanent accommodation to match sustainable community growth in a timely fashion.
  - Annually review 10 year enrolment projections for all schools.
  - Submit business cases to the Ministry of Education for new pupil places where student threshold has been reached and surrounding pupil places are utilized.
  - Construct new schools/additions with a capacity to align with long term sustainable enrolment.
- C. To minimize the reliance on portable accommodation.
  - Use portables for temporary accommodation.
  - Locate portables at holding schools until a viable threshold is reached for a new school or at existing schools experiencing peak enrolment.
- D. To replace older school facilities where conditions warrant.
  - Review facility condition and renewal needs for all schools.
  - Focus on schools with facility and site constraints as well as accommodation pressures from new development.
- E. To utilize excess capacity within the system wherever practical.
  - Consider existing vacant pupil spaces when locating programs such as French Immersion and Gifted or other board uses (e.g. administrative requirements).
  - Encourage partnerships with municipalities and other agencies in locations with excess capacity according to [Board Policy 422, Facility Partnerships](#).

- F. To combine schools and/or undertake pupil accommodation reviews where circumstances warrant according to [Board Policy 463, Student Accommodation Review](#).
- Prepare a Capital Strategy to identify small and/or underutilized schools, and areas of decline.

## 2. Elementary and Secondary Utilization

At the elementary panel, student enrolment currently utilizes 91 per cent of the Board's school capacity. Because areas of growth are not always in proximity to areas of available pupil places, there will be a continued need for new pupil places to serve these areas.

At the secondary panel, student enrolment currently utilizes 97 per cent of the Board's school capacity with moderate fluctuations expected over the next 5 years. The Board's secondary school utilization is based on current approved school construction projects to 2017, including the opening of a new high school in Markham in 2017.

## 3. Capital Strategy List (Appendix A)

The 2016 – 2020 Capital List proposes 4 new elementary schools, 1 replacement school and 1 secondary school. New schools and school replacements may include partnerships with other school boards, municipalities and early childhood education and community service providers. Replacement schools are a critical part of the Capital Strategy designed to improve the effectiveness of existing schools.

## 4. Proposed Pupil Accommodation Reviews (Appendix B)

In accordance with Policy #463.0, Student Accommodation Review, a separate report will be presented by staff, to the Board of Trustees, proposing that pupil accommodation reviews be considered for Newmarket Central (J.L.R. Bell Public School) and Markham Thornhill (Stornoway Crescent Public School).

At this early stage in the process, staff is proposing that planning areas be considered rather than specific schools since accommodation solutions for J.L.R. Bell Public School and Stornoway Crescent Public School will be found within the broader geographic planning area. Determining which schools in the planning area should be included in the review will be part of a separate report (the Initial Staff Report), which is described in Board Policy #463, Student Accommodation Review.

### **Consultation Process:**

The draft 2016 – 2020 Capital Strategy was reviewed by senior staff.

### **Relationship to Board Priorities:**

#### Mission, Vision, Values: Responsibility

We are individually and collectively responsible for creating the best possible school community to support the achievement and well-being of all individuals. We are responsible for the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and stewardship of Board resources.

Trustee Multi Year Plan: Stewardship of Board Resources

Align human and financial resources with Board priorities by:

- Demonstrating professionalism and accountability for high standards of practice in all Board operations.
- Enhancing confidence in public education.
- Ensuring new initiatives are focused and attainable.
- Modeling continuous environmental sustainability.

**Estimated Cost:**

Not applicable

**Timeline:**

Not applicable.

**Recommendations:**

**That the Property Management Committee receive the 2016-2020 Capital Strategy Report for information.**

Note: The following recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the May 3, 2016 Board Meeting.

**That the York Region District School Board approve the following recommendations:**

**(\*1. That the 2016 – 2020 Capital Strategy Report be received for information.**

**(\*2. That the 2016 – 2020 Capital Strategy List be approved for submission to the Ministry with supporting Business Cases when requested.**

**Communications Implementation Plan:**

Property Management Committee  
Board Meeting  
Post on YRDSB website

April 19, 2016  
May 3, 2016  
Following Board meeting

**Appended Data:**

Appendix A – Capital Strategy List  
Appendix B – Proposed Pupil Accommodation Reviews

Respectfully submitted,

S. Yake  
Coordinating Superintendent, Human Resources, Plant and Planning Services

April 19, 2016

***For further information, please contact S. Yake, Coordinating Superintendent, J. Ross, Senior Manager, Planning and Property Development or J. Parappally, Director of Education.***

**APPENDIX A**  
**2016 - 2020 CAPITAL STRATEGY LIST**

For Submission to the Ministry of Education

<b>* Proposed Opening</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Proposed Capacity</b>
2018	Cathedral #2 ES (Dual FI)	Markham	615
2018	Block 12 ES	Vaughan	615
2019	Cornell #4 ES	Markham	615
2019	Sharon PS (Replacement) / New School	East Gwillimbury	615
2019	Aurora 2C ES	Aurora	615
2020	Block 11 SS	Vaughan	TBD

\*Timelines are contingent on receiving required approvals and permits from all authorities having jurisdiction prior to construction start dates.

Emerging Projects

<b>Year</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
TBD	Block 40 ES (South site)	Vaughan	615
TBD	Cornell ES	Markham	615
TBD	Holland Landing ES	East Gwillimbury	615
TBD	Kleinburg / Nashville ES	Vaughan	615
TBD	Markham Centre ES	Markham	615
TBD	Newmarket SE ES / School Addition	Newmarket	TBD
TBD	New School / Adrienne Clarkson PS (Addition)	Markham / Richmond Hill	TBD
TBD	North Leslie ES	Richmond Hill	615
TBD	Oak Ridges ES	Richmond Hill	615
TBD	Queensville ES	East Gwillimbury	615
TBD	Stouffville DSS (Addition)	Whitchurch-Stouffville	TBD
TBD	Stouffville NW ES	Whitchurch-Stouffville	615

Emerging projects listed in alphabetical order.

## APPENDIX B

### PROPOSED PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEWS

In accordance with Policy #463.0, Student Accommodation Review, staff may propose a pupil accommodation review of a school or group of schools to trustees for a number of reasons including:

- Utilization
- Student Programming/Course Availability
- Facility Condition
- Enrolment size
- Accessibility/AODA compliance
- Site Limitations
- Specialized Space (E.g. Labs, Gyms, IT)

In the most recent [Guide to Pupil Accommodation Reviews](#), the Ministry of Education identified the most important goal of a pupil accommodation review as providing students with improved educational options and opportunities through enhanced program delivery. Whether that is achieved with a larger combined enrolment and/or newer facility, by bringing students together through a school consolidation, school boards are often able to offer a better educational experience.

The 2015 – 2019 Capital Strategy included a Small Schools section which identified those schools with an enrolment of 200 students or less. In the 2015 – 2016 school year, staff continued to review its small schools, and further focused on very small schools (defined by the Ministry in the School Board Efficiencies and Modernization Consultations as having enrolment less than 100) for the following reasons:

#### Program

Low enrolment impacts the following:

- Student programming and supports such as special education, ESL (English as a second language) and library.
- The ability to offer a variety of extracurricular (co-curricular) opportunities, including those activities offered by lunch time and after school service providers.
- Instructional challenges presented by cohorts with smaller numbers (sometimes fewer than 10).
- School organizations that require combining 3 grades in one classroom.
- Lower numbers of staff at the school for teacher collaboration, student supervision, and undertaking school and Board-wide initiatives.

#### Funding

- Changes to Ministry funding allocation for principals, vice-principals, office support staff and administrative supplies has shifted funding away from very small schools.
- Ministry funding for staffing results in boards directing additional funds for small schools from the total staffing allocation to provide classroom and student support programming.
- The Ministry has begun to eliminate Base Top-up Funding through the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant.
- Beginning in 2015–16, school boards are required to direct 80 per cent of School Condition Improvement (SCI) funding to key building components (for example, foundations, roofs,

windows) and systems (for example, HVAC and plumbing). School boards are allowed to use the remaining 20 per cent of SCI funding to address any locally identified needs. This means that SCI eligible projects will tend to be larger in scope over fewer schools. These changes reduce a school board's ability to do smaller projects at more schools.

- If renewal costs exceed 50 per cent of value of the school building, then ministry approval is required to proceed with the project. Small schools with low asset (building) value will require ministry approval to proceed.

### **Proposed Pupil Accommodation Reviews**

As of October 2015, the Board operated three very small schools with an enrolment less than 100 students: Queensville Public School, J.L.R. Bell Public School, and Stornoway Crescent Public School.

As outlined in the 2015-2019 Capital Strategy, Queensville Public School will eventually be replaced once new growth occurs in the community. In the event that development is delayed, or the number of units significantly reduced, then staff would reassess the need for a pupil accommodation review process for the East Gwillimbury planning area.

Both J.L.R. Bell Public School and Stornoway Crescent Public School are projected to remain at their current enrolment levels. Staff is proposing that pupil accommodation reviews be considered for Newmarket Central (J.L.R. Bell Public School) and Markham Thornhill (Stornoway Crescent Public School).

Accommodation solutions for J.L.R. Bell Public School and Stornoway Crescent Public School will be found within the broader geographic planning area. Determining which schools in the planning area should be included in the review will be part of a separate report (Initial Staff Report) to the Board of Trustees as described in Board Policy #463, Student Accommodation Review.