



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14th, 2010

Letter of Agreement Signed

London, ON - Middlesex County and the Thames Valley District School Board are pleased to announce that during a public session on **September 14, 2010 at 1PM at 399 Ridout St. N, London, Ontario** they signed a historic letter of agreement. A copy of the letter of agreement is attached to this release.

At the signing ceremony, Warden Joanne Vanderheyden applauded all involved in making this agreement a reality. "This agreement is a testament to the hard work of our administrative teams and our collective political commitment to effective community building" Warden Vanderheyden commented.

Thames Valley District School Board Chair Terry Roberts agrees. "This agreement is a major step forward in recognizing the importance of involving local community representatives in the review of potential school closures. We applaud our Education Director Bill Tucker for helping to spearhead this initiative."

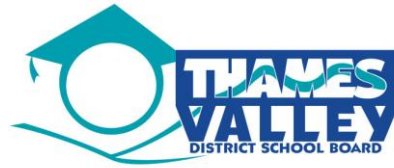
Warden Vanderheyden also thanked the Community Schools Alliance for making this day possible. "In just over a year, Councillor Reycraft has turned the Community Schools Alliance into a significant player in the development of appropriate protocols for municipal / education facility decisions. I thank the Community Schools Alliance for raising awareness of the importance of community schools in rural Ontario and then working so hard to be part of the solution."

Councillor Reycraft commented that "I am overjoyed that the school board and the municipalities are coming together to discuss our education facilities, which are valuable components of public infrastructure. While these discussions are a significant step, for which the leadership at the TVDSB should be applauded, the Community Schools Alliance has a considerable amount of work to do to convince other municipalities and school boards across Ontario to adopt a similar protocol."

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**Letter of Agreement
Between
The County of Middlesex
And
The Thames Valley District School Board**

The purpose of this Letter of Agreement (LOA) is to establish a consultation protocol between the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) and communities within the constituency of Middlesex County with a goal of establishing a collaborative and effective accommodation and review process.

The parties to the LOA are establishing a new consultation process to ensure that municipalities, residents, students and parents have the opportunity to understand and comment on the factors that comprise the education accommodation decision making process prior to the establishment of a TVDSB administrative recommendation or Board decision.

The County of Middlesex agrees that it is important for each municipality in Middlesex to have an understanding of the declining enrolment, program and facility challenges facing the TVDSB. Likewise, the TVDSB understands that community issues, goals and initiatives need to be considered into the decision making process.

To accomplish these goals, the parties have agreed to public annual meetings to discuss the educational accommodation challenges in Middlesex County.

The TVDSB agrees to:

- Provide a suitable venue for the annual meetings
- Establish a date and time for the meetings
- Invite representatives from the TVDSB to attend the meetings
- Present a report at each annual meeting that outlines a regional approach to TVDSB challenges and options for consideration.

Middlesex County agrees to:

- Establish an invitee list for the annual meetings
- Provide meeting notification to invitees
- Provide written comments to TVDSB following the conclusion of the meeting. Such comments will be for the purpose of consideration in the development of TVDSB administrative recommendations and Board decisions.

The term of this LOA shall be for a period of four years from the effective date of signing and may be extended upon written mutual agreement of the County of Middlesex and the Thames Valley District School Board. The LOA shall be reviewed annually by the CAO for the County of Middlesex and the Director of Education for the TVDSB.

Signed on September 14th, 2010

Joanne Vanderheyden
Warden, Middlesex County

Terry Roberts
Chair, TVDSB