Consolidation of Georgetown schools still a possibility

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However, the Ministry of Education did not approve this plan, and as the consolidation of the two schools was contingent on ministry funding, the plan will not proceed, she added.

According to Swinden, information regarding two schools in Oakville in the People for Education report St. Joseph Catholic Elementary and St. James Catholic Elementary was also listed in error. Those schools have also been proposed for consolidation in a new school on the existing St. Joseph site, but that plan has also not yet been approved by the ministry.

While the schools will not be closing in 2017-18 as reported by People for Education, closure and consolidation remains on the table.

HCDSB submitted three applications for provincial funding for the Georgetown project to two separated Ministry of Education programs since the plan was first approved by the board in 2015 two of which were denied by the ministry.

However, a second application for funding through the School Consolidation Capital (SCC) Program, sent earlier this year, is still being considered by the province and Swinden said a decision could come as early as the end of this month (May).

According to HCDSB, none of the schools will be closing anytime soon regardless of the outcome of that decision.

Even if the decision is yes, we would still need time to build the new school. The dates in (the People for Education) report were based on the submission of the original application for funding, said Swinden, adding 2019 or 2020 would be more realistic should the plan end up proceeding.

Should approval for the plan be denied a third time, superintendent of education Tim Overholt said the board would be looking for alternative options.

It is a process where it is an emotional one, said Overholt. We relaize it does take a toll on people knowing that their schools might be closing.

If we don t get (approval) at that point in time, then we re going to have to make some decisions about what we re going to do. We can keep on trying, but if we get rejected three times, we have to ask ourselves if that s going to be a priority moving forward, added Overholt.



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