



**The Pupil Accommodation Review Committee
Public Meeting - Open House Synopsis
(Albion Heights JMS, Elmbank JMA, Greenholme JMS,
Humberwood Downs JMA, Melody Village JS)**

**Public Meeting #1 – Open House
Date: April 12th, 2012
Time: 3:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Location: Albion Heights JMS - Gymnasium**

Notes:

Present:

<i>Albion Heights JMS</i>	Sandra Buie - Principal, Lesa Williams-George – Vice-Principal, Tham Banting, Karamjit Jhally, Ulita Walsh
<i>Elmbank JMA</i>	Aldona Volunge – Principal, Fitz-Roy Gordon – Vice-Principal, Lennox Abraham, Mari Ali, Jason Cruickshank
<i>Greenholme JMS</i>	Terry Singh – Principal, Abdula Wardhere, Moriam Ajenifuja
<i>Humberwood Downs</i>	Beverley Muir - Principal, Marcia Khan, Nilesh Mehta, Wayne Weir
<i>Melody Village JS</i>	Pauline Miller - Principal, Lise Jickels, Denise Domise
<i>Interpreters</i>	Chandra Kanagaratnam, Samar Haider, Nasim Daya, Abdisalam Shakul, Mita Chakrabarty, Tayung Phuong
<i>Childcare Staff</i>	Sadia Abdullahi and Hwo Ali
<i>Parent Ed. Network</i>	Annie Appleby – Superintendent of Education, Reema Khanna, Andrew Gowdy, John Tancredi, Ali Abdi, Sandra Tondat, Bridgette Hanson, Janet Mills, Gayle Zimmerman-Huyke, Bernie Daya
<i>Roots of Empathy Trustee</i>	Katy Anderson, Barbara Frinpong Lois Scarlett John Hastings

Item	Agenda	Responsibility Attachments
1.	When guests arrived they were greeted by Albion Heights JMS Grade 7 student Ambassadors; the Grade 8 String Ensemble performed. The Open House Public Consultations are intended to share information as well as gather feedback. Community members were given the opportunity to talk with staff whilst sharing their insights and concerns.	Annie Appleby
2.	Welcome/Overview Everyone who registered was given a Passport to the Open House for the Ward 1 Rexdale Elementary School Pupil Accommodation Review as well as a Feedback Survey upon arrival. Participants were greeted and directed to tour all stations surrounding the gym: Pupil Accommodation Review Process, Understanding the 5 Schools, Possible Accommodations: Model 1 and Model 2 possible accommodation: Managed by Planning; French Immersion Programming – Managed by FSL, Garden by students: Parenting & Family Literacy Centre, Roots of Empathy –TDSB Partners.	

Item	Agenda	Responsibility Attachments
	<p>Welcome/Overview Continued:</p> <p>The drop off box for suggestions and feedback surveys.</p> <p>Display Board with all PARC committee members identified with photograph and position/role + notation of those with voting rights. Members of the committee escorted visitors around the stations answered questions and directed them to the appropriate staff person.</p>	
3.	<p>Questions/Comments/Responses:</p> <p>Participants raised issues related to access to Humberwood Downs JMA (HDJMA), specifically those families who reside either on Humberwood Blvd or in the apartment buildings at Queen's Plate Drive. They feel that the boundary change of 1999 that re-directed their children to Elmbank JMA and the recent re-direct of the Tridel Condominium owners' children to Greenholme has negative consequences related to after school activities. They would like reassignment of current registered students – that is move out some children to allow for the more geographically close homes and apartment dwellers to attend HDJMA.</p> <p>*Toronto District School Board (TDSB) planners should have foreseen the need for a new school since the first building at 700 Humberwood Blvd was built in 2005.</p> <p>Some participants expressed skepticism as to the consultation stating that TDSB will do what it sees fit regardless of the input from the community.</p> <p><u>In response:</u> the TDSB is committed to hearing from all stakeholders as to their views on accommodating pupil growth in the immediate, short, medium and long term; the TDSB will listen; the committee will listen to everyone and vote on recommendations; the provincially recommended process is being followed; numerous meetings are being held; there are "recorded" ways of submitting your input other than verbalizing comments today.</p> <p>*Why can't students living near Humberwood Downs simply go to that school?</p> <p><u>Response:</u> restrictions of options are in place for Humberwood Centre given that it is managed and comprised by Four (4) partners: Toronto Public Library, Parks and Recreation, Toronto Catholic School Board and TDSB; moreover, there are environmental restrictions that curb options for additions and portables.</p> <p>Some of the participants expressed concern that there isn't a Town Hall style meeting with a presentation given to an audience.</p> <p><u>Response:</u> The Open House format is intended to facilitate everyone having an equitable opportunity to learn, ask questions and give suggestions: verbally, on post-it notes, survey completion, as well as sending comments to the website brighterfutures@tdsb.on.ca.</p> <p>*The issue of some families using "fake addresses" to access HDJMA was raised</p>	

Item	Agenda	Responsibility Attachments
	<p>Questions/Comments/Responses Continued:</p> <p>Some questions were raised about the partnerships such as Roots of Empathy, Parent Education Centre and the Community Garden.</p> <p><u>Response:</u> The Parent Education Centre has an office in Elmbank – they serve all of Etobicoke and will liaise with any parent group, their sessions are posted on the web with PEN and are open to anyone who registers and pays the fee: The Roots of Empathy program is available to any school which request the program and that registers and can find a family with a baby to participate in the program: The Urban Farm/Garden is also a focus for any school that has some land, a committed group of adults and the desire (they exist at Thistletown CI, West Humber CI and Elmbank in NW1 as well as Emory CI and John Polanyi): Parent and Family Literacy Centres (PFLC) are in many schools across TDSB - there must be space and commitment from the school and community to host a PFLC.</p> <p>The above partners were invited to demonstrate the positive ways that community can be engaged with schools to enhance student learning and family participation.</p> <p>* Elmbank is the home school for my child who will start school on September '13, and I like the idea of having French Immersion program at Elmbank, however; I do not speak French. How would I be able to assist my child with his/her school work then?</p> <p>A couple of parents mentioned that they would prefer siblings to be together in one school i.e. Melody absorbed into Elmbank (easier for older ones to pick up younger ones, safety and regardless of who has an activity the sibling can remain with the other one... that is Elmbank's practice currently).</p> <p>Bussing for the French Immersion registered students was a concern.</p>	
4.	<p>Participants were encouraged to participate in the Survey brighterfutures@tdsb.on.ca. It is important that we hear back from the community throughout this process. Input will be considered along with feedback from others. All ideas will be considered by the PARC Committee in its deliberations and report to the TDSB Board.</p>	Annie Appleby

