



**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 #2 – Open House  
Date: April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Time: 3:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
Location: Melody Village JS - Gymnasium**

**Notes:**

Present:

<i>Albion Heights JMS</i>	Sandra Buie - Principal, Lesa Williams-George – Vice-Principal, Tham Banting, Karamjit Jhally
<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
<i>Humberwood Downs</i>	Beverley Muir - Principal, Joann DeMurrell – Vice-Principal, Nilesh Mehta, Wayne Weir
<i>Melody Village JS</i>	Pauline Miller - Principal, Lise Jickels
<i>Interpreters</i>	Chandra Kanagaratnam, Samar Haider, Nasim Daya, Mita Chakrabarty, Tayung Phuong
<i>Childcare</i>	Sadia Abdullahi and Hwo Ali
<i>Staff</i>	Annie Appleby – Superintendent of Education, Reema Khanna, Thor Plaxton, John Tancredi, Ali Abdi, Sandra Tondat, Kirsten Johnston, Janet Mills, Catherine Pawis, Lee Anne Knapp, Claude Grimmond, Bernie Daya
<i>Parent Ed. Network</i>	Barbara Frinpong

<b>Item</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Responsibility Attachments</b>
<b>1.</b>	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
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Welcome/Overview</b></p> <p>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 &amp; Family Literacy Centre, Roots of Empathy –TDSB Partners.</p> <p>The drop off box for suggestions and feedback surveys as well as sending comments to the website <a href="mailto:brighterfutures@tdsb.on.ca">brighterfutures@tdsb.on.ca</a>.</p>	

Item	Agenda	Responsibility Attachments
	<p><b>Welcome/Overview Continued:</b></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><b>Questions/Comments/Responses:</b></p> <p>We are following the Ministry Guidelines whereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As few transitions as possible – aim for K-8 schools</li> <li>• Schools should aim for 450-650 student body to facilitate programming</li> <li>• Capacity ought to be between 80-90%</li> </ul> <p>* Some individuals expressed skepticism about the consultation stating that The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has made up its mind about the outcome.  <u>Response:</u> We are trying to engage the whole community as much as possible and will consider all suggestions and recommendations when making the final report for the TDSB.</p> <p>* I like the idea of having excess students from the Humberwood Downs area going to Albion heights</p> <p>* "Status quo" means no change from the present.</p> <p>* If a child is already in Grade 2 in a regular program the next option is to look at the Junior Extended French Program that begins at Grade 4. There is one in the neighbourhood at Greenholme JMS: the application packages are distributed to all grade 3 students in the TDSB in the fall of the school year.</p> <p>* A parent of a child in Grade 2 FI at Elmlea JS, whose home school is Elmbank JMA, expressed appreciation that the board is condering opening another SK-Gr 8 French Immersion (FI) program in this part of the city. She was very gracious and said that while it was most definitely worth the additional effort (the bus ride for her child to Elmlea), she'd be thrilled if that time on the bus could be reduced by having a program open either at Elmbank or Melody Village.</p> <p>*A contingent of Melody Village teachers questioned how the TDSB determines the site of a new SK FI program.  <u>Response:</u> New sites can be opened based on PARC decisions but can also open through our system wide procedure (PR 597). New sites do not open unless there is demand in the area and current sites are having difficulty meeting that demand.</p> <p>* Some Elmbank staff wondered about the inclusion of French Immersion and the implications thereof.  <u>Response:</u> Research is very clear (Dr. Sharon Lapkin, Professor Emeritus OISE) that there is no one type of "ideal" French Immersion students; that ELL's fair very well in FI programs (Dr. Caillie Maidie, Schulich School of Education at Nipissing University);TDSB is working at "democratizing" our FSL programs so all students can have the opportunity to become proficient in both of Canada's official languages.</p>	

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	<p>* There's a possibility that the area (Jamestown) will be revitalized soon. Why don't we give time to that? Where are we going to put the additional students that may come with families if the area grows?</p> <p><u>Response:</u> The planning dept has extensive experience and skills to determine what, where and how in situations like this, and will certainly have appropriate plans if and when the area needs additional space for students.</p>	
4.	<p>The Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) Working Meeting #4 March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 committee members were taken on a bus tour and had the opportunity to engage in a visualization exercise to facilitate better understanding pertaining to the issues surrounding the following schools; Humberwood Downs JMA, Albion Heights JMS, Elmbank JMA, Greenholme JMS and Melody Village JS. In this exercise, committee members were able to travel to each school and explore the various challenges with respects to each school's physical capacity and space.</p> <p>Participants were encouraged to participate in the Survey <a href="mailto:brighterfutures@tdsb.on.ca">brighterfutures@tdsb.on.ca</a>. 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