

**Final Report of the Program Area Review Team (PART) for
Sir John A Macdonald Cluster of Schools
November 3, 2015**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sir John A Macdonald CI Cluster of Schools Program Area Review Team recommends the following:

- 1. Grade Changes;**
 - a. The junior elementary schools (Brian PS, Cherokee PS, Ernest PS, and Muirhead PS) become JK to Grade 5 schools.**
 - b. That Pleasant View JHS becomes a Grade 6 to 8 school.**
 - i. With a corresponding school name change being, to Pleasant View Middle School.**
 - c. That Grade 9 pupils from Pleasant View move to Sir John A Macdonald CI or L'Amoreaux CI depending on home address.**

- 2. Shift in French Programs;**
 - a. The pathway from Brian PS be to Don Valley MS for Grades 6 to 8, Windfields JHS for Grade 9, and then to York Mills CI for Grades 10 to 12.**
 - b. That an additional guaranteed option be provided to Don Valley MS French Immersion pupils to attend Newtonbrook SS for Grades 9 to 12.**
 - c. That a French Extended Program be created at Cherokee PS feeding to a new French Extended Program at Pleasant View MS.**
 - d. That a French Immersion Program be created at Ernest PS.**

- 3. Change to the Brian PS, Ernest PS and Muirhead PS Junior Attendance Areas with the Regular Program pathway to Pleasant View MS and Sir John A Macdonald CI or L'Amoreaux CI in the case of Ernest PS.**

- 4. Implementation;**
 - a. That Grade 6 and 9 shifts occur for September 2017;**
 - b. That new French program sites at Ernest PS and Cherokee PS be implemented for September 2016;**
 - c. That existing French Immersion program changes occur beginning September 2017 meaning new program sites will have their first grade of intake (French Immersion Grade 6s will move to Don Valley);**
 - d. That the change to the Brian PS, Ernest PS and Muirhead PS boundary be implemented for September 2016 with grandparenting of existing pupils and their younger siblings;**
 - e. That school based transition teams be established, involving teachers, parents, principal, and when appropriate students, to identify and mitigate issues in student readiness, including such matters of student safety.**

BACKGROUND

A Local Feasibility Team (LFT) comprised of the area Trustee, Superintendent, TDSB Principals and central program and planning staff, was established to complete the Junior High School review established by the Board of Trustees in June 2000. The objective of the LFT was to come up with a feasible solution for transitioning away from the Junior High School model while addressing significantly over and underutilized schools in the area, as well as enhancing program offerings in local schools. A previous LFT in 2013 established that Grade 9 would move from Pleasant View JHS to Sir John A Macdonald CI or L'Amoreaux CI, depending on home address, after a more extensive analysis of the impact on elementary school feeders.

The LFT created 17 scenarios, and a preferred scenario was identified as the most feasible within the context of the TDSB Long Term Program and Accommodation Plan's (LTPAS) Program and Planning Accommodation Drivers.

The transition of the LFT to a Program Area Review Team (PART) was approved by Central Accommodation Team (CAT) on September 17, 2015. The objective of the PART is to continue the work of the LFT in evaluating the feasibility of the preferred scenario 9b (revised), by seeking advice and feedback from impacted parent representatives through the course of 3 working meetings. The PART also presented the preferred scenario to the general public to seek input from the broader community. Meeting minutes can be found on the TDSB website.

At the first PART meeting, an explanation of the role of the PART as an advisory committee was given. The group was provided with the Program and Accommodation Drivers that the LFT used to arrive at the preferred scenario, specifically addressing over and underutilized schools, rational attendance areas and equity and access to programs for all students. The PART was asked to evaluate the options using the same criteria. A data package with all of the scenarios the LFT created was distributed to the PART. The data included actual 2014 student enrolments, projected 2019 and 2024 enrolments based on the scenario being considered, as well as an illustration of each of the feeder pathways. The LFT identified Scenario 9b (revised) as the preferred scenario. Enrolment and utilization information about the preferred scenario is shown in Appendix A.

At the second PART meeting, feedback was provided by the group on the preferred scenario in a round table discussion. Feedback forms were also distributed to team members. The group was asked about the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed scenario.

The comments and questions posed at the second PART meeting informed the content of the presentation at the public meeting. A summary of the feedback received at the public meeting and a copy of the presentation can be found online at the Sir John A Macdonald Program Area Review website.

The PART held a third working meeting to discuss the feedback received at the public meeting about the preferred scenario and provide guidance on how to proceed. The PART membership found consensus on Grade 9 changes, Grade 6 at Pleasant View and

name changes for September 2017. Consensus was found on the creation of new French Immersion and Extended French programming for September 2016. A vote was held on implementation for Grade 6 changes to French Immersion programming (Grade 6 move to Don Valley), and was agreed by a large majority to begin in September 2017.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Program Area Review Team		
School/Organization	Name	Role
Brian Public School	Paul Farrell	Principal
	Bianca O'Brien	School Council
	Nancy Simich	School Council
	Nellemarie Hyde	School Council
	Aretha Phillip	School Council
Cherokee Public School	Phyllis Jackson	Principal
	Tom Mitsopoulos	School Council
Ernest Public School	Linda-Sue Thomas	Principal
	Angela Morelli	School Council
L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute	Huw Chinnery	Principal
	Jenny Jebanesan	School Council
	Emir Tascioglu	School Council
Muirhead Public School	Baila Goldfarb	Principal
	Joanna Hodgson	School Council
Pleasant View Junior High School	Linda Nardea	Principal
	Mary Llanos	School Council
Sir John A Macdonald Collegiate Institute	Rick Tarasuk	Principal
TDSB Trustee	Ken Lister	Trustee, Ward 17
TDSB Trustee	Manna Wong	Trustee, Ward 20

Staff Resources		
Organization	Name	Role
TDSB Central Staff	David Paltser	Educational Planning Officer
TDSB Central Staff	John Tancredi	Central Coordinating Principal, Teaching and Learning
TDSB Central Staff	Lori Moore	Supervising Principal-Special Education
French as a Second Language Advisory Committee	Kristina Laperle	Parent Co-Chair

Meeting Details		
Meeting Type	Date	Time
Committee	October 6, 2015	4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Committee	October 20, 2015	4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Public Meeting	October 27, 2015	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Committee	November 3, 2015	4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

ANALYSIS OF THE PREFERRED SCENARIO

The analysis is summarized in Appendix A and suggests that preferred scenario will provide:

- With grade changes, program relocations, and attendance boundary changes, sufficient classroom space exists to accommodate intermediate grade students at Pleasant View MS, and all secondary grade students at Sir John A Macdonald CI or L'Amoreaux CI.
- The resulting impact to the elementary schools indicates general improvement to the number schools that are over or under enrolled, and corresponding changes to utilization rates, and a reduction in the projected number of portables required.
 - For example, the current situation has 1 school operating above 100% and 2 schools operating below 65%. By 2024 there will be 1 school being utilized over 100% and 4 schools under 65%. This is contrary to the accommodation drivers outlined in the Board's Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy.
 - The preferred scenario leaves no schools having a utilization rate above 100% or below 65%
 - All non-capital means (boundary change, program relocation, grade changes) have been employed to balance enrolments across the schools.
- Program opportunities are improved for community students.
 - Students will no longer leave the community to participate in Extended French Programming with the creation of a program at Cherokee PS.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

There is generally strong support amongst the PART members to proceed with the preferred scenario. Parents generally recognize the benefits of the JK-Grade 5, Grade 6 to 8, and Grade 9 to 12 model and the additional choice this will provide to families.

Throughout the course of our discussions, parents at the PART working and public meetings raised several questions about and made comments concerning the accommodation plan for the area. These are summarized under the following themes.

1. Timing of Changes

- When would implementation take place?
- Is there enough time to plan?
- Too many changes at once?
- Could the changes be phased in?

2. Readiness of Students
 - Parents are concerned Grade 6 students are too young to move schools
 - There is anxiety around the change
 - Safety concerns around getting to school (walking, TTC) and the distances involved
 - Maturity level of students
3. Childcare—Before and After Care
 - Some parents want Childcare to be provided at Middle School for the Grade 6 students
 - Can programming be provided at Lunch or after school for Grade 6 pupils?
4. Student Success
 - What will happen to the teachers and the resources?
 - How will we ensure the good student achievement continues?
 - Concerns around EQAO testing in Grade 6
5. French Immersion Pathway
 - There are concerns around the number of transitions in the proposed French Immersion Pathway (Don Valley-Windfields-York Mills)
 - There are concerns over the distance of travel and expense for parents
 - Why don't we expand York Mills CI so that Grade 9 can be accommodated?
6. Brian/Ernest/Muirhead Boundary Change
 - If the regular track at the school declines will there be limited opportunities for Spec Ed pupils?

There is a good sense amongst the parent community that with careful planning and the commitment of school staff, administration, parents, and the Superintendent and Trustee, we can achieve the goal to improve program delivery and remedy accommodation pressures.



**Program Area Review Team
Sir John A Macdonald Cluster of Schools**

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Site Details	Sir John A Macdonald CI	L'Amoreaux CI	Pleasant View JHS	Brian PS	Cherokee PS	Ernest PS	Muirhead PS	Total
Status Quo Data								
Grades Served	Gr. 9 - 12	Gr. 9 - 12	Gr. 7 - 9	Gr. JK - 6	Gr. JK - 6	Gr. JK - 6	Gr. JK - 6	
Capacity*	1,353	957	591	358	243	452	264	4,218
Portables on Site 2014/15	0	12	0	5	0	0	0	17
Headcount Enrolment Oct 2014	1,159	734	282	450	172	156	193	3,146
Utilization Oct 2014	86%	77%	48%	126%	71%	35%	73%	75%
Projected Headcount Enrolment 2024	1,085	596	284	556	130	121	184	2,956
Projected Utilization - 2024	80%	62%	48%	155%	53%	27%	70%	70%
Programs (Special Education, French, Other)	Autism (2.0)	Extended French		French Immersion (11.0)			Behaviour (1.0), MID (2.0), LD (2.0)	-
Program/Community Partnerships				Brian's Petits Amis Children's Centre (3-excl., 5-shared)			Mrs. Rashida Moosvi (1-shared)	

*Total School Student Capacity based on TDSB Room Use

Scenario 9b (revised) - Grade Changes, Program Shifts, Boundary Changes

Grades Served	Gr. 9 - 12	Gr. 9 - 12	Gr. 6 - 8	Gr. JK - 5	Gr. JK - 5	Gr. JK - 5	Gr. JK - 5	
Projected Headcount Enrolment 2024	1,198	752	397	378	166	338	182	3,410
Projected Utilization - 2024	89%	79%	67%	106%	68%	75%	69%	81%