



Eglinton Jr. PS – Maurice Cody Jr. PS Boundary Review Questions and Answers (as of March 16, 2018)

1. What is a Boundary Review?

Local neighbourhood schools have attendance areas defined by boundaries that are used to determine admission to the Regular Program. Students who live in the boundary have a right to attend the school. Boundaries between two schools can be changed to reduce overcrowding, utilize surplus space or designate addresses to a closer school. There is a review process to consider a change to an attendance boundary.

2. What is a Program Area Review?

This process looks at the programs offered within a community or grouping of schools and identifies program gaps or space needs. A Program Area Review (PART) may involve looking at a range of options to increase access to programs including the establishment of new schools, introduction of new specialized programs or possible changes to grade configurations.

To learn more about Program Area Reviews, please visit:

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/TDS130%20ParentGuardian%20Fact-revised-final-print%20version-Nov.%202020,%202017.pdf.

3. Why is the TDSB conducting a boundary review between Eglinton Jr. PS and Maurice Cody Jr. PS?

In 2015, a Program Area Review was done to assess and provide solutions to enrolment pressures in the Yonge-Eglinton area. A Program Area Review Team (PART) was formed and it recommended a potential change to the Eglinton Jr. PS and Maurice Cody Jr. PS junior attendance areas effective September 2022, pending a review of accommodation pressures and space availability at the two schools.

Based on an annual review of accommodation pressures, the timing of this proposed boundary change has been moved up to September 2019. As a result, a boundary review process has been initiated to assess options and consult with the school communities before a final decision is made.

4. A boundary change won't solve the enrolment pressures at Eglinton Jr. PS. What else was recommended by the 2015 PART to address enrolment pressures?

As we mentioned above, the recommendation to implement a boundary change was a result of a Program Area Review initiated in 2015. In February 2016, the Board approved a series of recommendations related to the review including:

- a) That Davisville Junior Public School (English stream only), Eglinton Junior Public School (English and Extended French streams), Maurice Cody Junior Public School, and Oriole Park

Junior Public School be reconfigured from JK to Grade 6 schools to JK to Grade 5 schools effective 1 September 2017;

- b) That Hodgson Senior Public School become a Grade 6 to 8 middle school (English and Extended French streams) effective 1 September 2017;
- c) That the school name for Hodgson Senior Public School be changed to Hodgson Middle School effective 1 September 2017 to reflect its new grade configuration;
- d) That a review of accommodation options for the Grade 6 English stream students at Davisville Junior Public School be conducted pending completion of the new school facility (tentative date set for 2020);
- e) That the shared attendance area between Eglinton Junior Public School/Hodgson Senior Public School and Northlea Elementary and Middle School be amended effective 1 September 2016 so that it becomes entirely the Northlea Elementary and Middle School attendance area for JK to Grade 8;
- f) That the intermediate attendance boundary for Hodgson Senior Public School be amended effective 1 September 2016 to include the entirety of the Eglinton Junior Public School junior attendance area to eliminate the occurrence of the Eglinton Junior Public School attendance boundary being split between two intermediate attendance areas;
- g) That the Glenview Senior Public School intermediate attendance boundary be amended effective 1 September 2016 to include the entirety of the Allenby Junior Public School (and redirected portions of the North Preparatory Junior Public School) attendance areas to eliminate the occurrence of the Allenby Junior Public School attendance boundaries being split between two intermediate attendance areas;
- h) That the portion of Oriole Park Junior Public School junior attendance area that currently feeds to Forest Hill Junior and Senior Public School for Grades 7 to 8 be amended effective 1 September 2016 into a shared intermediate attendance area between Forest Hill Junior and Senior Public School and Hodgson Senior Public School (this will only be a transitional solution and will be reviewed once the secondary pathways are realigned and will be discussed in Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy meetings with the Trustee);
- i) That all students who currently reside in the impacted attendance areas for all aforementioned schools (recommendations e to h) and attend these schools as of the end of the 2015-2016 school year and their siblings be grand parented and be allowed to remain at the current schools until they graduate; and,
- j) That potential change to the Eglinton Junior Public School – Maurice Cody Junior Public School junior attendance areas be considered effective 1 September 2022, pending a review of accommodation pressures and space availability at the two schools.

5. Where do we stand in terms of the implementation of the recommendations described in question #4?

We are now discussing recommendation (j), which refers to a potential change to the Eglinton Jr. PS and Maurice Cody Jr. PS junior attendance areas, pending a review of accommodation pressures and space availability at the two schools.

The purpose of this boundary change review is to explore feasible opportunities to utilize available space at Maurice Cody Jr. PS by assigning a portion of the existing Eglinton Jr. PS attendance area to that school.

All the other recommendations of the 2015 Yonge-Eglinton Program Area Review have already been implemented (except for (d) which concerns a review of options for the Grade 6 English stream at Davisville Jr. PS which will be done upon completion of the new building in 2020).

6. Why aren't the ward boundaries and the school catchment areas aligned?

The TDSB ward boundaries are independent of TDSB school operations. Students who reside within the City of Toronto have the right to attend a school which is designated to serve their residential address. This is called the school catchment area or attendance area. These areas are completely separate from ward boundaries.

The three most important factors that contribute to the determination of trustee ward boundaries are:

- a) The number of trustees allowed by the Province. According to Ontario Regulation 412/00, the TDSB is allowed up to 22 trustees based on the number of public school supporters (electors) residing in the City of Toronto.
- b) City of Toronto municipal ward boundaries. Ontario Regulation 412/00 specifies that the trustee wards must follow municipal ward boundaries. A trustee ward could be a single municipal ward or a combination of municipal wards.
- c) Geographic continuity. Trustee wards must be geographically contiguous.

In contrast, the most important factors that contribute to the determination of school catchment areas are:

- a) Distances from residential addresses to the schools.
- b) Numbers of students residing at addresses.
- c) Capacities of the school buildings.
- d) Major geographic features that could be obstacles for students to cross such as highways, waterways and railway lines.
- e) Geographic features for school boundaries to follow such as the centre line of streets or the back lot or properties.
- f) Boundaries of the schools in the other panels (where possible it is preferred to align the junior, intermediate and secondary school boundaries so that graduating classes have the same opportunity to apply to the same schools based on their home addresses).

7. Are you planning any other reviews in the near future?

As referenced in the Board's 2017-2026 Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS), a new Program Area Review is scheduled to start in the fall of 2018. This review, referred to as **Yonge-Eglinton PART Phase II**, will explore further opportunities to mitigate enrolment growth and accommodation pressures at Eglinton Jr. PS. It will include the Bannockburn property, a former elementary school located at Avenue Road, north of Lawrence Avenue, which could

accommodate up to 300 students. This building is currently leased to a private school. Implementation for any potential changes is targeted for September 2020.

The Board's LTPAS can be found at the following link: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Long-Term-Program-and-Accommodation-Strategy>

In addition, Board staff is currently exploring opportunities to redirect new residential development from within the attendance area of Eglinton Jr. PS to other schools. At the Eglinton Jr. PS School Council meeting on March 7, 2018, parents expressed their support for this idea. A report will be presented to trustees by the end of the school year.

8. Why doesn't the TDSB implement a boundary change between Eglinton Jr. PS and Northlea E&MS? It was included in the 2015-2024 Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy.

The Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) outlines studies to address accommodation issues and program priorities across the system within a ten-year timeframe. It allows for responsiveness and flexibility in a changing environment by including an annual cycle of review.

As part of the 2015 Yonge-Eglinton PART, staff decided not to explore another boundary change between Eglinton Jr. PS and Northlea E&MS.

At that time, enrolment at Northlea E&MS had gradually declined from 861 students in 2010 to 741 students in 2014. Given that enrolment projections rely primarily on historical trends, this gradual decline was projected to continue.

During the 2015 PART process, it was confirmed that the number of incoming JK students for the 2016-17 school year was much higher than anticipated, which indicated a potential new trend emerging within the community. Enrolment projections were updated accordingly and suggested that space at Northlea E&MS was no longer available over the long term. Therefore, staff decided not to consider an additional boundary change between Eglinton Jr. PS and Northlea E&MS.

Northlea E&MS is currently operating at 96 percent utilization and is projected to increase to 100 percent by next September. Further, a residential development within the attendance area (Sunnybrook Plaza at Bayview Ave. and Eglinton Ave.) was approved by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). This new development will add over 400 units to the area and potentially increase enrolment at Northlea E&MS.

That said, as we move forward into the next phase of the PART, enrolment and space availability at Northlea E&MS will be reviewed again to determine feasible boundary changes between this school and Eglinton Jr. PS.

9. Can you use the lunchroom to create more space at Eglinton Jr. PS?

The lunchroom is already used for student programming when not in use over the lunch hour; therefore, it is not being considered for retrofit into additional classrooms.

10. How does the Ministry of Education determine the school capacity?

The Ministry has identified categories of instructional space for all elementary and secondary facilities. A loading has been assigned to each category of instructional space based on the number of students that can reasonably be accommodated in the space. For example, each classroom larger than 700 sq. ft. has a loading of 23 students. Given their generally larger size, Kindergarten classrooms have a loading of 26 students. A school's capacity is the sum of all the loadings for the instructional spaces within a facility. A school's capacity can change as a result of physical alterations to space within the school.

The capacity is used as a tool in planning accommodation for students and calculating the utilization rate for a school. The utilization rate is the school's enrolment divided by the school's capacity.

Eglinton Jr. PS has a utilization rate over 100 percent and is seen as being "over capacity". However, there are a sufficient number of classrooms to serve the total population of the school since many of the classes have more than 23 students.

11. Why hasn't the Board reclaimed the dedicated child care space in Eglinton Jr. PS to add more classrooms?

The TDSB's recently-revised Early Learning and Care policy P022 states that "Board and staff will strive to ensure effective integration of children enrolled in a co-located child care, into the local school, based on the principles of equity, transparency and seamlessness." In some circumstances, TDSB staff may determine that it is necessary to re-examine the lease agreement with the child care to address a lack of classroom space due to increasing student enrolment in the school.

The current agreement with the Central Eglinton Children's Centre expires in 2019. The Board cannot reclaim any space until the term of this agreement expires. The TDSB does have a procedure for reviewing the occupancy by child care centres in relation to the Board's student accommodation requirements. TDSB staff will assess other solutions for the child care in partnership with the City of Toronto as part of the upcoming review, scheduled to start this fall. If the existing child care space is reclaimed by the school, it will become loaded instructional space (i.e. be assigned a capacity), which will increase the total capacity of the school by 92 pupil places.

12. Can you add portables or build an addition at Eglinton Jr. PS?

The school site cannot accommodate portables due to its small size of 1.6 acres. The building cannot accommodate an addition on the current site.

13. Will Eglinton Jr. PS stop accepting new students?

The TDSB will add two classrooms over the summer as recommended by the PART and confirmed in the LTPAS studies approved by the Board to ensure students can be accommodated for September 2018. However, once this project is finished, there will be no more space to retrofit at the school.

In order to accommodate the students emanating from residential developments in the current catchment area of Eglinton Jr. PS, TDSB staff has informed the Ministry of Education of the need

for a new school and capital investment in the area. In addition, the TDSB is advocating for the Ontario Government to amend the Education Development Charges regulation (Ontario Regulation 20/98) under the *Education Act* to allow the TDSB to collect EDCs to help support urgent school infrastructure needs and reduce overcrowding in high-growth areas of the city. To learn more about Education Development Charges and how you can help, please visit: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Accountability/Renewal-Needs-Backlog-and-Facility-Condition-Index/Education-Development-Charges>.

14. Why can't the boundary change be implemented in September 2018?

Kindergarten registration is already underway for 2018 and we are in the process of allocating staff to schools for the 2018-19 school year based on final enrolment projections. The allocation of school staff was recently approved by the Board of Trustees. Further, the Board tries to give a year's notice after changes are approved to allow the community to adjust to these changes and plan accordingly.

However, as raised at the Eglinton School Council meeting, staff will examine feasible options for potentially advancing the implementation of the boundary change. Details will be provided at the community meeting on March 26, 2018.

15. There is a clause in purchase agreements for new developments indicating that students are guaranteed a spot in a TDSB school but not necessarily in their home school. This has been implemented in other areas. Why doesn't the TDSB implement this in the Yonge-Eglinton area?

The TDSB will start looking at the redirection of new residential development to schools outside of the area, similar to the regime implemented on the west side of Yonge Street and in the Willowdale area. A report will be presented to the Board of Trustees by the end of the school year.

16. John Fisher Jr. PS received money to improve their school. How can we take advantage of this?

The TDSB received funds from the developer in this circumstance to mitigate risks during construction next to John Fisher Jr. PS. However, the TDSB has been advocating for access to Education Development Charges, which would help the Board meet growth-related infrastructure needs.

17. Is there a possibility that by changing the boundary, Maurice Cody Jr. PS will become overcrowded? What if parents of French Immersion students at Davisville Jr. PS choose to return to Maurice Cody Jr. PS?

There are currently 33 students who reside within the attendance area of Maurice Cody Jr. PS who attend French Immersion (FI) at Davisville Jr. PS. Even if all of these students/families would opt to leave the FI program and re-enrol at Maurice Cody Jr. PS, there will be enough space.

The community has been well informed of the plans to relocate Davisville Jr. PS for the duration of construction between September 2018 and September 2020. To date, we have not received any indication that many students would leave FI and return to Maurice Cody Jr. PS.

18. How can you describe the Maurice Cody Jr. PS catchment area as stable given the intensification taking place along Eglinton Avenue and the upper parts of Mount Pleasant and Bayview?

The majority of the Maurice Cody Jr. PS catchment area is designated as “neighbourhoods” under the City’s Official Plan. Areas designated as such are viewed as stable areas where intensification is not permitted. Long-term changes within the area will be subject to the natural lifecycle of the neighbourhood.

That said, future development along Eglinton Avenue East will continue to be monitored as the LRT is built and completed. This stretch of Eglinton Avenue is identified as an “Apartment High Street” – a stable linear residential neighbourhood under the Draft Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan. The City will consider incremental redevelopment on underutilized sites, subject to adherence to the Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan and associated zoning by-laws.

More information on the City’s Draft Yonge-Eglinton Secondary Plan can be found at: <https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/pg/bgrd/backgroundfile-108435.pdf>

19. Couldn’t the optional attendance status for Maurice Cody Jr. PS be changed so that it gives priority to Eglinton Jr. PS students instead of implementing a boundary change?

This is an interesting concept that will be reviewed based on existing enrolment admission data and optional attendance policies.

20. What are the projections for Hodgson MS? Could you consider a larger addition to the school?

TDSB Planning staff annually completes student enrolment projections for the 583 schools across the city. In order to do that, Planning staff updates all demographic data, residential development information, pupil yield factors (number of students that can be expected from new development), program changes/adjustments, and pupil retention rates to ensure that forecasts are based on the most recent and reliable data. In addition, enrolment is monitored on a monthly and sometimes weekly basis to identify changes and/or new emerging trends in communities.

Enrolment projections are subject to change, similar to any other population or financial forecast. This is certainly true in a highly-dynamic area like Yonge-Eglinton. The enrolment projection cycle needs to be flexible to allow the TDSB to respond to changes accordingly. An example is the total number of residential units proposed within the area. Since the PART concluded in 2016, an additional 7,600 new units have been proposed. These new units needed to be factored into the enrolment projections for local schools, which resulted in higher numbers than previously projected. For that reason, we are exploring options to increase the capacity of Hodgson MS with a larger addition (third floor).

21. Since the TDSB is replacing Davisville Jr. PS, can't you build a bigger school?

This suggestion was discussed during the public meeting for the rebuild of Davisville Jr. PS. The new Davisville building will have a capacity of 731 pupil places. The site is approximately 3.8 acres and will accommodate not only a new and larger school but also a child care facility, dedicated community space, and a future City of Toronto aquatic centre. This limits the total number of students that can be accommodated on the site.

22. Why aren't schools in Leaside being considered to support the capacity issues at Eglinton Jr. PS?

The PART that was undertaken in 2015-16 analyzed opportunities for using space in Leaside schools; however, options were limited due to similar accommodation challenges. An area formally shared by Eglinton Jr. PS and Northlea E&MS was assigned entirely to Northlea E&MS in 2016.

The following Leaside schools are operating above their capacities:

Bessborough Jr. & Sr. PS is currently operating at 117 percent utilization with three portables on site. Current enrolment projections suggest that the school will remain fully occupied over the long term.

Rolph Road Jr. PS is currently operating at 114 percent utilization with four portables on site. Current enrolment projections suggest that the school will grow over the mid to long term; therefore, more portables will be required. Further, a new residential development that has recently been built and occupied within the attendance area of Rolph Road Jr. PS has been redirected to Bennington Heights Jr. PS to mitigate the accommodation pressure that exists at the school.

Bennington Heights Jr. PS is currently operating at 95 percent utilization and is the holding school for a new residential development recently occupied within the attendance area of Rolph Road Jr. PS. The school has an aging "portapak" on the site as well as one standalone portable unit.

Northlea E&MS is currently operating at 96 percent utilization and is projected to increase to 100 percent next September. The shared area boundary change approved in 2016 was the extent of the changes we could have made without generating an accommodation issue at this site. Further, a residential development within the attendance area (Sunnybrook Plaza redevelopment at Bayview Ave. and Eglinton Ave.) was approved by the OMB. This will add over 400 units to the area, and potentially increase enrolment at Northlea E&MS once the units are built and occupied.

The other factor to consider about Leaside elementary schools is the new residential development proposed along Eglinton Avenue, east of Laird Drive. Applications at 815 Eglinton Avenue East and 939 Eglinton Avenue East will add approximately 2,500 new units to the area. The City of Toronto is currently undertaking its Laird in Focus study, which will influence and guide how this area is developed over the long term. More information on the Laird in Focus study can be found at: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/planning-studies-initiatives/laird-in-focus/>

The City's draft built-form estimates developed through that study indicate that an additional 1,500 units could be built in this small geographic area.

In response, the TDSB will be conducting its own study to determine the most appropriate means of providing student accommodation in this area over the long term. Local schools have a

number of portables on site and development redirections in effect. Adding additional students to these schools would present significant challenges for the TDSB. That said, any opportunity to use Leaside schools to mitigate enrolment pressures on the west side of Bayview Avenue will be explored through a larger review starting in fall 2018.

23. What else is being done?

This is an area that is experiencing extraordinary residential growth much in excess of what was originally projected. In 2017 especially, there was a dramatic increase in development applications to the City which impacted the accommodation of students. It is our understanding that there are currently at least 51 active development applications in the Yonge-Eglinton area proposing over 16,000 new residential units. The TDSB recently undertook a study of accommodation for Ward 11 (see map <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward11/Ward%2011%20Junior%20AA-%202016.pdf>) and has concluded that at least half of the elementary schools in this ward will be overcapacity by 2022. This is also reflected in recent studies conducted by the City.

For some time, the TDSB has articulated the stress these new proposed developments will have on the ability of the TDSB to provide accommodation for future students in local schools. The TDSB has advised the City and local developers of its concerns throughout the development approval process and has indicated that the TDSB opposes the approval of development in the Yonge-Eglinton area until the accommodation of the projected students can be appropriately addressed. That said, we have no ability to stop developments.

As mentioned previously, we will proceed with the Yonge-Eglinton PART Phase II (fall 2018 to spring 2019) to explore a series of accommodation options to mitigate local growth, particularly at Eglinton Jr. PS. This study will involve many schools in the area and include an analysis of the Bannockburn property, a former elementary school located at Avenue Road, north of Lawrence Avenue. This facility could accommodate up to 300 students. The building is currently leased to a private school. Implementation of any potential changes is targeted for September 2020.

We will also continue exploring all opportunities to build a new school in the area, and are working with the City and the Province on this issue and continuing to advocate for changes to the Education Development Charges regulations.