



May 27, 2019

Dear York Memorial Parents, Guardians, Community Members, and Alumni:

On May 22, 2019, the Board of Trustees passed a motion re York Memorial Collegiate Institute. The motion was brought forward by myself, Chris Tonks and seconded by Trustee Patrick Nunziata. The motion is as follows:

Presented in Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee, Report No. 35, May 8, 2019	Agenda Item 16.4 (5)	Agenda Page 35
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York Memorial Collegiate Institute: Post Fire

The Board decided:

Whereas, York Memorial Collegiate Institute was built in 1929 by the Township of York as a memorial for the local youth who died in the service of Canada during World War 1; and

Whereas, York Memorial C.I was embedded with rich history and memorials for our fallen soldiers, including:

- 11 terraced steps at the entrance of the building signifying Armistice Day, November 11, 1918,
- a mural painted outside the auditorium by artist John Hall in 1949 dedicated as a World War II memorial, and
- six stained glass windows designed signifying the industrial heritage of York, the battle of Ypres in 1915 of WW 1, and the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in Quebec in 1759; and

Whereas, because of its architectural heritage and deep-rooted historical significance, York Memorial C.I was designated as a heritage building in 1985 by the city of York council; and

Whereas, on May 6 and 7, 2019, under unknown circumstances, devastating fires broke out at York Memorial C.I causing significant damage to the building and forcing the relocation of almost 1000 students to George Harvey Collegiate Institute; and

Whereas, York Memorial has served many generations of families of the York community as an institute of higher learning and contributing to the social fabric of the city of Toronto;

Therefore be it resolved:

- (a) That the Director present a report at the September 2019 meeting of the Finance, Budget, and Enrolment Committee on the following:
  - i. identifying any of the known cause(s) of the fire(s), based on any information available from the Toronto District School Board, the Ontario Fire Marshall, the To-ronto Fire Department, and the Toronto Police,
  - ii. a damage assessment of the York Memorial Collegiate Institute building;
  - iii. the feasibility of repair or reconstruction;
  - iv. funding sources available or that will be required to facilitate the repair or recon-struction of York Memorial Collegiate Institute, including amounts received from insurance on the building, capital funding grants from the Ministry of Education, or any other sources of available funding that may be available;
- (b) That the Director ensure that parents, students and staff are consulted in respect of the plans for the location and delivery of curriculum and programs to York Memorial Collegiate Institute students for the 2019-2020 school year.
- (c) That the Chair of the Board write to the Minister of Education requesting approval to commence an accommodation review of York Memorial Collegiate Institute and George Harvey Collegiate Institute, if necessary, based on the exigent circumstances caused by the fire.

The following link contains a video of the staff update that was provided at the meeting:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xgII5yr1gsalsvbodk1FrM4rsQgovXaK/view?ts=5ce80d85>

Regards,



Chris Tonks  
TDSB Trustee, York South-Weston