



**Presentation to
Special Planning and Priorities Committee**

**George Harvey CI and
York Memorial CI
Pupil Accommodation Review**

Monday, June 14, 2021

Background

- **May 6 and 7, 2019** – York Memorial CI building (2690 Eglinton Avenue West) was significantly damaged by fire.
- **May 13, 2019** – York Memorial students and staff were relocated to the nearby George Harvey CI building (1700 Keele Street).
- **May 22, 2019** – the Board of Trustees approved consultation with students, parents, and staff on plans for the location of York Memorial CI for the 2019-20 school year:
 - The Board of Trustees also approved that a request be made to the Ministry of Education to commence a pupil accommodation review of York Memorial CI and George Harvey CI based on the urgent situation resulting from the fire
 - Ministry permission is required due to a provincial moratorium on school closures

Background

- **June 19, 2019** – the Board of Trustees approved the relocation of York Memorial CI to the vacant Scarlett Heights building (15 Trehorne Drive) for September 2019.
- **September 3, 2019** – York Memorial CI began operations in the Scarlett Heights building and George Harvey CI returned to previous operations.
- **November 27, 2019** – in response to a request from the Ministry for details on the proposed pupil accommodation review, the Board of Trustees approved a proposal to be submitted to the Ministry.
- **January 7, 2020** – the Ministry granted permission for the TDSB to move forward with a modified pupil accommodation review.
- **January 28, 2020** – four meetings were held with the staff of George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI to give them advance notice of the pupil accommodation review (two meetings at each school)

Background

- **February 5, 2020** – the Board of Trustees approved the start of the modified pupil accommodation review:
 - the process began with an Initial Staff Report describing scenarios for student accommodation;
 - the report was posted on the TDSB public website;
 - notice of the report and a link was sent to the students, parents and staff of George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI.
- **February to Early March 2020** – four consultation meetings were held:
 - **February 24, 2020** – York Memorial CI students
 - **February 27, 2020** – George Harvey CI students
 - **March 9, 2020** – York Memorial CI parents
 - **March 10, 2020** – George Harvey CI parents

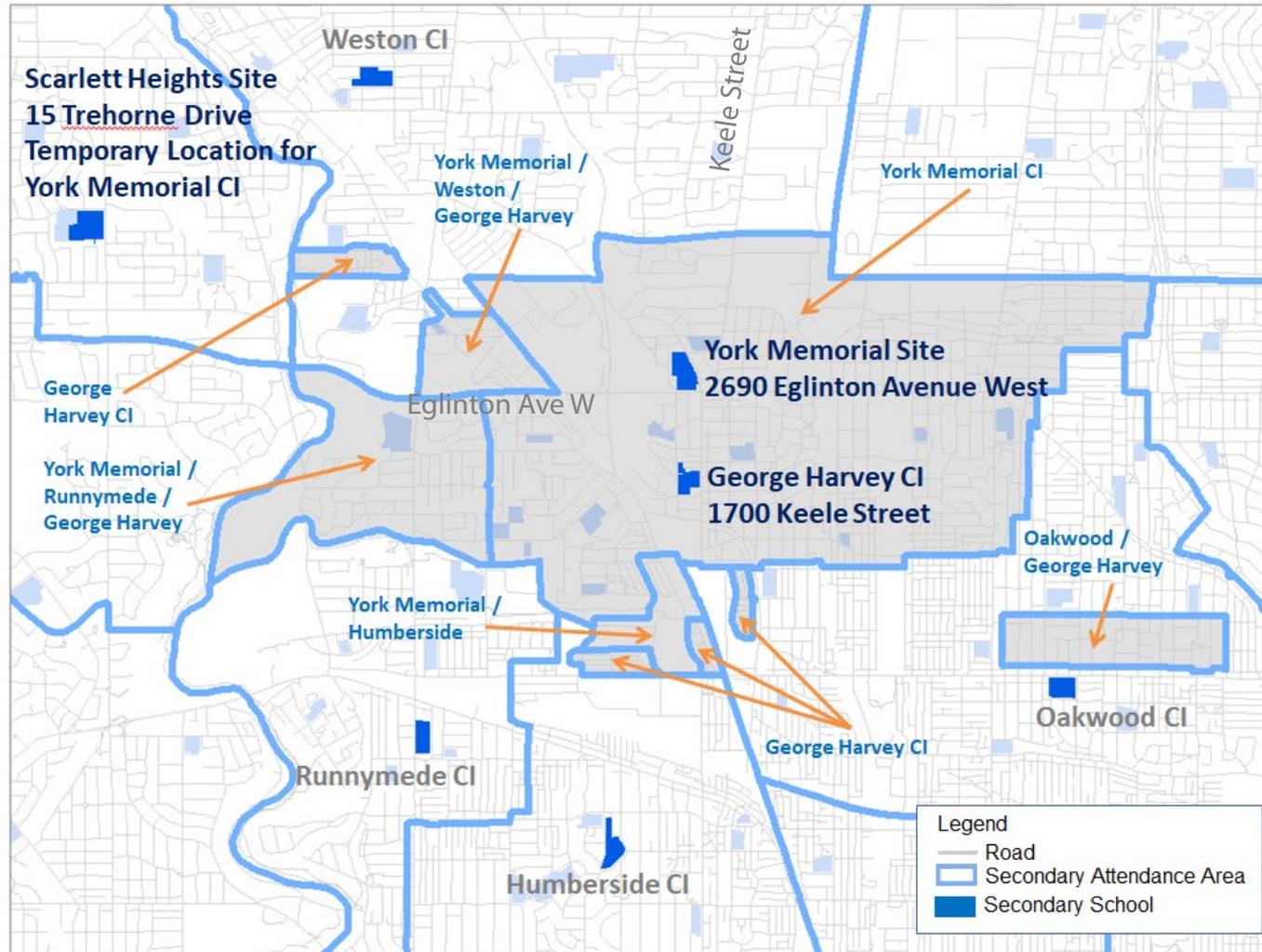
Background

- **Late March 2020** – TDSB schools and buildings were shutdown due to the pandemic.
- **May 2020** – the review was paused.
- **March 10, 2021** – the Board of Trustees received an update report on the pupil accommodation review – the review resumed following the new virtual consultation procedure.
- **April to May 2021** – six virtual consultation meetings were held:
 - **April 19, 2021** – Elementary Feeder School Council Chairs
 - **April 20, 2021** – George Harvey CI staff
 - **April 22, 2021** – York Memorial CI staff
 - **April 29, 2021** – York Memorial CI alumni
 - **May 4, 2021** – George Harvey CI alumni
 - **May 6, 2021** – public meeting

Guiding Principles

- In this review the TDSB's 11 guiding principles for long-term planning were used to develop and evaluate scenarios. These guiding principles were approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2019. They were updated at that time to reflect our commitment to equity and inclusion.
- The following guiding principles are particularly relevant to this review:
 - **Neighbourhood schools that meet the needs of all students**
 - **Optimal secondary school size of at least 1,000 students**
 - **Consistent attendance boundaries**
 - **School locations that support active transportation**
 - **Optimal utilization rate of 90%**
- These principles are being used to review all secondary schools as part of the **Secondary Program Review**.
- All 111 secondary schools are being reviewed to ensure all students have equitable access to programs and opportunities – as close to home as possible.

Overview of Schools in the Review



York Memorial CI

Before the fire:

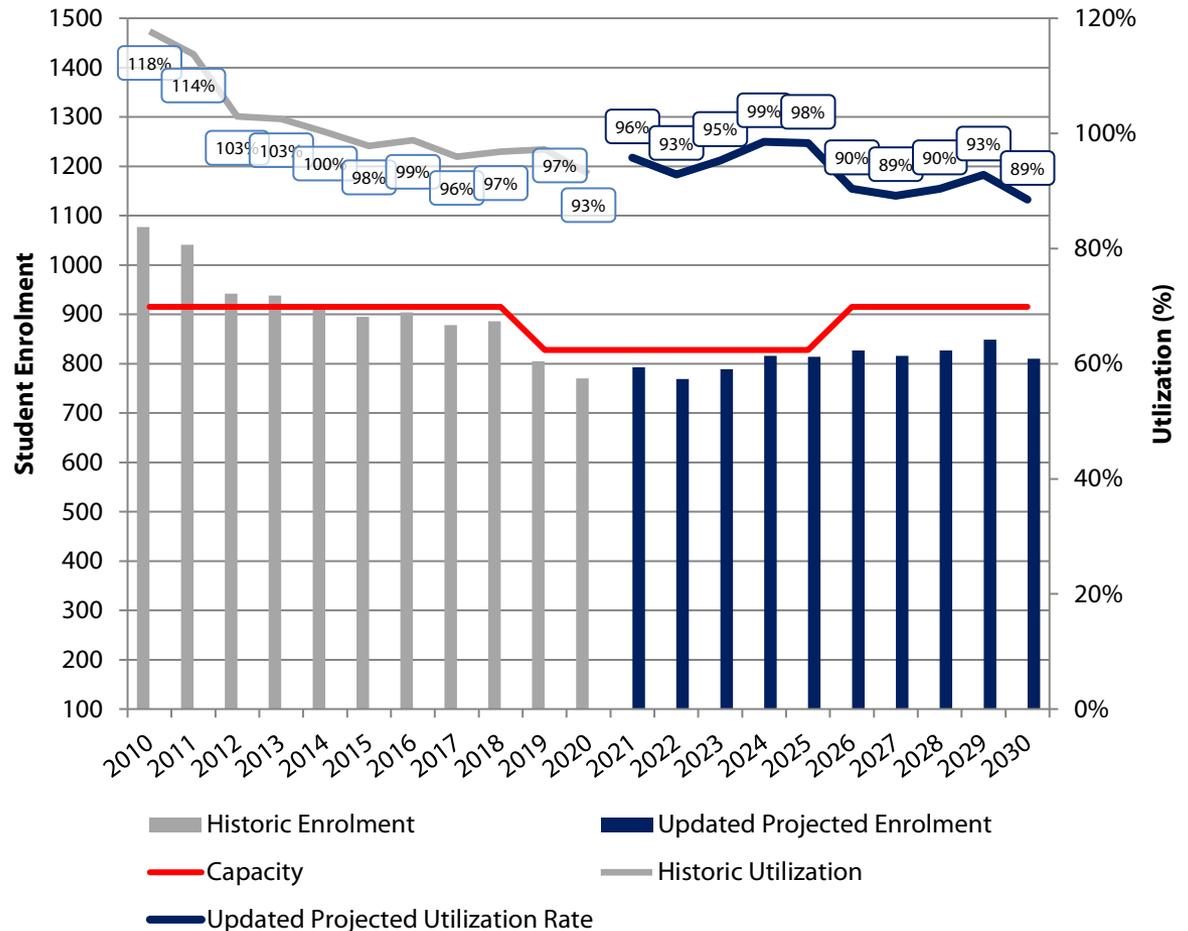
- The site is 7.61 acres and is shared with a TDSB administration centre (2 Trethewey Drive) and a City of Toronto community centre (Centennial Recreation Centre West).
- The school is non-semestered and follows the dress code (no uniform).
- The school offers the following programs:
 - Regular Program
 - Developmental Disability
 - RUSH (Roadmap to University Success with Honours)
 - Advanced Placement
 - Pre-advanced Placement
 - And four Specialist High Skills Majors (Arts and Culture, Information and Communications Technology, Global Leadership and Citizenship, and Health and Wellness).

After the fire:

- York Memorial CI students were moved into the vacant Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy as a holding solution.
- York Memorial students who qualify for transportation are receiving TTC tickets.
- The school remains non-semestered with no uniform.
- The school offers the same programs.
- The school has the same attendance areas.

York Memorial CI Enrolment and Utilization

- Over the last 10 years, the enrolment has declined from over 1,000 students to around 800.
- In 2019-20, the enrolment declined slightly from 886 to 805 students due to the fire. The building capacity was 828 pupil places. The utilization rate was 97%.
- In 2020-21, enrolment declined from 805 to 770 students, decreasing the utilization rate to 93%.
- The enrolment is projected to slightly increase to 810 students by 2030.
- 315 students (41%) live in the schools' attendance areas. 455 students (59%) live outside.

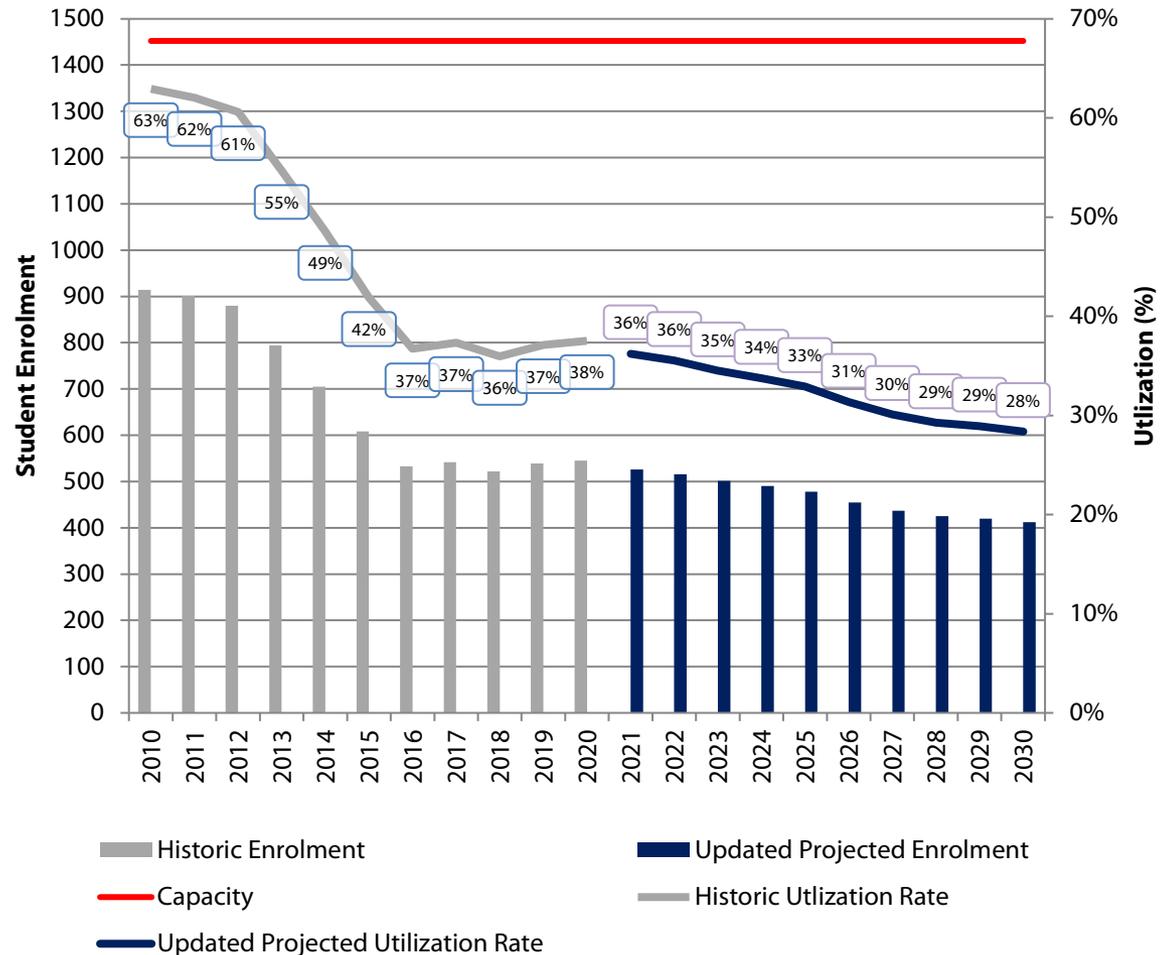


George Harvey CI

- The site is 6.2 acres.
- The school is semestered and has a uniform.
- The school offers the following programs:
 - Regular Program
 - Five Specialist High Skills Majors (Arts and Culture, Health and Wellness, Information and Communications Technology, Global Citizenship and Leadership, and Construction, Engineering and Automotive)
 - English as a Second Language
- There are three other users groups in the George Harvey building:
 - George Harvey Child Care Centre
 - Skylark Youth Services
 - Essential Skills Upgrading

George Harvey CI Enrolment and Utilization

- Over the last 10 years, the enrolment has declined from over 900 students to around 500.
- In 2019-20, the enrolment was 539 students. The building's capacity was 1,452 pupil places. The utilization rate was 37%.
- In 2020-21, enrolment remained stable at 545 students. The utilization rate remained at 38%.
- The enrolment is projected to slightly decrease to 412 students by 2030 (28% utilization).
- 248 students (46%) live in the school's attendance areas. 297 students (54%) live outside.



Issues to be Addressed

- **Declining enrolment** – both York Memorial CI and George Harvey CI have declined in enrolment from 2010. George Harvey CI has a small enrolment of 545 students, well below the preferred school size of 1,000 students.
- **Geographic redundancy** – The York Memorial CI and George Harvey CI sites are located close together within the same attendance area.
- **Attendance area anomalies** – George Harvey CI does not have a local secondary attendance area. Four small, disconnected pockets of residential addresses have been assigned to George Harvey CI.
- **Future of the York Memorial site and how to use the proceeds from the insurance claim** – The York Memorial site at 2690 Eglinton Avenue West has been fenced off and made safe, but is in a holding state awaiting a decision on its future. The site cannot remain in its current condition indefinitely. The TDSB will gain insurance funds that can be used to provide local accommodation for the affected students.

Four Scenarios

- **Scenario 1** – Status Quo – No Consolidation
- **Scenario 2** – George Harvey and York Memorial Consolidate in **2022** at the George Harvey Building and then move into the Rebuild on the York Memorial Site in **2026**
- **Scenario 3** – George Harvey and York Memorial Consolidate in **2026** at the Rebuild on the York Memorial Site
- **Scenario 4** – George Harvey and York Memorial Consolidate in **2026** as a Campus Occupying the Rebuild on the York Memorial Site and the George Harvey Building

Feedback

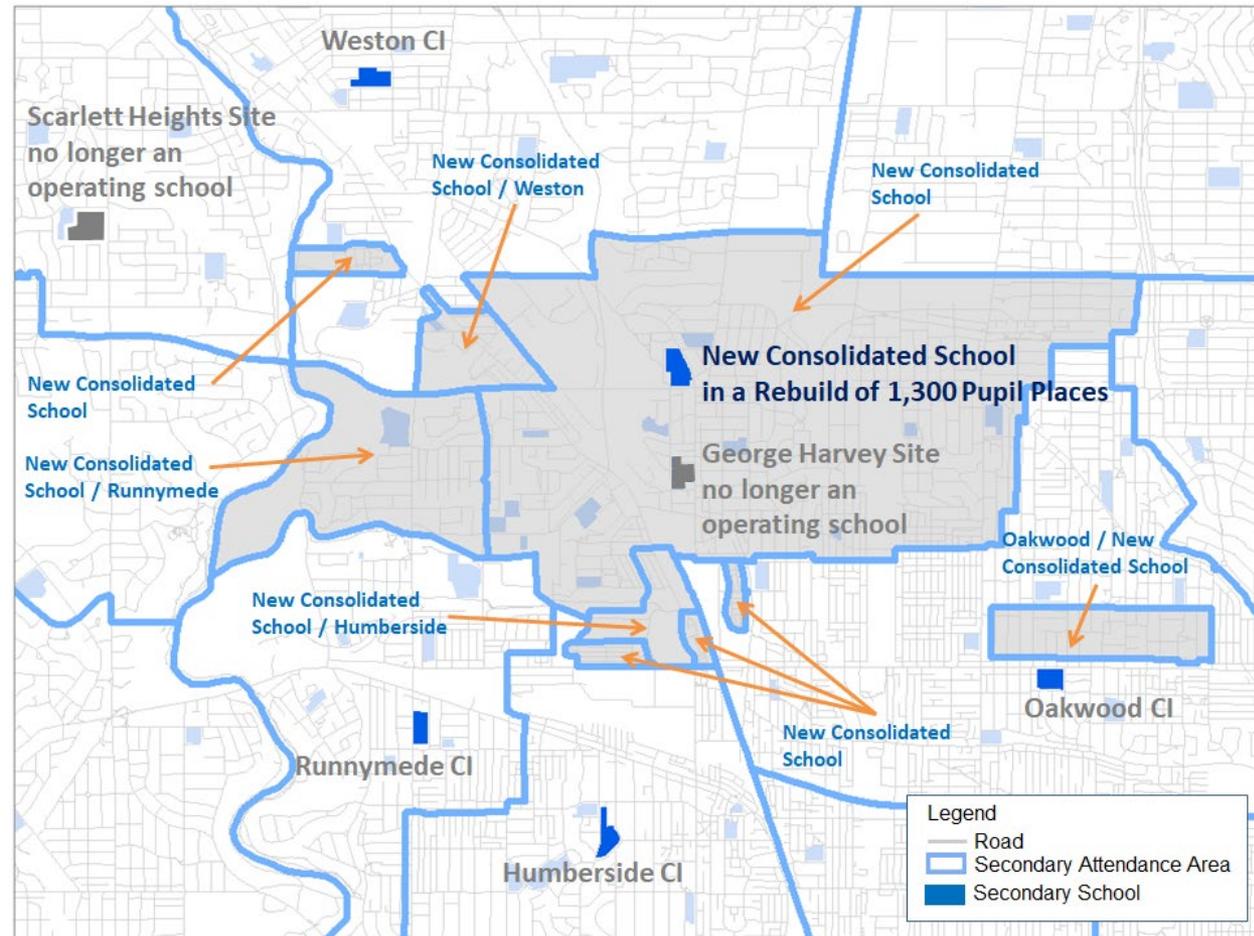
- Held 10 consultation meetings – approximately 1,800 attendees
- Received 2 surveys from students – over 800 respondents
- Received 2 petitions – approximately 240 signatures
- Conducted 2 surveys – over 1,400 respondents
 - 70% of respondents were in support of the status quo – no consolidation
 - 20% in support of consolidation in 2026
 - Different responses between the two schools – the majority of George Harvey respondents were in support of consolidation (58%)

Feedback

- Top comments received in the consultation meetings:
 - Wish to preserve the two schools' histories and identities
 - Concerned about the quality of education in a consolidation
 - Had a negative experience when the two schools coexisted in the George Harvey building after the fire
 - Wish to postpone the consolidation for as long as possible to avoid having multiple transitions within a short period of time
 - Emphasized that they are stressed about moving into a consolidated school and then moving again into a rebuilt school
 - Concerned that the George Harvey building will not have the appropriate specialized spaces to support the consolidation
 - Support for rebuilding on the York Memorial site and the name of the school being York Memorial CI to preserve the memorial aspect of the school

Recommended Scenario: Scenario 2 – George Harvey and York Memorial Consolidate in 2022

- George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI consolidate in the existing George Harvey building in 2022.
- Then move to a new building on the former York Memorial site when the new building opens in 2026.
- All secondary attendance areas for George Harvey and York Memorial are assigned to the new consolidated school.



Recommended Scenario: Scenario 2 – George Harvey and York Memorial Consolidate in 2022

School Year (Oct)	Scarlett Heights site (15 Trehorne Dr): York Memorial CI relocated in 2019			George Harvey site (1700 Keele St): George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI consolidated in 2022			York Memorial site (2690 Eglinton Ave W): Consolidated school relocates in 2026			
	Enrolment	Capacity	Utilization Rate	Enrolment	Capacity	Utilization Rate	Enrolment	Capacity	Utilization Rate	
Actual Enrolment	2010			914	1,452	63%	1,077	915	118%	
	2011			901	1,452	62%	1,041	915	114%	
	2012			880	1,452	61%	942	915	103%	
	2013			794	1,452	55%	938	915	103%	
	2014			705	1,452	49%	917	915	100%	
	2015			608	1,452	42%	895	915	98%	
	2016			533	1,452	37%	904	915	99%	
	2017			542	1,452	37%	878	915	96%	
	2018			522	1,452	36%	886	915	97%	
	2019	805	828	97%	539	1,452	37%			
	2020	770	828	93%	545	1,452	38%			
Projected Enrolment	2021	793	828	96%	526	1,452	36%			
	2022				1,285	1,452	88%			
	2023				1,290	1,452	89%			
	2024				1,306	1,452	90%			
	2025				1,292	1,452	89%			
	2026							1,282	1,300	99%
	2027							1,253	1,300	96%
	2028							1,252	1,300	96%
	2029							1,269	1,300	98%
	2030							1,222	1,300	94%

Recommended Scenario: Scenario 2 – George Harvey and York Memorial Consolidate in 2022

Advantages

- The optimal-sized school of 1000+ students is achieved – students benefit from increased course offerings at an early opportunity.
- York Memorial returns to a site within its attendance area – easier access for local students.
- Most of the York Memorial students who experienced the relocations in 2019 do not go through another relocation.
- Transportation costs are reduced.
- Both George Harvey and York Memorial students benefit from a new facility with a great sports field and great access to public transit.
- Efficiencies in staffing and facility operations are achieved by operating a single larger school that will be well utilized.

Disadvantages

- Students and staff experience a relocation in 2022.
- Students and staff experience change in becoming a single consolidated school.
- Some students who experienced the relocations in 2019 may experience another relocation.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- a) George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI be consolidated as a single school effective September 1, 2022;
- b) The consolidated school be accommodated in the George Harvey building located at 1700 Keele Street effective September 1, 2022 until the new York Memorial building at 2690 Eglinton Avenue West is completed;
- c) The name of the consolidated school be York Memorial CI effective September 1, 2022;
- d) The attendance area for the consolidated school be composed of the secondary attendance areas of George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI;

Recommendations

- e) A Principal be named, on or before September 1, 2021, as Project Manager for the 2021-2022 school year and as Principal of the newly consolidated school starting in September 2022, to work with students, current administrators and staff on both the retrofits for the George Harvey building and the plans for the new school building at 2690 Eglinton Avenue; and
- f) Staff develop a detailed implementation plan concerning:
 - i. The roles and responsibilities of a Transition Committee, working with the Project Manager Principal, to work out such consolidation issues as the timetable, the uniform/dress code decision, and other similar issues;
 - ii. The role of students on the Transition Committee to provide input into the Transition Committee's decisions and to lead the discussion of ways to honour the traditions of both schools and to create new traditions for the consolidated school;

Recommendations

- iii. The immediate identification of any needs for extra administrative and support staff allocations for the 2021-2022 school year (with some student supports remaining for the first year of the consolidation if needed), to support student and staff mental health and safety, to assist with the complex issues of retrofitting a school with students and staff present, and to address the time and workload impacts of combining the equipment and resources of two schools into one building and bringing about the physical move of those materials;
- iv. The provision of time and resources to bring student leaders from both schools together to plan for activities to support the students coming together into the consolidated school; and
- v. The provision of time and resources for team building activities for teaching and support staff who will be assigned to the school for September 2022.



Frequently Asked Questions

Why not wait until 2026 for the consolidation?

- By consolidating in 2022, the students of York Memorial CI and George Harvey CI will experience the benefits of a **neighbourhood school that meets the needs of all students** at the earliest time possible:
 - The students of the consolidated school will have access to a broader range of course offerings;
 - The students of the consolidated school will have access to a school located within the Keele and Eglinton attendance area.
- While York Memorial CI is at Scarlett Heights, fewer students from the York Memorial CI attendance area may choose to attend the school due to the distance.
- George Harvey CI is projected to continue to decline in enrolment, thus limiting the program choices for students.
- Transportation costs will be reduced.

How will the mental health of students and staff be addressed during the process of consolidation?

- Staff from our Professional Support Services (PSS) department, will be available to students on an individual, family and collective level to support their well-being and wellness during the transition.
- A team, consisting of leadership and support staff, will work with staff and students early on in the process, before the transition takes place, to ensure concerns and anxieties around the move are addressed as soon as possible.
- Student Support Teams (SST) for each school (consisting of Social Workers, Psychologists and Child and Youth Services personnel) will address the mental health needs of students before, during, and after the transition.

How will the mental health of students and staff be addressed during the process of consolidation?

- The Project Manager Principal and staff will:
 - immediately identify the needs for extra administrative and support staff allocations for the 2021-2022 school year (with some student supports remaining for the first year of the consolidation if needed), to support student and staff mental health and safety;
 - Arrange for time and resources to bring student leaders from both schools together to plan for activities to support the students coming together into the consolidated school; and
 - Provide time and resources for team building activities for teaching and support staff who will be assigned to the school for September 2022.

Why is staff recommending that the consolidated school be named York Memorial CI?

- York Memorial CI has a unique historical significance in the York community and is protected by a heritage by-law:
 - In 1929 the Township of York decided to build “an institute of higher learning” as a memorial to commemorate the youth of the Township of York who died in World War 1;
 - It was rededicated in 1949 as a World War 2 memorial;
 - In 1985, York Memorial CI was designated a heritage building by the City of York;
 - York Memorial is the only secondary school in Ontario built expressly as a memorial to Canadian war dead, with memorial features built into its design;
 - The school is included in the Canadian Military Memorials Database (Veterans Affairs, Canada);
 - The Ministry of Veterans Affairs, Canada, and the Provincial President of the Royal Canadian Legion have stated that this building is a memorial site and the name must be retained to honour the sacred pledge of remembrance;
 - In working with Toronto Heritage Preservation Services over the past year it has become clear that the name of the school is integral to the historical value of the site.
- Students enrolled in the consolidated school will be provided with an opportunity to determine ways to honour the traditions of both schools and to create new traditions for the future.

Have we considered how growth in the area will be accommodated?

- We are anticipating growth in the area over the long term as a result of the opening of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT
- Growth can be accommodated by controlling optional attendance:
 - 57% of the two schools' enrolments (752 students) live outside of the York Memorial and George Harvey attendance areas
 - As growth happens in the area over the long term, the new York Memorial CI will accept more local students and reduce admission of students who live outside of the area on optional attendance
 - The proposed capacity of 1,300 pupil places allows for 700 more local students to be accepted by adjusting admission on optional attendance
- Secondary schools can operate over 100% utilization without additional space.
- The new York Memorial CI can expand into the attached 2 Trethewey building.
- The former Vaughan Road Academy building has been kept as core holding to use as a holding school during construction projects but also to potentially reopen in the future to serve growth in the Eglinton corridor.

What will happen to the Scarlett Heights and George Harvey buildings after they are vacated?

- The future of these two sites has not been determined yet, but they will be reviewed closer to the time that they are vacated.
- The options include:
 - continue to use the site for TDSB purposes (such as a holding site for construction projects or as a multi-purpose centre);
 - retain ownership of the site to address future pressures, but lease it out to generate revenue until it is required for TDSB purposes; or,
 - sell the site to reduce costs and generate revenue because it is redundant to the needs of the TDSB.
- The Scarlett Heights site will be reviewed in 2021-22.
- The George Harvey site will be reviewed closer to 2025-26.



Thank you

