

Davisville Junior Public School/Spectrum Alternative Senior School
Parent Meeting
Monday, April 23, 2018

Welcome and Introductions were made by Superintendent Ian Allison –

- Shelley Laskin – Trustee, Ward 11
- Shona Farrelly – Principal, Davisville JPS / Spectrum Alternative SPS
- Tom Schloessin – Architectural Coordinator, TDSB
- Louise Humphreys – Manager, Child Care Services, TDSB
- Donna Boyce – Manager, Davisville Before and After Care
- Kevin Hodgkinson – Gen Manager, Toronto Student Transportation Group
- Dan Antonios and Steph Chadda – Parents, Transportation Committee

Minute of Silence to honour victims of tragic incident on Yonge Street earlier in the day

Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

Presentation

Overview of 529 Vaughan – Tom Schloessin

Built for 1200 secondary students

Will be prepped to accommodate 700 elementary students

Major prepping includes adding

- Appropriate classroom renovations – Full-Day Kindergarten rooms
- Kindergarten play areas
- Hard area play areas

Explanation of new floor plan

- Main floor will have the FDK classrooms
- Primary classes on second floor
- Cafeteria and auditorium on 3rd floor together with library, Junior classes and Spectrum Alternative Sr School

There is a Community Area on the 3rd floor which will have a separate outside entrance which will be locked and alarmed – this will be assigned through the TDSB Partnership Policy.

The existing parking lot is cut in half to allow for more hard play surfaces

A new running track will be added to the field

The new Kindergarten fenced-in play area will be located closer to the school building

There will be secure pathways for student access in a safe and controlled fashion

Currently under construction ready for August 2018

Q. Can you tell us more about the community space?

A. Community space that can be permitted must be compatible with school – TDSB has policies that ensure this. Current childcare provider at the school, LEF, may be interested in the space. This space will not be renovated (if required) until after Vaughan is ready for Davisville/Spectrum. Staff asked that school be allowed to settle in before the new tenant.

Overview of Parent/Staff Transportation Committee – Dan Antonios and Steph Chadda

- Parents gave some history of the transportation committee – many parent members were originally on the New School Design Team
- Bus scheduling/pick-up/drop-off was identified with least disturbance to neighbours
- Because of Tuesday Farmer Market drop-off at June Rowlands Park may be moved
- Child safety is main concern
- GPS – TDSB is working on portal – to be ready for January 2019 – If you have ideas for GPS/seeing if busses are on time, please send them to School Council
- As pick-up and drop-off is at the same spot, and it will be a direct route, it is more appealing so should be easier to get committed drivers
- Debate of unassigned and assigned seating within the committee and based on experience currently observed by Principal Farrelly at Avondale, decided with assigned as the safer choice.
- Children will receive a back pack tag ie. 'blue bus 1'
- For French Immersion coming from Thorncliffe, the current bus will now be split between 2 buses

- Total of 12 buses at 7 different stops
- Same bus / same time / same children – will make process run smooth
- Before and After care will have separate busses – 1 in the morning and 2 after school

Transportation Presentation – Kevin Hodgkinson – Gen Manager, Toronto Student Transportation Group

- Currently 50k children are bussed every day in the TDSB and TCDSB
- What we are presenting is best thinking to date - nothing written in stone as to bus stops – working with local councillor to confirm if there are any issues to be aware of
- First day of school there will be tears – from parents ☹
- Parents will know the route number – children will know it by colour
- Register for Transportation Portal to get automatic messages
- If bad weather you will hear it reported on media- radio/TV by 6am
- Route sheets on display identify the pick-up and drop-off locations along with the times arriving and departing from school and stops
- The Pupil map indicates where there are concentration of students (over 5 students per residence) to help stakeholders visualize where the large mass of students are located

For information about student transportation services please visit our website at www.torontoschoolbus.org

Q. What about the Farmer's Market on Acacia?

A. OK in the morning but problematic in the afternoon with the market running on Tuesdays – 3 buses are assigned to this area – will be working with Councillor Matlow for solution.

Q. What about Maurice Cody or Oriole Park French Immersion students that could walk to Davisville?

A. Principal Farrelly will look again at bus stop locations for Maurice Cody and Oriole Park students who live less than 1.6 km away.

Q. Balliol Parkette has been added to the stops but issue may be that cars are parked on the north side.

A. Staging will be done in the park and then students will cross the street to get on the bus.

New School hours

- Will start at the later time of 9am
- Extended lunch by 10 minutes
- 3:40 is the new end of school time

Extra-curriculars will be held at lunch as with bussing, limited activities after school

Staffing Update – Superintendent Ian Allison

- A retired administrator has been assigned to help the current administration with the move to Vaughan and again when time to move back to new school – this retired Principal will be split between Davisville/Spectrum and Avondale
- An additional VP has been assigned to Davisville/Spectrum for 2018-19
- Aquatic staff – Superintendent Allison announced that a swimming program will be available to Davisville/Spectrum while at 529 Vaughan Rd – the Principal is hiring 2 aquatic staff to keep pool open – they will be in the pool with teacher on the pool deck – program will follow curriculum

Childcare – Louise Humphreys – Manager, Child Care Services, TDSB

- The Before and After School Program (B&A) will continue operating at Davisville until mid-August, however access will only be from the Millwood side of the building
- Donna (Davisville Care Program) is currently working with Public Health and Ministry to ensure requirements for licensing at 529 Vaughan are in place and programs will continue in September
- Question raised about Bussing –
 - There will be 1 designated Before School bus (approximately 7:45) and 2 for After School (one after school bus will leave Vaughan at 4:30pm and one at 5:15pm)
 - Donna will be sending out a survey to see what the bussing needs are for families attending the B&A program
 - Play structure at SW corner will not be affected right away – existing play structure will stay on Millwood side until B&A program ends at Davisville.

Transitions – Shona Farrelly, Principal, Davisville/Spectrum

Transition Committee starting shortly

- Move Coordinator assigned will be coming to next meeting
- Staff will work with movers on both ends
- Classrooms at 529 Vaughan will be painted - half are already painted and rooms are being fixed
- Millwork going in so classroom has shelving
- Lockers will be used as cubbies, with hooks lowered
- The interior school renovations will be ready by June, except Kindergartens will be later due to work required
- Looking at doing a commemorative piece actively with parent – video
- At exit 3 is a knotty pine and silver tree – has to be cut down for new build but will be lumbered for school use
- Looking at doing a celebration day at current location and Open House at Vaughan on Saturday, August 25th – more information to come
- Time capsule will be placed under new building site – Please email Principal with ideas

Construction – New Building – Tom Schloessin – Architectural Coordinator, TDSB

- Currently working with city for building permits etc.
- There are concerns over an 'active' construction site
 - Will communicate dates, etc.
 - Construction process, guidelines, rules, noise, dust – will all be addressed
 - Community will be informed on demolition and new build
- There will be childcare until August at which time demolition will begin – this does not mean the building will be razed immediately – there will be work required to get the building ready for safe demolition
 - Demolition Schedule
 - Inside first
 - Then building

Q and A

Will there be an assigned bus stop for after school care?

Yes – it is yet to be determined.

What if I don't need daycare every day?

You must make a decision whether you want bussing for after school or after daycare. In order to ensure the safety of all, one choice must be picked.

What age of children will get the purple tags?

JK – grade 3 will all get tags; Grades 4-5 have option of getting tags.

What happens if my child has motion sickness?

Driver may sit them at front of bus. Please speak to the Principal for any specific health concerns.

Is anything being done at the bus stops for safety – ie. signage?

No plans at present for signage. When stopped and loading, buses will activate lights for traffic in both directions to stop.

Will siblings be assigned to the same bus?

Yes.

What are the plans to talk to the community about where the buses are stopping?

Once the routes are confirmed, the TDSB (through the Trustee) will do a drop to the community at large to share the information and with contact phone #.

Won't there be a problem with 4/5 buses vs. 1 garbage truck or 1 TTC bus?

There will be 50-100 students staged in one area with a maximum of 3 buses at one stop. Once the children are loaded, the busses will leave, unlike the garbage truck that stops along the street.

Who will be responsible for getting the kids on the bus?

Parents/guardians.

Who will be responsible for putting the kids on the bus from Vaughan?

Staff

1. Kindergarten children first seated at front of bus by teacher/ECE
2. Grades 1-3 by teacher
3. 4-6 will line up in 12 lines and enter the bus by bus supervisor

Will there be additional crossing guards?

Under the purview of Toronto Police Service but transitioning to city – there are standards by which they apply – good suggestion – we will begin discussions as we may have the numbers required.

How many safety incidents has TDSB had?

Minor - Pink slips will be given to students – dealt with by the school Principal; 3 and suspended from bus....not school

Major – Vandalism or Collisions – 176 incidents reported last school year. This equals .0003% per trip (1800 buses x 2 times a day x 187 school days).

When will confirmation for individual bus stops?

For currently enrolled students - June 2018. Please note there may be some minor changes if enrollment over the summer warrants it.

Will there be additional staff or reps at each of the bus stops?

Unfortunately, no, but the committee is discussing the possibility of parent volunteers.

Are most people walking distance to the bus stop?

Yes – stop approximately no more that 500m away from home.

The exception is French Immersion.

With only 2 staff how will Kindergarten children get on the right bus?

Each child will have a tagged backpack. The attendance sheets will be coded and children put on busses and checked off.

On snow days will the bus be cancelled?

If it is deemed safe the buses will run though there may be delays. If buses are to be cancelled, announcements will be made on local radio/TV by 6am.

Will the children be taught to swim?

Yes – professional staff will assess the children's swimming ability.

How are the current staff being supported during this move?

Some will be impacted.

Some very excited.

Some indifferent.

Some kicking and fighting.

However, there is no question they are happier to be going than staying at the school during construction.

Will there be bussing for Childcare during Winter and March breaks and Summer?

Yes and also PA days.

Will the information posted on the wall (maps and bus stops) be posted online?

Yes.

If I live outside the catchment area where will we go to catch the bus?

There will be two buses to transport French Immersion children - **from where? – Generally from local schools – current stops are listed on the route copies.**

English students are included in the Davisville bus schedule.

Are the bus stops set in stone for students on the west side of Yonge?

The issue is where we can stage stops. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

Will there be an opportunity for my child to meet their teacher at the Open House in August?

New Junior Kindergarten students will be invited to meet their teacher in May. Invites will be sent via email.

What are the plans if extra-curricular activities will only be offered at lunchtime?

- Keep in mind that this is only a 2 year plan and yes, there are changes required.
- Staff will do everything in their power to give the children a rich experience.
- Choices will have to be made – may not be able to do everything they do now – but there will be activities offered 5 days a week.

How much parking will there be for parents?

There are only 38 spaces for 70 staff members. There is some street parking like at Davisville. Carpooling may be an option worth looking in to. There is no parent or visitor parking.

What does driver do in the case where there is a behaviour issue?

As his/her main concern is the safety of the children he may pull over the bus or change seats. Please note the driver has to be able to have seen the incident.

A pink slip may be given to the child which goes to the Principal – after 3 the child may be suspended from the bus but not from school.

The child can still tell their teacher or principal when they get to the school if they don't want to on the bus.

All the kids will have bus safety training and we will rely on parents/guardians to reinforce at home.

Are the bus stops confirmed or under consideration?

The community is being listened to. Firm bus stops will be decided by June 2018.

As there are a lot of students living at 77 and 111 Davisville – would it be possible to have one bus come directly to the apartment building? There is clearance space for a bus and the overhang will keep the children dry in inclement weather.

Staff will look into this.

If my child missed the bus can they get on another?

No. If a child misses their bus it is the parents' responsibility to get them to school.

What will happen if my child vomits on the bus?

The driver may stop and move student to another seat if possible. Then after unloading will clean-up the bus.

Will swimming be offered for all students JK to 6?

Yes, but the program will be different depending on the grade.

Where is the transportation form as I have not seen it?

All forms have been returned to the office and were double checked to ensure all were in. Please contact the Principal to double check that yours in on file.

Can you confirm that no other school will be coming to Vaughan?

Yes. Only Davisville and Spectrum for 2018-2020.

How realistic is the construction timing?

Very positive. We have planned for two years –should be 18 months so gives some wiggle room. We will be monitoring closely.

I have a JK child and am concerned that there will be a 50:1 ratio on the bus.

Concerns are understandable, but please remember, 50K students are bussed each year. Parent responsible to get child on bus at door (not get on the bus themselves!) then children will seat themselves.

When will I know if my child will get a daycare space as we are on the waitlist?

There are more spaces (104) than children on the waitlist so everyone will get in. This will be confirmed by end of May.

What happens if the bus breaks down or there is an accident?

A secondary bus will be dispatched. The original driver will move to new bus with all the children. The school will let the parents know.

If I drive for drop-off where do I park?

No perfect parking but you can park on both sides of the street for 1 hour. Use main entrance to enter – there will be good signage.

Will there be a community centre on site of new school?

The City Aquatic Centre is a future and separate build.

Can the bus seats be colour coded to help the child find their seats?

Great idea – if you have suggestions on how we could do this please email the Principal.

Why not make the school bigger now to accommodating rise in population?

We have looked ahead and are making sure the underground parking lot is reinforced to accommodate the building of 4 more classrooms in the future if needed. With development on Merton and Eglinton, etc. we will still need more schools. A new Program Area Review Team will be struck in the Fall to look at accommodation planning going forward from 2020 (Current 2015 PART manages growth until 2020). We are hopeful that the government will revise the current Education Development Charges Regulation to allow TDSB access.