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Editor, Town Crier Group of Community Newspapers
101 Wingold Avenue
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Re: Redevelopment of Davisville School articles from July 2012 Edition

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB or Board) asked staff to explore delivering the Accommodation Review Committee's (ARC) approved program at Davisville PS through a new build funded by redevelopment of the school site and that is what we are in the process of doing.

Similar to other public agencies, the TDSB is faced with funding shortfalls and aging infrastructure. As of June 2012, the TDSB's deferred maintenance backlog is \$3.26 billion and growing. In order to meet the demands of growing communities, like Davisville, TDSB has embarked on a city-wide program to rebuild schools through a new funding model. This model is based on redeveloping a portion of school lands and partnering with a development partner to create a mixed use site (new school + residential + open space).

The existing school building and neighbouring schools cannot accommodate the growth in our community. The current Davisville building has a capacity of 384 students and contains a large number of smaller classrooms built for the Metro Toronto School for the Deaf. In order to accommodate the program as defined by the ARC and approved by the Board (English JK to Grade 6, French Immersion SK to Grade 6 and Spectrum Alternative School Grades 7 and 8), a larger Davisville school with appropriate sized classrooms is necessary. A new school will also significantly improve the quality of all learning spaces and eliminate Davisville PS' deferred maintenance backlog of \$8.3M (including roof, ceiling and foundation repairs).

Firstly, to clarify, our Board process begins with the school, as that is our mandate – and the formation of the Local School Community Design Team (LSCDT) to inform the development of principles and options. It includes parents, staff and Principal, Childcare representatives (parents and staff) and invited resident association representatives to broaden our understanding of the local issues. An open house for the parents/guardians of Davisville and Spectrum was held on June 18, 2012 with very good attendance from the parent community. There, TDSB staff discussed the redevelopment process, LSCDT process, and introduced the preferred option that the LSCDT reached agreement on May 22, 2012 to bring forward to the broader school community.

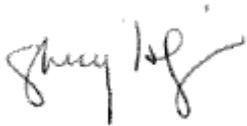
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Secondly, what comes out of the LSCDT process goes to the Board of Trustees for approval. If approved, the TDSB then seeks a development partner and **only then** begins the process of completing the work to prepare an application to file with the City who has carriage of land use issues. It is through the City's process that broad resident engagement occurs. That is the role of the City, not the School Board.

Thirdly, we are very clear and have been from the beginning, that the proposal for the Davisville redevelopment as it currently sits will require an Official Plan amendment and re-zoning. We are attempting to shape our proposal with local community input, to make the best use of our lands in as contextual a way as possible providing for a local community school and amenities, significant green, open space running the full length of Millwood including new playgrounds and a sports field and residential density moving from 12 - 7 stories moving east along the site on Davisville Avenue.

Lastly, we will be addressing traffic issues and public realm issues as we move forward, engaging fully with the City and their process for full community engagement when and if we cross all the hurdles ahead and file an application.

As the Local Trustee, my goal is to bring a great new school, community amenities and park land funded through residential development to the Davisville community. Minutes of the LSCDT and community updates for the Davisville Redevelopment Project can be found on my website at www.tdsb.on.ca/laskin. I look forward to providing further updates as the process continues this fall.



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