



December 18, 2018

Dear Baycrest Public School Community:

Re: Update on the transition of Baycrest Public School

As the end of the year approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the plans for the relocation of Baycrest Public School to the former Sir Sandford Fleming Academy Building.

### **Background and Context**

In 2017, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) conducted public consultations on the relocation of the school and child care, and the surplus declaration of the current Baycrest PS site. As part of the consultations, a series of meetings with the school and local community, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, City of Toronto and Baycrest Child Care Centre were held. On April 19, 2017, the Board approved the relocation of Baycrest PS and the Baycrest Child Care Centre to the former Sir Sandford Fleming Academy building, declared Baycrest site surplus to the needs of the Board and referred it to the Toronto Lands Corporation for sale effective 30 June, 2018. A letter notifying the school community was sent on April 28, 2017. To read the letter, please click here -

[https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC\\_helpful\\_info\\_docs/P20170424-BaycrestPSRelocationBoardDecisionLettertoParents-v3.pdf](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/P20170424-BaycrestPSRelocationBoardDecisionLettertoParents-v3.pdf).

At the time of the approval of the relocation plan, there was strong interest from the Baycrest PS community for consideration of a grade expansion to Grade 8. This request was approved through a Program Area Review process (PART) that took place in late 2017 (you would have received a letter on February 14, 2018 confirming this decision). To read the letter, please click here

[https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC\\_helpful\\_info\\_docs/P20180209-BaycrestBoardDecisionLettertoParents%20v2.pdf](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/P20180209-BaycrestBoardDecisionLettertoParents%20v2.pdf).

### **Current Status – the former Sir Sandford Fleming Academy**

The former Sir Sandford Fleming Academy building is currently leased to the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and used to accommodate Grade 5 to 8 students from St. Margaret Catholic School until the school can be rebuilt by the TCDSB.

The TCDSB has expressed an interest in purchasing the Baycrest site for St. Margaret CS. Until this past year, the Sir Sandford Fleming building also housed Grade 9 students from Dante Alighieri Academy – they have since moved back to their school building and are being accommodated in portables.

Staff from the TDSB and the TCDSB has been working collaboratively to relocate students from both school boards and the Baycrest Child Care Centre to the Sir Sandford Fleming building. In November 2017, the building program for the child care was expanded to include an infant room, which was identified by the City as a priority for the Ward. This has now been incorporated into the renovation plan.

Baycrest PS students will share the Sir Sandford Fleming building with the Grade 5-8 students from St. Margaret CS for a period of approximately three years, at which point the TDSB will assume full occupancy of the building. They will operate as two distinct schools while sharing the building. St. Margaret's CS will vacate the building when their new school is completed. In the interim, Baycrest PS will occupy space the 1st floor and second floor of the building. The area on the second floor will be self-contained and have a separate access for students. The playfield will be used by both schools, but delineated in a way that provides separation.

The TDSB submitted a business case to the Ministry of Education to support the renovation of the Sir Sandford Fleming building to accommodate Baycrest PS and the existing child care centre. In March, 2018, the province confirmed the TDSB will receive \$4.85 million to renovate the building. It should be stressed that the overall building system improvements are a priority to ensure the long-term viability of this facility.

The renovation plan includes:

#### **1st floor**

- Child care rooms with washrooms, separate access/drop off area, server, administration area and outdoor playground plan.
- Three Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) rooms– the original plan was to include only two rooms, but enrolment at the school has increased in FDK quite substantially this year

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

- Separate gymnasium dedicated to Baycrest PS
- Renovation of two classrooms into a library space (convertible back to two classrooms once the building is fully occupied)

- Room to support the school's nutrition program (including kitchen)
- New crash doors to provide a dedicated/secure space for Baycrest PS
- Improvements to all instructional classrooms

Baycrest PS administration has requested a Science/Tech suite – this is currently under review by Facilities staff. Note that once the building is fully occupied, Baycrest PS will have access to similar spaces, currently used by St. Margaret's CS.

Due to the fact that funding for the project was not announced until the spring of 2018, the original timeline (for occupancy at Sir Sandford Fleming for September 2019) has been extended. Board staff have told me the delay has been communicated to the school community; site visits with staff and parent representatives were held over the summer of 2018.

**Transition Timeline:**

We expect Baycrest PS would be able to relocate to Sir Sandford Fleming in January 2020 or approximately one year from now. However, staff has informed me that the school community would prefer to move in September 2020. As a result, the Facilities team is working to complete the renovations by then. At that point, Baycrest PS will be fully transferred to the former Sir Sandford Fleming site which will be renamed Baycrest Public School.

To confirm, the interim period of sharing the facility with the TCDSB is expected to last until 2022, at which time the TCDSB expects to move to their new school at the Baycrest PS site. By 2022, the entire building will be utilized by the TDSB.

Staff has confirmed that with the introduction of Grade 7 at the current Baycrest PS site for September 2019, a portable may be required. We will discuss the details of this with Principal Stewart.

**Project Implementation Update:**

An evaluation of the Sir Sandford Fleming building and site conditions started in March 2018. Since that time, TDSB has conducted facility condition assessments of the building in the areas anticipated for Baycrest PS and the child care. This includes evaluation of the rooms on the first and second floors, along with the building systems.

TDSB Facilities staff has retained the services of ETUDE Architects as the prime consultant for this project. The design of the first and second floor and child care are currently being reviewed and discussed by staff.

I am happy to address any questions or concerns you may have through Principal Stewart and your School Council representatives.

I will continue keeping you updated. I did address the issue briefly in my last weekly update which you can find on my website here - <https://t.e2ma.net/message/mkm7fc/qb246x>. I send a weekly update out via e-mail Sunday evenings at 8pm. Should you wish to receive them directly, please sign up here - <https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1787552/1752436/?v=a>.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful holiday season – Happy Yule/ Solstice, Merry Christmas, Joyous Kwanzaa – whatever your tradition, I hope it finds you surrounded by family and friends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelley', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shelley Laskin  
Trustee, Ward 8 Eglinton-Lawrence and Toronto-St Paul's  
Toronto District School Board

cc. Lois Stewart, Principal, Baycrest Public School  
Lorie Brodie and Nicole Peters, Baycrest Public School Council Co-Chairs  
Marguerite Campbell, Superintendent of Education, LC-1/LN-4  
Steve Shaw, Executive Officer, Facility Services, Sustainability & Planning, TDSB  
Daniel Castaldo, Senior Manager, Planning, TDSB