



Update re Hodgson Middle School – May 7, 2019

Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin, Ward 11 (Hodgson MS and Maurice Cody Jr PS)

Trustee Shelley Laskin, Ward 8 (Davisville Jr PS, Eglinton Jr PS and Oriole Park Jr PS)

Planning Information

Below are updated enrolment projections for Hodgson MS and its feeder schools. These are status quo enrolment projections that factor in only Board-approved decisions (for example, they include the Eglinton Jr PS/Maurice Cody Jr PS boundary change and 9 development application redirections to Whitney Jr PS that are board approved but have not factored in additional development redirections away from Eglinton Jr PS nor the proposed Eglinton Jr PS /Hodgson MS/Northlea E & MS boundary change).

Capacities for Davisville Jr PS/Spectrum Alternative Sr PS (without the 5 rooms) and Hodgson MS (12 rooms only) have been adjusted in 2021 and 2023, respectively, to account for the completion of Ministry-approved projects.

Updated Actual and Projected Enrolments, Davisville Jr PS/Spectrum Alternative Sr School, Eglinton Jr PS, Hodgson MS, Maurice Cody Jr PS, Oriole Park Jr PS, 2018-2028

	Davisville Jr PS/Spectrum Alt Sr School		Eglinton Jr PS		Hodgson MS		Maurice Cody Jr PS		Oriole Park Jr PS	
	Enrolment	Capacity*	Enrolment	Capacity	Enrolment	Capacity**	Enrolment	Capacity	Enrolment	Capacity
School Capacity		538		548		390		709		242
2018 (Oct 31st)	590	110%	605	110%	534	137%	666	94%	274	113%
2019	597	111%	603	110%	571	146%	680	96%	285	118%
2020	611	114%	612	112%	603	155%	686	97%	286	118%
2021	625	85%	634	116%	662	170%	704	99%	304	126%
2022	668	91%	678	124%	724	186%	704	99%	318	131%
2023	702	96%	719	131%	746	112%	729	103%	325	134%
2024	736	101%	756	138%	791	119%	725	102%	324	134%
2025	750	103%	771	141%	827	124%	719	101%	328	136%
2026	751	103%	777	142%	847	127%	723	102%	332	137%
2027	749	102%	779	142%	876	132%	721	102%	336	139%
2028	748	102%	779	142%	885	133%	710	100%	340	140%

*Capacity for Davisville Jr PS/Spectrum Alternative Sr School is adjusted to 731 in 2021 once new building is completed.

**Capacity of Hodgson MS is adjusted to 666 in 2023 once 12-classroom addition is built.

12-Room Addition

In November 2016 the Ministry of Education (EDU) provided a funding approval of \$5.8M to construct a 12-Classroom addition at Hodgson MS to address accommodation pressures. This project was required to support the implementation of an accommodation plan whereby grade 6 students from adjacent junior elementary schools would be directed into Hodgson MS.

Originally, the project schedule involved meeting with the school and community representatives throughout the fall of 2017 to develop the project and following this, submit for Site Plan Approval (SPA) to the City of Toronto in December 2017. Assuming the SPA approval process would take up to a full year, which is the Board's general experience (although the City notes on its website this is to take a maximum of 9 months); the project was to begin construction in the spring of 2019, to be completed in the summer of 2020.

New School Review Team

As part of the [New School Design Guidelines](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Facility-Services/Elementary-School-Design-Guideline) (<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Facility-Services/Elementary-School-Design-Guideline>) the process included community involvement in A2.9 through a New School Review Team (NSRT).



A NSRT [meeting](#) was held on October 23, 2017 with representation from the architects, TDSB, Hodgson MS (administration, parents and staff) and broader community. (https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward8/_m/docs/Hodgson%20NSRT%20Meeting%20Notes%20Oct%2023%202017.pdf).

Another NSRT meeting was tentatively set for the end of January or beginning of February 2018. However, when staff reviewed the enrolment projections as part of the annual Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS), it was determined the 12-room addition would be insufficient to accommodate the long-term growth at the school. Staff proposed the 12-room addition be put on hold.

Community Meeting

Staff met with ministry representatives in January 2018 to discuss the concerns with the project, and TDSB staff was directed by EDU to explore options for providing additional capacity. Architects were engaged to assess the building and to develop these options. A community meeting was held on June 11, 2018 to provide information about what has happened with enrolment in the area, and to share why the TDSB proposed changing the scope of the original project (12 room addition). We shared the options that had been developed with the community at this meeting and listened to feedback. The [presentation](#) and [meeting notes](#) and the [Qs and As](#) that were developed can be found here <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Search-All-Reviews?id=147>.

Business Case Resubmitted to the Ministry of Education

Last fall 2018, staff met with Ministry staff and updated them on the rationale for the need to build additional capacity at Hodgson MS. The design options were also presented at this meeting, and a recommendation was made by TDSB staff to proceed with the 'hybrid' option. A formal and revised Business Case was submitted to the Ministry in November 2018. The basis of the hybrid option is to demolish the 1960's wing of the building and construct a 22 classroom and gymnasium addition in its place. The hybrid option also includes a renovation of the 1914-1927 portion of the school to improve space functionality within the existing building.

There doesn't seem to be any question about the need for additional capacity, however to date there has been no decision made by the Ministry. The revised school capacity with the 12-room addition is 666 pupil places. The revised school capacity with the 22-room addition is 838 pupil places. There were 534 students at the school as of October 31, 2018 and enrolment projections suggest a total of 571 students for September 2019.

Where are we now?

Enrolments have continued to grow at local junior schools despite previous measures taken to mitigate this growth. Based on an annual review of accommodation pressures, a portion of Eglinton Jr PS' catchment area will be assigned to Maurice Cody Jr PS in September 2019. Several under construction but unoccupied residential developments have also been redirected away from Eglinton Jr PS and assigned to Whitney Jr PS. Phase 2 of the Yonge-Eglinton Program Area Review Team (PART) began in April 2019 and will continue to explore a series of accommodation options for mitigating growth in the Yonge-Eglinton area, particularly at Eglinton Jr PS. We know that the long-term solution to accommodate the projected growth in this area is a new elementary school, and this is reflected in Board's Long-Term Program & Accommodation Strategy.

At this time the Yonge-Eglinton Phase 2 (PART), has been temporarily suspended until the fall. During the staff presentation at the PART meeting it was explained the new class size requirements mandated by the Ministry of Education may present an opportunity to expand the range of options available for review and discussion.

All active accommodation reviews are currently suspended to allow time for staff to consider broader options, such as how secondary properties may be used as opportunities to address continued accommodation pressures at elementary schools.

A redirection of a small portion of Eglinton Jr PS and Hodgson MS junior and intermediate attendance areas located south of Fairfield Rd, east of Cardiff Rd, north of Eglinton Av E, and west of Bayview Av to Northlea E & MS from Eglinton Jr PS is being considered. A public meeting will be held on May 23 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Northlea E & MS. You can find all the information on the Yonge Eglinton Phase 2 PART, <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Search-All-Reviews?id=158>.

What does all this mean for Hodgson MS?

As we wait for the Ministry to decide, status quo enrolment projections suggest that no additional portables are required for September 2019. An additional portable could be required for September 2020 (total of 7). By September 2021, an additional portable could be required (total of 8). In September 2022, a total of up to 11 portables could be required. Please note that if the larger project as designed is approved by the Ministry and construction begins in the 2021/22 school year, two existing classrooms would be demolished as part of the construction. This would mean an additional two portables in 2021 and 2022 (total of 10 and 13 portables, respectively).

These portable counts are based on provincial school organization expectations that each school has one unloaded withdrawal classroom and one classroom for each core classroom teacher. As you know, classroom efficiencies can assist in reducing the number of portables required (i.e., using resource rooms for some core classes or the Home School Program), delivering music on a cart, etc.). Classroom organization would be discussed with school administration prior to placing any additional portables on-site.

Further, the Ministry's Grants for Student Needs (GSN) announcement on April 26, 2019 identified that further information on capital funding would follow. This is the first indication that a new round of capital funding may be forthcoming. Given that this information is to be released, our staff believe this new information would allow us to better understand how the business case for additional capacity at Hodgson MS aligns with ministry priorities, as well as what timelines may be implemented for new capital project approvals. We are prepared to modify the Business Case that was resubmitted to the Ministry based upon this new information.

If the ministry does not approve a larger addition, could we still build the 12-room addition?

Staff's understanding is yes, we could still proceed with a 12-room addition under the previously approved scope. That funding has already been allocated to address accommodation pressures at Hodgson MS. If the Board decides to proceed with the project, then the Ministry would be advised of that direction.

If the Board decides to proceed with the project in its current form (12-classrooms), then the design process would need to consider options that allow for future expansion. Again, while staff understand this may be possible, there are facility issues that could not be addressed through the phased approach to construction, such as aligning the floor levels and providing a new gymnasium. The NSRT would be brought together to review the previous design decisions.

As with planning for a larger addition, construction could begin in the 2021/22 school year.