

Toronto District School Board

FINAL REPORT of the Accommodation Review Committee Donwood Jr PS, Edgewood PS, Bendale BTI, David and Mary Thomson CI, Highbrook Learning Centre

15 September 2008

CONTEXT

On April 18, 2007, The Toronto District School Board established an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) to address the future of Donwood Jr PS, Edgewood PS, Bendale BTI, David and Mary Thomson CI, Highbrook Learning Centre.

The staff, students, and communities of these schools have been engaged in consideration of future directions for a considerable period of time. The ARC was initiated as a result of an earlier Program Area Review Team that began in September 2006 and was completed in January 2007.

The ARC began its work in January 2008. It held seven meetings, including four meetings to which the public was invited.

MEMBERSHIP

Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)		
School	Name	Representing
Bendale Business and Technical Institute	Cindy Zwicker-Reston	Principal
Bendale Business and Technical Institute	Ginette Morin	School Council Chair
Bendale Business and Technical Institute	Peter Harrison	Staff Member
Bendale Business and Technical Institute	Klara Hussain	Student
David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute	Soriana Mantini	Principal
David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute	Dianne Wilson-Sweet	School Council Chair
David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute	Collin Wilson	Staff Member
David and Mary Thomson Collegiate Institute	Sajeda Canani	Student

Donwood Park Junior Public School	Susan MacDonald	Principal
Donwood Park Junior Public School	Naseema Khan	School Council Chair
Donwood Park Junior Public School	Edward McLennon	Staff Member
Donwood Park JPS, NYAD	Jeanette Gardiner	Daycare Rep
Edgewood Public School	Tamara Mitchell	Principal
Edgewood Public School	Brenda McNeill	School Council Chair
Edgewood Public School	Joanne Seal	Staff Member
Highbrook Learning Centre	Judy Whitfield	Principal-Continuing Education
Highbrook Learning Centre	Grainne O'Donnell	Program-Manager-Continuing Education
Executive Assistant to Councillor Thompson	Ihor Wons	Municipal Rep
Member of Glen Andrew Community Assoc.	Sanjay Moorjani	Ratepayer Association

SUMMARY

The ARC's key findings were as follows:

- Donwood Jr PS facility does not adequately provide the necessary space and programming ability for the growing student population in the area.
- Edgewood PS requires support for the grades 7 and 8 experiential learning in technical and science studies.
- Bendale BTI is unable to provide programming for all students allowing them access to all post secondary pathways.
- Thomson CI is unable to provide programming for all students allowing them access to all post secondary pathways.
- Highbrook Learning Centre is not adequate to provide a Staff Development Centre as well as, space for satellite programs.

Recommendations of the ARC:

The ARC has unanimously reached the following recommendations which include the consolidation of Bendale BTI and David and Mary Thomson CI with a campus approach design which incorporates Donwood Jr PS in a JK to 12 concept.

Donwood Jr PS

- Establish a JK-12 campus with David and Mary Thomson.
- Donwood is converted from JK-6 to JK-8.
- Donwood receives an intermediate attendance area for students in grades 7 and 8 – Donwood takes a portion of Edgewood’s intermediate attendance area.
- Construct a new facility integrated with David and Mary Thomson.
- Include a parenting and literacy centre.

Edgewood PS

- Remains JK-8.
- Edgewood’s intermediate attendance area is reduced – a portion is assigned to Donwood.
- Pilot middle level experiential learning program.
- Include a parenting and literacy centre.

Bendale BTI

- Disband BTI model at Bendale.
- Eliminate Bendale’s BTI attendance area from the TDSB Street Guide.
- Accommodate all students who would have been directed to Bendale at their composite home community secondary school.

David and Mary Thomson CI

- Establish a JK-12 campus with Donwood.
- Establish as a composite home community secondary school serving grades 9-12 with programming appropriate for all destinations, and with admission governed through the existing attendance area for David and Mary Thompson CI.
- Establish a “theme” for the school of information and communication technology.
- Create a “life skills” centre with a focus on the development of independent living skills and functional academics for students with developmental disabilities (6 classes with up to 10 students per class). This centre will be integrated among the other specialized program centres in the school allowing for the mutually inclusive access of all students to all centres.
- Provide appropriate space for some intensive support programs (ISPs) to offer a full range of support to special education students living in the attendance area, and re-allocate some of the existing intensive support programs to other identified sites in the south-east quadrant.

- Create a “specialized program” serving three areas of specialization: conference and event management and hospitality services; medical science, health and well-being; and environmental sustainable development. The specialized program accommodates 500 students in grades 11 and 12 through an “intensive” experience (students attend full-time for one or two semesters). The specialized program has no attendance area; any grade 11 or 12 student can apply through a special admission process. The specialized program has programming leading to all destinations.
- Include an auditorium.
- Include an urban farm.
- Construct a conference centre to accommodate TDSB staff development functions (this space is considered administration space – not part of the 130 sq ft per pupil place – to be considered in light of system direction for staff development).
- Provide opportunities for the Continuing Education Department to offer Community General Interest and Seniors’ programs in the David and Mary Thomson facility (these programs would operate in shared space after regular school hours in the evenings and on weekends through the permit process).
- Approach the City, community service providers and athletic organizations to determine if they want space in the Donwood/David and Mary Thomson facility (for example: child care centre, athletic facilities, community centre, classrooms for Section agencies). Any partner wanting space must bring its own capital funding to build space and operations funding to operate the space.

The ARC recognizes the value of the Continuing Education and Adult ESL Programs housed in Area 1. The Board will need to appropriately address any impacts on these programs.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Community Meetings Recommendation for the formation of an ARC, Letter February 7, 2007
- Appendix B: Individual School Valuation Template
- Appendix C: School Valuation Template – Board Data
Edgewood/Donwood/Bendale/Thomson School Valuation, Step 3: Staff’s Objective is to “Reveal the Data” to the ARC
- Appendix D: ARC Draft Accommodation Options Summary
- Appendix E: Final Programming and Accommodation Recommendation by ARC, April 28, 2008
- Appendix F: ARC Process
- Appendix G: ARC detailed Process and Story
- Appendix H: An Invitation to our Community, Letter February 2008
- Appendix I: Meeting Notes: March 3, March 31, April 7, April 28, 2008
- Appendix J: Letter to the Community, June 18, 2008