

Program Area Review Team  
Community Consultation Meeting  
March 23, 2015

Samuel Hearne Middle School and Oakridge Jr PS

- Trustee Parthi Kandavel welcomed everyone at 4:15 p.m. and provided some personal background information about himself
- It is a priority for the TDSB to reduce the number of portables
- Overcrowding at Oakridge has been a concern for several years
- Parents wanted a solution to the problems of overcrowding had meetings earlier to discuss different solutions
- This Community Consultation meeting is to explore solutions to reduce the number of portables
- Members of the Program Area Review Team were introduced:
  - Stacey Michener, Superintendent of Education, ER12 Family of Schools
  - Heather Groves, Principal, Oakridge Jr. P.S.
  - Sohail Shaikh, Principal, Samuel Hearne Middle School
  - Geof McMacken, Educational Planning Officer, TDSB
  - Mr. Javed Majlish, School Council Chair, Oakridge Jr. P.S.,
  - Mr. Monjur Mahmoud, School Council Chair, Samuel Hearne Middle School
- Trustee Kandavel thanked all for their support and input
- He wants to hear all perspectives to move things forward and indicated that all voices are needed at the table
- Invited Stacey Michener to introduce PART process
- TDSB is guided by Ministry of Education Legislation when conducting a Program Area Review including looking at grade or boundary changes
- Team is made up of the people who have been introduced thus far
- Meet with community members as well for feedback and input
- Central Staff are involved in an advisory capacity: Facilities and Planning department staff are involved in providing important information
- Everyone's job today is to listen, ask questions, make comments, listen to recommendations
- Aug. 2014 – overcrowding at Oakridge was identified as an ongoing problem that needed resolution
- Formal process was reviewed with all present, including the addition of an open community meeting held by the Trustee
- Local Feasibility Team was established to follow a process and look at the issues involved
- The team met throughout February and March and today we are holding the formal Public Consultation meeting
- The Team will meet again after today's Consultation to develop a formal recommendation that will meet the needs of both schools
- Geof McMacken – TDSB Planner, presented enrolment projections over time and shared the charts with the community
- He explained reasons for overcrowding at Oakridge: class size caps, FDK, community continues to grow and is expected to continue growing over the next 5 years
- 140 JK's are expected at Oakridge this coming Sept 2015
- Over time, if the TDSB does nothing, Oakridge will require 8-11 portables extra
- Reviewed the options that were considered by the Program Area Review Team
- Ministry of Education must approve additions before we can proceed and permission will not be granted until all other options have been exhausted
- Grade 6-7-8 Samuel Hearne - numbers are at 281 and they have the room to accommodate grade 5 as well
- We have capacity at Hearne for 425 students
- What we are recommending: move grade 5's from Oakridge to Samuel Hearne
- Could remove four portables from site

- While we are trying to eliminate portables, 3 portables will need to remain
- Portables will be relocated on site to create a playing field
- In the future, TDSB will investigate capital funding for the two sites to allow for increased growth in both schools
- There was discussion about the plan to install artificial turf to replace the muddy field
- Site Master Plan is in progress and remaining portables will be moved to a more convenient area
- Portables will be moved during the summer of 2015
- Both principals shared their transition plans for students-- showed video from the perspective of children
- Looking forward to a smooth transition
- Staff asked whether teachers from Oakridge will move with the students
- The staffing process will be led by Employee Services: collective agreements and established processes need to be followed
- The recommendation from the PART will go to TDSB Trustees for approval after being reviewed by the Central Accommodation Team, Executive Council and the Planning and Priorities Committee
- Community members have the opportunity to attend and make deputations at the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting on April 8, 2015
- Final decision will be made at the Board meeting on April 15, 2015
- Opportunity was provided for parents and community members to express concerns and ask questions. We want to be clear and transparent throughout the process
- Questions included: will grade 5 students be psychologically ready to be with older students? Oakridge students in grade 5 are leaders at Oakridge. Will they continue to have leadership opportunities at Hearne? What about recess? Principal from Samuel Hearne outlined timetable plans to ensure consistency throughout the day for students and transition plans and reassured that grade 8's are kind and welcoming. It is important to have transitions to help with adjustment to the new school. Teacher connection is important. Hearne staff we will do what is in the best interest of the students. Programs will continue with leadership opportunities for all. Recess will be provided morning and afternoon for junior level students.
- Parents who may have more concerns were invited to attend the council meeting at Oakridge on Thursday May 26th
- Questions regarding the Master Site Plan will be deferred to a future meeting when the draft plans are complete and the time for consultation is approaching.
- A student wanted reassurance that the TDSB won't demolish one of the schools
- As the discussion no longer pertained to the mandate of the PART, thanks were given to members of Program Area Review Team, and all who attended for their input
- Meeting adjourned: 5:38 p.m.

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