



Pupil Accommodation Review Committee
Public Meeting #1
Guildwood JPS, Elizabeth Simcoe JPS, Poplar Rd. JPS, Jack Miner JPS
 February 21, 2017
 6:30 pm
 Sir Wilfrid Laurier C.I. - Cafeteria

Item	Discussion	Attachments / Actions / Results
1.	<p>Q: Geof McMacken stated that the TDSB doesn't like to bus students. A large percent of Guildwood children would have to be bussed. These busses would create more traffic. We also have construction of the Metro Link occurring at the same time. There will also be more students walking to school. The extra traffic caused by the busses and the construction in the area would create a greater danger for the students who are walking to school.</p> <p>A: We have an issue of getting proper programming for children. The bussing concerns override that issue. We need to address the programming. The extra bus would consist of possibly 1 large bus. Once this is in place then the Transportation department will look seriously at the walking distances for each student. Students within the 1.6 km are within walking distances. Right now we have a computer estimate of walking distances. Based on what you see here it would be one large bus of 40 students.</p>	
2.	<p>Q: Glad you mentioned programming; that is what I am concerned about as well. We are also looking at new school construction. What will happen during the construction? What are you looking at to minimize impact, noise, dust, pollution for the students?</p> <p>A: When we are looking at a scenario of new schools replacing Simcoe and Poplar. There are 2 options for those properties. The first option is to move students off the site; we can build a new school with very little noise, and dust for students. However we are moving kids to a holding school, where they could be a possibility of them being moved to another neighbourhood.</p> <p>The second option is to build the school in the sports field area; which we do quite often, this does take away the outdoor space but it is the safest way to do it. There will be fencing separating the site from the yard and school. We follow the municipal bylaw standards which include noise and dust control. We work with a construction supervisor who isolates the construction from the operating school.</p>	
3.	<p>Q: The noise level and length of time; this will take place over a number of years and will have an impacting effect.</p> <p>A: It does not cause negative impact for learning. There are very strict bylaws set in place which includes dust control for outdoor air quality. In very extreme circumstances, if we have a tight site we look at risk assessment and move to relocate the students during construction. In these cases we don't feel this will be required. If recess and lunch supervision are a concern, the Superintendent can request additional supervision, during the children's play and interaction times.</p> <p><i>The technical information, municipal bylaws and construction protocols can be provided.</i></p>	ACTION

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4.	<p>Q: Would it be possible to have one school built ahead of time and use Guildwood as the holding site for students. Once we have a decision; is that an option open for discussion?</p> <p>A: We won't be closing a school until the new one is built on the site. It is not in the best interest of the students to have them bussed to another school. We haven't modeled that scenario where we take the student population and redistribute to other schools. There is some capacity at Guildwood and Poplar. How do we break them up while building Simcoe? Following that, the same thing will happen with the Poplar students. We would need to break up that student population and move some to Guildwood and some to the new Simcoe school. We do not have the space to move the students as a whole to another school.</p>	
5.	<p>Q: Breaking up the community. How is that? We are asking about moving an entire group to one site. We could start with Poplar students; move them to Guildwood while the new Poplar school is built, then Simcoe students could move to Guildwood while the new Simcoe school is being built.</p> <p>A: We don't have a facility in the Guildwood area large enough to receive the whole population. We would have to break it up. Poplar would not fit into Guildwood. There are options similar to that available; which would mean we would need to put several portables on the site. Merge the Poplar students to Guildwood; they would sit in portables for 2 years, following that the Simcoe students can be brought over and placed in portables. This would take approximately 7 years to get the students in a building at Simcoe. There are bylaws that ensure we cannot get too close to the surrounding properties. There is a different process for where the schools will be built on the sites. We looked at the options building on the existing building site and then looked at building on the field. We touched on the 5 ways to getting funding from the Ministry if we consolidate. The Ministry will provide capital dollars but that window could close at any time. We could lose this opportunity if we wait too long. We won't have an answer from the Ministry until fall.</p>	
6.	<p>Q: I grew up in this area; population turnover is already happening and continues to happen. Many kids are coming home to raise their children here. You state that less disruption to student transition is better, however having been through Poplar, Miner and Laurier; I don't know if that is a true statement. A lot of families move to this area because of the junior school, to the senior school; it prepares them for high school.</p> <p>A: Students at risk have the most difficulty with transitions. What we are proposing in the new buildings will have the Science and Technology labs, lockers, etc... There is higher parent involvement in a K-8 school.</p>	
7.	<p>Q: I don't think that transitions are detrimental to the child. Guildwood is a special place; we take pride in our area.</p> <p>A: We all take pride, we are all one general community when we get to Miner and then to Laurier. Every school is great. We can try to save the schools but what will happen in the next 5 to 10 years for these schools. This is a unique opportunity for a facility that will offer great programming for students the community. A lot of things will be built purposely that do not currently exist in these schools. For example the gyms are small. When you have grades 7 and 8, the gym is purposely built to accommodate all the grades. For example the gym at W.G Miller P.S. is amazing.</p>	

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8.	<p>Q: You mentioned that with a limited number of classes there is less opportunity to split children. If you change the school reducing the number of grade 7 and 8 what would the numbers look like?</p> <p>A: We don't have that modeled out however for an approximate enrolment of 450 students in a K-8. We could be looking at 1 grade 7 class, 1 grade 8 class and one split 7/8 class.</p>	
9.	<p>Q: By splitting the grade 7 and 8 students you are limiting the number of peers they can make.</p> <p>A: We are looking at a population modeled for 450 to 500 students. 20% of the students at Miner are from GP Mackie, we will include in the programming GP Mackie students to attend Simcoe. Current classes at Jack Miner: 2 classes for Grade 7 and 3 classes for grade 8; no split classes.</p> <p><i>We will model this out for the next meeting.</i></p>	ACTION
10.	<p>Q: I love K-8 schools. I watched children go through both programs. The problem is when the schools close; we have 2 nice facilities, what would happen to them afterwards? Would they be used as a library, reference center, what will happen?</p> <p>A: There is a regulation in Ontario, Regulation 444; which outlines what the process is for all public bodies that have been funded through tax payer money. We would need to follow this regulation if this goes forward. In this case there would be 2 properties declared surplus by the board; Ontario Regulation 444 kicks in; the properties are then made available for 180 days to other public agencies to express interest, this includes other school boards, City of Toronto, etc. An example is when an elementary catholic school was declared surplus in Rexdale; the school was turned into a community hub. If there is no interest from the public domain then the properties are made available to the private sector. However we are just speculating and sharing the process. The Board of Trustees must explore other options for Jack Miner as it wouldn't be any value or little value to contractors, we can use it as a Professional Learning Centre and Arts Centre if there is an interest. In the regulation 444 it states that whoever buys the land must pay fair market value. The assessment for Sir Robert L. Borden BTI was 46 million dollars.</p>	
11.	<p>Q: Comment on enrolment at Guildwood; it is dependent on programs put in by the TDSB, if an FSL program was put in at Guildwood, the enrolment at Poplar would be affected. FSL program seems to be in great demand. The after school clubs, at Guildwood had a rich number of activities.</p> <p>A: We agree that in Toronto FSL programming is on the rise and we are able service applicants that apply on time. We have not seen an oversubscription for this area. If there was, we would have had a discussion to look at the site. We have not seen that in the last few years. We are able to accommodate all the applications to service this area.</p>	
12.	<p>Q We are concerned with the schools closing and believe they will be sold to builders; we would lose a lot of green space, ball park, fields, trees, etc. Poplar would be in the same predicament should the same thing happen there. St Ursula is bursting at</p>	

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	<p>the seams, is there an option of renting part of the school to the Catholic board.</p> <p>A: There would be an opportunity for the catholic board to express interest in Guildwood should it be declared surplus, rent or purchase. They would need to pay a fair market lease or purchase price.</p>	
13.	<p>Q: I would like to refer back to one suggestion, keeping the 3 schools open, Guildwood, Simcoe, and Poplar. Your concern is that there are not enough numbers at Guildwood. We could keep Simcoe and Poplar K-6 and Guildwood could change to K-8.</p> <p>A: The K-6 program would be too small at Guildwood and would still have very small cohorts for those grades. There would be a high ratio of grades 7 and 8 students. We didn't like the idea of a very heavy population for the grades 7 and 8.</p> <p>Statement: <i>I would like to ask the committee to look at this option again.</i></p>	ACTION
14.	<p>Next Committee Meeting is on March 7th, 2017</p> <p>Next Public Meeting is on April 20th, 2017 for deputations to staff and committee</p>	