

**Final Report of the Program Area Review Team for  
North Bendale Junior PS and Tredway Woodsworth PS  
December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Program Area Review Team recommends:**

- 1. That the grades at North Bendale Junior Public School be expanded from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 to Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 starting in September 2025.**
- 2. That current Regular track Grade 7 students at Tredway Woodsworth Public School who graduated from North Bendale Junior Public School in June 2024 be redirected to North Bendale Junior Public School for Grade 8 in September 2025.**
- 3. That Tredway Woodsworth Public School no longer become a pathway for North Bendale Junior Public School students.**
- 4. That North Bendale Junior Public School be renamed to North Bendale Public School as of September 2025.**

**BACKGROUND**

Members of the North Bendale Junior Public School (PS) community had expressed an interest to central staff in expanding the grade range to become a Junior Kindergarten (JK) to Grade 8 school. The school currently offers JK to Grade 6. Over the past several years, North Bendale Junior PS has remained at a utilization level that has allowed for the opportunity to consider the grade range expansion. As per the above, central staff added the review to the fall work 2024 plan as requested.

Enrolment at North Bendale Junior PS was 123 students as of October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. The school has a rated capacity of 205. The utilization of the school is currently 60%, and expected to decrease slightly over the course of the next several years. North Bendale Junior PS students currently feed to Tredway Woodsworth PS for Grades 7 and 8.

A Local Feasibility Team (LFT) comprised of the area Trustees, Superintendents, Principals and central Planning staff, was established in September 2024. The objective of the LFT was to investigate whether a grade range expansion at North Bendale Junior PS to a JK to Grade 8 school was possible.

The LFT created a JK to Grade 8 model for the school showing it was possible to accommodate two additional grades at the school without the need for capital improvements. Data was also presented showing what future enrolment is projected at North Bendale Junior PS with the grade expansion, and what impact this has to Tredway

Woodsworth PS' enrolment as that school would no longer be the pathway for North Bendale Junior PS.

The transition of the LFT to a Program Area Review Team (PART) was approved by the Central Accommodation Team (CAT) on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The objective of the PART was to continue the work of the LFT in evaluating the feasibility of the grade range by seeking advice and feedback from parent representatives from the impacted schools throughout the course of two working meetings.

At the first PART meeting, an explanation of the role of the PART as an advisory committee was given. The group was shown the scenario that the LFT created. The data included actual 2024 student enrolments and projected 2028 and 2033 enrolments (see Appendix A) based on the grade range change being considered.

The comments and questions posed at the PART meeting informed the content of the presentation at the public meeting. A copy of the public meeting presentation can be found online at the North Bendale Junior PS review webpage.

The PART held a second working meeting to discuss the feedback received at the public meeting, and post-public meeting, and to recommend a proposed solution. A consensus was reached that North Bendale Junior PS should become a JK to Grade 8 school beginning in September 2025, offering both Grades 7 and 8.

It is being recommended that students who are currently in Grade 7 at Tredway Woodsworth PS who graduated from Grade 6 at North Bendale Junior PS in June 2024 return to North Bendale Junior PS for Grade 8 in September 2025.

The PART considered whether students wishing to remain at Tredway Woodsworth PS for Grade 8 could apply via Out-of-Area Admissions to remain at the school. Given that the elementary Out-of-Area Admissions process will be closed by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 (this report will be presented to Board on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025), affected students would not have the opportunity to do so this year. As such, the PART is recommending that – for the remainder of this school year only - requests to remain at Tredway Woodsworth PS for Grade 8 be reviewed on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Principals and Superintendents of Education of both schools. Starting in September 2025, students residing within the North Bendale Junior PS attendance boundary area who wish to attend Tredway Woodsworth PS in Grade 7 will need to apply via the Out-of-Area Admissions process.

Additionally, recommendations also include that Tredway Woodsworth PS no longer be a pathway for North Bendale Junior PS students, thus reducing the intermediate attendance boundary at that school; and that North Bendale Junior PS be renamed to North Bendale PS as the school would offer an intermediate program.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Program Area Review Team		
School/Organization	Name	Role
North Bendale Jr Public School	Athanasios Dimakas	Principal
North Bendale Jr Public School	Sarah Muir	Parent Representative
North Bendale Jr Public School	Olympia Grigg	Parent Representative
Tredway Woodsworth Public School	Simon Mgya	Principal
Tredway Woodsworth Public School	Rebecca Mosios	Parent Representative
Tredway Woodsworth Public School	Lindsay Short	Parent Representative
TDSB Trustee	Zakir Patel	Trustee, Ward 19
TDSB Superintendent	Marwa Hamid	Superintendent
TDSB Superintendent	Jason Kandankery	Superintendent

Staff Resources		
Organization	Name	Role
TDSB	Joyce Kwong	Planning Department
TDSB	David Suriano	Planning Department

Meeting Details		
Meeting Type	Date	Time
Committee	November 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	7:00-8:30 pm
Public Meeting	December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2024	6:30-8:00 pm
Committee	December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	6:30-8:00 pm

#### ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES

##### Grade Range Change

The proposed grade range change will:

- Eliminate a school transition for North Bendale Junior PS students.
- Not significantly impact enrolment at Tredway Woodsworth PS.
- Be accommodated within existing classroom space at North Bendale Junior PS without any retrofits requiring capital.

#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

There was a consensus to proceed with the grade range change as presented.

The PART had also supported the survey of the parents/guardians of the ten current Grade 7 students attending Tredway Woodsworth PS who had graduated from North Bendale Junior PS in June 2024 to determine interest in returning to North Bendale Junior PS for Grade 8. Eight responses were received, and seven stated their preference to return to North Bendale Junior PS.

The PART carefully considered these responses in order to ensure that Grade 8 enrolment at North Bendale Junior PS in September 2025 will be viable. As there was much support from the community, the PART determined that the full implementation of Grades 7 and 8 in September 2025 should be recommended. As discussed above, for this year only, requests to remain at Tredway Woodsworth PS will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Throughout the course of our discussions, parents at the PART working meetings and public meeting made comments and asked questions regarding the proposed grade range expansion. These are summarized below.

Grade Range change:

Parents believed the JK to Grade 8 experience will provide a more nurturing and supportive environment while reducing the number of transitions for students. It will also help to increase the enrolment at the school and provide a greater sense of community with more opportunity for students.

There was much support for implementing the grade range expansion with both grades 7 and 8 in September 2025; while there was also some support for a phased-in approach (one grade per year).

Other Feedback:

Concerns were raised about the impact to staffing at the intermediate level at Tredway Woodsworth PS, and if the reduction of students in Grades 7 and 8 would result in fewer and larger class sizes at that school.

Questions were raised about the potential to change the secondary boundaries. Staff responded describing that changes to the secondary boundaries are not being considered and would require a larger review involving multiple secondary schools.

Throughout the course of our discussions, parents at the PART working meetings and public meeting provided feedback, raised several questions, and described their support for the grade expansion. The PART carefully considered the option presented and critically reflected with thoughtful feedback and questions.

The PART recommends pursuing the recommendations contained within this report.