



George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI – Pupil Accommodation Review

George Harvey Alumni Meeting

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

6:30 pm – 7:30pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar

Presenters	<p>Audrey Amo, Former Superintendent of York (Facilitator) Chris Tonks, Trustee of Ward 6 Kwame Lennon, Superintendent of Learning Network 03 Andrew Gowdy, System Planning Officer, TDSB Planning Department Safiyyah Omar-Saleh, Educational Planning Officer, TDSB Planning Department Vicky Branco, Former Superintendent of Learning Network 03</p>
Other Staff & Trustee in Attendance	<p>Dan MacLean (Trustee, Ward 2) Liane Celseti (Principal, George Harvey CI) Lorraine Linton (Superintendent of Secondary Schools) Uton Robinson (Executive Superintendent, Learning Centre 1) Wilmar Kortleever, Shared Services Liaison, Trustee Services (Meeting Notes)</p>

<i>Item / Presenter</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Attachments / Actions / Results</i>
Objective of Meeting:	Receive feedback from George Harvey CI Alumni on the George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI – Pupil Accommodation Review	
Presentation:	<p>Meeting facilitator Audrey Amo opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgement, Agenda, Attendees, Meeting Norms, and Participation options.</p> <p>Opening remarks made by Trustee Tonks and Superintendent Lennon.</p> <p>Andrew Gowdy and Safiyyah Omar-Saleh presented the slide presentation that was pre-shared.</p>	

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<p>Comments/ Questions:</p> <p>Speaker 1</p> <p>Andrew Gowdy</p> <p>Speaker 2</p> <p>Andrew Gowdy</p> <p>Speaker 3</p> <p>Andrew Gowdy</p>	<p>1. Will the schools operate together or separately in 2022 if York Memorial moves into Harvey?</p> <p>The two schools will become a single school in September 2022, if this consolidation is approved. That is very different from what happened immediately after the fire in 2019. As an emergency measure, we moved York Memorial as a separate school into George Harvey and the two schools coexisted with very different timetables. If this consolidation is approved for 2022, it will be a single school using the George Harvey Building. It will be one Principal, one timetable, one student body and one staff body.</p> <p>2. There has always been animosity between the two schools. If you merge these schools what will you have in place to make the merge successful?</p> <p>If this consolidation is approved, we are going into a year of transition. Part of the transition work will be determining the timetable of the school, and whether there will be a uniform or no uniform. We will also look at how we can start to introduce these student bodies together and plan events for them to come together. The staff of the schools will be active in managing the transition, but we also have a central Department called Professional Support Services which will assign resources to assist students in this transition.</p> <p>3. Why have scenario 4? It doesn't even seem possible.</p> <p>Scenario 4 proposes that the two schools consolidate as a single school, a single school of 1300 students with a single Principal. Rather than occupying a single building, the single school would occupy two buildings: the new York Memorial Building at Keele & Eglinton, as well as the existing George Harvey Building. Those would form a campus. The students would move between the two buildings to take their appropriate courses. The reason to include this scenario for consideration is because it emerged early in our discussions with parents, staff and students. There are merits to this proposal, and it is something that staff has talked about over the last 15 years.</p> <p>The opportunity that is available to us right now is a little different, though, in that we have the tragedy of the fire. It is an opportunity to invest tens of millions of dollars and build a new school. As staff, we are leaning towards the best option being to have all the students, all 1300 students, in a new facility, all together under one Principal. But because the two campus model is an idea that has emerged over the last decade, and we have thought about it deeply, we thought that we had to honor it and have this discussion and look at the pros and cons of it.</p>	

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<p>Speaker 4</p> <p>Andrew Gowdy</p>	<p>4. What will the name of the school be if the move is in 2022?</p> <p>If the Trustees approve the consolidation this June for the two schools to consolidate as a single school, moving to the George Harvey Building in 2022, that is a decision really to bring the 1300 students together as a single school and to bring them back to the attendance area that they are intended to come from. The school is intended to serve the Keele & Eglinton area, which it is not doing while it is at Scarlett Heights. The intent behind this decision of the Trustees would be to bring the students all back to the Keele & Eglinton area at the earliest opportunity, which could be 2022, and the students would benefit from the increased course offerings. It is at that time, when they consolidate as that single school, that they become the new school. We are recommending that that newly consolidated school then be called York Memorial Collegiate, for the reasons described, because there is this tremendous history of that name. It is attached to a memorial that we feel obliged to respect and honor. The temporary holding solution for this consolidated school would be the George Harvey building, but they are only there for as long as it takes to get the new York Memorial Building open at the Keele & Eglinton site. The name would therefore be York Memorial, temporarily housed at George Harvey to move into the new building in 2026.</p>	
<p>Speaker 5</p> <p>Andrew Gowdy</p>	<p>5. What about the other 3 user groups in George Harvey? Will they stay or be moved?</p> <p>There are three user groups: the child care center, a program called Skylark which provides counseling to youth, and then there is a program that serves adults on literacy and basic skills. The Child Care Center and the Skylark program that provides counseling to youth can stay, but we have determined that we require the space that is occupied by the adult program, the literacy and basic Skills program, to serve the consolidated school. That is a program that is relocatable, it does not necessarily serve a small neighbourhood like one associated with a high school. We will be looking for other TDSB facilities to relocate that program too.</p>	
<p>Speaker 6</p> <p>Andrew Gowdy</p>	<p>6. If York Memorial moves in how will the board ease the transition? What is driving the merge now? Why not wait until the new build? The students at both schools have been through so much especially with the pandemic. And the minister of education announced today that there will still be remote school next year so it won't be back to normal next year either. Why does the board want to move students?</p> <p>The first question about transition: in the year prior to the consolidation, there would be committees formed to look specifically at many aspects, and we have staff resources to assist in that process. The reason to consolidate at the earliest opportunity in 2002 is to have the students returned to the attendance area that they reside in, and to have all students from York Memorial and George Harvey benefit from the increased course options that come from being part of a 1300 pupil places school, and the critical</p>	

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Speaker 7	<p>mass of teachers that is associated with that. It is all about programming, and having excellent program offerings available to the students.</p> <p>Waiting until the new built school is ready is the idea behind Scenario 3, which keeps the schools in their separate spots until the new building at the Keele & Eglinton site is open. It is a scenario we are seeking feedback on, based on the pros and cons presented.</p> <p>The rest of that question is really a statement and this is helpful feedback to receive that the students at both schools have been through so much, especially with the pandemic. We are taking this into consideration. Thanks very much for the comment.</p> <p>7. George Harvey will now be called York Memorial if they move in 2022? Wouldn't scenario #4 be a big safety risk?</p>	
Andrew Gowdy	<p>In terms of the name, yes, if the consolidation is approved and they come together as a single school, we are recommending as Staff that the single school be called York Memorial Collegiate in 2022, and that is in a recommendation that would go to the trustees in June. They would make the decision.</p> <p>Scenario 4, with the campus model, is what has been identified as a safety risk by the person asking the question. I think that is part of the disadvantages of a campus model, that you have students leaving the school site and actually traveling between buildings. There are opportunities for risk in that.</p>	
Speaker 8	<p>8. It sounds like it is about the money.</p> <p>Thank you for that comment.</p>	
Speaker 9	<p>9. Why spend money retrofitting George Harvey and moving York Memorial over instead of just waiting until new build?</p>	
Andrew Gowdy	<p>That is part of our analysis. Every scenario has costs. It is not something we can ignore, as we are obliged to operate within our financial means. We are looking at savings as well as costs associated with each scenario. Scenario 2 does have that additional cost of the retrofit associated with it but there are also savings by not having to incur the transportation costs to the Scarlett Heights location. If we bring the students back to the George Harvey Building in 2022, we need to make sure that the George Harvey building is suitable for the increased number of students. So that is something that will be factored into our pros and cons analysis of that scenario.</p>	

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Next Steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on this review is available on the TDSB public website at www.tdsb.on.ca: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Click on Accommodation Reviews at the left side of the page - Scroll down to Pupil Accommodation Reviews - Select George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI • Please fill out the online feedback survey available on the webpage above. • Submit questions to the google form link on the webpage above. • You can also email your questions/comments to your Trustee at chris.tonks@tdsb.on.ca. 	
Next Meeting:	<p>Meeting with other stakeholder groups will be held in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Subsequently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 6, 2021: Public Meeting • May 26, 2021 – Post Final Staff Report on TDSB public website • June 14, 2021 – Special Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting (delegations are received at this meeting) • June 30, 2021 –Board of Trustees meeting for final decision making 	
Adjournment	Thanks everybody for participating!	