



Hodgson MS New Addition Community Meeting

May 17, 2021
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

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| Panelists: | Andrew Howard (Superintendent), Rachel Chernos Lin (Trustee), Shelley Laskin (Trustee), Maia Puccetti (Executive Officer), Lori Campbell (Principal), Andrew Gowdy (System Planning Officer), Dan Castaldo (Senior Manager), Garry Green (Senior Manager), Kevin Hodgkinson (General Manager), Anthony Cesta (Project Supervisor), Leo Makrimichalos (Architect), Bill Glover (Safety Consultant) |
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| Objective of Meeting | To provide information to parents/caregivers on the plan for transporting students to 529 Vaughan Road and to respond to questions. | |
| Presentation | Andrew Howard welcomed attendees and introduced the panelists. Andrew Gowdy provided a recap of the information shared at the community meeting on May 3 (funding approval of the larger addition, overview of the approved hybrid model, rationale for relocating the students during construction, overview of 529 Vaughan Road). Kevin Hodgkinson presented the plan for transporting students to 529 Vaughan Road. | |
| Questions and Answers | <p>Q1. Will all school bus stops have early and late runs? No, there will likely be one central school bus stop for the early and late busses.</p> <p>Q2. Where will the central school bus stop be located for the early and late runs? We will work with the school and community to find an appropriate location. It will probably be near Hodgson MS.</p> <p>Q3. What will be the times for the early and late busses? We will work out the schedule with the school and community. Overall, our school busses run between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM.</p> <p>Q4. Will the late bus support sports after school? Yes, it will support the after-school activities organized by the school which will include clubs and sports.</p> | |

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| | <p>Q5. Can Hodgson MS be relocated in the Fall of 2021 rather than the Fall of 2022? No, we require Site Plan Approval to proceed with the major elements of the construction process. We are anticipating receiving Site Plan Approval in Spring 2022.</p> <p>Q6. Has the construction of the Davisville replacement school stayed on schedule? The construction component of the Davisville project was approximately on schedule. However, the Site Plan Approval process required additional time. There was a small delay due to COVID which limited the number of workers on-site. The 25 months that we have estimated for the Hodgson project should be sufficient – there is some additional time included in this estimate as a buffer.</p> <p>Q7. Students will need early and late busses for those short time periods during the school year when they are participating in a club or on a team (not for the whole year). How does this get coordinated and communicated? Schedules for students using the early and late busses will be created by the school by season or term. The clubs and sports teams will be staggered. The school will provide information to parents on the schedules for clubs and teams.</p> <p>Q8. When will the school bus times be established? In 2020-21 we will have discussions with the school. We will conduct a survey in March 2022 to determine parents’ choices. This information is required to build schedules. We could have bus times established by April or May 2022, definitely by June 2022.</p> <p>Q9. Is there a chance that busses will be full and students will not get a seat? We will be using bus routing software to create the bus stop schedule and ensure that all students choosing the school bus option have a seat. The goal will be to place stops as close as possible to where families live. Some stops will require multiple busses to pick up the number of students using that stop.</p> <p>Q10. It appears that TTC is being promoted as the preferred option for parents to choose. No, we are providing information on both options, school bus and TTC. Families will be able to choose the option that works best for them.</p> | |

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| | <p>Q11. Do parents have to choose school bus or TTC for the whole school year or can they choose a mix where the school bus can be used one day and TTC the next day? Students won't be able to have a mixed schedule where they are using both the school bus and TTC. The preference is that parents make a decision and stay with it. There will be an opportunity to switch options at points of time in the school year (to be determined).</p> <p>Q12. The Davisville timeline was originally two years. The new school was supposed to be open for September 2020. In 2019 the parents were told it would take another year due to the delay in getting Site Plan Approval. For Hodgson, we should not move to 529 Vaughan Road until Site Plan Approval has been received. Yes, it was the Site Plan Approval process that took longer for Davisville, not the actual construction process.</p> <p>Q13. There are many great amenities at 529 Vaughan Road (pool, gyms). While Davisville was there, the pool was closed for periods, blinds were missing from classrooms, and the science labs were closed. What is the plan to make sure the building is in great shape? The principal of Davisville has made a list of needs. A project supervisor will be assigned. Improvements will be made over 2021-22. The labs were closed while Davisville was there because labs are not necessary to support the junior grades. The labs will be opened to support the intermediate grades of Hodgson.</p> <p>Q14. The school bus ride to 529 Vaughan Road will require extra time for students to get to school. This will impact students' sleep. The bus ride will not be that long. From the west end of Hodgson's catchment area it could take 10-15 minutes. From the east end of Hodgson's catchment area it could take 20-25 minutes. It should not be that disruptive to students' schedules. Bell times will be set with the principal. Bell times are flexible. We will work with the community to find bell times that wok for parents.</p> <p>Q15. Parents would like students to stay at school during lunch. Can this be made mandatory? We can't force students to stay for lunch. It is a parent decision. At the start of the school year, Grade 6 students tend to stay at school for lunch. This usually changes mid school year. Most Grade 7 and 8 students leave the school for lunch. There are not a lot of options for students to buy lunch In the vicinity</p> | |

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| | <p>of 529 Vaughan Road. Most students are likely to stay at school for lunch. We will consider increasing the lunch period to offer more extra-curricular activities. This could encourage students to stay at school for lunch.</p> <p>Q16. If a student stays late one night a week for an after-school activity, would they have to take every late bus home? No, students will only take the late bus on the day of their after-school activity. The school will have a schedule showing which bus students are on which bus for each day of the week.</p> <p>Q17. Can the Trustees engage the local Councillor to expedite the municipal approvals? Yes, Trustee Chernos Lin has spoken with the local Councillor and will speak with her again. The local Councillor knows the importance of timely approvals for the families. Timelines are also discussed regularly by senior staff at TDSB-City meetings.</p> <p>Q18. Are there other middle schools in the area that students can choose to attend? Every residential address has a designated junior school, middle school, and secondary school. If a student wants a different option than the designated schools, the student can apply to other schools on optional attendance. To do this the school must have space in the appropriate grade and program and have the optional attendance status of “limited”. All the schools with middle-level grades in the vicinity of Hodgson MS are full and are “closed” to optional attendance.</p> <p>Q19. What will be the time during the day that construction will occur? The City has a by-law that specifies when construction can occur. The hours for construction are 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday to Friday, and 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Saturday.</p> <p>Q20. What security will be in place after school between the end time of the extra-curricular activity and the arrival of the late bus? Every extra-curricular activity will have a supervisor who stays with the students until all the students have been picked up by parents, placed on a school bus, or boarded TTC as per the arrangement with the students’ parents.</p> <p>Q21. Could additional school busses be added if there are additional after-school activities?</p> | |

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| | <p>The goal will be to avoid adding more school busses by having the school create a schedule spreading the after-school activities out over time to reduce activities occurring at the same time.</p> <p>Q22. When the students are relocated to 529 Vaughan Road, will the classes be organized in the same way as when they were at Hodgson MS? Yes, staff will move with the students and the school organization will remain the same.</p> <p>Q23. How will construction trucks be managed coming to the Hodgson site from Harwood Road on the north side of the property? There will be a construction management plan that will contain details about vehicles. There are guidelines that must be followed from a number of provincial ministries. Every effort will be made to keep disruptions to the community to a minimum; however, as with any construction project, noise, dust, and deliveries cannot be completely avoided. The general contractor will erect construction hoarding with silt fence and wet the ground to help contain dust, as well as stage deliveries to limit the need for trucks waiting on the street.</p> <p>Q24. When will Site Plan Approval be received? We are anticipating receiving Site Plan Approval in Spring 2022.</p> <p>Q25. If a student misses a bus after school, how will parents be notified? How will the student get home? Principals have plans and checklists to get students out on time to board busses. The plans will allow for dealing with parents and students on an individual basis. For Davisville, we organized a couple of bus rides for parents to see for themselves the bussing experience. We recognize that students and parents will have differing levels of comfort with the TTC. As a contingency, it would be helpful for students and parents to go over a TTC option.</p> <p>Q26. Are there lockers at 529 Vaughan Road for the students to use? Yes.</p> <p>Q27. Will the 2021-22 school year be uninterrupted at the Hodgson site (meaning not relocated to 529 Vaughan Road mid school year)?</p> | |

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| | <p>Yes.</p> <p>Q28. Davisville parents experienced differing lengths of time for the commute to 529 Vaughan Road. TTC rides have been longer. It is our understanding that the construction of the Crosstown LRT has created longer commutes. We understand that the Crosstown LRT will be complete by Fall 2022.</p> <p>Q29. Are there other groups using the 529 Vaughan Road building (besides the current schools being held there, Davisville Jr PS and Spectrum Alternative Sr PS)? The building is currently used by a child care centre and a small group of TDSB central administrators (in the Guidance Office suite). There are two rooms available for lease to a community agency.</p> <p>Q30. Who will be using the two rooms available for lease at 529 Vaughan Road? A community group, the Oakwood Vaughan Community Organization, has expressed interest in leasing the two rooms to deliver community programming. The lease has not been finalized. Any uses of the two rooms must be compatible with an operating school and will be approved by the principal. The two rooms are on the third floor and are self-contained (separated from the school by a crash door; the rooms have their own dedicated washroom and exterior entrance).</p> <p>Q31. Which aspects of construction are you most concerned with for the Hodgson addition? The 25-month time estimate has some buffer built into it. There may be a challenge in getting steel right now. Some builders are looking at other materials. We could encounter a contractor who does not perform as they have in the past. During construction we meet every two weeks with the contractor to be on top of issues. There is a possibility that construction could be done in 20 months. It will be easier with the students off-site.</p> <p>Q32. Will the skating rink be useable during construction? Yes, the rink will be separated from the construction site by fencing.</p> <p>Q33. Has the contractor been selected yet? No, this will be done closer to when we have Site Plan Approval – early 2022.</p> | |

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| | <p>Q34. Do all approvals need to be received before demolition? No, demolition can be done with some of the approvals in place.</p> <p>Q35. A good way to get to 529 Vaughan Road is by bike. It takes 20-25 minutes. There is a safe route that does not use main roads. Active student transportation to school is a great option. There are bike stands at 529 Vaughan Road to secure bikes.</p> <p>Q36. Will the pool at 529 Vaughan Road become part of Hodgson’s physical education program? Yes, this will be a new and exciting element of Hodgson’s program.</p> <p>Q37. Will the students be moved in September 2022 even if approvals (e.g. Site Plan Approval) are still being sought? Lots of things can happen. We will provide updates to the parents, students, and staff. What we have presented to you is our best thinking at this time.</p> | |
| Next Steps: | <p>A report will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval to relocate Hodgson MS to the 529 Vaughan Road building in the Fall 2021.</p> <p>An information meeting will be held in the Fall 2021 to present the design of the Hodgson MS addition and renovation.</p> <p>An open house will be arranged in the Fall 2021 for students and parents to visit 529 Vaughan Road.</p> <p>A survey will be conducted around March 2022 to determine each family’s choice for transportation: school bus or TTC.</p> <p>In 2021-22, committees will be established involving Hodgson MS parents/caregivers and staff to ensure a smooth transition off-site during construction.</p> | |
| Adjournment: | 8:00 PM | |