

## WARD 12 PART -- COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday October 21, 2015 - 7:00 pm

AY Jackson SS

ER17 Superintendent of Education Linda Curtis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Approximately 150 members of the community were present. Central staff from TDSB in attendance included Peter Naperstkw (Planning), Lori Moore (Special Education), John Tancredi (French), along with numerous school administrators. Interpreters for Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean and Farsi were made available to all participants, as well as Child minders.

Trustee Alexander Brown was introduced and he thanked everyone for attending. He shared background for this review and the Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (10 year plan) which ensures best programming and utilization of schools to meet the needs of students. The plan is available on the TDSB web. He invited all participants to provide feedback following the presentation.

Ms. Curtis outlined the structure of the meeting starting with a presentation to set the context and provide the proposed scenario, to be followed by an opportunity for feedback. Three factors have led to this review of programs and school configurations in Ward 12 Enrolment & Space Accommodation issues, a 2000 Board motion regarding Junior High Schools, and the Secondary Gifted Program Pathway.

Ms. Curtis identified the 13 schools in the PART on a map of the Ward. The schools up Don Mills Road are over-enrolled, while the schools up Leslie Street are under-enrolled. Projections show these patterns will continue. Yonge Street corridor schools, north of Finch, are going to be impacted due to future residential intensification over the next 20 years. Additions or extensions to over-enrolled schools cannot be approved when under-enrolled schools in the area below 65% utilization which puts them at risk of review for closure. A chart including data on current and future enrolment projections was detailed (in the presentation) which highlighted capacity concerns.

A Program Area Review Team (PART) was formed comprising the Trustee, Superintendent, Principals and School Council representatives of affected schools to review data, discuss impacts, and consider possible solutions. The role of the PART is an advisory one which, after hearing from the broader community through public meetings, makes recommendations which are then brought forward to Senior Staff by way of a report, and then to the Director and Board of Trustees for approval. Implementation is dependent on if/when recommendations are approved.

The guiding principles behind this Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) are Program Drivers (program choice - equity of opportunity and access to programs - fair access to specialized schools & programs - viability of program) and Accommodation Drivers (service integration – good utilization – distinct attendance areas – efficient use of space).

Scenario 5.2 is being recommended. This involves the following –

- Grade Changes
  - Move grade 9 students from Highland JHS and Zion Heights JHS to AY Jackson SS
  - Make Zion Heights and Highland Middle Schools

- Move grade 6 students from Cresthaven\*\*, Pineway, Steelesview to Zion Heights MS (making these feeder schools JK-5)
- Move grade 6 students from Arbor Glen, Cliffwood, Cresthaven\*\*, Hillmount to Highland MS (making these feeder schools JK-5)
- \*\* *Because Cresthaven's attendance area is split into two portions, students will transition to either Highland or Zion depending on where they live within the Cresthaven area.*

While grade changes alleviate the enrolment and accommodation problems somewhat, it still leaves some schools over or under-enrolled, so the following Program changes are being recommended as well –

- Change Gifted Pathway (*to be phased in*)
  - current Gifted Pathway is Hillmount PS → Zion JHS → Don Mills CI and Lillian PS → Cumber Valley MS → Don Mills CI
  - Relocate Gifted Programs from Hillmount PS and Lillian PS to Steelesview PS
  - Relocate Gifted Program from Cumber Valley MS to Zion Hts
  - Gifted Program will be offered at AY Jackson SS and students from new Steelesview PS and Zion Hts programs will transition there for grade 9 rather than to Don Mills CI.
- Move Autism Program
  - Primary/Junior Autism Program moves from Finch PS to Pineway PS
- Change French Programs
  - Move Extended French Program from Cliffwood PS to Cresthaven PS
  - Convert Middle Immersion Program at Hollywood PS to Extended French at Cresthaven PS
  - French Immersion Program at Cliffwood PS remains the same. Pathway will change due to ongoing PART process in ER18. A Public Meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday (October 27).
  - Noted that total number of French classes is not diminished.
- Shared Attendance Area – Finch/Steelesview
  - Shared area was created when Snowcrest PS was closed. The current school, LB Pearson French Centre, has no regular attendance boundary – attendance area for regular program was shared between Finch PS (→ Cumber Valley MS → Earl Haig SS) or Steelesview PS (→ Zion JHS → AY Jackson SS). Currently, 125 students K – 12 chose to attend the Steelesview Pathway, while 35 K – 12 students chose to attend the Finch PS Pathway.
  - Change shared boundary to Steelesview PS only

A comparison of data for current situation and preferred option 5.2 was shared. Only 2 schools would still be over-enrolled (Arbor Glen 115% and Hillmount 135%) and no school would be below 65% utilization.

A map detailing all the development activity in Ward 12 was also made available.

Question and Answer period followed.

Question	<i>For Gifted students currently in Don Mills, would they then move to AY Jackson? Will the changes be implemented all at once? Is it possible to phase parts of it in now and not all at once?</i>
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Answer	The changes won't be implemented all at once. For the secondary pathway, we're reviewing the space available to accommodate students. We will be looking at opening Gifted Programs at AY Jackson, Albert Campbell and Birchmount. The decision would be up to the Board whether only a portion of the recommendations are approved (ie – program changes only) but our recommendation will be to have the entire package be approved. The first year of implementation at A Y Jackson we would start with a Grade 9 and Grade 10 Gifted program. The next year we would add Grade 11 and the year after that the Grade 12.
Question	<i>What is the criteria for acceptance into the Gifted program?</i>
Answer	The current criteria (application and nomination by staff) is being reviewed. We do not have a screening tool so are looking at that possibility to provide a more equitable representation of all students. The location of programs also needs to be more equitably distributed across the system with regards to location and distance to travel.
Question	<i>My child is in Gifted at Lescon. For the Gifted pathway, if changes are approved, when would they be implemented?</i>
Answer	If it's approved, the timelines will be part of the recommendation. The current students in grade 6 program at Cummer Valley MS would continue until they graduate from Cummer Valley MS. New students into grade 6 Gifted Program would begin at Zion Hts the year the change are implemented. Classrooms would be open or closed as needed depending on the number of students to be placed. In programs like Gifted and French Immersion, students are guaranteed a program, but not necessarily a particular school.
Question	<i>There are currently portables at AY Jackson – how can they accommodate the increase with grade 9 students? How is capacity determined?</i>
Answer	Portables are leftover at AY Jackson from when the enrolment was much larger. They remain on site because they have been set up to house music programs because specialized space inside the school is not available. The portables are not here to accommodate students due to over enrolment. There are plans to convert classrooms within A Y Jackson to house the music program. Once this happens the portables will be removed. AY Jackson currently has optional attendance and international visa students that increase their enrolment. Intake into both these programs could change depending on the enrolment of the school to ensure it can accommodate the proposed increases.
Question	<i>The chart that shows over-capacity schools – most of those are the ones with specialized programs. What are the key drivers that are considered for the grade change? Why grade changes? Could you not just move out the Gifted &amp; French programs to address over-capacity schools?</i>
Answer	Even moving those programs would still leave over-enrolled schools over capacity and wouldn't resolve the problem. At AY Jackson SS, there are 49 Gifted students who choose to give up their Gifted pathway in order to attend AY Jackson SS. The school has space to accommodate the program and if implemented, would address an equity issue of having access to a Gifted program in the northeast quadrant.
Question	<i>If you are in the Gifted program at Lillian , would you go to Cummer or Zion?</i>
Answer	If the changes are approved and are implemented for September 2016 and you're currently in grade 5 at Lillian PS, you would then go to Zion Hts.
Question	<i>Would middle schools provide childcare and bussing?</i>
Answer	The TDSB has distance criteria for bussing of students. Walking distance for grade 6-8 students is 3.2 km. All the schools being suggested are within walking distance. For grade

	K-5 students in specialized programs bussing is provided or TTC tickets for gr 6-8 students who live more than 3.2 km away. For childcare – Middle schools provide more activities for students after school but not childcare specifically.
Question	<i>Why are there 3 transitions for French students in the York Mills community?</i>
Answer	We know that research shows that the less number of transitions the better. However in this particular area, students must make 3 changes. Students attend grades 6-8 at Don Valley JHS, then grade 9 at Winfields JHS and then move to York Mills CI for grade 10. It is a concern and it is not our desired solution but currently the only way to maintain that pathway to York Mills CI. ER18 is currently holding a similar review process.
Question	<i>Is this scenario or proposal definitely going forward or will it be narrowed down?</i>
Answer	5.2 is the one we've presented and are looking for feedback on. It meets many of the Program and Accommodation Drivers, addresses the accommodation issues and creates strong pathways for French and Gifted. The committee will meet again after the public meetings to further review and ensure the proposal solves the problems to the best of our ability. We will review feedback and come to a consensus on whether this proposal should go forward or if changes are needed. The report will summarize and capture all feedback.
Question	<i>My daughter is enrolled in Middle Immersion at Hollywood and will be grand fathered in the program. If she finishes gr 6, where would she continue for the Mid Immersion French program?</i> <i>Depending on where you live (catchment area), are there choices for this pathway?</i>
Answer	No – she would continue at LB Pearson PS. Extended French & FI programs continue for all students - once you get into the program, you are guaranteed a pathway through to graduation. We have a very fair process to get into the program – just apply on time and you're accepted. The current pathway is Hollywood PS – LB Pearson PS – Newtonbrook SS. French Immersion & Extended French students have the same right to apply to other schools under Optional Attendance provided those schools have space.
Question	<i>My child is in a Kindergarten class with 30 students. If more kids come into the school during the year, will more classes be open?</i>
Answer	I'm aware of the issue you are speaking about. I'm suggesting that we speak about it after the meeting as it isn't related to the topic of this meeting.
Comment	<i>6-8 schools are very positive. My personal experience is students benefit from exposure to the increased programs offered at middle schools. Middle schools also allow them time to adjust to a more rigorous schedule before moving on to high school.</i>
Question	<i>If these changes are approved, could they be implemented throughout the year rather than all in September?</i>
Answer	Moving students mid-year in January really won't work. The change needs to occur in September. Much will depend on if the proposed changes are approved & when.

Participants were then invited to visit individual stations highlighting each area of change and provide feedback (*detailed below*).

[Feedback](#)  
[Feedback Stations](#)

Ms. Curtis thanked everyone again for attending and for their feedback. Following two more community meetings October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Highland JHS and October 27<sup>th</sup> at Zion Heights, the PART committee will reconvene on October 29<sup>th</sup> to review feedback and finalize recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.