

Vaughan Road Academy Pupil Accommodation Review

School Council Chairs Meeting

October 6, 2016



Agenda

1	Welcome, Introductions and Purpose of the Meeting	Leila Girdhar-Hill TDSB, Superintendent
2	Pupil Accommodation Review Process	Daniel Castaldo TDSB, Manager, Planning
3	Background Information	Daniel Castaldo TDSB, Manager, Planning
4	Review of the Initial Staff Report and Recommendations	Daniel Castaldo TDSB, Manager, Planning
5	Next Steps	Daniel Castaldo TDSB, Manager, Planning
6	Table Discussions	Moderated by Leila Girdhar-Hill TDSB, Superintendent
7	Conclusion	Leila Girdhar-Hill TDSB, Superintendent

Purpose of the Meeting

- To provide an update to School Council Chairs on the status of the Pupil Accommodation Review for Vaughan Road Academy.
- To share all relevant background information, activity to date and staff recommendations in the Initial Staff Report.
- To seek feedback from the School Council Chairs.
- To advise on the next steps in the Pupil Accommodation Review process.

Background Information: What is a Pupil Accommodation Review?

- School boards in Ontario are responsible for operating and maintaining their schools in a fiscally-responsible, effective, and efficient manner to support student achievement.
- A Pupil Accommodation Review is a **Ministry-mandated process** that is used to make important decisions about the future of a school or group of schools.
 - A Pupil Accommodation Review is established where changes under consideration include the closure of a school; or relocation of a grade, grades, or program where more than 50% of the enrolment of a school at one time or over a period of time is impacted.
- In areas of the Board where enrolment decline is experienced and schools are underutilized, Pupil Accommodation Reviews have been identified.
 - The Board's Long-Term Program & Accommodation Strategy includes over 20 Pupil Accommodation Reviews to be undertaken over the next 10 years.
- The Board of Trustees approves the establishment of a Pupil Accommodation Review for a group of schools.
- Final decisions on school closures are made by the Board of Trustees
- The Ministry has recently made significant changes to how Pupil Accommodation Reviews are conducted.

Background Information: Provincial Changes to Pupil Accommodation Reviews

New Pupil Accommodation Review Process – What has changed?

- The Ministry released new guidelines for Pupil Accommodation Reviews in March 2015.
- Role of the Pupil Accommodation Review is to be a conduit for information sharing and feedback; can provide options, but no can longer make recommendations or vote.
- **Minimum** of 2 public meetings over a 5 month period for a standard process (former process had a minimum of 4 public meetings over a 7 month period).
- Introduction of a modified process.
 - Must meet criteria set by school boards (e.g. enrolment, utilization, distance).
 - Requirement for a **minimum** of 1 public meeting over a 3 month period.
- Staff to provide comprehensive report to Trustees prior to the commencement of a Pupil Accommodation Review that will outline the preferred accommodation option.
- Requirements for School Boards to consult with **municipal governments** before the establishment of a Pupil Accommodation Review, and during the process.
- Final report to include a community consultation section with feedback from the public consultation(s); any relevant information received from municipalities and other community partners prior-to and during the review.
- Introduction of transition plan requirement following the decision to close a school, which should be developed with input from parents/guardians and staff.

Background Information: Pupil Accommodation Review Process for Vaughan Road Acad.

- The concept to explore a Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) process was first identified in the Board's Long-Term Program & Accommodation Strategy in May 2014.
 - The PARC was identified as a staff study to be pursued in the 2014-15 school year.
 - The process was struck due to declining enrolment at Vaughan Road Academy and to address concerns regarding program viability at the school.
 - Neighbouring secondary schools were included in the staff exercise based upon their proximity to Vaughan Road Academy: **Forest Hill CI, Oakwood CI, York Memorial CI, John Polanyi CI and George Harvey CI.**
- The review process began in February 2015 with a *Local Feasibility Study*.
- The Local Feasibility Team (LFT) met on five occasions between March and May 2015 to review and reflect upon the data and accommodation options presented.
- The process was put on hold in May 2015 as per the province's mandate for school boards to amend their Pupil Accommodation Review policies to align with new guidelines prior to engaging in any new PARCs.
- The Board of Trustees approved the new Pupil Accommodation Review policy on March 22, 2016 after an extensive public consultation process.
- The Local Feasibility Team regrouped on April 21, 2016 to confirm the preferred option and to discuss the process that should be engaged in to best meet the needs of students attending Vaughan Road Academy.

Impact on the Vaughan Road Academy Pupil Accommodation Review

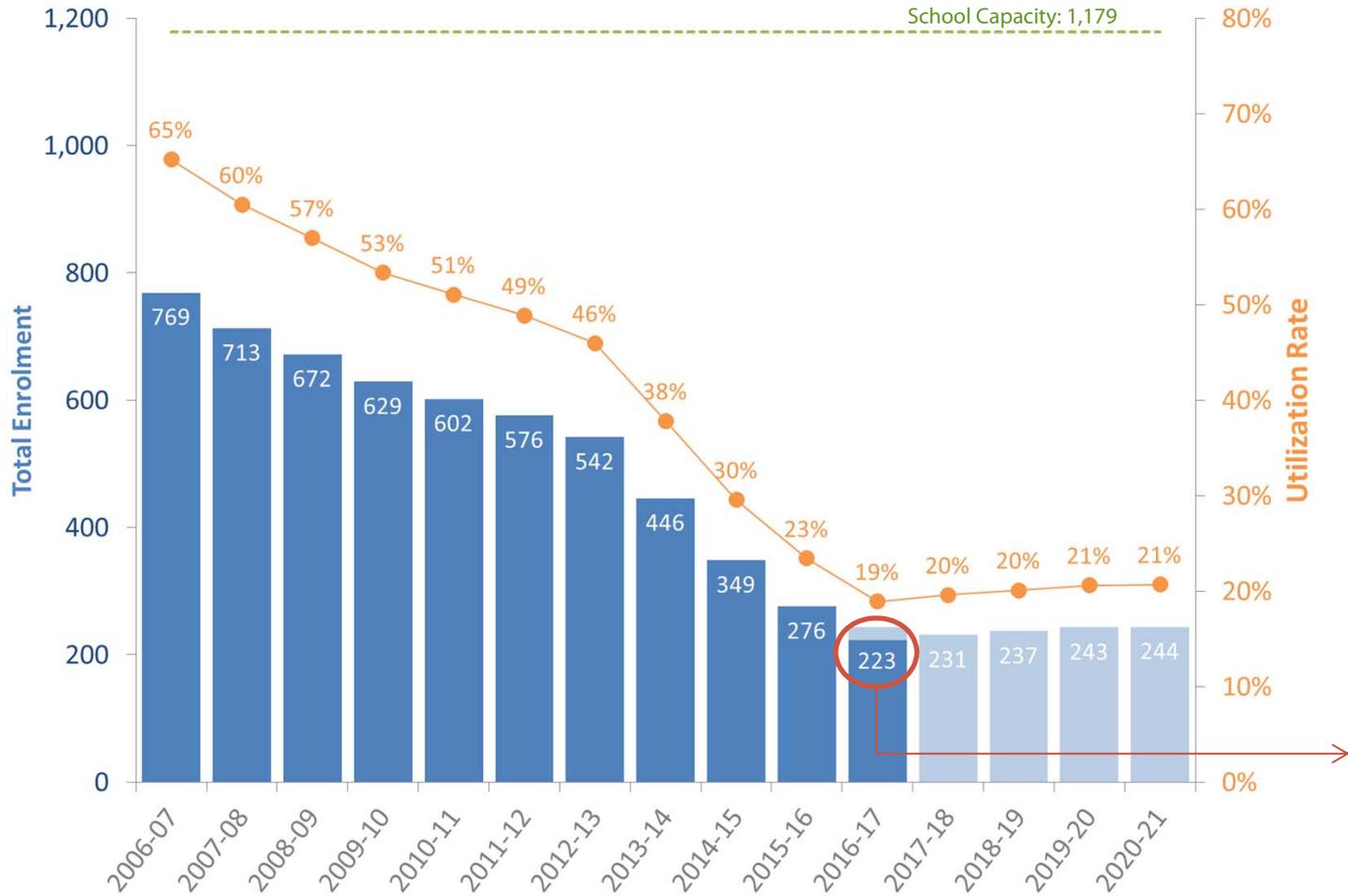
- The Ministry of Education directed the TDSB to proceed with the PARC under the new guidelines. The process was delayed by nearly 1 year.
- The Local Feasibility Team was to determine which process is most appropriate, a modified or standard Pupil Accommodation Review.
 - The Local Feasibility Team recommended a modified process.
- To be able to begin the PARC process in the Fall of 2016, an initial staff report was presented at the end of the 2015-16 school year for Board approval.
 - The PARC was approved by the Board of Trustees on June 22, 2016 (mod).
- Modified process allows for a shorter timeline (minimum of 3 months), meaning that a board decision could be made as early as December 7, 2016.
- Standard process would lead to a board decision in the Spring of 2017, meaning students would not have enough time to make important decisions for the 2017-18 school year.

Background Information: Why has a Modified Process been Recommended?

- Vaughan Road Academy met 3 of the 4 criteria for a modified process (only 1 is required). *Enrolment <350 students, utilization <65%, attendance area(s) within walking distance to receiving schools.*
- The modified PARC process allows for a shorter timeline (minimum of 3 months), meaning that a board decision can be made in December 2016.
 - The conclusion of the modified process would provide clarity and certainty to Vaughan Road Academy students as to the recommended changes for the upcoming school year.
 - Would provide time for the placement process for September 2017 in collaboration with guidance staff, option sheets, secondary school information nights etc...
 - The shorter timeline would allow the recommended changes to be reflected in the enrolment projection and staffing process (January – March 2017).
- The standard PARC process would lead to a board decision in the Spring of 2017. This would not provide students with certainty or clarity prior to course selection, option sheets and/or secondary school information nights.
- The Local Feasibility Team recommended that two public meetings be held to provide the community with an additional opportunity to seek information and provide feedback. The Local Feasibility Team also recommended that school council chairs be consulted prior to the public meetings (tonight).
- This Pupil Accommodation Review process **will not** consider whether or not the building and site should be considered for surplus declaration.

Background Information: Historical and Projected Enrolment

Vaughan Road Academy Historical and Projected Enrolment



Total enrolment has declined by 71% since 2006 (-546 students)

Moderate declines were experienced between 2006 and 2012.

Since 2012 enrolment decline has accelerated.

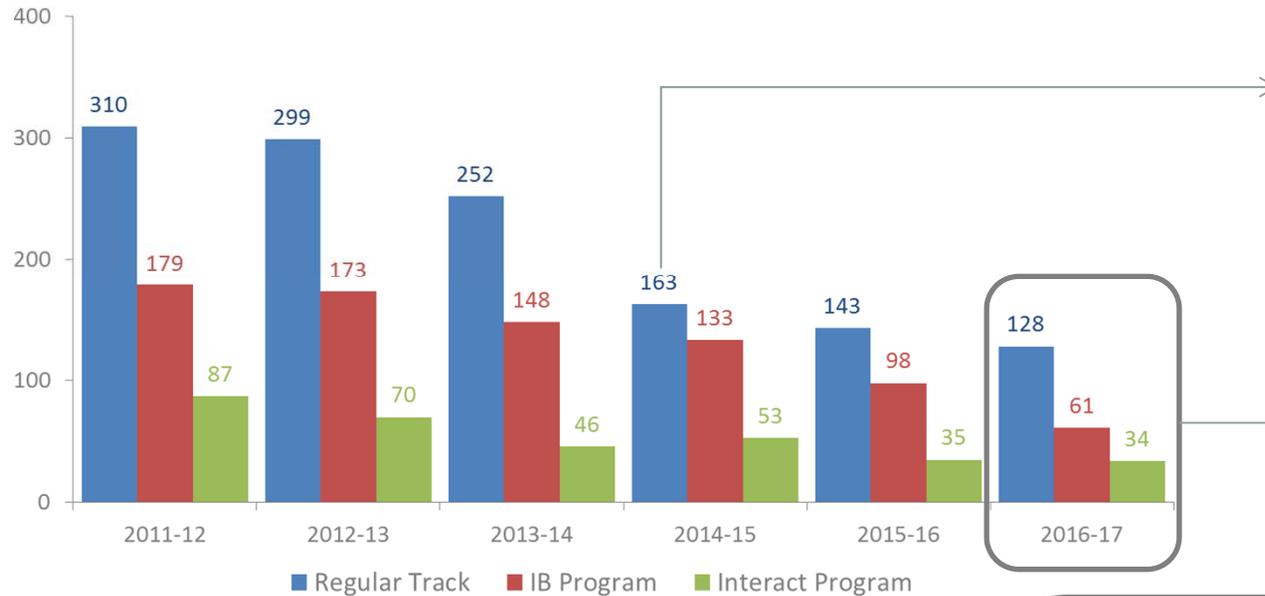
Enrolment declined by nearly 100 students annually between 2012 and 2015-16.

Currently the smallest secondary program in the TDSB.

Actual Enrolment (September 2016 fell below projection by 21 students (projected 244 students).

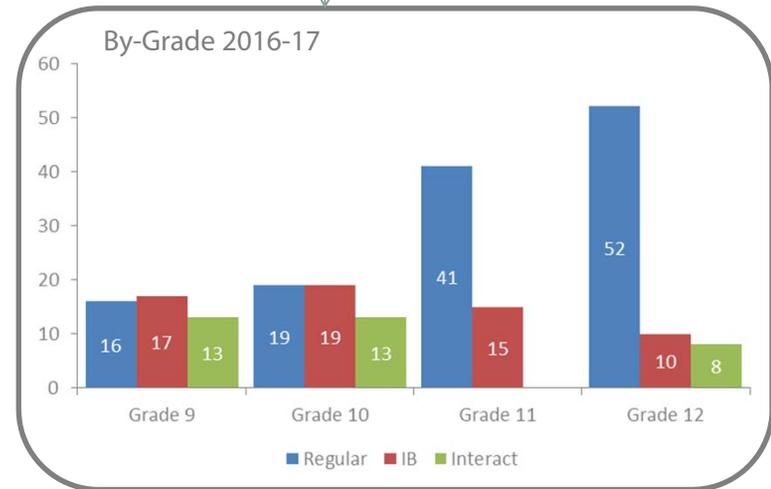
Background Information: Historical Enrolment by Program at Vaughan Road Academy

Vaughan Road Academy - Historical Enrolment Distribution



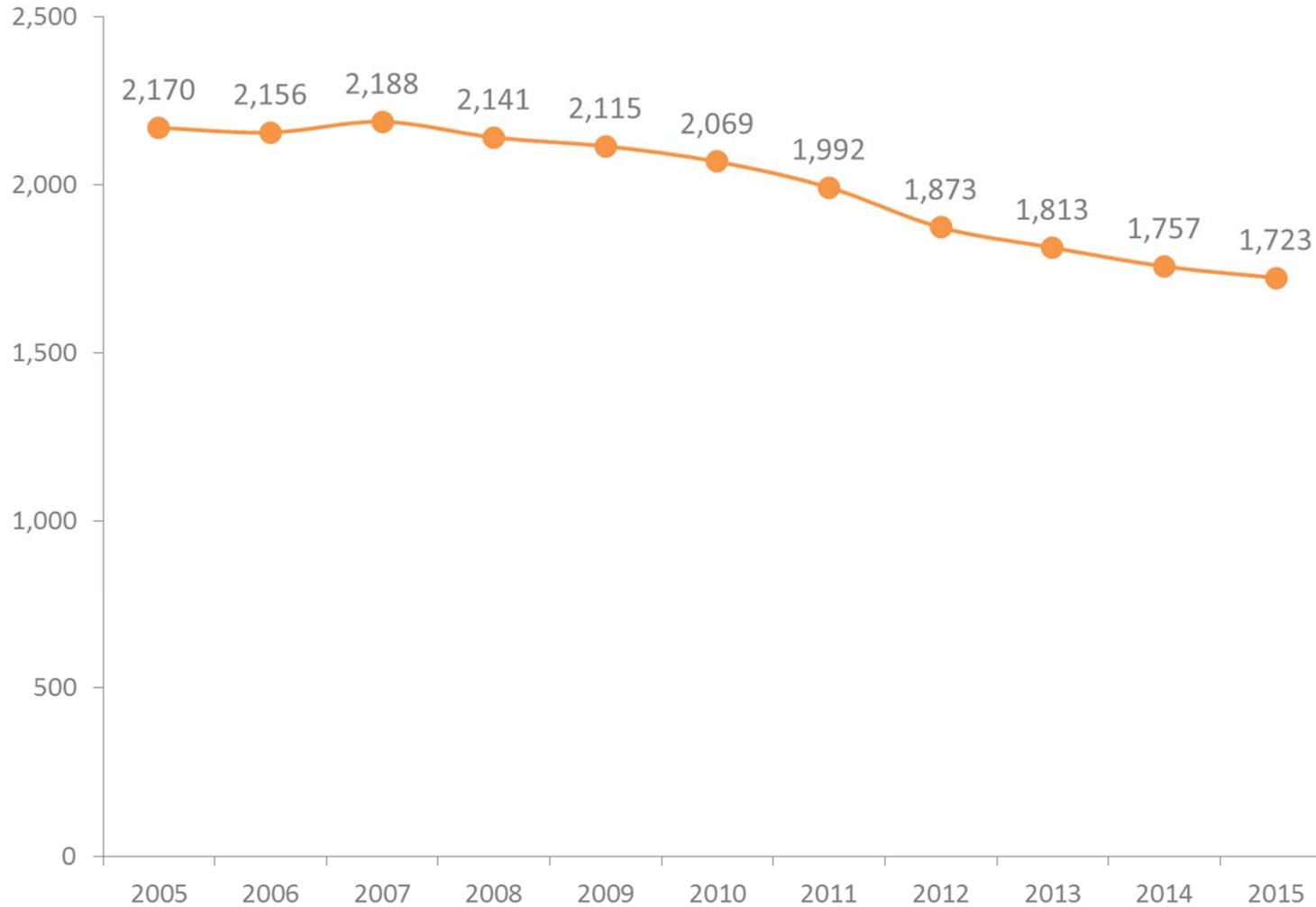
Review was identified in the Spring of 2014 and initiated in the Spring of 2015 to address declining enrolment and program viability at Vaughan Road Academy

- Program viability at the school is a serious concern (urgency became a factor).
- Enrolment levels at Vaughan Road Academy have affected the ability to deliver a strong, comprehensive secondary program.
- Staff had contemplated cancelling Grade 9 enrolment for the 2016-17 school year due to low number of students registered.
- Programs at the school are no longer sustainable at their current enrolment levels.



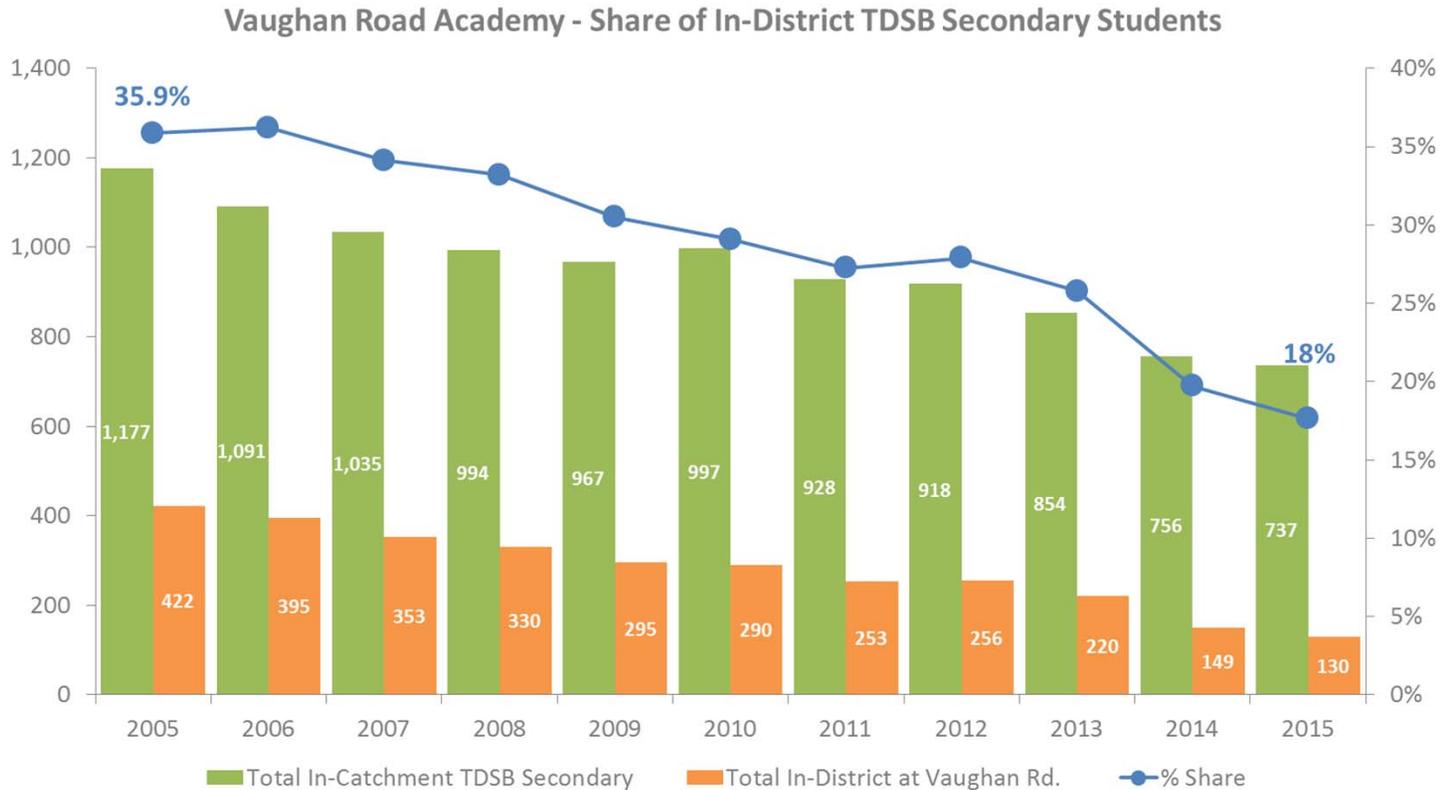
Background Information: Decline in the Secondary School Age Population

Vaughan Road Academy Attendance Area - 14 to 17 Year Old Population



21% decline in the total secondary school age population within the attendance area.

Background Information: In-District Student Share – Vaughan Road Academy (Reg. Track)

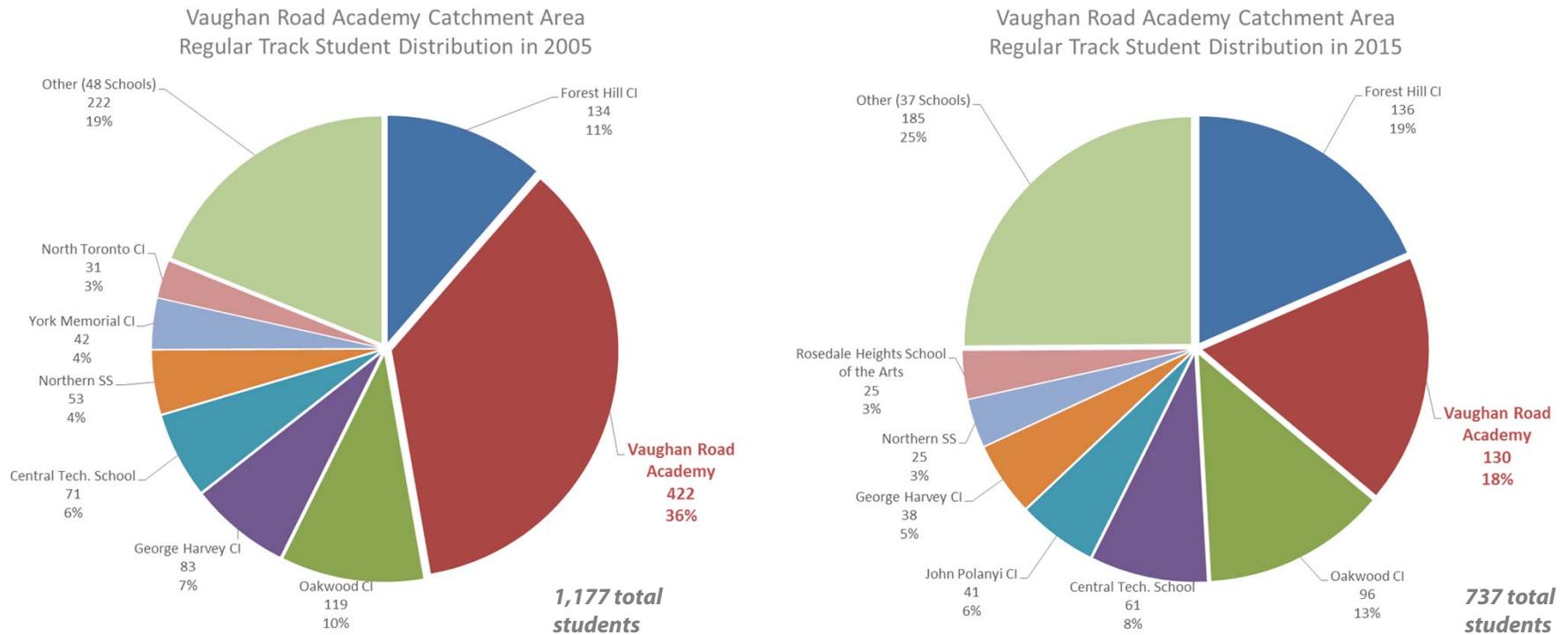


68% decline in the number of in-district secondary students within the catchment area choosing VRA

37% decline in TDSB secondary student population within the catchment area

Share of in-district students attending VRA has declined from 36% to 18%

Background Information: Where do Students Attend?



- Proportion of students residing within the **Vaughan Road Academy** attendance area who choose their local school has declined from 36% to 18%.
- The total number of TDSB secondary students residing within the catchment area has declined.
- The proportion of students choosing schools like **Forest Hill CI** and **Oakwood CI** has increased.

Background Information: Where do Grade 8 Graduates of the Feeder Schools Go?

Vaughan Road Academy Feeder Schools – Grade 9 Choices for 2015-16

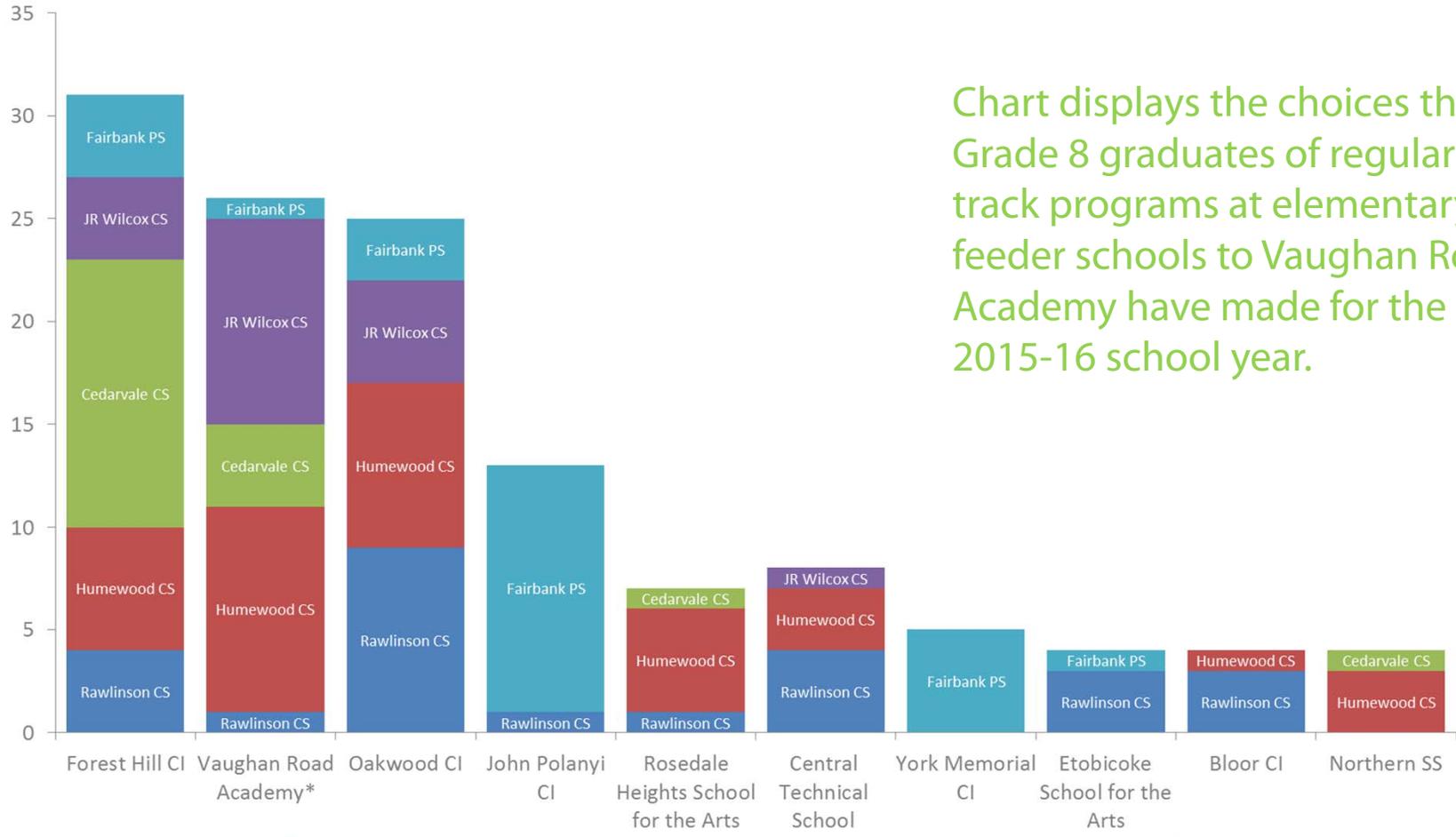


Chart displays the choices that Grade 8 graduates of regular track programs at elementary feeder schools to Vaughan Road Academy have made for the 2015-16 school year.

*Includes students enrolled in the IB and Interact programs



Background Information: Participation Rate – Definition and Data

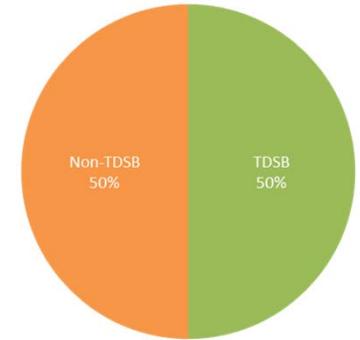
The Vaughan Road Academy attendance area has a *TDSB* participation rate of 50%

870 / 1,723 total

Board Average: 63%

This means that out of the total pool of 14 to 17 year olds, 50% are enrolled somewhere in TDSB secondary schools.

Non-TDSB (50%) includes those attending the Catholic or French-language board(s), private schools, homeschool or a school outside the City of Toronto.



The population makeup within the attendance area of Vaughan Road Academy is historically 50% Catholic (*1991 Census, 2001 Census and 2011 NHS*). The Board average is approximately 34%.

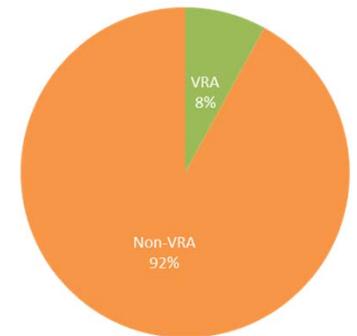
The Vaughan Road Academy attendance area has a *local school* participation rate of 8%

130 / 1,723 total

Board Average: 38%

This means that out of the total pool of 14 to 17 year olds, only 8% are enrolled at Vaughan Road Academy.

Non-Vaughan Road (92%) includes those students who attend other TDSB schools on optional attendance or specialized programs (French, Gifted etc...) as well as other boards, private schools etc..



Review of the Initial Staff Report and Recommendations

Initial Staff Report (ISR)

- The Initial Staff Report was presented to Trustees on June 15th (Committee) and June 22nd (Regular Board Meeting) for review, discussion and approval.
- The ISR received approval on June 22nd, 2016, which triggered the commencement of a formal Pupil Accommodation Review.
- The ISR commented on;
 - The accommodation challenges surrounding Vaughan Road Academy
 - A rationale for undertaking a Modified Pupil Accommodation Review process
 - Summary of the community consultation to date
 - Pupil accommodation plan
 - Program considerations (Regular track, International Baccalaureate, Interact
 - Transportation considerations
 - On-site child care – process for relocation
 - Written comments from the City of Toronto
 - Summary of comments received from other public partners/agencies at the annual Community Planning & Partnerships meeting (May 31, 2016)
 - Staff recommendations for approval
- The Board's procedure for a Pupil Accommodation Review provides an opportunity for City staff to review the ISR and provide any further written comments prior to the first public meeting, which has been scheduled for October 13, 2016.

Review of the Initial Staff Report and Recommendations

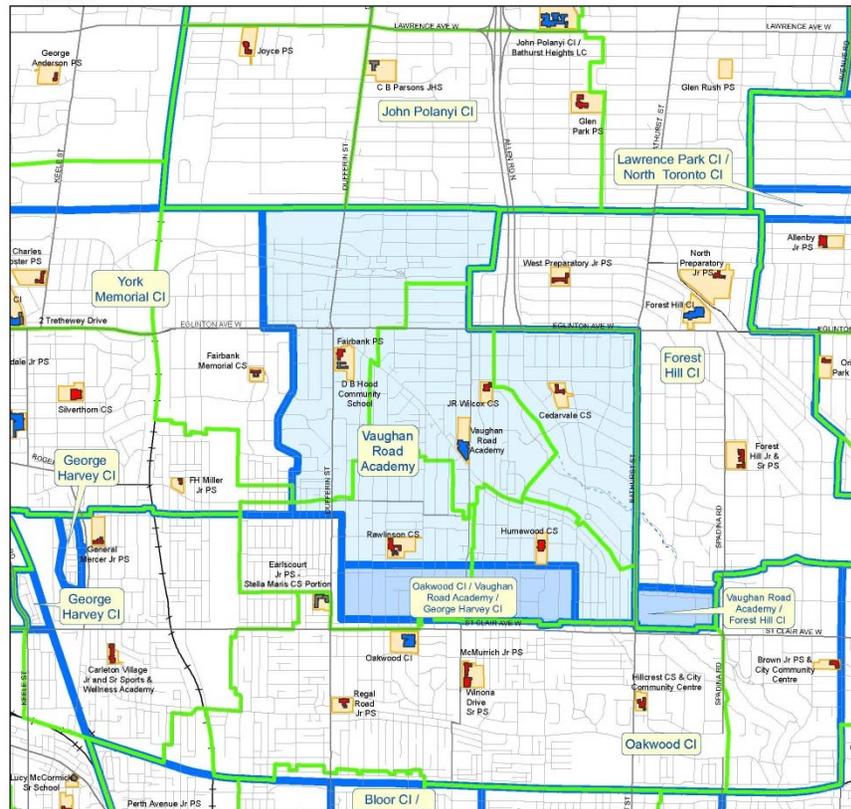
- Close Vaughan Road Academy for June 30, 2017, distribute the existing catchment area amongst neighbouring secondary schools, effective September 1, 2017.
- Relocate the Interact program to Oakwood CI effective September 1, 2017.
- Merge the IB program with the IB program at Weston Collegiate Institute (*students could be offered an IB placement elsewhere if desired; Parkdale CI, Monarch Park CI, Victoria Park CI, Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI*)
 - The long-term plan for IB program locations across the TDSB will be part of a system wide study to be undertaken as part of the equity framework.
- Provide support to current Vaughan Road Academy students to find schools and/or programs that best meets their individual learning needs and/or address.
 - Monitor staffing levels in receiving schools for guidance counsellors, Educational Assistants, Psychologists, Social Workers, School Based Safety Monitors, Community Support Workers and Child Youth Counsellors to ensure continued support of Vaughan Road Academy students.
- Engage in a process to replace the existing child care spaces at Vaughan Road Academy (underway).

Review of the Initial Staff Report and Recommendations

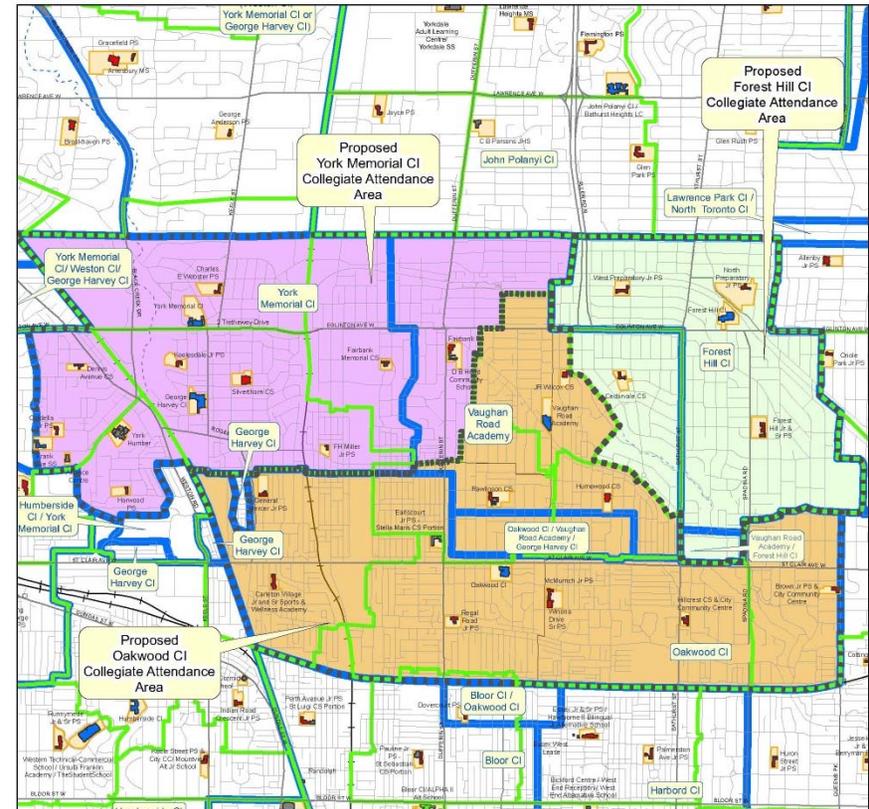
- Rawlinson CS (Regular Track + Extended French), Humewood CS(Regular Track) and JR Wilcox CS are assigned to Oakwood CI.
- Cedarvale CS is assigned to Forest Hill CI.
- Fairbank PS is assigned to York Memorial CI (a portion of the attendance area already assigned there).
- The Interact Program be relocated into Oakwood CI
- The International Baccalaureate Program be merged with the program at Weston CI.



Existing Vaughan Road Academy



Existing Vaughan Road Academy and Proposed Collegiate Attendance Areas Map



Review of the Initial Staff Report and Recommendations

Projected Enrolment – Recommended Student Accommodation Option

Status Quo

	Cap.	2015	Util.	2020	Util.	2025	Util.
Vaughan Road Academy	1,179	276	23%	244	21%	246	21%
Oakwood CI	951	490	52%	545	57%	598	63%
Forest Hill CI	789	932	118%	942	119%	972	123%
York Memorial CI	873	896	103%	770	88%	720	82%
John Polanyi CI	1,347	791	59%	931	69%	1,002	74%
Total	5,139	3,385	66%	3,432	67%	3,538	69%

- Oakwood CI receives the majority of the enrolment shift (*Humewood CS, Rawlinson CS and J R Wilcox CS assigned as feeder schools*).
- Very minimal impact experienced at Forest Hill CI (*manage enrolment through optional attendance*).

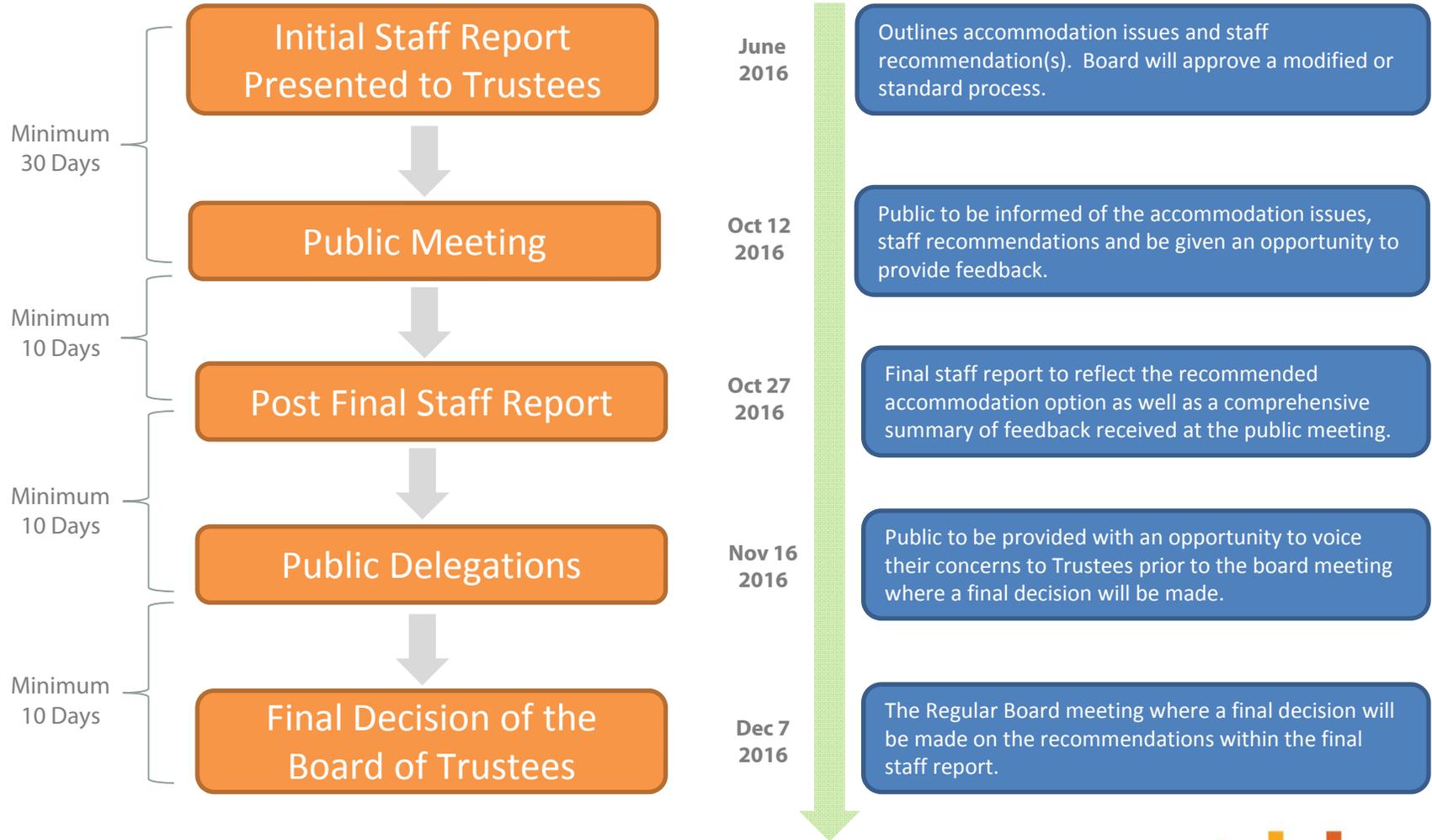
Recommended Accommodation Option

	Cap.	2015	Util.	2020	Util.	2025	Util.
Vaughan Road Academy	1,179	276	23%	-	-	-	-
Oakwood CI	951	490	52%	608	64%	699	74%
Forest Hill CI	789	932	118%	967	123%	997	126%
York Memorial CI	873	896	103%	804	92%	754	86%
John Polanyi CI	1,347	791	59%	931	69%	1,002	74%
Total	5,139	3,385	66%	3,310	84%	3,452	87%

- Very minimal impact experienced at York Memorial CI (*remainder of Fairbank PS' attendance area*).
- No change to enrolment at John Polanyi CI.

Next Steps: Pupil Accommodation Review Process – Modified (Working Timeline)

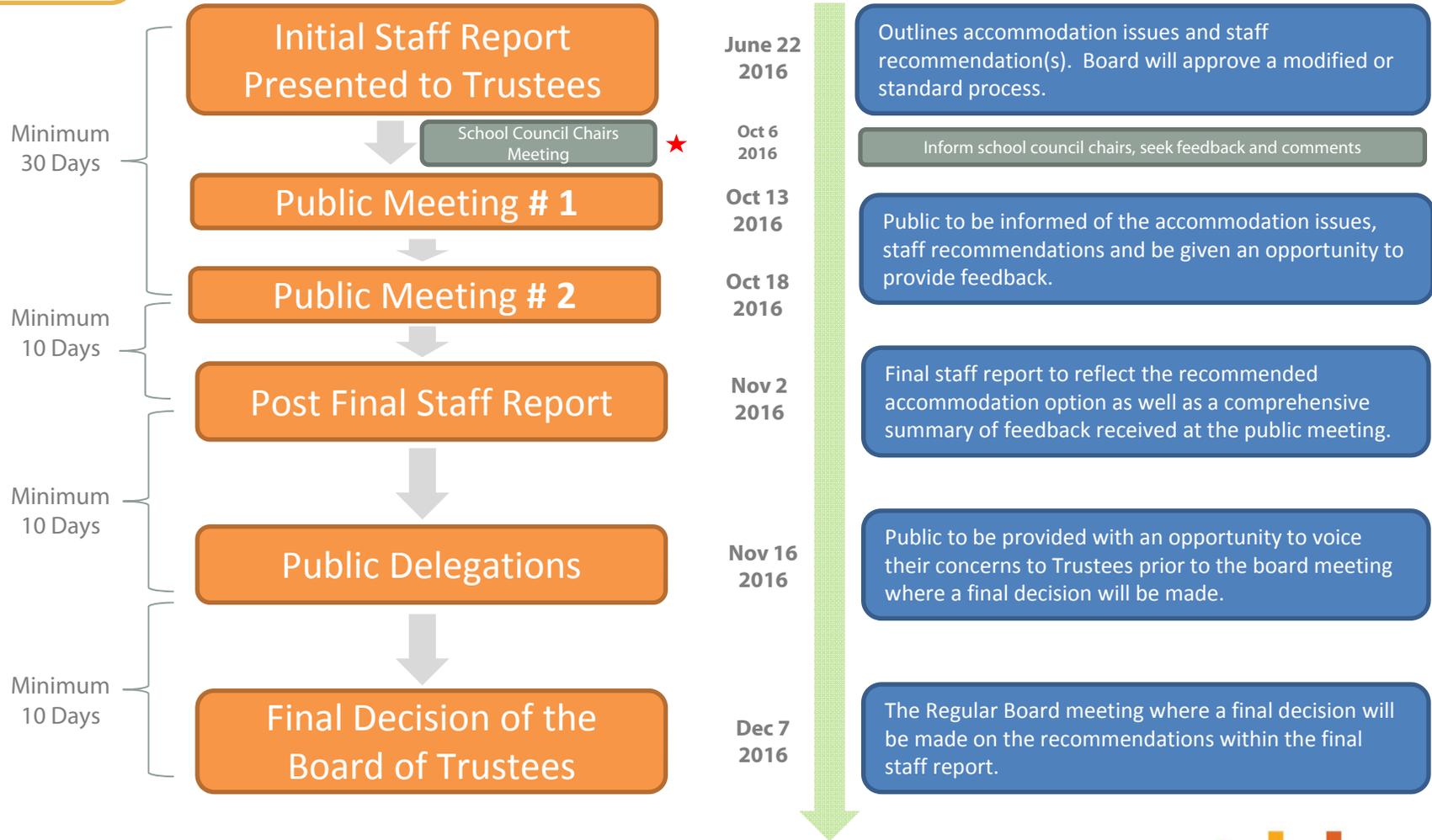
Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Process Minimum of 3 Months – 1 Public Meeting Req.



Next Steps: Pupil Accommodation Review Process – Modified (Revised Timeline)

Initial Staff Report approved on June 22, 2016. Minimum of 30 days before the 1st public meeting (summer excluded) 6 days qualify during the 2015-16 school year.

Modified Pupil Accommodation Review Process Minimum of 3 Months – 2 Public Meetings



Next Steps: Final Staff Report

Final Staff Report (FSR)

- The Final Staff Report (FSR) will be posted on the Board's website no fewer than 10 business days after the final public meeting on October 18, 2016.
- The Final Staff Report will outline;
 - The recommended pupil accommodation plan (enrolment, facility considerations, transportation etc...)
 - This plan must include recommendations for all programs in the school and the on-site childcare (outcome of CCORC process)
 - A transition plan for students
 - A summary of the community consultation process, feedback and analysis on the accommodation option(s) presented
 - Any new information received from the City of Toronto and/or other public organizations received after the approval of the ISR.
- The public will have an opportunity to make delegations to the Board's Planning & Priorities Committee on November 16th, 2016.
- The final decision regarding the closure of Vaughan Road Academy will be made by Trustees at the December 7, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.

Discussion Questions for the School Council Chairs Meeting: October 6th, 2016

- What else should the TDSB take into consideration in its decision-making on whether to approve the closure of Vaughan Road Academy?
- What are your biggest concerns with the accommodation option recommended by staff in the Initial Staff Report?
- In your view, what are the most important factors to consider to ensure a smooth transition for students impacted by the potential closure of Vaughan Road Academy?
- Do you feel there are factors that staff have overlooked in their recommendations? If so, please describe them.
- What information do you feel would be helpful at the public meeting? What do you feel would be unhelpful?



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