



**Keele Street PS/Mountview Alternative Jr. School, General Mercer JPS, and
Runnymede CI Program Area Review Team
Questions and Answers (as of May 18, 2018)**

1. What options were considered by the Local Feasibility Team (LFT – A staff team led by the local Superintendent of Education that conducts a preliminary analysis of an accommodation or program concept to determine its)?
2. Can we consider creating more efficient use of space between Keele Street PS and Mountview Alternative Jr School by allowing greater access of Keele Street PS students into Mountview Alternative Jr School? This would in turn decrease enrolment at Keele Street PS and would make Mountview Alternative Jr. School class sizes bigger.
3. Would it be possible to further expand Keele Street PS to accommodate everyone on the existing site?
4. Staff does not believe an addition can be added to the Keele Street PS/Mountview Alternative Jr. School. As mentioned above, Keele Street PS will be short one classroom for September 2018 and is projected to be short five classrooms by 2023. From concept to occupancy, the construction of a new addition can take four to five years. Given the constraints of the site's ability to accommodate portables, there is limited opportunity to accommodate the five classrooms that would be required for Mountview Alternative Jr. School to remain on site.

GENERAL MERCER JPS

5. Will there be before and after school care for Mountview Alt Jr School students?
6. Could the parking at General Mercer JPS be expanded?
7. Where could parents park for longer than three hours?
8. At the community meeting, the General Mercer JPS parents were worried about the loss of gym time and lack of sports equipment. What could we do to build bridges with the new community?
9. Would the TDSB buy new gym equipment?
10. Would Mountview Alt Jr School students be able to use the library?
11. When assessing enrolment projections, has the TDSB considered new developments, not yet registered with the City? There are several unregistered developments in the community that are not in development phase, but affect population growth.

12. Would extra-curricular activities be offered at General Mercer JPS?
13. What sports teams does General Mercer JPS currently have?
14. If Mountview Alt Jr School moves to General Mercer JPS, would they be sharing any of their resources with the rest of the school such as educational technologies and extra learning materials?
15. Aside from the half-time office assistant dedicated to Mountview Alt Jr School, what extra supports or resources would be given to Mountview Alt Jr School?
16. Would the Mountview community be working with the General Mercer parent council on fundraising that would benefit the entire building or would they just be concentrating on their own activities?

RUNNYMEDE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

17. Will there be after-school care for Mountview Alt Jr School students?
18. Will the in-school swim program continue at Runnymede CI?
19. Does the renovation budget include making Runnymede CI wheelchair accessible?
20. How will special education work at Runnymede CI should Mountview Alt Jr School relocate there?
21. What sports teams does King George JPS currently have and is King George JPS committed to team up with Mountview?

GENERAL

22. At the public meeting on May 14, 2018, two Mountview Alt Jr School teachers said that many schools have either caught up or are catching up to the kind of activities that Mountview Alt Jr School does. If this is the case, why isn't a closure of Mountview Atl Jr School being considered?
23. If entrance to Mountview Alt Jr School is by lottery, and it is made to serve a wide-area of Toronto, why is it that the vast majority of students who attend the school are from the High Park area?
24. What is the highest number of students in a class at Mountview Alt Jr School?
25. What extra supports or resources would be given to custodial staff?
26. What are the names of the few secondary schools that house elementary schools in the TDSB and have there been any safety concerns for the elementary children in those schools?

1. What options were considered by the Local Feasibility Team (LFT – A staff team led by the local Superintendent of Education that conducts a preliminary analysis of an accommodation or program concept to determine its)?

a. Accommodating portables on site:

TDSB Facilities staff conducted a review to determine if it would be possible to put portables on the Keele Street PS/Mountview Alternative Jr. School site. Artificial turf is scheduled to be installed in the spring of 2018. The artificial turf will encumber the ability of the site to accommodate portables. It is not possible to delay the installation of the artificial turf because of existing contracts.

Facilities staff also undertook a high-level review of potentially locating portables in the school's parking lot but suggested that this would impact exiting, delivery, and waste removal.

At this time, it has been determined that in the event of an accommodation emergency one portable could possibly be located south of the school. Installing the portable on the site is expected to be problematic because it would need to be craned in from Keele Street.

The LFT determined that the installation of portables was not a sustainable solution.

Keele Street PS is projected to be short one classroom for the 2018-19 school year. If the actual enrolment exceeds the projected enrolment, the school may require an additional classroom (i.e. will be short by two). Planning staff are in the process of developing a contingency plan with the Principal that will enable the school to accommodate students if necessary.

b. Reclaiming space from child care:

The TDSB's recently-revised Early Learning and Care Policy P022 states that "The Board and staff will strive to ensure effective integration of children enrolled in a co-located child care, into the local school, based on the principles of equity, transparency and seamlessness." In some circumstances, TDSB staff may determine that it is necessary to re-examine the lease agreement with the child care to address a lack of classroom space due to increasing student enrolment in the school.

The TDSB does have a procedure for reviewing the use of exclusive school space by child care operators in relation to the Board's accommodation requirements. This process, however, is not typically engaged until other options for accommodating students have been exhausted.

When the recent 12-room addition was constructed at Keele Street PS, the City of Toronto provided funding to the TDSB for the construction of a child care room. The agreement with the City of Toronto has a 20-year term. If TDSB were to terminate the child care operator before the end of the term, the TDSB would have to reimburse the City of Toronto for any unamortized cost. However, if the TDSB provides an alternative location for the Child Care Facility that is agreed by all parties, the TDSB does not have an obligation to reimburse the City of Toronto.

That being said, many local elementary schools in the area already have a child care facility and/or do not have space to accommodate a child care facility.

Even if the existing child care space were to be reclaimed by the school, it would result in only one classroom and one resource-sized room being made available for students. Keele Street PS will be short one classroom for September 2018 and is projected to be short 5 classrooms by 2023, meaning that this option does not present a viable long-term solution to the accommodation pressure.

The child care facility at Keele Street PS is providing service to children residing within the community and is a highly-valued partner.

c. Boundary change reviews:

Staff considered boundary changes to mitigate accommodation growth at Keele Street PS. Potential changes were explored with Annette Street Jr. and Sr. PS, Fern Avenue Jr. and Sr. PS, Howard Jr. PS, and Indian Road Crescent Jr. PS. It was determined that these elementary schools are all operating at or near their respective capacities and are projected to remain fully enrolled. These schools would not have the space to accommodate additional students through a boundary change.

Further, these local schools have relatively small site sizes, similar to Keele Street PS. Small site sizes present challenges in terms of accommodating portables/future expansions while meeting outdoor play area and green space requirements. Redirecting students through a boundary change would be creating an accommodation pressure at another school, i.e. just moving the problem somewhere else.

d. Program relocation studies:

Through a program relocation, Mountview Alternative Jr. School would move in its entirety to another school building. Nearby elementary schools were initially considered for the relocation of Mountview Alternative Jr. School, however, the

elementary schools are all operating at or near their respective capacities and are projected to remain fully enrolled.

Schools that were considered for the relocation included Annette Street Jr. and Sr. PS, Humbercrest PS, Indian Road Crescent J. PS, King George Jr. PS, and Runnymede Jr. and Sr. PS.

These local schools also have relatively small site sizes. Small site sizes present a challenge in terms of accommodating portables/expansions while meeting outdoor play area and green space requirements.

Staff also explored secondary schools within Ward 7 and elementary schools in Ward 9 including Western Technical-Commerical School/Ursula Franklin Academy/TheStudentSchool, Runnymede CI, Perth Avenue PS, and General Mercer JPS.

Among these sites, Runnymede CI and General Mercer JPS were those with available space to accommodate Mountview Alternative Jr. School for the short and long term.

e. Development redirection studies:

When a large residential development is proposed to be constructed in an area that is served by an overcrowded school, the TDSB has an opportunity to assign the large residential development to a school outside of the area that has space available.

The redirection occurs before the residential development is occupied. There are several recent development proposals that propose significant intensification within the apartment neighbourhood north of High Park. These development projects are within the Keele Street PS attendance area.

The TDSB will consider assigning the proposed residential development to another school with space as a way to mitigate further growth at Keele Street PS.

2. Can we consider creating more efficient use of space between Keele Street PS and Mountview Alternative Jr School by allowing greater access of Keele Street PS students into Mountview Alternative Jr School? This would in turn decrease enrolment at Keele Street PS and would make Mountview Alternative Jr. School class sizes bigger.

Alternative programs are able to accept students from across the Toronto District School Board. If applications exceed the space available in the program, placement is based on a lottery.

The number of applications to attend Mountview Alternative Junior School has historically exceeded the number of spaces available in the program. The Principal of Mountview Alternative Jr. School has held a lottery to admit students into the program. The Principal does not have the control to pick which students will be accepted into the program.

3. Would it be possible to further expand Keele Street PS to accommodate everyone on the existing site?

Staff does not believe an addition can be added to the Keele Street PS/Mountview Alternative Jr. School. As mentioned above, Keele Street PS will be short one classroom for September 2018 and is projected to be short five classrooms by 2023. From concept to occupancy, the construction of a new addition can take four to five years. Given the constraints of the site's ability to accommodate portables, there is limited opportunity to accommodate the five classrooms that would be required for Mountview Alternative Jr. School to remain on site.

GENERAL MERCER JPS

4. Will there be before and after school care for Mountview Alt Jr School students?

The existing child care operator, The Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF), would explore expanding the before and after school program should the demand exist. The number of children required to expand the before and after school program at General Mercer JPS would be approximately 13 children for Kindergarten and 15 children for other ages, based on LEF's discretion and efficient group sizes as set out by the City of Toronto Children's Services.

5. Could the parking at General Mercer JPS be expanded?

General Mercer JPS has very limited on-site parking. TDSB staff conducted a review of the existing parking area and anticipates that a maximum of three additional parking spaces could be created by relocating the fence. Staff will also assess other viable options.

6. Where could parents park for longer than three hours?

The TDSB does not have standards for parking. Staff recognizes that parents/guardians at Mountview Alt Jr School are very involved in the school given its mission. This will be factored when assessing the other viable options.

7. At the community meeting, the General Mercer JPS parents were worried about the loss of gym time and lack of sports equipment. What could we do to build bridges with the new community?

This component would be included in the transition plan.

8. Would the TDSB buy new gym equipment?

The gym facility and equipment would be shared between Mountview Alt Jr School and General Mercer JPS. If necessary, the Mountview Alt Jr School budget could be used to supplement the existing equipment.

9. Would Mountview Alt Jr School students be able to use the library?

The library would be shared between Mountview Alt Jr School and General Mercer JPS.

10. When assessing enrolment projections, has the TDSB considered new developments, not yet registered with the City? There are several unregistered developments in the community that are not in development phase, but affect population growth.

Developments registered with the City are circulated to affected stakeholders including the TDSB. At that point, they are included in enrolment projections. Details from development applications (number of units, tenure and bedroom composition) are required to quantify the student yield (projected number of students) from a proposed development. The student yield from unregistered developments cannot be predicted.

11. Would extra-curricular activities be offered at General Mercer JPS?

Extra-curricular activities would be offered after school and/or at lunch.

12. What sports teams does General Mercer JPS currently have?

Intramurals – offered throughout year by the Phys Ed teacher

Coached by classroom teachers:

- Badminton – co-ed
- Basketball – boys
- Cross Country – boys and girls
- Soccer – boys
- Softball – boys
- Softball – girls
- Track and Field – boys and girls
- Volleyball – girls

13. If Mountview Alt Jr School moves to General Mercer JPS, would they be sharing any of their resources with the rest of the school such as educational technologies and extra learning materials?

Yes, for example Mountview Alt Jr School currently shares gym equipment, music instruments, and lunch tables with Keele St. PS.

14. Aside from the half-time office assistant dedicated to Mountview Alt Jr School, what extra supports or resources would be given to Mountview Alt Jr School?

Any additional supports for the school would be based on the total number of students attending. Please keep in mind that Mountview Alt Jr School will have its own staff resources including teaching staff, special education staff and office administrator.

15. Would the Mountview community be working with the General Mercer parent council on fundraising that would benefit the entire building or would they just be concentrating on their own activities?

That would be determined by the parent councils. Currently, Mountview Alt Jr School and Keele Street PS conduct separate fundraising. However, some of the funds raised in the past have been used to enhance learning opportunities for the entire school community (e.g. outdoor classroom, lunch room tables, sports equipment, etc.).

RUNNYMEDE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

16. Will there be after-school care for Mountview Alt Jr School students?

TDSB’s current practice is to survey families for their interest in before and after school programs. If 20 families indicate that they are interested in this program, a registration process would be initiated to confirm demand. The number of children required to create a before and after school program at Runnymede CI would be approximately 26. This number is based on efficient group sizes as set out by the City of Toronto Children’s Services. The before and after school program would be for children from Kindergarten to Grade 6. At this time, we are not able to indicate details about the operator. Eligibility will be determined in the future should Mountview Alt Jr School relocate to Runnymede CI.

17. Will the in-school swim program continue at Runnymede CI?

Runnymede CI has a pool on site. Mountview Alt Jr School would have access to the pool. Scheduling would have to be determined.

18. Does the renovation budget include making Runnymede CI wheelchair accessible?

The Runnymede CI renovation budget does not include making the school barrier free (wheelchair accessible). The TDSB spends \$10 million per year on accessibility. Investments have been focused on elementary schools with priority going to horizontal access (e.g. wider doors, automatic door operators, entrance, barrier free washrooms).

19. How will special education work at Runnymede CI should Mountview Alt Jr School relocate there?

Mountview Alt Jr School would be allocated a half-time Special Education teacher to support students with special needs. Additional special education staffing may be allocated based on specific student need.

20. What sports teams does King George JPS currently have and is King George JPS committed to team up with Mountview?

King George JPS has a number of sports teams and is committed to pairing up with Mountview Alt Jr School. Some of the sports that have been offered include Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, and Track and Field.

GENERAL

21. At the public meeting on May 14, 2018, two Mountview Alt Jr School teachers said that many schools have either caught up or are catching up to the kind of activities that Mountview Alt Jr School does. If this is the case, why isn't a closure of Mountview Atl Jr School being considered?

The TDSB supports alternative schools. Keele St PS is at full capacity and a closure has not been discussed. Staff is proposing to relocate Mountview Alt Jr School to accommodate the local enrolment at Keele St PS. Alternative schools do not have a catchment area; therefore, they can be relocated.

22. If entrance to Mountview Alt Jr School is by lottery, and it is made to serve a wide-area of Toronto, why is it that the vast majority of students who attend the school are from the High Park area?

Mountview Alt Jr School accepts applications from across the TDSB. A lottery is held that includes all of the applicants. More applicants come from the Keele St PS area; therefore, a higher number is selected.

The school has been in existence since 1983. When the school first opened, it attracted parents/families from the local area. This trend has continued; however, there are many parents from other areas of the city who apply and are part of the lottery.

23. What is the highest number of students in a class at Mountview Alt Jr School?

Currently, Mountview Alt Jr School classes do not exceed 20 students, except for Kindergarten that has 24 students. Mountview Alt Jr School's total enrolment is maintained at approximately 100 students.

24. What extra supports or resources would be given to custodial staff?

Custodial staff allocations are based on a number of factors such as the total area of the school, number of students, portables, pools, child care. With the increased number of students, an increase in allocation may occur.

25. What are the names of the few secondary schools that house elementary schools in the TDSB and have there been any safety concerns for the elementary children in those schools?

Bloor CI houses APLHA II Alternative School that offers Grades 7 to 12 and Central Toronto Academy houses Horizon Alternative School that offers Grades 7 and 8. First Nations School of Toronto is a K to 12 program that was relocated into a closed secondary site. This site also houses Subway Academy I is an alternative secondary program.

Staff is not aware of any safety concerns with elementary children in these schools.