

**Final Report of the Program Area Review Team (PART) for
Keele Street Public School, Mountview Alternative Junior School, General Mercer
Junior Public School, and Runnymede Collegiate Institute
May 2018**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Keele St PS, Mountview Alt Jr School, General Mercer JPS, Runnymede CI Program Area Review Team recommends:

- 1. That Mountview Alternative Junior School be relocated from Keele Street Public School effective September 1, 2019.**
- 2. That Mountview Alternative Junior School be relocated to Runnymede Collegiate Institute effective September 1, 2019. Mountview Alternative Junior School will become Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, introducing Grade 7 in 2019 and Grade 8 in 2020; and**
- 3. That the integrity of the existing programs and resources at both schools will be maintained, through such means as sharing and physical improvements.**

BACKGROUND

A Local Feasibility Team (LFT) comprised of the local Trustees, Superintendents, Principals and central program and planning staff was established in September 2017 to complete the Program Area Review as outlined in the Long-Term Planning and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) 2017-2026. The objective of the LFT was to explore options to address the accommodation pressures at Keele St PS.

Over the course of three meetings, the LFT explored a variety of options involving portables, boundary changes, development redirection, and program relocations to alleviate the accommodation pressure at Keele St PS. The LFT developed two options for the consideration of the Program Area Review Team (PART).

The transition of the LFT to a PART was approved by Central Accommodation Team (CAT) on March 26, 2018. The objective of the PART is to continue the work of the LFT in evaluating the feasibility of the proposed options by seeking advice and feedback from impacted parent representatives throughout the course of the PART working meetings. The PART also presented the LFT's options to the general public to seek input from the broader community at a public meeting on May 14, 2018. Presentations from all working committee meetings and public meetings were posted on the TDSB webpage.

PART Working Meeting #1

At the first PART meeting, an explanation of why the review was needed was provided to the group. In addition, the PART was informed of its role as an advisory committee. The group was provided with a data package with the options the LFT created. Staff provided background information to PART members regarding the TDSB's Long-Term Program & Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) and explained the application of accommodation drivers to identify schools across the Board that may be facing accommodation and program pressures over the next ten years. Staff provided context to the accommodation pressures at Keele St PS. The two options identified by the LFT

were presented to the PART. The PART requested greater understanding of what the other options were considered by the LFT. The PART was encouraged to email questions and that staff would prepare a question and answer sheet for parents to have on hand.

PART Working Meeting #2

At the second PART meeting, staff reviewed the accommodation pressures at Keele St PS and reviewed the options that were considered by the LFT as well as options that were brought forward by the PART and/or community members.

Options that were considered by the LFT included: accommodating portables, boundary changes, development redirections and program relocations. Staff conducted a portable review that examined the playfield and parking lot and determined that only one portable could possibly be located on the south side of the school on the hard surface. Staff considered boundary changes to mitigate accommodation pressures at Keele St PS however, nearby schools (Annette St Jr and Sr PS, Fern Ave Jr and Sr PS, Howard Jr PS, and Indian Rd Cres Jr PS) are operating at or near their respective capacities and projected to remain fully enrolled. Changing boundaries would create an accommodation pressure at another school. Development redirection assigns a large residential development to a school outside of an area that has space available. Redirecting development from Keele St PS attendance area alone does not alleviate the accommodation pressure at Keele St PS. Keele St PS is experiencing natural growth within its attendance area. Program relocation studies consider moving existing programs between two schools to improve geographic distribution and access to programs, to reduce overcrowding and utilize surplus space.

Options that were brought forward by the PART and/or community members included: expansion of site, reclaiming space from child care and/or community centre, relocating program into a condo, and changing grade ranges at Keele St PS. Expansion of Keele St PS was an option presented by the PART and community members as a way to alleviate the accommodation pressures at the school. However, it is not possible to physically connect any new addition to the school. The site is significantly undersized to provide play area and additional classrooms would increase parking requirements. There is no room on the site for additional parking. Reclaiming space from child care and/or community centre is not a process that is typically engaged until other options for accommodating students have been exhausted. In addition, the child care and community centre is providing service to children residing within the community and are highly-valued partners. Currently, there is no mechanism under the existing Planning legislation that allows the TDSB to secure space within the new development sites. Considering changing grade ranges at Keele St PS would go against the TDSB accommodation drivers such as minimal transition and distinct attendance areas.

The two options that were explored by the LFT were revisited with the PART. Staff presented a year-over-year comparison of enrolment and projected classroom needs at Keele St PS. Concerns regarding the relocation of Mountview Alt Jr School to General Mercer JPS and Runnymede CI were presented by the parent representatives from the respective schools. Staff took the opportunity to address the concerns that were raised with the PART. The PART discussed an alternative option of expanding the grades from

Junior Kindergarten to 6 to Junior Kindergarten to 8 at Mountview Alt Jr School at both sites. It was discussed that if Mountview Alt Jr School were to be relocated to General Mercer JPS, then General Mercer JPS should be considered for the grade expansion as well. A third working meeting was scheduled to review the Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 options. Site visits to General Mercer JPS and Runnymede CI were scheduled before the third working meeting.

PART Working Meeting #3

At the third PART meeting, staff reviewed the Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 models; identified the benefits of each school; and discussed the survey and the format for the public meeting. General Mercer JPS would be able to accommodate the relocation of Mountview Alt Jr School and the grade expansion for both schools. Runnymede CI would also be able to accommodate the relocation of Mountview Alt Jr School and the grade expansion. Planning staff also reviewed the comprehensive analysis that was forwarded to staff on behalf of a Mountview Alt Jr School parent/guardian. The analysis was proposing to alleviate accommodation pressures at Keele St PS and surrounding areas. Planning staff addressed the analysis and provided perspective as to why the model would not work in this review. The PART listed the benefits of each school.

Planning staff also reviewed the survey content with the intent to distribute the survey to parents/guardians of Mountview Alt Jr School students after the public meeting. The survey would be distributed to Mountview Alt Jr School families with children who are pre-registered or between Junior Kindergarten and Grade 5. The survey was designed to gauge families' preferences regarding the relocation of Mountview Alt Jr School to General Mercer JPS or Runnymede CI.

Questions related to administration and programming remained outstanding and staff committed to providing a response before the public meeting. PART agreed that the format of the public meeting should be town hall forum that would allow staff to hear from parents/guardians and community members directly. It was agreed that two teachers from Mountview Alt Jr School would speak at the public meeting. The PART agreed that both options (relocate Mountview Alt Jr School to General Mercer JPS and Runnymede CI with the grade expansions) be presented at the public meeting.

PART PUBLIC MEETING

The relocation of Mountview Alt Jr School to General Mercer JPS and Runnymede CI and expansion of the grades offered were presented at the public meeting for community feedback. In addition, the options that were considered by the LFT and options that staff heard from the PART and/or community members were also reviewed at the public meeting. The outstanding questions from the PART working meeting #3 were also addressed. A copy of the presentation from the public meeting is available on the Board's website.

Staff responded to the feedback and questions at the public meeting. A community feedback form was available for additional comments and questions. Notes from the public meeting can be found on the review webpage.

After the public meeting, additional questions were circulated to staff and were requested to postpone sending the survey to parents/guardians of Mountview Alt Jr School students until responses were circulated and posted on the review webpage.

Staff posted the question and answers on the Board’s website and circulated the survey to parents on May 18, 2018.

PART Working Meeting #4

The PART held a final meeting to discuss the feedback received from the community members and results of the survey, and vote on the PART recommendations. The survey indicated that parents/guardians preferred to relocate Mountview Alt Jr School and their child/children to Runnymede CI (39 students). The PART had a thorough discussion about the two locations. At Runnymede CI, a gender neutral washroom is being planned in the area that Mountview Alt Jr School is proposed to be located. Staff will be revising the scope of work and cost estimate to include a gender neutral washroom with two stalls in an area of the school that will meet the needs of the students at Runnymede CI. Staff are committed to working with the Runnymede CI school community in identifying an appropriate location for the gender neutral washroom.

In addition, staff will also confirm that existing Runnymede CI program and resources that are being dislocated have been accounted for in the scope of work and cost estimate.

The PART achieved consensus on the need to relocate Mountview Alt Jr School from Keele St PS. After a group discussion, recommendations were crafted and resulted in a 6 to 3 vote to relocate Mountview Alt Jr School to Runnymede CI, effective September 2019. Voting members from Keele St PS abstained from voting.

Mountview Alt Jr School will become Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, introducing Grade 7 in 2019 and Grade 8 in 2020. The integrity of the existing programs and resources at both schools will be maintained, through such means as sharing and physical improvements.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Program Area Review Team		
School/Organization	Name	Role
Keele St PS	Rod Zimmerman	Principal
	Sean Hertel	Parent Representative
	Lisa Patsiopoulos	Parent Representative
Mountview Alt Jr School	Rod Zimmerman	Principal
	Sylvia Walker	Parent Representative
	Pam Miehl	Parent Representative
General Mercer JPS	Heather Wheeler	Principal

	Matt Walton	Parent Representative
	Lusa Azevedo	Parent Representative
Runnymede CI	Paul Edwards	Principal
	Harpreet Gulri	Parent Representative
	Mages Palany	Parent Representative
	Lachlan Gray	Secondary Student
	Shahan Mahmood	Secondary Student
TDSB Central Staff	Sandra Tondat	Superintendent (Chair), Learning Network 27
TDSB Central Staff	Tracy Hayhurst	Superintendent, Learning Network 22
TDSB Ward 7	Robin Pilkey	Trustee
TDSB Ward 9	Marit Stiles	Trustee

Staff Resources		
Organization	Name	Role
TDSB Central Staff	Manon Gardner	Executive Superintendent, Teaching & Learning, Alternative Schools
TDSB Central Staff	Viktor Kuslikis	Design Services Architectural
TDSB Central Staff	Liz Hoang	Manager, Child Care Services
TDSB Central Staff	Jennifer Newby	Special Education, Centrally Assigned Principal
TDSB Central Staff	Reema Khanna	Educational Planning Officer
TDSB Central Staff	Bill Wallace	Educational Planning Coordinator
TDSB Central Staff	Kelly MacDougall	Administrative Liaison, Note Taker

Meeting Details		
Meeting Type	Date	Time
Committee	April 12, 2018	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Committee	April 24, 2018	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Committee	May 7, 2018	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Public Meeting	May 14, 2018	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Committee	May 22, 2018	6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

ANALYSIS OF THE PREFERRED SCENARIO

If approved for September 2019 implementation, the proposed relocation of Mountview Alt Jr School to Runnymede CI would alleviate the accommodation pressures at Keele St PS for the near to mid-term. The PART felt it was important that

the integrity of the existing programs and resources at both schools should be maintained through such means as sharing and physical improvements.

Runnymede CI's capacity would decrease from 852 to 737 because Mountview Alt Jr School will be occupying five classrooms at the school. Runnymede CI will have the opportunity to grow its secondary program to the revised capacity. That being said, secondary schools are capable of accepting students well over capacity without having to incur portables on site.

Benefits for relocating Mountview Alt Jr School to Runnymede CI were listed by the PART. Benefits included the following: the location of the school in Ward 7, easy access to parking and along the TTC route, opportunities for programming partnership, secondary facilities such as auditorium and pool, full-time office assistant, and a half-time special education resource teacher, and the opportunity to feed into a secondary school.

Keele St PS enrolment is projected to increase by approximately 50 students. The scenario is based on the assumption that the number of students that currently attend Mountview Alt Jr School that live within the Keele St PS attendance area will return to Keele St PS. These students would have the option to return to their home school. By reclaiming five classrooms from Mountview Alt Jr School, the capacity of the school will increase by 115. The school is projected to be short one classroom in 2022 and two classrooms in 2027. The accommodation plan will be to use the HSP room for core instruction and integrate the delivery of HSP and in the event of an accommodation emergency one portable could possibly be located south of the school on the hard surface. A subsequent review of the High Park area will be needed that will explore broader accommodation solutions for the area.

Mountview Alt Jr School would occupy the following rooms at Runnymede CI.

- Rm 124 – regular classroom
- Rm 126 – regular classroom
- Rm 127 – retrofit into two regular classrooms
- Rm 128 – full day kindergarten room
- Rm 120/122 – regular classroom
- Drama Office – Office Assistant office

This area is self-contained with two sets of existing doors that will remain locked. TDSB will be reclaiming the boys' washroom that is currently being used exclusively by the child care operator, and will be installing a toilet, sink, change table as well as providing storage for the child care operator in a different location that will meet equivalent needs.

Changes to the parking lot have also been proposed to facilitate safe student drop-off and pick-up zone.

A kindergarten play-area is also included in the scope of work.

There is pent-up demand for alternative programs that supports Mountview Alt Jr School remaining viable after the relocation.

More information can be found in the appendices:

A: Map of existing Mountview Alt Jr School Students

B: Table of Enrolment overview – status quo and proposed options

C: Dissenting Report by Harpreet Gulri, Parent Representative of Runnymede CI

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Throughout the course of our discussions, parents/guardians at the PART working and public meetings raised several concerns about and made comments regarding the proposed relocation of Mountview Alt Jr School. These are summarized under the following themes.

1. Planning:

- Understanding what other options were considered by staff
- Relocating Mountview Alt Jr School from Keele St PS alleviates the accommodation pressures at Keele St PS for the short-term and that Keele St PS is projected to be short one classroom in 2022 and two classrooms in 2027

2. General Mercer JPS:

- Would before-and-after school care be provided for Mountview Alt Jr School students at this site?
- The limited on-site parking is a concern for the Mountview Alt Jr School parents/guardians and teachers. As part of the Mountview Alt Jr School model there is more substantial involvement among parents/guardians with the school
- No drop-off or pick-up area at General Mercer JPS
- What resources would be provided and/or shared between the two schools
- What extra-curricular activities would be offered at General Mercer JPS

3. Runnymede CI:

- If before-and-after school care would be provided for Mountview Alt Jr School students
- If the in-school swim program would continue at Runnymede CI
- How would special education be supported at Runnymede CI
- Will Mountview Alt Jr School be able to team-up with King George JPS for extra-curricular activities and what extra-curricular would be offered at King George JPS
- Moving an elementary school into a secondary school is not grade appropriate
- The relocation project at Runnymede CI is more expensive than at General Mercer JPS
- Secondary students would lose access to classrooms
- Construction would be disruptive to students

4. General:

- Could consideration be given to closing Mountview Alt Jr School?
- The small class size and expansion of Mountview Alt Jr School was a concern to some PART and community members
- Would the new location of Mountview Alt Jr School be for the long term?
- What happens to the teachers at Mountview Alt Jr School?
- How will Mountview Alt Jr School students be transitioned?

5. Process:

- Understanding how the Board of Trustees make a final decision
- Understanding difference between Planning and Priorities Committee and Regular Board Meeting
- Opportunities for public feedback throughout the process

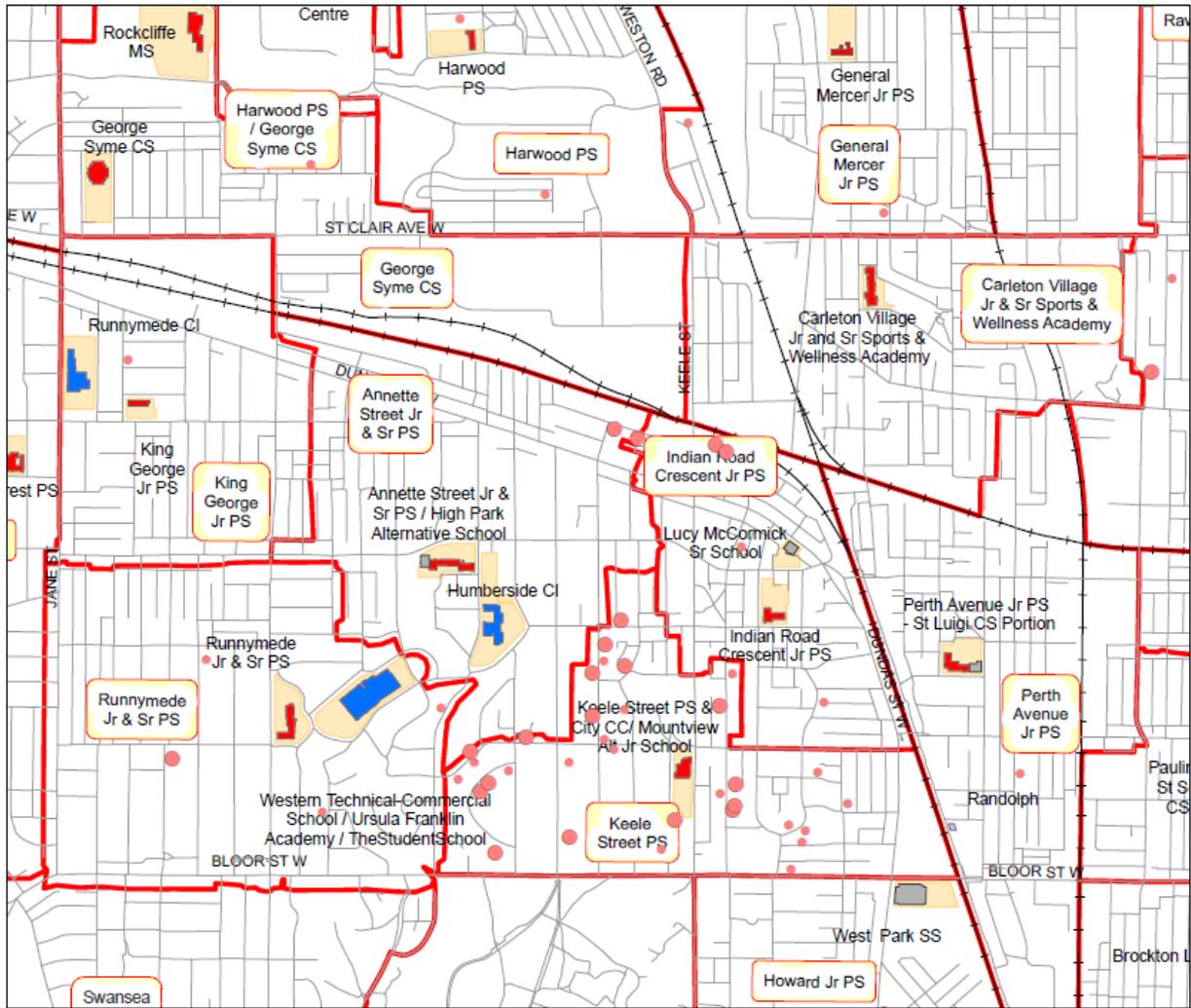
The questions and concerns were addressed by staff in the working meeting and the public meeting as well as being posted on the Board's website.

The total project estimate at Runnymede CI is \$1,287,201 (includes the cost for a gender neutral washroom) and at General Mercer JPS it is \$416,193.

Throughout the course of our discussions, parents at the PART working and public meetings provided feedback and raised several questions about the program and accommodation plan for this community. It is noted at the PART working meetings that conversation about these concepts was lengthy, robust and full of thoughtful questions and responses that allowed multiple sides of the issue to be discussed. The membership is commended for their participation.

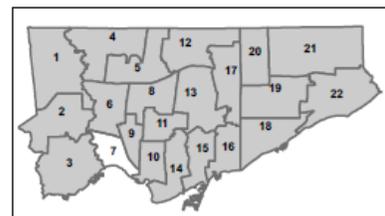
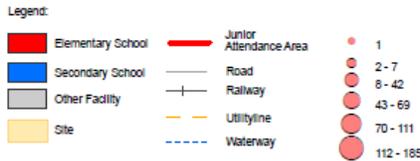
In conclusion, there is a good sense among the parent community that with careful planning and the commitment of school staff, administration, parents, Superintendent and Trustees, we can achieve the goal to improve program delivery and remedy accommodation pressures for all schools involved in this review.

Map of Existing Mountview Alt Jr School Students



Please note:
The lines on this map representing the Attendance Areas are approximate.
For specific information on designated schools to serve individual addresses, please consult the TDSB Street Guide.

Produced by:
Strategy & Planning, TDSB
March 2018
Source:
Base Map- Geospatial Competency Centre
Facility - Strategy & Planning, TDSB
Data- City of Toronto



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Table of Enrolment overview – status quo and proposed options

Keele St PS

STATUS QUO	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	533	533	533	533	533	533	533	533	533	533
Enrolment	543	550	589	621	654	708	731	774	773	771
Utilization	102%	103%	111%	117%	123%	133%	137%	145%	145%	145%
Classroom Surplus/Deficit	-1	-1	-3	-3	-5	-8	-9	-10	-10	-10
Accommodation Plan	HSP Rm									
			Port. 1							
Classroom Shortfall			1 Rm	1 Rm	3 Rm	6 Rm	7 Rm	8 Rm	8 Rm	8 Rm

Option 1 and 2	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	533	648	648	648	648	648	648	648	648	648
Enrolment	543	606	634	652	672	697	694	714	713	713
Utilization	102%	94%	98%	101%	104%	108%	107%	110%	110%	110%
Classroom Surplus/Deficit	-1	2	1	0	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2
Accommodation Plan	HSP Rm				HSP Rm					
						Port. 1				

Mountview Alt Jr School

STATUS QUO	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115
Enrolment	105	107	105	102	102	101	103	102	102	102
Utilization	91%	93%	91%	89%	89%	88%	90%	89%	89%	89%
Classroom Surplus/Deficit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Option 1 and 2	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	115	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138
Enrolment	105	116	127	129	127	124	124	123	125	124
Utilization	91%	84%	92%	93%	92%	90%	90%	89%	91%	90%
Classroom Surplus/Deficit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Runnymede CI

STATUS QUO	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	852	852	852	852	852	852	852	852	852	852
Enrolment	564	554	521	548	577	587	596	592	578	585
Utilization	67%	66%	62%	65%	68%	69%	71%	70%	68%	69%

Option 2	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	852	737	737	737	737	737	737	737	737	737
Enrolment	564	554	521	548	577	587	596	592	578	585
Utilization	67%	76%	71%	75%	79%	80%	82%	81%	79%	80%

General Mercer JPS

STATUS QUO	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	458	458	458	458	458	458	458	458	458	458
Enrolment	204	204	210	217	209	217	222	223	222	224
Utilization	45%	45%	46%	47%	46%	47%	48%	49%	48%	49%
Classroom Surplus/Deficit	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	8

Option 1	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capacity	458	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320	320
Enrolment	204	211	229	237	235	240	239	240	242	243
Utilization	45%	66%	72%	74%	73%	75%	75%	75%	75%	76%
Classroom Surplus/Deficit	9	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1

PART Report Appendix D

**Dissenting Report to the Keele St PS-Mountview Alt Jr School, General Mercer JPS, and Runnymede CI
PART Report**

**By Harpreet Gulri
Parent Representative of Runnymede CI**

Hello Everyone,

Hello All,

Please see below my reasons of why I disagree strongly with PART (a conflicted team's) final report. Trustees most certainly need to see this.

MOUNTVIEW (MV) ALTERNATIVE JUNIOR SCHOOL RELOCATION

REASONS FOR NOT CHOOSING RUNNYMEDE COLLEGIATE INST. (RCI)

Cost and common sense in numbers:

It would cost 3 times more to retrofit RCI compared to the other alternative General Mercer (GM) considered by TDSB's Planning and Priorities. Cost to retrofit RCI would be \$1.2M excluding replacing gender neutral washroom and a proper computer lab. Cost to retrofit GM is estimated at \$416K. Please see the table below to compare two options by numbers:

DESCRIPTION	RCI	GM
Cost to retrofit	\$1,200,000	\$416,000
School capacity for students	852	450
Current students at school	564	205
Current school capacity utilization rate	67%	45%
Total number of MV students	106	106
Committed to move to options	38	-
Committed to move to home school	17	17
Committed to move to other alt school	9	9
Cost per committed student to move	\$31,579	\$10,947

Only 38 out of 106 students of MV are committed to move to RCI. The only reason provided by MV parent council for choosing RCI was convenience/logistics despite the fact that GM school is less in distance from Keele Junior Public school (current home/host of MV).

Spending \$1.2M or more than \$31K per student to relocate them is a horrendous waste of tax payer's money. Trustees running for re-election should be mindful of this fact.

Age inappropriate: Having JK – Grade 6 children in close proximity with teenagers of high school is completely inappropriate and risky. As grade 9 students feel intimidated by high schoolers of higher grade, just imagine the impact on the psyche of impressionable children of Mountview junior school. Every high school has some degree of violence. There was a recent incident of violence at a very reputable school (Humberside) in the area and there have been incidents at RCI too. Subjecting little children to high school violence and foul language used by teenagers is absurd.

GM school is JK – Grade 6 and more age appropriate for MV kids. GM principal is experienced with alternative school management.

Reduced parking and increased traffic around RCI: Bringing MV population to RCI would create traffic havoc around already congested Jane and Dundas area during the morning rush hours. It will further reduce already low number of parking stalls.

GM school also has parking issues. They will need at least 3 more stalls. RCI school council chair has been promised 3 stalls for lease/rent by nearby Sikh temple (200-300 meters from school) for less than \$500 per month.

RCI needs ignored: RCI needs to increase its high school student population. Its been asking to become a French Immersion school to supplement Humberside school as an alternative. However our requests have fallen on deaf ears. If the RCI has more high school students, it can offer a better course load to students. RCI needs French Immersion not junior children.

Disruption to RCI students: Construction to retrofit RCI would cause disruption in the education of grade 12 students. That might bring down their GPA and they may not be able to get their choice universities due to that. Promise of summer construction does not seem viable as it will definitely take more than 6 months to finish the project by snail paced construction projects, specially the ones that work for government due to regulations.

Imposing minority desire on RCI students and parents: To accommodate desire of parents of 38 children, TDSB staff is hell bent on imposing this desire on 95% of RCI parents and all students. RCI School council voted 95% against this move and student body RUSTCO is unanimously opposed to this move. So will of 38 parents is being imposed on more than 500 parents and our children.

Why Alternative school status for MV?

The real million \$ question is “Should focus on social justice and environment make MV eligible for alternative school status”?

We think these values should be taught and are being taught at every TDSB school, so there should not be any alternative school based on these criteria. TDSB is simply funding a private school for some elite people who know how to get their way. This practice is costing millions to the tax payers. Should this be stopped, ABSOLUTELY YES.

Hope you consider this before making a final decision around relocation of Mountview. In my opinion

Option 1: The children from Keele school catchment area should be merged with Keele School and non-catchment area children should be sent back to their home schools.

Option 2: If TDSB is hell bent on funding this private school (Mountview) then only an age appropriate school like General Mercer should be considered as a candidate for relocation. It is unsafe to send these children to a high school. HIGH SCHOOL SHOULD NOT BE AN OPTION.

With sincere regards,
Harpreet Gulri
Chair, School Council (RCI)