



George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI Modified Pupil Accommodation Review York Memorial Student Meeting (Gr. 9 and 11)

Monday February 24, 2020
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
York Memorial CI, Auditorium

Presenters	Andrew Gowdy, System Planning Officer, Strategy and Planning, Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
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<i>Item / Presenter</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Attachments / Actions / Results</i>
Objective of Meeting:	Receive student feedback on George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI Pupil Accommodation Review	York Memorial Student Survey Results Summary (February 10, 2020)
Welcome, Introductions Donna Drummond, Principal of York Memorial CI	Donna Drummond welcomed all to the meeting, introduced Andrew Gowdy (System Planning Officer, Strategy and Planning), Vicky Branco (Superintendent of Education, Learning Network 03), Trustee Chris Tonks (York South-Weston), Safiyah Omar-Saleh (Educational Planning Officer, Strategy and Planning) and Andrew Chua (Accommodation and Planning Analyst, Strategy and Planning)	
Comments/Feedback: Students	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A survey was completed by the student ambassadors of York Memorial. A student presented a question from their survey: what is the stress level that you think you will have if you move back to George Harvey? The majority of students responded that they had mental health concerns. They indicated they were stressed every day being at George Harvey. 2. York Memorial utilization has always been 100%. What have York Memorial students done to harm the TDSB's budget? York Memorial students are not contributing to the TDSB's deficit. 3. The school is being rebuilt with insurance money. York Memorial was built to honor the soldiers. There is a history and reputation behind the school (York Memorial). The reputation will affect how universities view York Memorial 	

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Students	<p>student applicants.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Remaining at York Memorial would be the best for our mental health. Not staying at York Memorial and experiencing another transition/move will cause a loss of our staff and identity. We have already gone through a lot of changes and lost all of our stuff. 5. If the TDSB cared about student wellbeing, why choose Scenario 2? Especially if the York Memorial students do not want this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Gowdy clarified that the reason why the TDSB believes York Memorial and George Harvey should be consolidated was described in the planning principles and now staff are consulting the students for their feedback. 6. Whose tradition are we going to follow? Whose rules do we follow? If a consolidation happens what will be the school's dress code? The student stated that they do not want uniforms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Gowdy clarified that a transition committee will be set in place in order to address these items/differences, if a consolidation happens. 7. More than 50% of students attending York Memorial are under optional attendance and/or are in the RUSH program. Students want to keep York Memorial as is. We want to graduate as York Memorial students. 8. If a consolidation occurs and York Memorial goes back to George Harvey, student has stated that no one will come back to York Memorial. 9. Students are being used for the TDSB's gain. York Memorial before the fire and after the fire is not much different in terms of its enrolment. George Harvey is not York Memorial's problem. Scenario 1 and 3 are possibilities. Scenario 2 and 4 are bad and illogical. 	

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Students	<p>Referencing the student survey, 87% of York Memorial students chose to go to Scarlett Heights on their own expense. George Harvey will remain under-utilized because students will not attend.</p> <p>10. TDSB is inconsistent with the method and is asking students to change.</p> <p>11. TDSB does not care about York Memorial student’s mental health.</p> <p>12. Students came to York Memorial to be a Mustang – George Harvey and York Memorial are 2 separate schools and should remain that way. York Memorial students moved from George Harvey because we did not like being there.</p> <p>13. George Harvey is named after a British Prime Minister/Politician and it would be disrespectful to change York Memorial’s name and name the new rebuild after him.</p> <p>14. Has the TDSB taken into consideration the time and money that was wasted moving York Memorial into the Scarlett Heights building. Has it been considered how much more time and money will be wasted moving York Memorial back into George Harvey?</p> <p>15. Student expressed their anxiety about moving between schools and will not be returning to George Harvey because of their experience at the school. Students’ mental health at George Harvey wasn’t good and couldn’t adjust to the new space. If Scenario 2 is chosen, the student claims they will go to Downsview.</p> <p>16. Money is the issue in this process. Student expressed that TDSB students are the money that will be coming back into the TDSB’s pockets when they have careers/jobs and pay taxes.</p>	

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Students	<p>17. If the majority of York Memorial students do not want to go to George Harvey, then why is the TDSB going through this process?</p> <p>18. Student does not want to go to George Harvey, and believes that it doesn't make sense to do so. They are a family at York Memorial and they are proud to go to York Memorial.</p> <p>19. Possibly some teachers will be cut going to George Harvey. It is all disorganized and dysfunctional. York Memorial teachers care about their students.</p> <p>20. The move will be stressful for York Memorial students. They do not want to merge because they are two separate schools. Many of the teachers will be cut due to the consolidation.</p> <p>21. York Memorial students want to graduate with the name York Memorial on their diploma. York Memorial's enrolment will decrease if sent to George Harvey.</p> <p>22. Merging with George Harvey is like bringing together the Joker and Batman.</p> <p>23. Teachers and administrators are fighting for their rights. Shouldn't TDSB Trustees fight for the students rather than using the students as bait?</p> <p>24. Optional attendance students came here to graduate from York Memorial. The lives of soldiers were lost for the name of York Memorial. Why is the TDSB trying to change the name?</p> <p>25. Before the fire, no-one was talking about George Harvey and York Memorial (merging). Priority should be getting York Memorial student and staff back into the York Memorial rebuild, not presenting scenarios to them. At George Harvey, York Memorial students had classes in the hallways.</p>	

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	The student also states that there was not enough time for students to speak at this assembly.	
Andrew Gowdy	This is one engagement of several. TDSB staff will be holding other meetings. Students are encouraged to provide further comments and feedback by completing the survey created by TDSB staff. The survey is available in hardcopy at the school and online.	
Vicky Branco	If we were to consolidate, you will not be having the same experience as before. We will be working with you, as both schools become one. I am not saying this is the final decision, but I need you to be informed. The importance of the survey is to hear your comments, your voice. Thank you and please submit your surveys.	
Donna Drummond	I am incredibly proud of you. Continue to advocate. Use the surveys wisely.	
Next Steps:	Complete the survey online or in hard copy form and submit to school's main office.	
Next Meeting	Public Meeting: Monday April 27 th , 2020	
Adjournment	11:00 a.m.	