



# George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI Modified Pupil Accommodation Review

## York Memorial Student Meeting (Gr. 10 and 12)

Monday February 24, 2020

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

York Memorial CI, Auditorium

<b>Presenters</b>	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), Safiyyah 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"> <li>1. The student survey conducted by York Memorial students found that it was extremely stressful for them at George Harvey. 93% of students would like to stay at Scarlett Heights until completion of the new York Memorial building in 2026 (the survey conducted by the students excluded students that were on spare and students in the Developmental Disability program).</li> <li>2. On the TDSB website, mental health is stated to being a priority. Students came to Scarlett Heights for York Memorial not for George Harvey. TDSB would rather prioritize money over students' needs and mental health.</li> <li>3. The student expressed that they did not enjoy their time at George Harvey. York Memorial students shared their concerns and TDSB staff did not listen. York Memorial students did not feel welcome at George Harvey. With scenario 2, York Memorial may lose their Principal or George Harvey may lose their Principal.</li> </ol>	

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Students	<p>It causes a lot of stress for the students thinking that they have to go through this process again. It is detrimental to the mental health of students, and it needs to be taken into consideration while running this review. Based on the student survey, 87% of students are happy with remaining at Scarlett Heights.</p> <p>4. One of the students involved in creating the survey stated that the consolidation is not an option. They explained that they had classes in the hallway at George Harvey. 87% of students stated that they were happy with staying at the Scarlett Heights location.</p> <p>5. At the Parent Information meeting, 300 parents attended. Students and Parents want the York Memorial stamp on their diplomas.</p> <p>6. The low enrolment at George Harvey is not the problem of York Memorial students and staff. Student indicated that York Memorial students will not go to the newly consolidated school. They will attend another school on optional attendance.</p> <p>7. Student asked when was the last time the Guiding Principles were reviewed. Andrew Gowdy responded that the Guiding Principles were last revised in April of 2019. Student is requesting that the Guiding Principles be revised again, as they do not speak to or address mental health.</p> <p>The student also asks why the option of consolidating Oakwood and George Harvey is not being considered. Andrew Gowdy responded the study considers George Harvey and York Memorial because of their close proximity to one another. Oakwood is further away from both schools.</p> <p>The 86 students leaving York Memorial is not a good enough reason to merge York Memorial with George Harvey again.</p> <p>8. Student states that the presentation was biased and it is attempting to manipulate York Memorial students to make the wrong decision. Student did not have a chance to read the advantages/disadvantages of all the scenarios.</p>	

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Students	<p>Student states that York Memorial is being put at a disadvantage simply because it is not a school of 1,000 students. Student explains that if York Memorial were to reach 1,000 students, the school’s utilization rate would be above 100% and will result in a crowded school, operating inefficiently.</p> <p>9. The merging of York Memorial and George Harvey was in the plans even before the fire. The occurrence of the fire was the perfect timing to bring the two schools together. Students stated that they do not want to consolidate in 2021, maybe in 2026.</p> <p>York Memorial students fought to come to Scarlett Heights and they are coming to school with their own bus tickets and Presto cards. The transit money provided by the Board was a nice bonus, but it wasn’t asked for and they did not need it.</p> <p>Student feels that their mental health is understated and it should be made a priority.</p> <p>York Memorial has been utilizing its space well and has had optimal utilization rates for years. York Memorial should not have to change. George Harvey under-utilization is not York Memorial’s problem. George Harvey should be coming to York Memorial, as they are the smaller group.</p> <p>10. Student expresses that this meeting and review is affecting them greatly and causing great amount of stress for them. Does not want to be stuck in a school that does not give them their freedom. York Memorial students fought to be at Scarlett Heights. If they are moved back into George Harvey, they will lose their culture and identity. And they are tired of losing.</p> <p>11. The epidemic of student suicides is drastic and detrimental. The consolidation will result in mental health stress. And if this review leads to any suicides, even one student, TDSB will be liable. No price can be placed on the life of a student or any life.</p> <p>The student expresses that they have stayed at York Memorial because it is the</p>	

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Students	<p>only place where teachers respect them and care for them. They fought for York Memorial to come to Scarlett Heights and for the freedom to express themselves. The consolidation will affect their mental health and wellbeing. They will lose their culture and their York Memorial family.</p> <p>The consolidation will cause them stress which will impact their ability to learn and achieve good grades. As a result, the potential of entering university will drop significantly. Student asks if the TDSB will be okay, knowing that they have ruined the students' lives.</p> <p>12. Student begins by referring to the "Neighbourhood Schools" Guiding Principle. The needs of York Memorial students and staff are being met here (i.e. Scarlett Heights) and they do not need any further changes. If the needs of York Memorial students are being met at Scarlett Heights, why is this study/review being done?</p> <p>13. Student is asking if the TDSB is taking into account the hassle to move their stuff back and forth between schools. The Arts and Music departments spent 5 months unloading furniture and setting up their classrooms. It took York Memorial a long time to move everything into Scarlett Heights, and to get inventory in.</p> <p>14. Student states that the TDSB is spending its time looking at numbers (i.e. enrolment and utilization rates). But numbers are the TDSB's problem, not York Memorial students. Their learning needs to be prioritized.</p> <p>15. Student feels that money is being prioritized over their own mental health. Their experience with George Harvey was bad. George Harvey was not welcoming to them, and the school was confusing, like a maze, making it hard to find their classroom. In addition, classrooms were cramped.</p> <p>Through this last move, student feels like they lost their York Memorial pride. They came to York Memorial to graduate as a York Memorial student.</p> <p>16. Student explains that they had classes in the hallways of George Harvey and their science classes were being done in the hair dressing rooms. George Harvey</p>	

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Students	<p>did nothing to accommodate York Memorial students and staff.</p> <p>17. Student found scenario 5 to be ridiculous and stated that the schools might as well remain as separate schools.</p> <p>18. Student felt claustrophobic and stressed at George Harvey. Their experience was nerve racking. They stated that the York Memorial building is gone, but this does not mean the York Memorial identity is gone as well.</p> <p>19. The student finds this situation stressful and is frustrated that York Memorial is going through this process again. It will be stressful for the students to adjust to a new location all over again.</p> <p>20. The student explains that they moved from one country to another. They chose to attend York Memorial, not George Harvey. The York Memorial rebuild will be built with the insurance money; hence the TDSB pockets will not be hurt.</p> <p>The student claims that the numbers presented in today's presentation are only predictions, and that decisions cannot be made based on that.</p> <p>21. The student apologized for the disrespect; they explained that they are passionate.</p> <p>22. This is causing an emotional strain on York Memorial students, especially when thinking about going back to George Harvey. The student stated that shutting out students who want to speak again because they are being passionate is not fair.</p> <p>As a school, York Memorial functions differently from George Harvey. York Memorial is bigger than George Harvey. They are two separate schools.</p> <p>23. Why are George Harvey's problems being made York Memorial's problems? York Memorial students already have to deal with teachers' striking.</p> <p>24. Student claimed that they had a good time last year at George Harvey.</p>	

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Students	<p>25. York Memorial students want scenario 1; the other options are a waste of time and do not make sense to them. Why are York Memorial students being pushed to merge or pushed to consider other options?</p> <p>26. If the consolidation were to happen, York Memorial will be the only one that will suffer. Especially the Grade 10s. The student stated that they didn't like George Harvey; they were even given a cigarette in the washroom.</p> <p>27. Having York Memorial at Scarlett Heights, it has been a struggle for some people to bus out there. The Scarlett Heights area is not diverse or multicultural. There are not many food options in the area and the prices are not the best. However, students and staff are willing to struggle to come to York Memorial, and to keep their identity.</p> <p>28. York Memorial students made the choice of coming to Scarlett Heights and they are comfortable here.</p> <p>29. Classes at George Harvey were either too big (i.e. too many students) or were taught in the hallway. When they were at George Harvey, York Memorial students were bullied and did not feel welcomed at George Harvey. York Memorial students feel a lot more comfortable at Scarlett Heights. The choice should be for York Memorial students.</p> <p>Student asks why all those assemblies were held last year and why are they here again?</p> <p>30. Even though George Harvey is a larger school, they had classes in the hallway. The consolidation will result in two sets of sports teams at one school; this will not work. Principal Drummond clarified that it will only be one sports team if George Harvey and York Memorial merge. She noted that students need to be factual in their comments. The student proceeds to state that George Harvey is not a neutral ground to consolidate on.</p> <p>31. Student feels that the TDSB is doing this for their own bottom line. This is causing instability for students.</p>	

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	32. Student stated that the way the TDSB is treating the students is disgusting; they are being treated like pawns on a chess board.	
Next Steps:	Complete the survey online or in hard copy form and submit to the school's main office.	
Next Meeting	Public Meeting: Monday April 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	
Adjournment	12:00 p.m.	