



George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI Modified Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR)

George Harvey CI Student Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2020

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

George Harvey CI, Auditorium

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| 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> |
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| Objective of Meeting: | Receive George Harvey student feedback on the George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI Pupil Accommodation Review. | George Harvey Student Survey Results summary (February 25, 2020) |
| Welcome, Introductions Sam Miceli, Principal of George Harvey CI | Sam Miceli welcomed all to the meeting, introduced Andrew Gowdy (System Planning Officer, Strategy and Planning), Vicky Branco (Superintendent of Education, Learning Network 03), Safiyyah Omar-Saleh (Educational Planning Officer, Strategy and Planning) and Andrew Chua (Accommodation and Planning Analyst, Strategy and Planning) | |
| Comments/Feedback: Students | <p>1. When York Memorial students were at George Harvey, hallways were crowded which resulted in a lot of noise. Students were frustrated by the amount of time it took to move in the halls and worried about getting to class on time. During class times, the noise in the hallways negatively impacted students' studies and ability to focus.</p> <p>The cafeteria and hangout spaces such as the "Hawks Nest" were packed and crowded.</p> <p>Students also found TTC buses were crowded when York Memorial joined George Harvey. Students had to wait up to an hour to get onto a bus at the end of the school day.</p> <p>Student felt great amount of discomfort with York Memorial students in the building. They were disrespectful towards the building and the George Harvey students. George Harvey students felt that they were losing their identity.</p> | |

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| Students | <p>The student quoted another George Harvey student: "...our students prefer to study in a small population where we can focus on our studies well. Last year when York Memorial CI joined us, the hallways were filled with students and I could barely pass to get to my class. Students who ate their lunch in the hallways were bothered and there were no spaces for students to stay. Also, last year was a really hard year for us students. The quiet and nice place entitled to us was gone...".</p> <p>If the two schools consolidate, how will the TDSB address the issue of crowded hallways, TTC, and other spaces etc.?</p> <p>2. Students are worried about their safety and the tensions that exist between the two schools. George Harvey students were being bullied, especially online, where York Memorial students posted videos and comments making fun of George Harvey students. Student felt that George Harvey students and the George Harvey building were being disrespected. George Harvey students are worried that fights will happen if the consolidation takes place.</p> <p>The student quoted another George Harvey student regarding scenario 1: "I chose this option because York Memorial students do not want to give up their school so they can be called George Harvey students and they do not respect our space; they said "we don't want them here" which is not true."</p> <p>3. Student explained that George Harvey students and staff were welcoming towards the York Memorial students and staff. However, York Memorial students were not grateful and they made fun of George Harvey students in the "Welcome Back" assembly.</p> <p>The student believes that the two schools should remain separate as they did not get along and there is a lot of animosity between both schools. This resulted in multiple altercations during the two month period York Memorial was at George Harvey.</p> <p>The two schools should remain separate schools to avoid classes from</p> | |

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| Students | <p>overcrowding. This will allow teachers to accommodate the needs of their students. The student explained that as an IEP student, they require more assistance from the teacher. However, with more students in class, this will hinder their learning process.</p> <p>The student concludes that they went to George Harvey to avoid the students that go to York Memorial. They have been bullied by York Memorial students and would prefer if they stayed at Scarlett Heights for their own physical and mental safety.</p> <p>4. Student explains that they came to George Harvey for peace of mind, and for the past three years, they have had a wonderful time at George Harvey. The student believes merging the two schools is a change for the worse. They would not feel safe coming to school and they are worried that they will lose some of the George Harvey teachers.</p> <p>George Harvey students have built a strong relationship with the existing George Harvey teachers and they understand their learning habits. Merging the two schools will bring in new teachers that won't understand their learning needs. This will impact students' grades and potentially their ability to a post-secondary school.</p> <p>The student believes it is very rewarding to be able to graduate with the same group of students and staff they began high school with. They are grateful and honoured to stand by their fellow classmates because they respect each other.</p> <p>Having a group of students and staff disrupt their environment and their graduating moment with their people (i.e. George Harvey) is heartbreaking.</p> <p>The student asks how will the TDSB ensure the safety of George Harvey students and how will it address the tension, negative attitudes, and behaviours that have been expressed by York Memorial students towards George Harvey students.</p> <p>5. Student does not want to give up their identity, school, and individuality. The school has a long history and they are concerned that it will be lost, along with their traditions.</p> | |

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| Students | <p>The student quoted another George Harvey student: “students in George Harvey decided to come to Harvey as Hawks, while York Memorial students decided to go to York Memorial to be Mustangs.”.</p> <p>The student quoted another George Harvey student: “is George Harvey just going to be forgotten? There are more of them than us; if a vote is done they will win. Harvey will be forgotten, and the uniforms will be gone”.</p> <p>The student asks how will the TDSB ensure that George Harvey traditions and history will be protected and will be treated as equally important as York Memorial’s, especially when George Harvey students are outnumbered by York Memorial students.</p> <p>6. Student commented that if the consolidation occurs, this will result in an increase in opportunities, program, events, and teachers, if done properly. However, the student feels that since the fire, York Memorial students have been made the priority. George Harvey students are worried that York Memorial students will be favoured over George Harvey students.</p> <p>The student proceeds to ask how the TDSB will ensure that George Harvey students’ feelings, needs, and comfort will be considered and included as much as York Memorial students, as they have been the priority since the fire.</p> <p>The student also asks if the TDSB has a plan on having a new principal and vice principal that are not from either school to help address student problems and needs fairly.</p> <p>7. 77% of George Harvey students feel it is important to remain as a semestered school. The student asks if York Memorial students feel the same way about keeping their school non-semestered, how will the TDSB make a decision.</p> <p>8. The student feels like they are being treated like a statistic, not a person. Believes that the TDSB is not taking into account the students’ feelings.</p> <p>The student addresses the TDSB’s point regarding cost effectiveness. Believes</p> | |

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| Students | <p>the Board is wasting money when it comes to building and removing portables. This money should be invested in George Harvey sports.</p> <p>9. The student expressed their concern regarding their teachers losing their jobs with this consolidation.</p> <p>The student asks why having a smaller playing field is a concern to the Board.</p> <p>Student explains that since the fire happened, George Harvey has been welcoming and respectful.</p> <p>The student concludes that the presentation was too long and they were not given enough time to speak. They should have been given time to speak in the beginning.</p> <p>10. Student believes that at the end, the Board will make the final decision, no matter what the students say. The student is questioning if the Board cares about their safety or what they have to say on this review.</p> <p>11. The student understands the tragedy that happened to York Memorial students; however they are worried about the pride and integrity of George Harvey. Students have built bonds at this school. It needs to be taken into consideration that the two schools are different from one another; different agendas and opinions.</p> <p>If a consolidation occurs, how will the TDSB deal with the social injustices that may occur such as bullying?</p> <p>12. Not everything is about the money.</p> <p>13. The student wants to know what happens to their existing programs and teachers when they consolidate with York Memorial students and staff.</p> <p>14. Student feels that this is not fair to the George Harvey students or staff. George Harvey is a family and they have a bond. They feel like they are the underdogs in</p> | |

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| Students | <p>whose rules?</p> <p>Student believes that York Memorial has a bad reputation, claiming there was a shooting and stabbing at their school. If York Memorial consolidates with George Harvey, York Memorial needs to follow George Harvey's rules and schedule; they need to be respectful of the students.</p> <p>21. The student states that the people who are making the decision are not here to listen to the student's questions, feedback, and concerns. They need to be here to see the emotions the students are portraying. Reading our comments and questions in a report will not portray the emotions of students.</p> <p>The student concludes that while their school can hold 1000 + students, that does not mean they should do so.</p> <p>22. If the consolidation happens, this will cause an over flow and space pressures. The student expressed the importance that George Harvey students make the decision for themselves. This decision will impact them and the next generation.</p> <p>23. Student expressed that there were issues during lunch time. When York Memorial students were at George Harvey, they were let out early for lunch and they occupied most of the restaurants/fast food establishments in the surrounding area. The student explained that they had anxiety and felt overwhelmed, and would not end up buying lunch.</p> | |
| Next Steps: | Complete the survey online or in hard copy form and submit to school's main office. | |
| Next Meeting | Public Meeting: Monday April 27th, 2020 | |
| Adjournment | 11:15 a.m. | |