



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

## George Harvey Parent Meeting

Tuesday March 10, 2020

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

George Harvey CI, Auditorium

<b>Presenters</b>	Andrew Gowdy, System Planning Officer, Strategy and Planning, Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
<b>TDSB Representatives</b>	Anthony Kerins (moderator and retired TDSB Principal), Vicky Branco (Superintendent of Education, Learning Network 03), Trustee Chris Tonks (York South-Weston), Sam Miceli (George Harvey CI Principal), Safiyyah Omar-Saleh (Educational Planning Officer), Andrew Chua (Accommodation and Planning Analyst), Ricardo Francis (Shared Services Liaison)

<i>Item / Presenter</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Attachments / Actions / Results</i>
Objective of Meeting:	To receive George Harvey parent feedback on George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI Modified Pupil Accommodation Review	
Comments/Questions:	<p>Speaker 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parent embraces the idea of having neighbourhood schools; however, they do not believe they exist in the TDSB.</li> <li>• Parents chose George Harvey for its small size; it met the needs of a child with a disability and has appropriate specialized program offerings.</li> <li>• Parents also like the school uniforms at George Harvey.</li> <li>• The parent is supportive of the idea of consolidation.</li> <li>• An alternative scenario:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have all the grade 9s start at George Harvey in fall of 2020, rather than in York Memorial. This will reduce the number of moves and disruption for York Memorial students.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Vicky Branco:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We appreciate the new scenario and it will be documented.</li> </ul> <p>Chris Tonks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community schools have been allowed to develop their own local programs. This has caused the disparity in some of the TDSB neighborhood schools.</li> <li>• Our schools are suffering from underutilization and the government is seeking greater efficiencies.</li> <li>• The small schools do have their advantages, but they are limited by program offerings.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Speaker 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students do better in classrooms with fewer students.</li> </ul> <p>Chris Tonks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students do better in smaller classrooms; however, we have to take into account underutilization of the schools in the area.</li> </ul> <p>Andrew Gowdy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school system was built for the baby boomer generation. Enrolment has declined over the last decade.</li> <li>• For example, the board saw an approximate 20% decrease due to the cancelling of the grade 13 program.</li> <li>• There are also discussions around the class size that may impact how the Board moves forward.</li> </ul> <p>Vicky Branco:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have not received a final decision from the Ministry on class size.</li> <li>• A school like George Harvey is receiving extra staff. However, in the future, there may not be sufficient funding to provide the extra staffing due to funding cuts.</li> <li>• Larger schools can provide more staff and programs.</li> </ul> <p>Speaker 2 – No speaker</p> <p>Speaker 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent describes their journey of finding a good school for their kids. Initially thought George Harvey had a bad reputation.</li> <li>• However, after looking further into it, the parent was impressed by the programming at the school, and the support system it provided to students.</li> <li>• If more people were aware of George Harvey and its specialized programs, the enrolment would increase. The uniforms are a nice expectation.</li> <li>• Keeping the school semestered makes sense, since more universities are semestered.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Chris Tonks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did you hear that George Harvey had a poor reputation?</li> <li>• For many years, George Harvey has been fighting this reputational piece. George Harvey was once known as a technical school that has changed; however, this change did not help George Harvey’s enrolment numbers.</li> <li>• Historically, if a student was focused on academics, they would go to York Memorial, and if they weren’t academic focused, they would go to a technical school like George Harvey.</li> <li>• The rivalry between the two schools is real, and goes way back. There is an “Us” vs “Them” mentality. People are very personal about their schools.</li> <li>• It is hard to believe we cannot come together for the greater good of students and the community.</li> <li>• The integration of York Memorial and George Harvey is about bringing the communities together with a dedicated plan. It is important to harness what is good at each school and determine how to continue that into the new school.</li> <li>• In regards to York Memorial, it was built to honor the soldiers, many of whom came from this community. There is a legacy piece that needs to be preserved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A parent from the audience comments that history can be honored; however, the new consolidated school needs a neutral name that reflects everyone. This will result in a successful integration.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Speaker 4, 5 – No speakers</p> <p>Speaker 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agrees with scenario #2 and would like to see it happen earlier in 2020 as the distance to school makes it difficult for some students.</li> <li>• The parent explains that their child got accepted into the RUSH program at York Memorial; however, they did not go there because of the long commute to the Scarlett Heights building.</li> <li>• The parent does not understand why York Memorial students were taken out of George Harvey in September 2019. Believes they should have stayed until the new rebuild was complete. It was a waste of money to move them out of George Harvey.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Chris Tonks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child was accepted to the RUSH program and did not come because of the distance as did 80 others.</li> <li>It would be impossible to facilitate the integration for the 2020 school year as more time is required.</li> </ul> <p>Vicky Branco:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many students are arriving late to school at the Scarlett Heights location because of the distance.</li> <li>It will take time to implement a consolidation, and it won't be possible to achieve in 2020.</li> <li>George Harvey is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest school in the TDSB and can accommodate all the students and prior program offerings and possibly additional student requested programs. There will be a greater focus on creating a positive environment for all students in the second round of integration if approved by the Trustees.</li> </ul> <p>Speaker 7, 8 – No speakers</p> <p>Speaker 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is this consolidation happening because of the fire?</li> <li>And how is the TDSB going to deal with overcrowding?</li> </ul> <p>Vicky Branco:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the last 10 years the TDSB has been working on combining the 2 schools as a result of low enrolment at George Harvey and the RUSH and other programs at York Memorial are getting full. The changes in government put a pause on school consolidations and the fire has made York Memorial a priority. There is a proposal is to make York Memorial larger.</li> </ul> <p>Speaker 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parent states that his child was initially at York Memorial, but they decided to go to George Harvey because they live across the street from George Harvey.</li> <li>The parent proceeds to ask who proposed this consolidation and who is making the final decision on this review?</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Vicky Branco:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consolidation is being proposed by the TDSB.</li> <li>• The TDSB is conducting a review of all secondary programs (the Secondary Program Review). Consolidations will be a major component of this review.</li> <li>• There will be 5 more meetings of this pupil accommodation review and the findings will be presented to the Trustees for a decision on June 17.</li> </ul> <p>Speaker 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the aim of this review to sell the George Harvey site and build condos?</li> <li>• This is what happened with the Silverthorn and Kane consolidation, where 44 houses were built on the Silverthorn site after consolidation.</li> </ul> <p>Andrew Gowdy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consolidation, if approved, would trigger a review of the George Harvey property. The review would consider three possibilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep the George Harvey property for an immediate TDSB need, such as an adult learning centre or multi-purpose centre.</li> <li>2. Keep the George Harvey property for a future TDSB need, but lease it out to a tenant to generate revenue until needed for a TDSB purpose.</li> <li>3. Sell the George Harvey property because it is not required for a current or future TDSB need as there is an adequate distribution of other TDSB sites in the area to provide the TDSB with options. If approved for sale, the property would be offered to other public agencies. If no public agency is interested in buying it, the property would then be put on the open market.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Chris Tonks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The example Silverthorn and Kane schools, is that both schools were underutilized making sense for a merger and the sale of one of the properties for residential use.</li> <li>• In the case of George Harvey and York Memorial, the community deserves new schools for growth to revitalize the area, as the schools are aging.</li> </ul> <p>Speaker 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The combining of York Memorial and George Harvey last May was a disaster.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How will the TDSB address a possible increase in the student population later?</li> </ul> <p>Vicky Branco and Chris Tonks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The TDSB was not prepared for the fire as there were only 5 days to create a plan to bring George Harvey and York Memorial students together. It was a learning curve for everyone.</li> <li>• If integration were to occur, it will not be two separate schools in one building, it will function as one school, with a team to support the transition and wellbeing of the students.</li> </ul> <p>Speaker 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What if there is a need for another school because enrolment increases?</li> </ul> <p>Andrew Gowdy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a number of solutions that the TDSB can implement to deal with changing demographics. If enrolment increases significantly in this area, students from outside of the school's boundaries will be restricted from attending by stopping optional attendance. Currently, less than 50% of the students attending George Harvey and York Memorial live in the area. Further, programs can be relocated and boundaries adjusted to avoid overcrowding.</li> </ul> <p>Speaker 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community does not need condos or development as this will cause chaos, and a possible increase in enrolment for both schools.</li> <li>• The reason for the small turnout to the meeting is because people thought the decision has already been made.</li> </ul> <p>Chris Tonks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assures audience that no decision has been made.</li> </ul> <p>Speaker 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent emphasizes that there needs to be long-term thinking and consideration for different types of models on how to integrate the schools together, how to integrate excitement.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples provided included: North Toronto, integrating the school with a condo.</li> <li>• There may be a way of honoring both the names of York Memorial and George Harvey.</li> </ul>	
Anthony Kerins:	Contact Trustee Chris Tonks, Principal, or Superintendent if you wish to share further information.	
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, 2020	
Adjournment:	9:07pm	