



George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI Modified Pupil Accommodation Review

York Memorial Parent Meeting

Monday March 9, 2020

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

York Memorial CI, Auditorium

Presenters	Andrew Gowdy, System Planning Officer, Strategy and Planning, Toronto District School Board (TDSB)
TDSB Representatives	Anthony Kerins (moderator and retired TDSB principal), Vicky Branco (Superintendent of Education, Learning Network 03), Trustee Chris Tonks (York South-Weston), Donna Drummond (York Memorial 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:	Receive York Memorial parent feedback on George Harvey CI and York Memorial CI Pupil Accommodation Review	
Comments/Questions:	<p>Tony Kerins: Parents/guardians have an opportunity to share their thoughts and insights. Alternatively, parents could contact Trustee Chris Tonks.</p> <p>Speaker 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where did scenarios 4 and 5 come from? <p>Andrew Gowdy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the release of the initial staff report, the TDSB received comments and suggestions. Several of the suggestions had merit and were developed into the 2 new scenarios and included in the review. Suggestions that did not have merit were not included as options. For example, the George Harvey site was suggested as the new site for the consolidation instead of York Memorial. This suggestion did not have merit – a comparison of the George Harvey and York Memorial sites shows that the York Memorial site has more advantages for a new school than the George Harvey site. Hence, it was not included as one of the scenarios. <p>Speaker 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenario 4 was never addressed or voted on at the York Memorial parent council meeting; therefore, it should be removed from the recommendations. There was a parent survey done at parent interview night to which 	

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	<p>approximately 70 parents responded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, a student council survey was completed by over 100 students. • Both surveys indicated that they want to stay at York Memorial. <p>Speaker 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much was spent on the new location and how much more will be spent at George Harvey to accommodate 900 students? • How will one timetable be determined when each school operates under a different timetable? • What programs will stay and what teachers and support staff will be chosen? • If Scenario 2 is to be chosen, has TDSB considered the impact on York Memorial’s heritage and identity? • The community is growing – will one school of 1,300 students meet the community’s growing needs? Will York Memorial be overpopulated when finished? • If Scenario 2 is imposed, the grade 10s will not have only experienced the tragedy of their school burning down, but they will also have to deal with graduating from a school that is no longer called York Memorial. <p>Speaker 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much money has been spent on the student's mental health? • Data from CAMH demonstrates that 43% of students suffer from moderate to high depression. • The York Memorial student survey showed 66% of York Memorial students are generally stressed with 87% of students stressed with the anticipation moving to George Harvey. • The York Memorial students moved once, why do it again? Just because George Harvey doesn’t have enough students? • The constant moving is not good for student wellbeing and there are no psychiatric resources for York Memorial students. • The TDSB will be made accountable if anything happens to anyone. What is the cost if students are lost due to the decision made? • The parent stated that they had spoken to a psychiatrist who had informed them that they are not equipped to address the anxiety and stress that students are experiencing. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This eventually will cost our health care system, place stress on families. <p>Vicky Branco asked the speakers to hand in hard copies of their speeches for complete documentation.</p> <p>Speaker 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If consolidation were to go ahead, would students be pre-approved to go to another school under optional attendance? <p>Andrew Gowdy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional attendance is under review and a report will be going to the Trustees. The current expectation is that once you attend a school under optional attendance you are expected to graduate from that school. <p>Speaker 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the York Memorial name is lost, the new school would no longer be chosen by students and parents. <p>Speaker 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will happen to the specialized programs like RUSH or Advanced Placement? <p>Andrew Gowdy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan is to keep the existing programs at York Memorial and George Harvey. <p>Speaker 6 - none</p> <p>Speaker 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the consolidated school be semestered or non-semestered? <p>Andrew Gowdy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If consolidation is approved, a transition committee will be formed and will be charged with determining whether the school will be semestered or non-semestered. 	

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	<p>Speaker 8 - none</p> <p>Speaker 9 (York Memorial student):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why should York Memorial go back to George Harvey? • Going back to George Harvey is not in the interest of York Memorial students and will have a 6-year impact. • The history, legacy and mental wellbeing of York Memorial students should matter. <p>Anthony Kerins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested that only parents speak. <p>The audience supported students being allowed to speak at this meeting.</p> <p>Vicky Branco:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is understood that students are passionate about this matter and they had 2 assemblies to speak on this matter. • The information is being recorded and the audience was asked to maintain calm to hear what is being said. <p>Donna Drummond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can translate on behalf of parents that are present at the microphone. <p>Speaker 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York Memorial parents have chosen to send their children to York Memorial, even if it means bussing them 5 km away. <p>Speaker 11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will York Memorial traditions be preserved if moved to George Harvey? <p>Speaker 12 (teacher at the TDSB and a parent of a York Memorial student):</p> <p>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Developmental Disability Program at York Memorial is warm and caring and important for her son who attends. Scenario 4 mentions that existing students that have experienced the fire will not have to make the move because they 	

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	<p>would have graduated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, there are some students in the Developmental Disability Program who won't be graduating in time and will be experiencing the move again. This was not taken into account. It is disappointing that the focus was on the regular track kids and not those with challenges. • Students enrolled in specialized and intensive programs will benefit from students in the regular track, and vice versa. • If consolidation were to occur, will the students of these programs be able to move with their school community? <p>Andrew Gowdy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciated that the concern that was raised. • The slide deck and the report will be adjusted to reflect this concern. • In terms of the program, the intent is to keep it together and have space for it at the new site. <p>Speaker 13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the daycare remain at George Harvey if there is a consolidation? • The parent expressed that students should have the right to speak at this meeting as well. <p>Speaker 14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario 3 is fine as long as the school has the York Memorial name because of its history. <p>Speaker 15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why would the TDSB want to take the York Memorial kids back to George Harvey, if it is so crowded? • The students didn't have proper classrooms. <p>Andrew Gowdy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the spring of 2019, 2 schools were put together with 2 separate time tables. The new proposal is to make one school and George Harvey has enough space to accommodate all 1,300 students. 	

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	<p>Speaker 16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every tragedy brings hardship and the fire extinguished dreams and goals leaving uncertainty. • York Memorial students had classes in the hallways and janitors closets. • At Scarlett Heights, students felt safe. This was all taken away by the January announcement and the result is some students developed anxiety. • TDSB has not provided any help for students suffering from post-trauma stress around the fire and the move. <p>Speaker 17:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board should act in the interest of the students and avoid incurring further costs. Students are happy at Scarlett Heights and should remain until the new school is completed. • Enough money was spent to renovate Scarlett Heights. Stop wasting money. • The actions of TDSB are seen as bullying the students and those students with special needs. <p>Speaker 18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is George Harvey getting so much consideration as they did not have to deal with the fire? • The fire should not be used as an opportunity to combine the 2 schools because George Harvey is at 37% utilization. • The York Memorial students do not wish to return to George Harvey because of their bad experience there. The majority want to return to the rebuild. • This review and decision is impacting parents and students. • The speaker also expressed that there were no interpreters present at the meeting. <p>Vicky Branco:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the notice for this meeting, parents were requested to notify us in advance if they required interpretation services. No requests were received. <p>Speaker 19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why would money be invested to update George Harvey when there will be a new school in 2026? 	

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	<p>Speaker 20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Harvey has a lot of financial problems and York Memorial is being used to fix them without considering students. • The focus is on the money rather than student education. • Students in the Developmental Disability Program were forgotten in Scenarios 2 and 4, which shows that there are flaws in the analysis. • How is York Memorial student security and success being ensured at George Harvey? <p>Speaker 21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the merge occurs, what will be done to address the student animosity between the 2 schools when York Memorial students are at George Harvey? • At George Harvey, threats were made against York Memorial students. • The parent does not want their child to go back into that environment. <p>Speaker 22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents were told York Memorial will be rebuilt; they ask that TDSB take that commitment to the students into account. • The students wish to stay at Scarlett Heights until the new school is built. • The parent's kids who are in grades 5 and 7 want to attend York Memorial just like their older siblings. <p>Speaker 23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will be the cost involved to facilitate the 2 schools being brought together at George Harvey? • What is going to happen with the contents of the Scarlett Heights site? • The parent is confused why these scenarios are being presented, when the Trustee committed to keep York Memorial students at Scarlett Heights for 5 years. • What is going to happen to the York Memorial staff with this consolidation? <p>Vicky Branco:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TDSB staff do not have the answers to all your questions. • The TDSB is gathering everyone's feedback and data to provide the information to the Trustees for them to make an informed decision. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and students are encouraged to provide alternative scenarios. <p>Speaker 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is there no scenario where York Memorial is rebuilt and George Harvey is closed to join York Memorial? • Is there any consideration given to the York Memorial students, teachers and Principal? <p>Speaker 25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York Memorial sports teams were dismantled when students came to George Harvey. • What will be the future for York Memorial teams? • Students are upset by the uncertainty of the future of their sports teams. • Why does it take 6 years to build a school? • TDSB should be able to build the school in less than 6 years. <p>Speaker 26:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On May 7 children at York Memorial lost hope but were able to settle at Scarlett Heights. • The students are happy and stable at Scarlett Heights for the most part. Students are getting back into a normal routine. • Parents are trying to distract their students from this tragedy so they can focus on their studies. • Children are still dealing with turmoil and Scenario 2 is distasteful in light of all the students have been through. <p>Speaker 27:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students want to graduate from York Memorial. • They don't want to graduate across a stage that isn't York Memorial's. <p>Speaker 28:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it possible to get a transcript of the meeting that will be given to the Trustees? <p>Andrew Gowdy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information will be available on the website. 	

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	<p>Speaker 29:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No extra support was provided to the students. • Students had the same number of guidance councillors after the fire. • The insurance money should be spent on York Memorial, not on George Harvey. • It would be inappropriate to change the name of York Memorial. <p>Speaker 30:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Harvey receives immigration grants. • Why not move George Harvey into York Memorial for the grants? 	
Anthony Kerins:	Contact Trustee Chris Tonks, your Principal, or Superintendent if you wish to share further information.	
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, 2020	
Adjournment	9:16 p.m.	