



## Armour Heights PS, St Andrew's MS, and Ledbury Park E & MS Program Area Review Team – Public Meeting #1

March 18, 2021  
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
Virtual Webinar – Zoom

<b>Presenters</b>	Ron Felsen (Superintendent – Learning Network 6, Chair), Denise Humphreys (Superintendent – Learning Network 4), William Wallace (Educational Planning Co-ordinator), Sarah Libera (Educational Planning Officer)
<b>Participants</b>	Shelley Laskin (Trustee – Ward 8), Rachel Chernos Lin (Trustee – Ward 11), Belinda Longe (Principal – Armour Heights Public School), Kari Hudson (Principal – Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School), Jessica Feldberg (Principal – St. Andrew's Middle School), Nataliya Brylynska (Vice-Principal – St. Andrew's Middle School), Laura Berry (Parent Representative – Armour Heights Public School), Jason Rosen (Parent Representative – Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School), Zakia Nabbus (Parent Representative – St. Andrew's Middle School)

Item / Presenter	Discussion	Attachments / Actions / Results
Welcome and Introductions:  <i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greetings, Salutations, Treaty Lands Acknowledgment.</li> <li>• Welcome to the parent representatives from Armour Heights PS, Ledbury Park EMS and St. Andrew's MS.</li> <li>• Meeting parameters and decorum were discussed.</li> <li>• The schedule of meetings was represented.</li> <li>• Acknowledged that this is the first online PART process.</li> </ul>	
Overview of the PART's Purpose:  <i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are exploring two different items tonight, both affecting Armour Heights PS directly.</li> <li>• There is a boundary change with Ledbury Park EMS, where a shared boundary between the two schools will be changed, if approved.</li> <li>• There is a grade change proposal at Armour Heights PS which, if approved, will impact St. Andrew's MS.</li> <li>• The first item is an expansion of the grade range at Armour Heights PS from JK-6 to JK-8, phased in over 2 years.</li> <li>• Currently these students move into St. Andrew's MS in grade 7.</li> <li>• There are some issues with this, as these students face a staggered cohort.</li> <li>• The other schools feeding into St. Andrew's all do so in grade 6.</li> <li>• Armour Heights enrolment has fallen and then flattened out over the last several years.</li> <li>• This is an opportune time to change the grade levels.</li> </ul>	<p>Link to Program Area Review webpage:  <a href="http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Accommodation-Reviews">http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Accommodation-Reviews</a>            Under Program Area Reviews, click on the following:  <a href="#">2020 – Armour Heights PS, St Andrew's MS, and Ledbury Park EMS</a></p>

<b>Item / Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Attachments / Actions / Results</b>
<p><i>Sarah Libera (Planning Officer)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The boundary change affects a small corner of land at the south west corner of Avenue Road and Wilson Avenue.</li> <li>• Part of the Board's Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) goals is to clean-up some of our shared boundaries and simplify our maps.</li> <li>• Current version of the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy was approved on November 11, 2020.</li> <li>• This is revised annually to deal with current as well as anticipated accommodation pressures in the city.</li> <li>• There are guiding principles that come out of this strategy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Equity of Access;</li> <li>○ Providing Efficient and Flexible Learning Spaces.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Equity of Access points seek to strengthen access to neighbourhood schools of efficient size, to access a wide variety of program needs.</li> <li>• This study deals with the simplification of overlapping boundaries, as well as the point to minimize student transitions.</li> <li>• Providing Efficient and Flexible Learning Spaces seeks 90% utilization as an optimal level of enrolment within a physical space, minimizing portable use where possible.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In any study undertaken, there is a 4-step process to follow.</li> <li>• We are currently in Step 3 of this process for this study.</li> <li>• Steps 1 and 2 are the Central Accommodation Team, which then feeds into the Local Feasibility Team.</li> <li>• If approved, the PART's recommendations would then proceed to the Planning and Priorities Committee at the Board on April 6th, before moving to final Board approval on April 21, 2021.</li> <li>• We would want to implement these changes for September 2021.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Sarah Libera (Planning Officer)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Scenario would mean that St. Andrew's MS would no longer receive any grade 6 students from Armour Heights PS starting in September of 2021.</li> <li>• The immediate impact would be 23 fewer students in St. Andrew's MS's enrolment, dropping to 15-18 fewer in future years, based on planning projections.</li> </ul>	

<b>Item / Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Attachments / Actions / Results</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The shared boundary area between Armour Heights PS and Ledbury Park E &amp; MS would be redirected to Ledbury Park E &amp; MS for primary and junior grades.</li> <li>• As it is, this year, all the students within the shared boundary area are already enrolled at Ledbury Park, and this follows a trend for Armour Heights where the student yield from this area has been dropping in recent years.</li> <li>• In the big picture, the enrolment projection for Armour Heights PS would increase from 75% to 88% utilization over the next 5-6 years, with a change from K-6 to K-8.</li> <li>• For St. Andrew's MS, there would be a drop in the enrolment from the mid-90s to the 80-88% range, with the loss of one class projected.</li> </ul>	
<p>Comments/Questions: <i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a series of pre-submitted questions that were sent to us ahead of this meeting that we are going to answer here.</li> <li>• We also will monitor the meeting for questions which will be answered during the presentation.</li> <li>• This presentation and all its materials will be posted online.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: How will the grade 7 and 8 students at Armour Heights be prepared for the transition to high school if they move from the middle school environment at St. Andrew's MS?</i></li> <li>• <i>A: We have a number of K-8 schools across the city, as well as in Ward 8. Some of these schools use a rotary model at the school level, while others do not.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The two models have their own strengths.</li> <li>○ If Armour Heights PS does move to a K-8 Model, the same transition experiences that we have implemented at other similar schools will be adopted here.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• One advantage for students at Armour Heights PS will be that there is a more direct connection to their secondary schools.</li> <li>• Smaller schools also offer different opportunities for students from a student community perspective.</li> </ul>	



<b>Item / Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Attachments / Actions / Results</b>
<p>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</p> <p>Bill Wallace (Planning Co-ordinator)</p> <p>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: <i>Would these changes affect those outside the catchment area regarding Optional Attendance?</i></li> <li>• A: Currently, Armour Heights PS is “Closed” to Optional Attendance. St. Andrew’s MS is Limited.</li> <li>• Lawrence Park CI’s status as a secondary school pathway is currently “Closed” to Optional Attendance.</li> <li>• We don’t anticipate any changes longer term with these schools. There are many unknowns that could change school statuses, but we aren’t anticipating anything, based on what we currently know. That said, these are all subject to the annual review process.</li> <li>• Concerning the possibility of St. Andrew’s MS students moving to Lawrence Park CI. Lawrence Park CI is overenrolled. Enrolment is driven by home address.</li> <li>• The pathways into Lawrence Park CI are not under review at this time and are not a subject of this PART process.</li> </ul>	
<p>Belinda Longe (Principal – Armour Heights PS)</p> <p>Shelley Laskin (Trustee – Ward 8)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: <i>When Armour Heights PS was closer to capacity a few years ago, the traffic back-up on Belgrave Ave. was dangerous. How will that be addressed?</i></li> <li>• A: We are currently managing traffic with staff assistance to parents. We also reach out for police assistance, particularly at the start of the school year.</li> <li>• If new issues develop, we’ll continue to utilize these resources as appropriate.</li> <li>• Last year, we had 230 students in attendance, and we were able to manage the traffic situation at the school.</li> <li>• If we see significant issues arise at the school, we can also liaise with the City Councillor in the area to do a site visit in the community.</li> <li>• The school principal and Trustee can make that connection directly if necessary.</li> </ul>	

<b>Item / Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Attachments / Actions / Results</b>
<p>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</p> <p>Belinda Longe (Principal – Armour Heights PS)</p> <p>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: Are the existing teachers trained to teach grades 7-8?</li> <li>• The qualifications of our current teachers would be reviewed, as they are through the regular staffing process.</li> <li>• Teachers would have to have Intermediate teaching qualifications. We haven't looked at this yet, but when the staffing process happens later in the spring, we would be reviewing this.</li> <li>• If there weren't any staff in our building that held the appropriate qualifications, we would seek candidates through the regular job posting process in the TDSB.</li> <li>• If these PART recommendations do go forward and are approved by the Board, we create the vacancy, posting and interview the required candidates. Existing staff at the school may hold these qualifications, and we'll review this through the normal annual staffing process.</li> </ul>	
<p>Belinda Longe (Principal – Armour Heights PS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: There is currently no physical education, drama or art teachers at the school. Will that change?</li> <li>• For Primary and Junior level teachers, teachers are not required to have any special Additional Qualifications in order to teach any grade.</li> <li>• For grade 7-8 teachers, staff would require intermediate level qualifications.</li> <li>• We wouldn't be hiring for any specialities beyond that qualification for a grade 7 or 8 classroom.</li> </ul>	
<p>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: Will there be any expansion of administrative staff at the school? Will there be increased supervision of students to account for the dynamic between older versus younger students?</li> <li>• A: There are no plans for additional administrative staff based on the modelling at Armour Heights PS. We have larger schools in the TDSB and in our Ward right now that have the K-8 Model and have a single administrator.</li> </ul>	

<b>Item / Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Attachments / Actions / Results</b>
<p><i>Belinda Longe (Principal – Armour Heights PS)</i></p> <p><i>Jessica Feldberg (Principal – St. Andrew’s MS)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In terms of staff supervision in the school, the Collective Agreement with the Elementary Teachers, each teacher has 80 minutes a week of supervision built into their work week.</li> <li>• This supervision time can be utilized at any point up to 3:50 pm, which is the scheduled end of the day.</li> <li>• After 3:50 pm, parents can make the decision to supervise their kids in the space, much as they would be supervising their kids on our field in evenings or weekends.</li> <li>• We have to utilize the supervision minutes our staff have available to cover our recess and lunch periods, and that is primarily where those minutes currently get utilized</li> <li>• Our experience in a middle school setting is that as soon as the dismissal bell rings, the students do not hang around the school ground at that age. Students tend to have draws outside of the school.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p> <p><i>Jessica Feldberg (Principal – St. Andrew’s MS)</i></p> <p><i>Kari Hudson (Principal – Ledbury Park E &amp; MS)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What are the opportunities for clubs, sports etc. in the schools?</i></li> <li>• A: There are all sorts of opportunity at the middle school level for students to engage in sports as well as plenty of student clubs.</li> <li>• Student Clubs and Activities work well in the grades K-8 model. A lot of the clubs are student driven. It’s very complementary to all levels and divisions at the school.</li> </ul>	

<b>Item / Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Attachments / Actions / Results</b>
<p><i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p> <p><i>Bill Wallace (Planning Co-ordinator)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: Will bussing be available for the students up to Grade 8 in the Armour Heights PS area?</li> <li>• A: The boundary review portion for this PART process relates to a portion of the Primary-Junior attendance boundary between Ledbury Park E &amp; MS and Armour Heights PS. There is no change to the intermediate attendance boundaries between these schools.</li> <li>• The change in distance for students on the East side of Yonge Street is only at the intermediate level, no longer in the catchment for St. Andrew's MS.</li> <li>• The Transportation Policy in the TDSB is that transportation is provided to Elementary of Primary and Junior ages if they are greater than 1.6 km from their school. For intermediate students in the grades 6-8, this distance increases to 3.2 km from their school.</li> <li>• There are no students within these school boundaries that will meet these criteria if these PART recommendations are approved and adopted, so there will be no transportation or bus tickets offered.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p> <p><i>Belinda Longe (Principal – Armour Heights PS)</i></p> <p><i>Jessica Feldberg (Principal – St. Andrew's MS)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: St. Andrews MS offers the middle school experience, will there be shop, music program etc. at Armour Heights PS? It becomes a question of a different student learning opportunities.</li> <li>• A: There are different student and learning cultures to an extent no matter what school they attend. The bigger impact on their learning comes from the cohort they are with which generates the learning culture and environment.</li> <li>• These last two years have been very atypical because of the impact of the outside world on the learning environment, but our staff offer many opportunities for students to find their passion and flourish. I expect this to continue.</li> <li>• Factually, a middle school does offer different learning opportunities for grade 6-8 students. That said, this year we have had to move away from the rotary model to single home rooms. Most things have continued to run, it's not about the physical school.</li> </ul>	

<b>Item / Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Attachments / Actions / Results</b>
<p><i>Kari Hudson (Principal – Ledbury Park E &amp; MS)</i></p> <p><i>Shelly Laskin (Trustee – Ward 8)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would echo what Jessica and Belinda have said. Different schools offer different experiences but still offer opportunities to all.</li> <li>• In Ward 8, we went through the same process when Arlington MS closed, with the students being redistributed to Humewood CS, Cedarvale CS, Rawlinson CS, and JR Wilcox CS.</li> <li>• There were no negative impacts on these schools in terms of programming or student opportunities for extra-curricular activities. These schools in fact coordinate together for certain activities like a joint hockey team from their intermediate students.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p> <p><i>Sarah Libera (Planning Officer)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: What is the impact on Armour Heights PS if some of the students affected by these changes elect to go to private school instead?</i></li> <li>• A: Our current feedback from parents is that parents in the Armour Heights PS community want the expansion to grade 8.</li> <li>• If our classes are not large enough to support a full grade 7 class, we would look at grade 6/7 or 7/8 splits until the mass grows to the point for the full intermediate program.</li> <li>• We project a loss of 3-5 students per grade from each grade level as a result of the change, so we have factored in this possibility into our models for the school going forward.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p> <p><i>Bill Wallace (Planning Co-ordinator)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Q: If students in the shared boundary between Ledbury Park E &amp; MS and Armour Heights Ps are already choosing Ledbury Park E &amp; MS, why change the boundary?</i></li> <li>• A: The Primary-Junior Boundaries are not the same as the Intermediate Boundaries. There aren't any people who would be able to transition to one or the other school outside of the Optional Attendance process.</li> <li>• The main driver here is distinct attendance areas. Making the boundary change gives us better continuity between cohorts moving through our system as students progress. It is a system-wide goal for our Program and Accommodation Strategy.</li> </ul>	

<b>Item / Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Attachments / Actions / Results</b>
<p><i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p> <p><i>Belinda Longe (Principal – Armour Heights PS)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: If there is no capital funding, how would the students at Armour Heights get science classes, a shop or computer labs?</li> <li>• A: Science and Technology have been pulled under one curriculum, so shop spaces are not all over the TDSB anymore.</li> <li>• There is no curricular requirement for there to have gas installations at the intermediate level science program as an example.</li> <li>• In anticipation of the change, the parent community at Armour Heights PS has been thinking about ways to support classroom enhancement for our programming.</li> <li>• This money cannot go towards capital projects but would provide moderate additional supports for both programming and resources.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p> <p><i>Bill Wallace (Planning Co-ordinator)</i></p> <p><i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The secondary pathways and school boundaries are not being looked at through this PART process. We are in the middle of our Secondary Program Review right now in the TDSB</li> <li>• LTPAS is the planning document for a 10 year window. The Secondary Review produces local studies that have been identified for this year, and there will be a report to the Trustees this spring.</li> <li>• All of the secondary schools will be reviewed through this process. The sequence of any local Program Area Reviews will be based on the emerging needs of the system.</li> <li>• For those interested, if people consult the Accommodation Review page on the public website for the TDSB, you can see what year a study has been proposed for those already undertaken.</li> <li>• Any change in secondary boundaries adjustments that need to be made will be looked at through this process. There are multiple schools serving these neighbourhoods. Programs of study are based on geography.</li> <li>• The link to the Secondary Program Review was placed in the chat: <a href="https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review">https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review</a></li> <li>• This PART is based on the Armour Heights study, and changing the school from a grade k-6 to k-8 school.</li> </ul>	

<b>Item / Presenter</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Attachments / Actions / Results</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: Why not leave the shared boundary then; if that's where my child starts, that's where they stay?</li> <li>• A: No student will be forced to change their current school as a result of these PART recommendations.</li> </ul>	
<i>Sarah Libera (Planning Officer)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will open up the Q and A now so please raise your hand, or if you are on the telephone, see the instructions for asking on the brochure for this meeting.</li> <li>• We are looking for parent feedback on these PART recommendations, and we will be sending out a survey.</li> <li>• The survey will happen prior to the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting on April 6, 2021. The PART recommendations will be brought to the Board on this date, if passed at Planning and Priorities this report will go to the Regular Board meeting on April 21, 2021.</li> <li>• Deputations will be given at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, and you can register to depute at the link on this page presented on the screen.</li> </ul>	
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p><i>Ron Felsen (SOE – LN06)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't see any additional questions currently. You may continue to submit, while we speak about our next steps.</li> <li>• The PART will meet once more to consider the feedback from this meeting.</li> <li>• We will submit the recommendations from this team and draft a report for staff.</li> <li>• There will be an opportunity to depute at the Planning and Priorities committee on April 6, 2021.</li> <li>• If the recommendations are approved at this committee, the we will notify the communities through the superintendents and the school principals.</li> <li>• The PART goal is to bring these changes to the Board meeting on April 21, 2021.</li> <li>• After the Board Meeting, we will communicate with parents/guardians affected by the change about grandfathering to St. Andrew's MS or if they wish to continue along through to grade 7 next year at Armour Heights PS.</li> </ul>	
Next Meeting	<i>PART Working Committee Meeting #2 – Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 6:30 – 8:00 pm</i>	
Adjournment		