

## **Final Report of the Program Area Review Team for**

Bloor CI, Fern Jr and Sr PS, Howard PS, Humberside CI, Keele Street PS, Parkdale CI and Runnymede Jr and Sr PS

**April 14, 2022**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Program Area Review Team recommends:**

- 1. That the junior (JK to Grade 6) and intermediate (Grade 7 to Grade 8) attendance area for Runnymede Jr & Sr PS be expanded to include the portion of the Keele Street PS (JK to Grade 8) attendance areas west of High Park Avenue, effective September 1, 2023;**
- 2. That all students who reside in the portion of the Keele Street PS attendance areas described in recommendation 1 above and attend Keele Street PS (JK to Grade 8) as of the end of the 2021-2022 school year, along with their siblings, may choose to attend Keele Street PS until they graduate;**
- 3. That all English stream students who reside in the portion of the Keele Street PS (JK to Grade 8) attendance areas described in recommendation 1 above may choose to register at Runnymede Jr & Sr PS for the 2022/23 school year;**
- 4. That the junior (JK to Grade 6) attendance area for Howard PS and the intermediate (Grade 7 to Grade 8) attendance area for Fern Jr & Sr PS be expanded to include the portion of the Keele Street PS (JK to Grade 8) attendance areas east of Dundas Street West, effective September 1, 2023;**
- 5. That all students who reside in the portion of Keele Street PS attendance areas described in recommendation 4 above and attend Keele Street PS (JK to Grade 8) as of the end of the 2021-2022 school year, along with their siblings, may choose to attend Keele Street PS until they graduate;**
- 6. That all English stream students who reside in the portion of the Keele Street PS (JK to Grade 8) attendance areas described in recommendation 4 above may choose to register at Howard PS (JK to Grade 6) or Fern Jr & Sr PS (Grade 7 to Grade 8) for the 2022/23 school year;**
- 7. That the secondary attendance area for Parkdale CI be expanded to include the portion of the Humberside CI secondary attendance area east of Dundas Street West, effective September 1, 2023;**
- 8. That all students who reside in the portion of the Humberside CI attendance area described in recommendation 7 above and attend Humberside CI as of the end of the 2021-2022 school year may choose to remain at Humberside CI until they graduate;**
- 9. That all students and siblings who reside in the portion of the Humberside CI attendance area described in recommendation 7 above as of the end of the 2021-2022 school year and wish to attend Humberside CI when they graduate from Grade 8 be permitted to do so;**
- 10. That the shared secondary attendance area between Bloor CI and Parkdale CI be directed entirely to Parkdale CI effective September 1, 2023;**
- 11. That all students who reside in the portion of the shared Bloor CI/Parkdale CI attendance area described in recommendation 10 above and attend Bloor CI as of the end of the 2021-2022 school year may choose to remain at Bloor CI until**

- they graduate;
12. That all students and siblings who reside in the portion of the shared Bloor CI/Parkdale CI attendance area described in recommendation 10 above as of the end of the 2021-2022 school year and wish to attend Bloor CI when they graduate from Grade 8 be permitted to do so; and
  13. That TDSB staff inspect the condition of the portables on the Runnymede Jr & Sr PS site and, in alignment with the long-term projections shared in this review, declare the portables surplus to the instructional needs of the school and prioritize them for removal to make much needed play surface area available to students.

## BACKGROUND

**The following study had been identified in the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS):**

**Boundary Change Study:** Explore opportunities for addressing ongoing accommodation pressures in the High Park area. This study will review attendance boundaries for Keele St PS, Annette St Jr & Sr PS and Indian Road Crescent Jr PS. This study may result in the need for additional pupil places in the area.

A Local Feasibility Team (LFT), made up of TDSB Principals, Superintendents, Trustees, and central staff, was established to examine potential solutions to existing and projected accommodation pressures in the High Park area, particularly at Keele Street PS. The objective of the LFT was to review data, assess and discuss the implications of proposed solutions, and finally, to come up with a recommendation to present to the PART.

The transition of the LFT to a Program Area Review Team (PART) was approved by the TDSB's Central Accommodation Team (CAT) on February 3, 2022.

**The first meeting of the Program Area Review Team occurred on February 15, 2022.**

The PART membership was informed that the objective of the PART was to continue the work of the LFT in evaluating the feasibility of the preferred scenario by seeking advice and feedback from impacted parent representatives through the course of 3 working meetings and 1 public meeting. The PART decided that each school community would have a single unified vote, if a vote were to be necessary, and that quorum required the attendance of at least one school representative to ensure a vote could be cast.

A rationale for the review was provided to the PART. The High Park area of Toronto is experiencing significant residential development activity and demographic shifts which

have resulted in substantial enrolment pressure on local schools. Keele Street PS is at capacity and will continue to experience enrolment growth pressures, while Indian Road Crescent Jr PS and Annette Street PS are both at capacity. Most of the anticipated residential developments are proposed within the Keele Street PS attendance area which does not have sufficient space to accommodate students from these developments. The long-term enrolment projections for Keele Street PS anticipate growth in which enrolment will continue to exceed capacity.

In addition, the PART was informed of its role as an advisory committee. Staff provided background information to PART members regarding the TDSB's Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS). A description of the reviews that have been completed to date to address accommodation pressures in the High Park area, followed by an overview of enrolment and facility information for Keele Street PS, Runnymede Jr & Sr PS, Howard Jr PS and Fern Avenue Jr & Sr PS was also provided.

The LFT also identified the need to consider aligning secondary attendance areas with intermediate attendance areas and an opportunity to address a shared attendance area to create consistent pathways for graduating elementary students. As such, an overview of enrolment and facility information for Humberside CI, Parkdale CI and Bloor CI was provided to the PART. The LFT's recommended scenario including and implementation plan was then presented to the group for discussion.

The implementation plan included the following:

- Exempt students attending Keele Street PS
  - Current students as well as their siblings will have an opportunity to remain at Keele Street PS until they graduate
- Exempt students attending Keele Street PS to Humberside CI
  - Current students as well as their siblings will have an opportunity to stay together as they feed into the secondary school
- Exempt students attending Humberside CI and Bloor CI
  - Current students as well as their siblings will have an opportunity to remain at Humberside CI & Bloor CI until they graduate
- Phase-in new students from Keele Street PS former boundaries to Howard Jr PS/Fern Avenue Jr & Sr PS and Runnymede Jr & Sr PS, effective September 2023
- Give students currently in the Keele Street PS English stream who live within the new boundaries an opportunity to register at Howard Jr PS/Fern Avenue Jr & Sr PS and Runnymede Jr & Sr PS, effective immediately for September 2022
- Assign all students within the Bloor CI/ Parkdale CI shared secondary boundary to Parkdale CI, effective September 2023

Staff were asked at the first PART working meeting about:

- How capacity is calculated and what has been factored into useable instructional space;
- How the proposed changes may impact class size;
- How the proposed changes may impact access to French Immersion;
- What considerations have been factored into the enrolment projections;
- If the changes will result in additional space pressure on any of the secondary schools; and
- If information from the working meetings could be shared by representatives with the individual school communities

Staff responded to each of the questions, however, needed to consult with Central French Program staff regarding transfers and potential waitlist for French Immersion students. Staff encouraged the sharing of information from working meetings with individual school communities and asked for questions to be submitted ahead of the scheduled working and public meeting to ensure an opportunity to prepare fulsome responses. Trustee Pilkey volunteered to attend school council meetings if it were helpful. Staff asked the Team to share additional options that may need to be considered as they can be reviewed at future working meetings.

**At the second PART meeting on March 8, 2022**, staff presented on and responded to the following questions that had been received:

- What are the implications for access to French Immersion?
- Will the changes mean that almost every class at Runnymede Jr & Sr PS gets bigger, in a way that could impact student learning?
- What is the impact of having additional classrooms in use?
- Will children have enough space for play, gym time and lunch?
- How will childcare be impacted? Specifically RAC at Runnymede? and
- Can Runnymede Jr & Sr PS use space at Western Technical-Commercial School?

Staff provided answers to the questions posed by members of the PART as well as members of the school communities.

Representatives from the PART were asked for thoughts on any additional options or considerations as well as proposed recommendations. No additional options or alternatives were identified. Discussion focused on providing greater clarity to the proposed recommendations by making the following changes:

- Adding grade ranges after the description of attendance areas;
- Changing “be allowed” to “may choose to” in all proposed recommendations; and
- Ensuring siblings were included in the exemptions

Further, the PART identified that the term “grandparenting”, while gender neutral still has negative connotations and should be replaced with “exempt”. Staff were appreciative of the PART’s feedback and improvements to the recommendations.

**The virtual public meeting for this review was held on March 24, 2022.** A Zoom webinar platform was used. Registrants were also given the option to participate via telephone. Approximately 129 people registered for and attended the public meeting (exclusive of the PART members and central supporting staff).

Staff provided background information regarding the review and presented the current recommendations of the PART to solicit feedback from the broader community. Attendees were invited to submit written questions/comment via a ‘Q and A’ window in the Zoom webinar. An option to ask live questions was also provided to participants.

A feedback survey was opened on March 24, 2022 to solicit feedback regarding the public meeting and proposed recommendations, as well as any additional questions and comments regarding the review. The survey was closed on March 30, 2022.

**At the final PART working meeting held on March 31, 2022,** a brief recap of the public meeting took place, followed by a review of responses received from the public meeting feedback survey. PART members were informed that questions from the public meeting would be added to Questions and Answers document posted on the review webpage. Additional information, meeting notes, and the presentation slide deck would also be posted on the review webpage. In total, 132 responses were received to the feedback survey. On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 1 being ‘strongly disagree’ to 4 being ‘strongly agree’), respondents were asked to rate how they felt about the PART recommendations, as well as to share any questions and/or comments they had. The average ratings out of 4 for the recommendations were:

- Keele Street PS boundary change to Runnymede Jr & Sr PS was 3.02
- Keele Street PS boundary change to Howard Jr PS/Fern Avenue Jr & Sr PS was 3.3
- Aligning the Secondary Attendance Areas with the Intermediate Attendance areas was 3.22

The main themes identified by those who may not have agreed were relatively

consistent and generally fell into the following categories:

- Walking distance – and equity of walking distance for those who may live in the boundary change areas
- Concerns around space at Runnymede Jr & Sr PS, Howard Jr PS/Fern Avenue Jr & Sr PS or the enrolment projections being wrong
- Concerns around constant change
- Diversity of secondary school composition

Following the review of the results of the feedback survey, the proposed recommendations were reviewed. PART voting members were asked to indicate whether they agreed with all the recommendations. A member of the PART asked that an additional recommendation be added about the commitment of staff to assess the condition of the portable as well as the opportunity to have them removed given the projections shared in the review. The recommendation has been added as recommendation #13 in this report. **Consensus was reached on all recommendations.**

A map of the proposed boundary changes contained in the recommendations can be found in Appendix A.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Program Area Review Team		
School/Organization	Name	Role
Bloor CI	Janice Gladstone	Principal
Bloor CI	Don Christie	Parent Representative
Bloor CI	Sophia Coburn	Student Representative
Fern Avenue Jr & Sr PS	Rosanna Sardella	Principal
Fern Avenue Jr & Sr PS	Steve Lefkos	Vice-Principal
Fern Avenue Jr & Sr PS	Alison McLean	Parent Representative
Howard Jr PS	Monica Francis	Principal
Howard Jr PS	Suzy Papadopoulos	Vice-Principal
Howard Jr PS	Kathy Narraway	Grandparent Representative
Humberside CI	Claudine Tyrell	Principal
Humberside CI	Heather Johnston	Parent Representative
Humberside CI	Margo Kaminska	Student Representative
Keele Street PS	Georgia Koziol	Principal
Keele Street PS	Katrina Kenny	Vice-Principal
Keele Street PS	David Wang	Parent Representative
Parkdale CI	Tasneem Khan	Principal
Parkdale CI	Gigi Morin	Parent Representative
Parkdale CI	Finn David Greeggan	Student Representative
Runnymede Jr & Sr PS	Deborah Zamin	Principal
Runnymede Jr & Sr PS	Cherril George	Vice-Principal

Runnymede Jr & Sr PS	Erin Meana	Parent Representative
Learning Network 19	Debbie Donsky	Superintendent
Learning Network 20	Erin Altosaar	Superintendent
Learning Network 21	Mike Gallagher	Superintendent
TDSB Trustee	Robin Pilkey	Ward 7
TDSB Trustee	Stephanie Donaldson	Ward 9

Staff Resources		
Organization	Name	Role
TDSB – Strategy & Planning	Fatima Bhabha	Educational Planning Officer
TDSB – Strategy & Planning	Bill Wallace	Educational Planning Coordinator
Learning Network 19	Kathy Clydesdale	Administrative Liaison

Meeting Details		
Meeting Type	Date	Time
PART Working Meeting 1	February 15, 2022	6:00-7:30 pm
PART Working Meeting 2	March 8, 2022	6:00-7:30 pm
Public Meeting	March 24, 2022	6:00-7:30 pm
PART Working Meeting 3	March 31, 2022	6:00-7:30 pm

#### ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDED CHANGES

If no changes are made, Keele Street PS is projected to reach 840 students, 130% utilization and be short up to 7 classrooms by 2031.

With the proposed changes fully implemented, Keele Street PS would see a utilization below 100% and would have 2 surplus classrooms available. The projected surplus of 9 classrooms (80% utilization) at Runnymede Jr & Sr PS would be reduced to 5 surplus classrooms (90% utilization). The projected surplus of 5 classrooms (65% utilization) at Howard Jr PS (not including development at 2238-2290 Dundas St W) would be reduced to 1 surplus classrooms (80% utilization). The projected surplus of 3 classrooms (88% utilization) at Fern Avenue Jr & Sr PS (not including development at 2238-2290 Dundas St W) would be reduced to 1 surplus classrooms (90% utilization). The projected outcome for all schools makes effective use of existing school capacity in the area.

Given the exemption provisions in the proposed recommendations, it is not anticipated that any significant change in secondary enrolment will be experienced soon. The potential long-term goal of the secondary school recommendations is to create consistent pathways and reduce the number of students attending Humberstone CI and Bloor CI, while increasing enrolment at Parkdale CI.

Exemption provisions have been included for all existing students and their siblings to

limit disruption to existing students in the schools they currently attend or plan to attend. It was important to the discussion around equity that exemptions for existing students be included.

The implementation plan includes the opportunity for a soft landing in the 2022-23 school year for students residing in the areas proposed for change who wish to move schools ahead of boundary changes taking effect in September 2023.

#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The PART achieved consensus on the proposed recommendations. Members of the Team presented thoughtful and balanced questions and perspective from each of the school communities represented. In response, staff provided the rationale for the changes including very thorough discussions that took place throughout the process.

Many schools involved in this study have been subject to previous reviews over the past 10 to 15 years. The concern around constant change and the impact of implementation were at the core of many of the questions and concerns expressed. Staff shared the detailed consideration that has gone into the enrolment projections for each school as well as about what happens if the projections are not realized in the way they have been presented. The TDSB recalibrates annually through the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) and along with it the ability to regularly prioritize school needs and the tools available to address them.

Throughout the review, parents and community members at the PART working and public meeting provided feedback, raised questions about the proposed changes and discussed concerns. The Questions and Answers document was prepared to respond to questions and comments raised throughout the process and at the public meeting and is posted on the TDSB Review webpage.

The PART finds that the rationale for the boundary changes is sound, and the recommendations represent an effective means to address the accommodation pressure facing Keele Street PS, currently and into the future.

# Appendix A – Map of Proposed Boundary Changes



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## Proposed Boundary Changes to Bloor CI, Fern Jr & Sr PS, Howard PS, Humberside CI, Keele Street PS, Parkdale CI and Runnymede Jr & Sr PS

