



Avondale-Woodbine PART Public Meeting

February 9th, 2023

6:30-8:30pm

Virtual

Presenters	Planner - Peter Naperstkow (Presenter), Superintendent of Education – LN12, Domenic Giorgi (Chair)
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<i>Item / Presenter</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Attachments / Actions / Results</i>
Objective of Meeting:	<p>To provide information and then obtain feedback from the broader community of schools involved in this PART regarding the proposal to help reduce the over-enrolment at Avondale PS and increase enrolment at the under-utilized Bayview MS. Also, this PART seeks to obtain feedback from the community about the proposal to end a redirection of students to Woodbine MS, a school located outside their local community.</p> <p>The Willowdale Community is experiencing significant residential development, and this has resulted in enrolment growth at the local schools. Avondale Schools does not have the space to manage any future growth. At the same time, significant surplus capacity exists at Bayview MS. In addition, students residing at new residential developments are currently redirected away from Bayview MS to Woodbine MS, a school located outside of their community.</p>	
Comments from Trustees	<p>Trustee Li Ward 13 representing Don Valley North. Bayview, Woodbine, Crestview, and Elkhorn and to a certain degree Don Valley MS stated that he is looking forward to hearing from you on the process.</p> <p>Trustee Pei representing Ward 12 Willowdale indicated that this has to do with the relocation of the Avondale EA. It has great impacts not only on Avondale but other schools in the Ward as well. It is understood that no one wants to change. The Trustee Pei wants to make this a less stressful process. The one goal is to make the best recommendation for Avondale Community first and for most. It is important to hear from all the parents about any concerns they may have.</p>	



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Setting the Context	<p>Over the past 20 years the TDSB has managed enrolment by changing school boundaries, moving programs, building additions and a new school and by sending students to schools outside the local community. Enrolment continues to grow at Avondale PS and portables are now being used as the school does not have space to manage future growth. In the long-term, TDSB anticipate projections at Avondale PS will continue to exceed capacity and, at Bayview MS there will continue to be a surplus capacity.</p> <p>What does this mean for the schools involved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayview MS will see an increase its enrolment by having Avondale EA relocated and receive some graduates from Crestview PS. • Crestview PS will see some of its students no longer graduate to Woodbine MS • Woodbine MS will not receive as many graduates from Crestview PS. • Avondale PS will see a reduction in overcrowding. • Other schools: Elkhorn, Finch, Hollywood, and McKee Public Schools will see students graduate to a larger enrolled Bayview MS. <p>The Long-Term Program Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) document identified several studies to be undertaken to resolve existing and future accommodation pressures in the City. In this PART, there is Program Relocation Study and a Boundary Change Study.</p> <p>The Guiding Principles used for this PART are intended to move the TDSB forward as a System, represent the broad goals to which we aspire over time. The degree to which they can be achieved will be influenced by local circumstances and availability of funding.</p> <p>The Guiding Principles are not intended to repeat what is already found in the TDSB’s Mission, Vales and Goals and are groups under two themes: Equity of Access and Efficient and Flexible Learning Space.</p> <p>Under Equity of Access, the Guiding Principles are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood schools that meet the needs of all students, • Optimal elementary school size of at least two classes per grade, • Optimal secondary school size of at least 1,000 students • Consistent attendance boundaries, • School locations that support active transportation, minimal transitions, 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced enrolment across the tracks. <p>Under Efficient and Learning Space the guiding principles are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An optimal utilization rate of 90%, • Minimal use of portables, • Flexible building and sites • Different models of school organization. 	
Overview of Schools Involved	<p>Avondale PS & EA is a JK-8 school site that has regular and alternative tracks. There is a childcare on site and there are 38 classroom spaces. The building capacity is 861 with a utilization rate of 113%. The biggest concern is that by 2027 there will be 13 portables on site.</p> <p>Bayview MS is a Grade 6-8 school that has a regular track and an ASD (Autism) Special Education program. There are 28 classroom spaces and with a capacity 629 students. The current enrolment is 436 giving the building a utilization rate of 63%. There will be up to 14 vacant classrooms by 2027.</p> <p>Crestview PS is a JK-5 school that has a regular track program. It has a childcare on site. There are 24 classroom spaces available. The building has a capacity of 536 students with a utilization rate of 81%. The building is currently at capacity.</p> <p>Woodbine MS is a Grade 6-8 school that has a regular track as well as home to North-East Secondary Alternative School. There are currently 30 classroom spaces available with a capacity of 607 students. The current enrolment is 451 students with a utilization is rate of 74%</p>	
Overview of Recommended Solution	<p>Woodbine MS boundary changes to Bayview MS This option would include giving students in Grade 6-8, who have been redirected to Woodbine MS an opportunity to return to Bayview MS. Currently there are about 15 Grade 5 students at Crestview PS who could decide to attend Bayview MS.</p> <p>Avondale EA School relocates to Bayview MS This option is preferred because Bayview MS is the closest school site at 2.2km or a walking distance of 3.1km with sufficient surplus capacity and program appropriate spaces. The Avondale EA School enrolment is limited to 140 students and there are approximately 230 available spaces at Bayview MS or 7 classroom spaces. By 2027, Bayview MS will have up to 14 available classroom spaces. Bayview MS offers similar program spaces that already</p>	

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	<p>exist at Avondale (kindergarten room, gym, performance stage, science labs, art room, design, and technology). There is also a cafeteria, baseball field and soccer pitch that are not currently available at the Avondale site. Appropriate outdoor spaces for JK-5 students will be created ensuring that the Bayview Gr. 6-8 outdoor activities continue.</p> <p>Locating Avondale EA further away could result in a further decrease in their enrolment. The school does not have a local attendance area. Students across the TDSB are eligible to attend Avondale EA School. Just under 50% of their current enrolment reside in the Avondale PS catchment area. Bayview MS boundary area has the second largest group of Avondale ES students.</p>	
<p>What have we heard so far</p>	<p>From 91 emails received, it is clear that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avondale EA does not support moving to Bayview MS. • Also, there is no support from Avondale PS of moving their grade 6-8 students to Bayview MS. • Bayview MS does not support receiving Avondale EA students. • Crestview PS prefers a pathway to Don Valley MS instead of Bayview or Woodbine Middle Schools. <p>Other suggestions provided include using Oakburn Centre, Burnett PS and Forrest Valley Outdoor Education Centre. Also, there is a suggestion to redirect new students only, phase out alternative programs from crowded schools and phase in at uncrowded schools and that the TDSB look at the problem through an evaluation table.</p> <p>The most common themes observed from all the communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to and from school • Childcare being available • Mental health and stress caused by change • Parking and drop off / pick up • Needed improvements at Bayview MS (library, outdoor spaces and features, air conditioning) • Existing use of specialized spaces will be lessened for Bayview MS students. <p>To ensure all these items are addressed before the change happens, Staff now suggest delaying the relocation of Avondale EA School to Bayview MS until September 2024.</p>	

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Other options explored by the PART	<p>The PART asked Staff to revisit other options that include Burnett PS and Oakburn Centre</p> <p>For context of the answers, an explanation of how new schools are financed and built in Ontario was first provided.</p> <p>Ministry of Education decides where the need is greatest and will approve and fund needed construction based on that.</p> <p>TDSB must consider the highest priorities, given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.7 billion is the backlog in repair as of May 2021. • 60 plus years is the average age of a TDSB school, • 58 schools over 95 years old. • New communities are being created in Toronto where schools do not already exist • Existing communities are having more homes being built. Existing schools are already full. <p>The Ministry’s basic requirements for approving a new school or addition to an existing school is to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need is for local students in regular programs • All surplus space in other schools is eliminated. The use of portables is acceptable <p>The challenge with Oakburn Centre is that existing staff would need to be relocated to a site that is does not already exist. A new facility will need to be built. Oakburn Centre was built as an office and construction yard. It was not built as a school. There would be a significant amount of work required to retrofit the building and there would be no funding available because the Ministry will identify a nearby school (Bayview MS) as having space.</p> <p>The challenge with Burnett PS is it does not have the specialized program spaces needed. There is a small gym and no specialty spaces. It would require significant funding to address the condition of the building. It is currently leased. To use Burnett is counter to Ministry of Education’s requirement to remove surplus space in area schools (Bayview MS) before funding the Burnett.</p> <p>The PART also asked Staff to explore relocating Avondale PS Grade 6 to 8 population to Bayview MS, leaving behind the Avondale EA School Grade 6 to 8’s. Staff indicated that</p>	

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	<p>this option requires over 100 students to receive TTC students as they reside beyond 3.2 km walk to school distance to Bayview MS. In addition, this option creates hardships for families with younger siblings remaining at Avondale PS, this creates a split pathway, a practice that is counter to the Guiding Principles of the LTPAS. If adopted, this option would have some students graduate from Bayview MS to Earl Haig SS, while others graduate to Georges Vanier SS.</p>	
<p>Long-term plan for the Avondale area</p>	<p>The Board has landholdings in the area that will be explored for new school construction at the appropriate time. Pending any future shifts in enrolment, staff will continue to monitor opportunities for changes to school boundaries.</p> <p>Board Staff and School Staff will work to assess if any minor modifications can be done within the school building and property that results in greater flexibility for instruction. Staff will also ensure that only students with an eligible home address and childcare arrangements attend Avondale PS. Where a family address has changed to outside the Avondale PS attendance area, the grace period to remain at Avondale PS will no longer be an option.</p> <p>Staff will also broaden the investigation to the partial or complete relocation of TDSB staff and activities from the Oakburn Site. This can be a lengthy process where Ministry approval for this construction requires removing surplus space at Bayview MS.</p>	
<p>Comments, Question and Answer</p>	<p>In addition to the questions asked by voice during the Question and Answer period, many comments and questions were read aloud for those typed in the “chat box”.</p> <p>Support our kids [from Avondale EA School] with bussing, provide EDP options.</p> <p>Many parents live in the catchment zone of Avondale. Unfortunately, the Board does not provide transportation to students attending alternative schools. Students attending alternative schools are required to make their own way to and from school. A childcare study will be conducted should the school move to Bayview, to assess the need of the Avondale Alternative community.</p> <p>What's the point of having this call when most of the parents say "No" to this proposal? Our voices are being heard, but no action taken.</p>	

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	<p>How can the PART recommendation be taken with any weight if staff can just override the opinion of the participants? Doesn't see like a real consensus, historically do PART recommendations get overridden?</p> <p>Is the opinion of the parents balanced on the decision making at all? It seems the decisions is already made hence I am not sure what can we really do nor what is the point on us expression our opinion A purpose of this public meeting is to obtain feedback from the broader community. This includes responses that indicate support and no support. The final decision is made by the Trustees, who are provided a summary of all the feedback received. Trustees review the input from Staff, the PART, and the broader community.</p> <p>Avondale has spent so much money in building a new school/campus, why didn't the overall student capacity not being evaluated to reflect their needs? Enrolment goes up and goes down. Staff recognized this when the Avondale PS attendance area was created for the new building. Enrolments are currently in the upward cycle and approaching the peak.</p> <p>No one wants to go to Bayview MS, it's a total mess of a school... Are you going to fix it up and make it appropriate for the students? Spaces to be used by students will be ready.</p> <p>Bayview MS does not have alternative learning now. How can Bayview MS accommodate the graduates from Avondale Elem Alt? The entire Avondale EA School JK to Grade 8 program is proposed to relocate to Bayview. If approved, there will be two schools at the Bayview site, the middle school (Gr.6 to 8) program and alternative (JK-Gr.8) program.</p> <p>On this slide, schools need replacement or deep retrofit. That includes Bayview MS which is ready to fall. It needs millions on retrofits. Possibly as much as building a new school. The FCI for Bayview is 73%. In-addition there is a \$5.1M backlog for Oakburn. What is the backlog on Bayview MS? \$8M? It was mentioned in the presentation that the backlog of schools across the TDSB is a priority as it relates to replacing schools that are beyond repair. Bayview's existing school remains safe for students and is not beyond repair. Other priorities include building schools in new communities where schools do not</p>	

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	<p>exist, and then the priority to build additions onto existing schools in existing communities where enrolments are surging.</p> <p>How will all the new students get to Bayview Middle school? I am concerned with the increase in car traffic this will cause. More cars at pick up and drop off increase's safety risk. The greatest portion of the Avondale EA School enrolment reside within the Avondale PS and Bayview MS catchment area. Parents are encouraged to have their children walk to school. The Principal of the Bayview site will work with everyone to ensure safe arrival. The work will be ongoing.</p> <p>We do not necessarily want to delay the move if that means students in Avondale AE are moving into portables. Our preference is to fix up Bayview MS as soon as possible by September so that the relocation can happen in summer 2023.</p> <p>Can't we build more portables? The Avondale site has no ability to accommodate portables on site without hindering the existing play area. The adjacent TDSB owned Oakburn Centre has a limit of 7 portables.</p> <p>Thank you for the PART staff and everyone involved. I feel like everyone is seriously involved to find real solutions to this overcrowding problem. The neighborhood students in the catchment area of Avondale public school should be split to continue accommodate a program (e.g., Alternative school) that has transportation as part of the process.</p> <p>Why wasn't this planned proactively that so many high rises being built near Yonge and Sheppard compared to single homes near Bayview MS area? Of course, BM school enrollments are low because we don't see many Highrise buildings. Now we feel negatively impacted by this lack of proactive planning.</p> <p>This slide flags "dividing peer groups and friendships". Then you had better figure out how many people will relocate and how many will join the public school (40-50%). What shows here is that there's very little care or consideration about the alternative kids. You can't use these as arguments against changing the PS if the same arguments speak equally against moving the alternative program. It comes back to perspective. We have a local school for local students. The alternative program is open to the residents across</p>	

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	<p>the entire City of Toronto. For the students within the Avondale PS boundary, Avondale PS is their local school.</p> <p>Who votes for this? Can the school principal for vote, no? The principal has an opportunity to vote but they will vote on the mindset of the parent representatives. The Trustee’s do not vote in the PART process. The PART Process creates a recommendation that is provided to the Trustees. Trustees make the final decision.</p> <p>How is the student forecast being done? More and more towers being built in the area with more children coming to Avondale? How are we forecasting for that? We get the understand of how many are there and we know about the residential developments. It has been maxed out already. Forecasting future student enrolments considers many factors including new residential developments. TDSB Planning recognizes that the subway stations in the area will encourage further residential intensification. TDSB Planning see the enrolments increasing from areas where construction is active, especially east along Sheppard Avenue towards Leslie Street. Also, there is more residential construction happening along Yonge Street north of Finch towards Steeles.</p> <p>Thank you for the presentation. As a parent from BMS, we do not support the move of the alternate school to BMS. School principal, trustee, and parents’ representatives from BMS, please reflect your vote from the BMS parents' view, not TDSB standpoint.</p> <p>It is upsetting that the parent communities have pitted themselves against each other. How families would be affected if we move the public school to Bayview’s. Has there been an assessment done about how many families will be affected? How many siblings will be accepted by the split? There are 200 Grade 6-8’s, with up to 100 students requiring TTC tickets under this option. Unfortunately, the number of these students with younger siblings in other grades is not known. The perspective of Staff is not to recommend this option.</p> <p>It is imperative that the Avondale have its own P and VP for the alternative school. We need to have a strong voice at the table. Will the admin staff and the teachers be able to meet with the other schools so that everyone is very clear on what the roles will be so they can work together? In terms of administrative staff, it will not be any different than it is now.</p>	

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	<p>It does seem like locating to Bayview will work for everyone. When you walk around the neighbourhood there are 3 new towers going up. What are you going to do to avoid this same conversation in 4 or 5 years from now? Can you push back on new developments? We know that the City has pressures to continue to approve construction along the Yonge and Sheppard subway lines. The ability to delay or stop construction is not possible. The lands within Avondale area available for residential intensification have been mostly used. However, some construction is expected. The TDSB has options that are available for long term student accommodation. The TDSB has land holdings and there will be opportunities to add take new student capacity. For example, next to the Avondale site is the Oakburn property. It is currently used as an office building, but it can be used for a future school site. It would be a long process to achieve a new school. Currently, the surplus space at Bayview MS makes a request to build at Oakburn not possible.</p> <p>Has it been considered that moving Hollywood PS to Bayview MS would create a K-8 school and address the surplus space at Bayview? With boundary changes, the Hollywood site could be used to address the space issues at the Avondale site. This is not possible. Hollywood has local area accommodation pressures as well. For this reason, Hollywood will have its own addition constructed.</p> <p>Would there be staggered school start times at BMS? Please address how traffic will be handled at BMS. All those decisions will be made during implementation in partnership with the school community.</p> <p>What are roles of City Planners and School Planning? Do they consider plans for schools? TDSB and its land use planning subsidiary, Toronto Lands Corporation, work with the City when asked to comment on new residential developments. However, the City can not block a residential development if asked by the school board because there is no space at the local school. The school board can not block a residential development on its own asking. If appealed to the Ontario Lands Tribunal, the body that has the last say on developments, the Tribunal will repeat what it has stated in the past. School board have its own resources to solve the capacity problem. If there is no local accommodation, it is expected that the school board transport students to schools with capacity. Schools in the, such as Bayview MS, have capacity</p> <p>And specifically on this site? Given its a namesake school, it seems disingenuous I would like to know how long Avondale Alternative has been in Willowdale? to say it's not based</p>	

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	<p>in this community. It has deep roots here. There has been a school at the Avondale site since 1949. Glen Avon PS closed in the mid-80s because of low local enrolment. Avondale Alternative (elementary and secondary) was created. It occupied the school until 2000. In 2000, Avondale PS was created to accommodate students only from residential developments. It did not have its own attendance area. Local area students were still assigned to Hollywood PS. The secondary alternative school was located to another site to make room for the growing elementary enrolment from the new residential developments.</p> <p>The optional [out of area] attendance offers will go out soon and families need to make decisions. Will we know about the Avondale Alt School before this deadline? You mentioned the "spring". This could be anywhere from March - mid-June. The PART must meet after this meeting to consider the feedback provided. The next meeting is February 14th. A decision on a recommendation will be made by the Trustees on April 19th. Notification that Avondale EA School is involved in a PART process will be given to applicants.</p> <p>Why weren't considerations been made to move Claude Watson gr. 4-8 to another area of the City that is less congested? This would allow Avondale PS to become a k-5 school and all area students could use Claude as a true middle school. Claude Watson School of the Arts is a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school with a fixed enrolment of 300 students. It is a specialized school with specialized spaces. It would be costly to convert it back to a regular classroom. If done, the Claude Watson program would need to be duplicated at another site.</p> <p>When you say there are plans to rebuild Avondale PS in the future, does this possibly mean the Ontario Land Tribunal invoking the Expropriations Act and claim the private lands of the single-family homes of 149 - 185 Avondale Ave? There is no intention to rebuild Avondale PS site. We do not have the need to expropriate land nor would we expect the Ministry of Education to support it.</p> <p>It was mentioned that the Oakburn site may be used to alleviate potential future overcrowding from Earl Haig. Why would this be addressed in this fashion before moving the out of area Claude Watson [secondary] students out of the [Earl Haig] building. That seems to be the cornerstone of the argument for moving Avondale Alt students. The Oakburn site has been mentioned as creating relief for over-crowding at Earl Haig in the</p>	

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	<p>future. Prior to this happening, a conversation will occur to determine if Claude Watson program needs to remain at Earl Haig. As with the elementary Claude Watson program, consideration is given to the extent of duplicating specialized spaces at another location</p> <p>When will we know if the move of the grade 6-8 will happen? Also, when the move may happen. I really hope it will not happen. The move will affect our children, who just started adjusting back to normal. That generation just being stolen the whole entire 3 years being stuck at homes, and there is another change. Staff is not recommending to move the grades 6-8.</p> <p>How many alternative students walk to 171 Avondale? Or does that not matter? 59 students live in the attendance area so we would assume that they would walk.</p> <p>How the population issue will be resolved by moving the alternative when moving 6-8 public side (200 currently) that is more than the Alt? How will this solve the issue? Staff is not recommending moving the public students. Why not move the 6-8 they have a higher population? We should provide TTC tickets to these students. Transportation costs are expensive, and those 200 students have the right to attend their local school. So, we are not going against our guiding principles and take students away from a local community.</p> <p>If we move AE is there a budget to renovate the space so that it is appropriate for the primary students? Yes, there is a budget that will made available. Wilmington PS is using the spaces right now.</p> <p>Currently there is an overcrowding situation. Is there a plan in place to mitigate the overcrowding over the next couple of years. TDSB will add 4 portables for a total of 7 portables adjacent to Avondale PS. Will there be better access for the students in the portables? Our design team will look at this as the portables are being deploy next year.</p> <p>Parents are concerned that their input will not have an effect. What would change this from us going to Bayview what will make a different outcome. Contact local principal who will then notify the PART. Contact your Trustee who will be making a final decision. These are methods of having yourself heard.</p>	

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	<p>Will there be the same number of considerations be given to the Bayview students? There is not segregation between the younger kids and older kids. Gym is split in half they talk about interruptions, kids crying etc. It is being managed collaboratively with the staff in the building. There will be a bit of an adjustment. We need to work with the students and have them build relationships together.</p> <p>What is maximum number of portables that can be placed on the Oakburn site. How many portables existing? 7 is the maximum number.</p> <p>Based on what we are hearing, the move seems inevitable. When can we start discussing the critical things that will be required for this move to be successful? A budget to renovate our area to suit the needs of our children - a proper play area EDP- Bussing- Staggered start/entrance and dismissal- That our school remain autonomous - we are not sharing our teachers - A fully equipped library- Full and fair access to the gym- Access to specialty rooms for the 6, 7 and 8s with no strings attached A proper school yard with facilities for all ages - A dedicated admin (VP and Admin) to manage our requests and support our teachers/students. The decision lies with the Trustees. We do encourage parents to communicate to us by email. After the decision is made, planning for implementing this will occur.</p>	
Next Steps:	The PART Membership will gather feedback from this meeting for our next working meeting on February 14 th , 2023. They will finalize their report and send it back to staff who will review it. The staff will make recommendations based on the feedback received and from the PART Report. This report is then appended to the staff report and is presented to the Board of Trustees for final decision. The Planning & Priorities Committee is scheduled to meet on April 19 th , 2023. This is meeting when the public has an opportunity to depute to the Board. The regular Board Meeting is scheduled for April 26 th , 2023.	
Other Opportunities for Feedback:	Speak to your local Trustee, School Principal or Superintendent or send an email to accommodationreviews@tdsb.on.ca . Prior to the Board Meeting there will be an opportunity for the public to depute at the Planning & Priorities meeting.	
To Depute	You must submit an application to depute at least 2 days before the meeting date of April 19, 2023. To register please visit: https://www.tdsb.on.ca/leadership/boardroom/delgations	

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Adjournment:	8:30pm	