

Bayview Middle School

Parents Concerns Regarding Proposed Avondale Alternative Move

Tuesday February 14, 2023

Submitted to TDSB Avondale Accommodation Pressures PART, Meeting #4, February 14, 2023.

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Traffic Safety Concerns

Private vehicle transportation for additional 140 students

No bussing will be provided (unlike other temporary school relocations)

This will result in:

Increased traffic at school and in local neighbourhood

Limited street parking available

School loop is not amenable to high traffic

Worsening traffic congestion, especially with snow mounds in winter

Increase probability of accidents

One teacher has already been hit by vehicle this school year

Questions

Are the residents in the immediate school area aware of the number of students who will be arriving in public vehicles?

Is the city aware of this change in the number of vehicles that will be in the area?

What traffic studies have been done previously?

What proposed traffic calming / control measures are to be implemented by the city?

Bayview Middle was built for the community to walk to school, not drive there

What specific proposals from TDSB and the school will address this?

Bussing? Additional staff to direct traffic?

Appropriateness of Existing School Facilities / Resources

Bayview Middle School is not currently equipped for primary school students

Accessibility of bathroom facilities

Lack of playscape structure

No age appropriate library books

No developmentally appropriate gym equipment

No childcare is available

Questions

What is the timeline for making structural changes to the school for primary students?

What existing resources and facilities will Bayview Middle students lose?

What will have to be removed to make room for new facilities and resources for new primary students?

What technology resources are needed for Avondale needs?

What existing resources and facilities will Bayview Middle students gain?

Where will funding come from for all the changes needed?

Pre-Teen and Teen Developmental Considerations

Physical changes

Social development

Exploring independence - pushing boundaries, risk taking

Cognitive and Emotional changes

Discovering who they are, and their relation to others

Self-consciousness

Safe and Supportive Environment for Development

Middle school and primary school students both require a safe and supportive environment for their development but their needs are VERY different

Mixing of pre-teen and teen students with primary students will likely require more administrative rules and restrictions that will prohibit all students from safely exploring boundaries themselves

Example: Loss of physical activity wellness of middle school students because they are prohibited from playing soccer as they can kick a ball a greater distance and with greater force that may result in injury of a primary student

Example: Primary students will be allocated to a fenced area (with lack of age appropriate outdoor facilities), limiting in their ability to explore

Questions

What are the developmental and mental health considerations in mixing 4 year olds with 13 year olds in the same school environment?

How will these be addressed?

How will a safe and supportive environment be provided WITHOUT suppression of developmentally appropriate activities for students?

How will the diverse educational needs of 4 year olds to 13 year olds be supported with already limited resources at Bayview Middle? Will there be continued loss of specialized classes and resources?

Alignment of Vision, Mission and Needs

What are the vision, mission, value and needs of Bayview Middle? Avondale Alternative?

What is aligned?

What does not align and how can consensus be reached?

Partnership with the schools and community to be promoted how?

Prior history between schools is additional “baggage”

2 Schools Sharing 1 Physical Space - How will this look?

Changes to school schedule?

- Maintaining rotary system for middle school students

- Keeping students on schedule with least amount of staggering

Sharing of specialized resources / facilities (e.g. D&T, Music, Science, Library)

Adequate space for Avondale needs (e.g room for 140 students with teachers for frequent JK to 8 gatherings)

Adequate space for teaching preparation

Financial independence and contribution to shared resources

Administrative support

Have teachers / staff and students been able to provide their ideas?

Long-Term Planning

Does moving Avondale Alternative address the issue of Avondale Elementary capacity long-term?

How does moving Avondale Alternative impact capacity at Bayview Middle long-term? Will portables be required in 3-5 years?

How does moving school boundaries impact capacity long-term?

Are changes to the current models needed given that enrollment projections to date have resulted in the current situation?

PART Process So Far - Our Perspective

What we know:

Enrollment issues - Avondale is currently over-utilized

Need to utilize surplus space in other schools

Various options have been discussed to this point

Generally there is no or little support from parents about this proposal to move Avondale Alternative to Bayview Middle

PART Process So Far - Our Perspective

What we DO NOT know:

No details about how the diverse educational and developmental needs of our children will be affected or supported

No details about proposed day-to-day structure and schedule

Consensus on use of shared resources

Lack of details regarding how traffic concerns, and facility and resource upgrades will be addressed

No dedicated budget or finances committed to this move

Where We Are

Making an informed decision requires facts and information relevant to the decision

There are many unknowns and unanswered questions still

We cannot support the proposal as is without further details including commitment for funding for needed capital upgrades and resources