

# Final Report of the Program Area Review Team for the Avondale Accommodation Pressures Program Area Review

March 2023

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Avondale Accommodation Pressures Program Area Review Team concurs that a school relocation is necessary and recommends that:

1. A relocation is necessary, and that Avondale Elementary Alternative School be relocated to Bayview Middle School;
2. A boundary change is necessary, and that Grade 6 to 8 addresses currently redirected to Woodbine Middle School be assigned to Bayview Middle School;
3. That implementation of the relocation and boundary change be for September 2024; and
4. That a detailed budget be created and be put forward to Trustees for items already mentioned during the Program Area Review Team process.

## BACKGROUND

A study of the accommodation pressures at Avondale PS was identified in the Long-Term Planning and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS). A second study was also identified to investigate returning residential development redirections in the Sheppard Avenue East and Bayview Avenue area from Woodbine MS to the local school, Bayview MS.

A Local Feasibility Team (LFT) including Trustees, Superintendents, Principals, and central staff was formed to look at options to reduce enrolment pressures at Avondale PS. The LFT developed and considered many options, including the feasibility of using closed and leased schools or administrative sites. After careful review, the LFT recommended that Avondale EA School be relocated to Bayview MS.

The study to end the redirections to Woodbine MS was also added to the scope of the LFT because enrolment modeling suggested there would be space for these students to return to Bayview MS.

The formation of the Program Area Review Team (PART) was approved by the TDSB's Central Accommodation Team (CAT) on October 27, 2022.

The first meeting of the Avondale Accommodation Pressures PART was held on December 20, 2022. The composition of the PART at this meeting included representatives from Avondale PS, Avondale EA School, Bayview MS, Crestview PS and Woodbine MS.

The PART membership was informed of their advisory role and that their objective was to continue the work of the LFT by evaluating the recommended scenario. This would be accomplished through several working meetings and a public meeting.

The PART membership was shown the projected enrolment and capacity for Avondale PS and Avondale EA School with an illustration showing a need for 13 portables as soon as 2027. An illustration for Bayview MS indicating 14 surplus classrooms by 2027 was also shown. Projected enrolment was presented showing there was also space available for ending the redirections from Woodbine MS to Bayview MS.

Comments and questions from the PART informed the direction of the next meeting. This included adding representatives from the other feeder schools to Bayview MS to the PART, asking for more information about the status of Oakburn Centre and Burnett PS, and proposing moving Avondale PS Grades 6-8 to Bayview MS.

At the second meeting on January 12, 2023, the PART welcomed the representatives from the Bayview MS feeder schools; Elkhorn PS, Finch PS, Hollywood PS and McKee PS. Staff repeated the presentation from the first meeting so that new participants had the same background as the existing members.

Staff provided more detailed information about relocating Avondale PS Grade 6 to 8 students to Bayview MS, with Avondale EA School remaining at the Avondale site. Relocating approximately 200 Avondale PS Grade 6 to 8 students to Bayview MS (300 by 2027), does address the surplus capacity at Bayview MS and provides needed spaces at Avondale PS. However, this option impacts an even greater number of families, creates challenges with child minding, generates possible extra costs for families, leaves many students living outside of walking distance to Bayview MS (need

for TTC tickets) and creates a split secondary pathway. As a result of these challenges and concerns this option was not pursued further.

At the second meeting, staff updated the PART on the feedback received. There were 5 emails from the public received at the time. Most of the e-mails opposed the relocation of Avondale EA School to Bayview MS.

The PART membership asked staff several questions about moving to Bayview MS, including accessing resources they now have at Avondale PS, using middle school labs and creating appropriate play spaces for younger students.

A new suggestion was made to allow students that are currently redirected to Woodbine MS to attend to Don Valley MS instead (as most of their peers do), rather than Bayview MS.

The third working meeting of the PART was held on January 31, 2022. The purpose of this meeting was for the members to visit and tour Bayview MS, led by the Principal and Superintendent. The group was shown the space that had been used as FDK rooms, as well as the specialty spaces that Avondale EA School would be able to share with Bayview MS.

Conversation led to the budget required for making the indoor and outdoor space ready for Avondale EA School was also stated by staff that funds needed for the relocation, including improvements for the Kindergarten play area, would not come from school budgets. Trustees and school representatives were skeptical that a budget and the work could be done given their previous experience at Elkhorn PS.

The topic of Avondale EA School having its own site at Burnett PS was raised again and staff reiterated that it is a very small facility, lacks specialized spaces available at the middle school and the poor condition of the facility.

Staff updated the PART on the extent of feedback received so far. For Avondale PS, there was no support for the idea of relocating the Avondale PS Grade 6 to 8 students to Bayview MS, and an electronic petition with approximately 500 names was provided.

Emails from Avondale EA School parents indicated no support to relocate to Bayview MS. The emails received from Crestview PS families were about the impact on a specific address. A Bayview MS parent representative expressed frustration that the conversation held so far was focused mainly on Avondale EA School and Avondale PS,

with little mention of the impact on Bayview MS. Trustees and staff acknowledged this concern.

The PART then discussed what is to be expected at the public meeting scheduled for February 9.

The virtual public meeting for this review was held on Thursday February 9, 2023. A Zoom Webinar platform was used, and registrants were also given the option to participate via telephone.

At the public meeting, staff provided background information about the review and presented the current recommendations to solicit feedback from the broader community. Attendees were invited to submit written questions/comments via a 'Q and A' window in the Zoom Webinar. An option to ask live questions was also provided to participants.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document was produced and posted on the TDSB website after the meeting. The FAQ is a consolidation of questions received throughout the process.

At the final PART working meeting held on February 14, 2023, members were given:

- A summary of the e-mails received.
- A document with the actual emails received. The document was edited to withhold the identity of those who sent the emails.
- A summary of questions and answers from the public meeting.
- An extract of the entire public meeting chat

Avondale EA School, Bayview MS, and Avondale PS parent representatives each made a presentation to the PART. The Avondale EA School presentation argued that they have a unique school community and outlined room requirements they wished to be duplicated at the new location.

The Bayview MS presentation expressed concerns about hazards from additional traffic, the lack of resources (library, outdoor play area, childcare) to support the additional school, the differences between elementary and middle students, and the reduction of resources they currently have with the introduction of Avondale EA School to the Bayview site.

The Avondale PS presentation described its concern for ongoing accommodation pressures after Avondale EA School relocates elsewhere and the ongoing issues of

portables. In addition, the presentation expressed concern for the possibility that Trustees could decide to relocate its Grade 6 to 8 students to Bayview MS instead of Avondale EA School. The presentations were posted to the TDSB's Accommodation Reviews website.

Following this, a review of the PART process to establish PART recommendations was done. The PART then went through a series of questions to establish its recommendations.

1. Is there consensus that relocation is necessary? Yes.
  - The PART recommends that a relocation is necessary.
2. Is there consensus that a boundary change is necessary? Yes.
  - The PART recommends a Woodbine MS to Bayview MS boundary change for those redirected Gr.6 to 8 students is necessary.
3. Is there consensus that Avondale EA School relocate to Bayview MS? No, a vote was required and took place. The vote was 6 to 3 in favor of relocation to Bayview MS.
  - The PART recommends that Avondale EA School relocate to Bayview MS.
4. Is there consensus for the Woodbine MS boundary change to Bayview MS for those Grade 6 to Grade 8 students who have been redirected to Woodbine MS? Yes.
  - The PART recommends a Woodbine MS boundary change to Bayview MS for those Grade 6 to Grade 8 students redirected there.
5. Is there consensus that implementation be for September 2024? Yes.
  - The PART recommends that implementation be for September 2024.
6. Is there consensus that a detailed budget be created and be put forward to Trustees for items already mentioned during the PART process? Yes.
  - The PART recommends that a detailed budget be created and be put forward to Trustees for items already mentioned during the PART process.

Recommendation 6 came from the PART after a lengthy conversation between staff and Trustees with parent representatives. Trustee and parent representatives felt that Question 3, the proposed relocation to Bayview MS, was premature to ask at this time because a detailed budget and design were not completed.

Staff responded by stating that creating a detailed scope of work and associated costing would occur after the Trustees approve the relocation to Bayview MS.

Although staff stated that there is sufficient space at Bayview MS to accommodate Avondale EA School, staff agreed with the parents that improvements to the exterior spaces are required. These improvements are focused on the Kindergarten pen area and fixtures for the middle school area. Staff indicated that age and program appropriate interior spaces exist already at Bayview MS as the spaces were previously used by Avondale PS and EA School, and until recently, by Wilmington ES. Delaying the PART recommendations for a detailed budget and scope of work will reduce the available the time needed for TDSB staff to implement the required improvements at Bayview MS.

Staff also explained why a change to the recommended implementation date from September 2023 to September 2024 happened. Staff shared that the PART fell behind schedule because the working meetings of the PART were delayed, which pushed the Board approval date by one month to April 2023.

Facility Services staff indicated that the ability to complete the required improvements to the outdoor play area for September 2023 is unlikely. The additional time will allow for a collaborative implementation plan to be developed involving stakeholders that will result in a productive implementation.

In light of this implementation change, staff will proceed with placing four additional portables onto the Oakburn site this summer to meet the accommodation needs of the Avondale site through the 2023-24 school year.

Slide presentations from all PART working meetings and the public meeting were posted on the TDSB accommodation review webpage.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### Program Area Review Team

| School/Organization                       | Name             | Role                  |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|
| Avondale Elementary<br>Alternative School | Artemis Manoukas | Principal             |
| Avondale Elementary<br>Alternative School | Melanie Tolensky | Parent Representative |
| Avondale Elementary<br>Alternative School | Cheri Louie      | Parent Representative |

| School/Organization    | Name               | Role                   |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Avondale PS            | Artemis Manoukas   | Principal              |
| Avondale PS            | Stacey Found       | Parent Representative  |
| Avondale PS            | Maki Nemoto        | Parent Representative  |
| Bayview Middle School  | Janice Kent        | Principal              |
| Bayview Middle School  | Melody Nguyen      | Parent Representative  |
| Bayview Middle School  | Mandy Hung         | Parent Representative  |
| Crestview PS           | Andrea Samartzis   | Principal              |
| Crestview PS           | Monique Phillips   | Parent Representative  |
| Elkhorn PS             | Lone Smith         | Principal              |
| Elkhorn PS             | TBA                | Parent Representative  |
| Finch PS               | Dima Nijmeh-Mantia | Principal              |
| Finch PS               | Jesse James        | Parent Representative  |
| Finch PS               | Natalia Kao        | Parent Representative  |
| Hollywood PS           | Bill Waldman       | Principal              |
| Hollywood PS           | Jaime Fraser       | Parent Representative  |
| McKee PS               | Jeanette Lang      | Principal              |
| McKee PS               | Melissa Ash        | Parent Representative  |
| McKee PS               | Maria Speare       | Parent Representative  |
| Woodbine Middle School | Michelle Fraser    | Principal              |
| Woodbine Middle School | Danielle Ferguson  | Parent Representative  |
| LN08                   | Marwa Hamid        | Superintendent         |
| LN11                   | Kurt McIntosh      | Superintendent         |
| LN12                   | Domenic Giorgi     | Superintendent (Chair) |
| TDSB Trustee           | Weidong Pei        | Trustee, Ward 12       |
| TDSB Trustee           | James Li           | Trustee, Ward 13       |

#### Staff Resources

| Organization        | Name             | Role                         |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| TDSB                | Susan Moulton    | Centrally Assigned Principal |
| TDSB                | Peter Chang      | System Superintendent        |
| TDSB                | Peter Naperstkov | Planning Department          |
| TDSB                | David Paltser    | Planning Department          |
| Mothercraft Daycare | Jennifer Moore   | Supervisor                   |
| TDSB                | Kelly MacDougall | Administrative Liaison       |

#### Meeting Details

| Meeting Type        | Date                   | Time                    |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tues. Dec. 20, 2022 | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Working PART Meeting #1 |

| Meeting Type         | Date                   | Time                    |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Thurs. Jan. 12, 2023 | 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. | Working PART Meeting #2 |
| Tues. Jan. 31, 2023  | 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | Working PART Meeting #3 |
| Thurs. Feb. 9, 2023  | 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. | Public Meeting          |
| Tues. Feb. 14, 2023  | 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | Working PART Meeting #4 |

**ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES**

**Boundary change between Woodbine MS and Bayview MS to return Grade 6 to 8 students redirected to Woodbine MS to Bayview MS**

If approved, the boundary change would end residential redirections between Woodbine MS and Bayview MS. Returning these students would increase the projected enrolment of Bayview MS by a small amount.

Currently there are 60 Grade 6 to 8 regular program students residing within the redirected addresses, with only 18 students attending Woodbine MS. If the historical pattern continues, by 2032, it is projected that the total number of students being redirected would be 86, with only 21 attending Woodbine MS. The projected enrolment includes future residential development not yet occupied.

Conversations during the PART mentioned that the existing pathway for the redirected students creates a split boundary at middle school. The majority of Crestview PS students continues to Don Valley MS while the redirected students attend Woodbine MS for Grades 6 to 8. The students then rejoin at Georges Vanier SS for Grades 9 to 12. Ending redirections and returning students to their local school aligns with the Guiding Principles of the LTPAS. However, ending redirections and returning students to Bayview MS does not address the split pathway.

It was proposed that the change to Bayview MS should be a change to Don Valley MS instead. Pending the availability of space, Don Valley MS may be an option through the Out of Area Admission process.

**Legacy Student Provision**

To assist in the transition to Bayview MS, the PART discussed and suggested to staff that a legacy student provision be provided to allow redirected students the option of attending either Bayview MS or Woodbine MS.



Staff indicated to the PART that this has occurred with other boundary changes. In this situation, current students at addresses subject to the boundary change are given the option to remain in the existing school and pathway (Woodbine MS) or move to the new school (Bayview MS). A consideration was given to siblings not yet attending one of these schools. All students new to the TDSB without an older sibling already enrolled at one of the mentioned schools would attend Bayview MS.

### **Relocation of Avondale EA School to Bayview MS for September 2024**

The relocation of Avondale EA School to Bayview MS does provide relief to the accommodation pressure at Avondale PS. However, up to 7 portables may be required for the mid-term until projected enrolment declines after 2028.

The portables required for Avondale PS are located on the adjacent Oakburn Centre site. The existing 3 portables will be supplemented by an additional 4 portables in the summer of 2023 so that Avondale EA School can remain until its relocation until June 2024. After the Avondale EA School is relocated, the additional portables will not be fully required until 2027.

Staff may conduct an address audit of Avondale PS students to ensure that only those with an eligible home address or childcare arrangements are enrolled at the school.

The location and use of the existing and additional portables are general concerns of the Avondale PS parents. Specifically, ensuring appropriate separation from the Oakburn Centre activities, access to the Avondale building doors and washrooms, as well as which school will occupy the portables.

Avondale EA School relocating to Bayview MS will improve the overall enrolment of the Bayview MS building. By 2027 the enrolment of Bayview MS is projected to be 325 students, being 51% utilized, with up to 14 vacant classrooms. Avondale EA School requires 6 classrooms, which will reduce the Bayview MS vacant classroom count to 7 classrooms. There is ample space for the projected 21 students projected to return from redirection at Woodbine MS. Should all 86 students (an equivalent of 4 classrooms) return from redirection at Woodbine MS and other schools, the vacant classroom count becomes 3 classrooms.

Bayview MS parent representatives have indicated many concerns about the relocation: increased traffic and safety of students if Avondale EA School parents drive to Bayview MS (student transportation is not provided). Also of concern was the required fit up for the Avondale EA School classrooms and outdoor area, including budget implications for

both schools. The differences between younger primary students and middle students are a concern, as was the past negative experience of Avondale PS and EA School while temporarily located at Bayview MS. Likewise, the Avondale EA School parents have expressed similar concerns, and emphasized the importance of maintaining their unique school programming and identity.

Staff echo the thoughts of the Bayview MS Principal who indicated at several PART meetings that change is inevitable and through collaborative implementation planning the schools can achieve more together.

Both school communities must understand that give and take is required to make this proposed change successful. The change of implementation from September 2023 to 2024 will provide additional time to help in the implementation planning.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

There was not consensus on the full set of recommendations presented. A vote was required to establish the recommendation that Avondale EA School relocate to Bayview MS.

Parents recognized the space realities and the necessity of this change to address the overcrowding at the Avondale site.

There was concern from Trustees and some parents that the relocation recommendation was not fully informed because of a comprehensive budget and scope of work was not completed. From this, consensus was achieved for a recommendation that asked for a budget to be developed.

There was consensus for the boundary change between Woodbine MS and Bayview MS for those Grade 6 to 8 students redirected. It was identified that students in this situation be given the option between Woodbine MS and Bayview MS.

Throughout the course of the discussions, parents and community members at the PART working meetings and the public meeting provided feedback and raised several questions.

The conversations at the PART working meetings about the information and recommendations were lengthy, robust, and full of thoughtful questions.

With careful planning and the commitment of school staff, administration, parents, the Superintendents, and Trustees, the PART believes that these recommendations will improve the current accommodation issues at the Avondale site.

The TDSB needs to continue to work towards adding school capacity in this area of the city. Parents have asked for the long-term plan for this area and await staff's response.

### **Details about Feedback Received During Program Area Review Process**

#### **Breakdown of the number of emails received by school:**

- Avondale EA School - 51
- Avondale PS – 35
- Bayview MS – 3
- Crestview PS – 2

#### **The most common themes observed:**

- Getting to and from school
- Childcare being available
- Use of Burnett PS
- Mental health and stress caused by change
- Parking, drop off and pick up
- Hardship to family when JK to 8 is split up between schools
- Improvements are needed at Bayview MS before relocation can happen
- Separation of youngest students from the oldest at Bayview MS
- Capacity of Avondale site - Why was Avondale not built to the correct size?  
Avondale PS still needs portables
- The long-term plan for Avondale area schools
- Existing use of specialized spaces will be lessened for Bayview MS students
- Equity concerns: impact on New Canadians, local school for local students versus a school without boundary

#### **Suggested different locations for Avondale EA School and different solutions to the overcrowding at Avondale PS:**

- Oakburn Centre, Burnett PS, and Forrest Valley Outdoor Education Centre
- Redirect new students only
- Phase out Alternative Programs from crowded schools and phase in at uncrowded schools
- Look at the problem through an evaluation table

**Most common themes of the online chat (number of observations) from the public meeting:**

- Needed and timing of improvements at Bayview (play area, EDP, bussing, library, washrooms, parking) (19)
- Other Options: Hollywood, Claude Watson, Burnett, relocate beyond Willowdale, eliminate Avondale EA, Move PS 6-8 (13)
- Frustration, Unheard, Not Fair (8)
- Budget needed for improvements at Bayview MS (5)
- How will more residential development be accommodated (4)
- More portables at Avondale PS, who goes into them? (4)
- Thank you for the information, hosting (4)
- When will the final decision be made? (3)
- Middle school student behaviour (3)
- Staggered start times (2)
- How many EA students will remain at Avondale PS, go to Bayview MS? (2)
- What is the successful rate of application to school? (2)
- Communities put against each other (2)
- Developers pay; Education Development Charges, Delay future development (2)
- Can the recording of this meeting, and or power point be made available? (2)
- How are projections done? (2)
- Hardship on families (transportation, looking after siblings, extra cost) (2)
- More driving is counter to the greener environment initiative (2)
- More portables versus a delay in relocation (2)

**DISSENTING REPORTS AND APPENDICIES**

Two dissenting reports were submitted after the circulation of the PART report to the membership. Those reports are attached as appendices:

- PART Report Appendix A: Avondale Elementary Alternative School Dissenting Report to the PART Report
- PART Report Appendix B: Dissenting Report of the Bayview MS Parent Representatives

## **Avondale Elementary Alternative School Dissenting Report to the PART Report**

Avondale EA parent representatives, Melanie and Cheri, have reviewed the draft report that was forwarded to all on Friday, March 3, 2023. Thank you for the work that has been put into writing the report the last 2.5 weeks since our last PART meeting on February 14, 2023. Below are our comments and requests which we have been asked to put together in a Dissenting Report.

While the draft report summarizes many important points covered during the PART meeting sessions, it is missing very important points that were also covered.

### **Additional Important Points**

1. A proper description of Avondale EA, its unique program as an alternative school, and its requirements/needs to fill the gaps from being removed from a long awaited brand new purpose-built school for an alternative program to an older middle school building situation. We are 141 students where 59 of the students live in the Avondale PS catchment area. (see Appendix A) We are an alternative school but we will lose access to child minding and generate extra cost for families to provide transportation to school where students would otherwise walk.
  
2. Requirements mentioned in the report are 6 classrooms, access to specialty classrooms and a kindergarten play space only. There were more requirements cited in the PART meetings, as well as in the Avondale EA Parent Council letter submitted to Planning on January 19, 2023 (see Appendix B) and Avondale EA presentation in PART Meeting #4 on February 14, 2023. (see Appendix C or [https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC\\_helpful\\_info\\_docs/P2023\\_0214\\_Avondale%20EA%20Sch%20Parent%20Revised%20Presentation\\_for\\_Web.pdf](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/P2023_0214_Avondale%20EA%20Sch%20Parent%20Revised%20Presentation_for_Web.pdf)). Please include the complete list of requirements as follows in the below table when answering question 6 of the report that a detailed budget be created and be put forward to Trustees for items already mentioned during the PART process.

## **Avondale EA School Assessment**

### **What We Need**

- Permanent marked area of the building for Avondale EA to call Home
- 1 kindergarten class, 5 regular classrooms, French room, library, multipurpose common space for 150 persons, staff room, office, storage space
- Access to Bayview MS gym, sports fields, stage, D&T. (Please note: we run many sports and whole school activities!!)
- Age appropriate outdoor play area and structures, outfitted kindergarten pen, inquiry garden
- Dedicated entrance and pick up/drop off area and parking
- Staggered entry and exit times
- Own scheduling and PA system
- Dedicated Staff including 0.5 VP and 1.0 office assistant
- Resource staff to support all learning types and needs
- A fully equipped age-appropriate library including a librarian
- Built-in projector system and Smartboards in every room, as currently available at 171 Avondale
- Tech Tub, full class set of iPads for JK/SK
- Full class set of chromebooks for primary grades
- Autonomy to run our alternative school program
- Improved ventilation and working A/C
- EDP
- Bussing
- Involvement in the design and renovation of our new home

3. The relocation of Mountview Alternative School to Runnymede Collegiate was put forth by Avondale EA parent representatives as a recent example of a relocation of a JK-8 alternative program and its learnings. This information would have been highly beneficial and saved time for all had it been provided by TDSB at the beginning of the PART process. It should be cited in the Report. It models how a JK-8 alternative program can share a building with a secondary school but still have autonomy to run its own program. Sadly, Mountview Alternative lost 50% of its students and all but 2 teachers during the relocation and took 4 years to redefine the core values of their alternative program and to rebuild their community within their new Home. Let us use these learnings and get on a better track for Avondale EA.
4. “There was concern from Trustees and some parents that the relocation recommendation was not fully informed because of a comprehensive budget and scope of work was not completed. From this, consensus was achieved for a recommendation that asked for a budget to be developed.” (PART Report, page 10.) Please add the discussed need during PART Meeting #4 on February 14, 2023, for dates associated with this budget.
5. We disagree with the wording in regards to the delay of the recommended implementation date from September 2023 to September 2024 (PART Report, page 6). The first communication about a relocation of Avondale EA came through interim Principal Karen Thomas at the first parent council meeting of the school year on October 12, 2022. The first PART meeting session was held on December 20, 2022. There was no indication that a Board approval date needed to be met in March for recommended implementation of September 2023. From the beginning, the whole process was started late by staff and TDSB. Our Avondale Schools community, PS and EA, harmoniously co-existed at 171 Avondale up until this school year where we have been stressed and literally divided by separate parent councils and accounting. Our students are experiencing the same pressures and division amongst friends and in the school yard. Please consider these pressures in your timelines and how well and efficiently we can progress the recommended relocation.

The primary purpose of relocating Avondale EA is to open up 141 spaces at Avondale PS and by doing so, also improves the overall utilization at Bayview MS to improve the possibility of a new CT Lands school being approved. (see Appendix D) Avondale EA may be a small school but it certainly is mighty with an outstanding group of students, staff and a high level of parent and community involvement. Our hope is to progress the relocation process in the best possible way and to work alongside Bayview MS to create a welcoming Home for Avondale EA where we can carry on with our program values and retain as many students and staff as possible.

Thank you for your time,

Cheri Louie and Melanie Tolensky

Avondale EA Parent Representatives



## Appendix A

### Currently 59 Avondale EA students reside in the Avondale PS attendance area

#### Avondale Accommodation Pressures PART Meeting #2

### Staff Recommended Scenario for Discussion

#### Avondale Elem Alt School relocates to Bayview MS

- Staff is recommending that Avondale Elementary Alternative School be relocated to Bayview MS. After looking at several possible solutions, staff considers Bayview MS to be the most viable due to its location and availability of space.

#### **Opportunities of Relocating Avondale EA Sch to Bayview MS; and ending Redirection to Woodbine:**

- At 2.2 km between schools (3.1 km walking), Bayview MS is the closest school. Existing familiarity to Bayview school and neighbourhood. Bayview MS hosted Avondale PS and EA Sch between 2015 and 2019. Ends redirection to Woodbine for students from new residential developments since 2002
- Access to similar program spaces such as Science labs, Design & Tech rooms, large gymnasium, although not as new as at the Avondale building.
- Enough space to keep Avondale EA School in tact as a JK-8& end redirection to Woodbine MS.
- No construction or renovation required. Age and grade appropriate indoor and outdoor spaces already exist at Bayview MS.
- Improves the overall utilization at Bayview MS, and improves the possibility of a new CTL school being approved.
- The closest school with capacity.
- The option is likely to lose the least amount Avondale EA students:
  - The second largest number of Avondale EA (17) students come from the Bayview MS area. First is the Avondale PS attendance area at 59.

#### **Challenges:**

- The loss of Avondale EA students.
- For Crestview graduates, friendships and peers may break as most graduates go to Woodbine for Gr.6.
- Creating the expectation of attending Earl Haig SS as peer groups and friendships forms with Bayview MS students.
- Projected 7 portables remain needed Avondale PS, although not 13 if nothing is done.
- Age appropriate Before and After programming for Avondale EA students at Bayview.

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## Appendix B

### Avondale EA presentation in PART Meeting #4 on February 14, 2023



# Avondale Elementary Alternative School

SCHOOL PROFILE

FEBRUARY 2023

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## School at a Glance



SMALL SCHOOL  
ENVIRONMENT



MULTI-AGE FOCUSED



EXPERIENTIAL  
LEARNING



ENGAGED SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY



PASSIONATE ABOUT  
ACHIEVEMENT

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

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# Avondale Elementary Alternative School

Avondale Elementary Alternative School (JK-8) established in 1976. We are a school of about 140 students.

- Collaborative inquiry and learning.
- Multi-age learning- there are many school wide, cooperative learning experiences.
- The development of healthy relationships. Student engagement, enthusiasm and growth occur when students feel included, confident and supported.
- A high level of student independence and personal responsibility at all grade levels.
- Learning and growth through frequent, out-of-classroom experiences and invited guests and programs. (For example: overnight outdoor education and team building trips and ski trips for grades 1-8)
- A high level of parent and community engagement. Parent portal to keep our community up to date with all our activities.  
<https://avondalealternative.wixsite.com/parents>

## School Organization

- FDK (JK/SK) 28 students
- Grade 1/2 - 20 students (as per Provincial Ministry primary class cap)
- Grade 2/3 - 20 students (as per Provincial Ministry primary class cap)
- Grade 4/5
- Grade 5/6
- Grade 7/8
- Special Education
- Rotary instruction in Music, Social Studies/History, French (J/I)

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## Groundbreaking 2016

The school at 171 Avondale was built and designed with the Alternative School's needs in mind. Designs include areas for collaboration and larger multi-age gathering.

Groundbreaking was a big deal for our kids, even preparing speeches for the day!

So as we move, let's focus on making this a positive experience and our destination a permanent home for our community!



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

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2022-2023 School Year to date - Whole School Multi-Age Activity Days



2022-2023 School Year to date - Council led Pillowcase Art JK-8 and Cedar Glen Overnight Trip Grades 1-8



2022-2023 School Year to date - Fundraising Events

**HOT LUNCHES - partnering with neighbourhood restaurants to support our community**

**AVONDALE ALTERNATIVE PIZZA DAY**

Hot your children for a treat set at our Pizza Day and eat

Monday, February 14  
Tuesday, February 15  
Wednesday, March 22  
Thursday, March 23

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**AVONDALE ALTERNATIVE TOYS SPRING FAIR SATURDAY**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Spring Fair is our biggest fundraising opportunity of the year, with all proceeds benefiting the Alternative Program. But without you, it won't happen! Help us make this event a success by signing up to lend a specific activity!

[Volunteers@tsuborn.ca](mailto:Volunteers@tsuborn.ca)

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

2022-2023 School Year to date - Avondale EA School Sports (Huge thanks to our wonderful teachers!!)

- Girls Borden Ball Gr 7/8 D1 City Champions
- Cross Country Gr 1-8 including 6 City Finalists
- Girls Gr 5/6 Soccer
- Boys Gr 4/5 Soccer
- Girls Gr 4/5 Basketball D2 Conference Champions
- Boys Gr 4/5 Volleyball Conference Finalists
- Boys Gr 7/8 Volleyball
- Girls Gr 6/7/8 Basketball
- Co-ed Ball Hockey Gr 4/5 D2 Champions

Still to come...

- Girls Volleyball Gr 5/6
- Boys Basketball Gr 4/5
- Boys Basketball Gr 7/8
- Co-ed Ball Hockey Gr 7/8
- Swim
- Ultimate
- Track & Field
- and more!

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

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# Avondale Elementary Alternative School Assessment

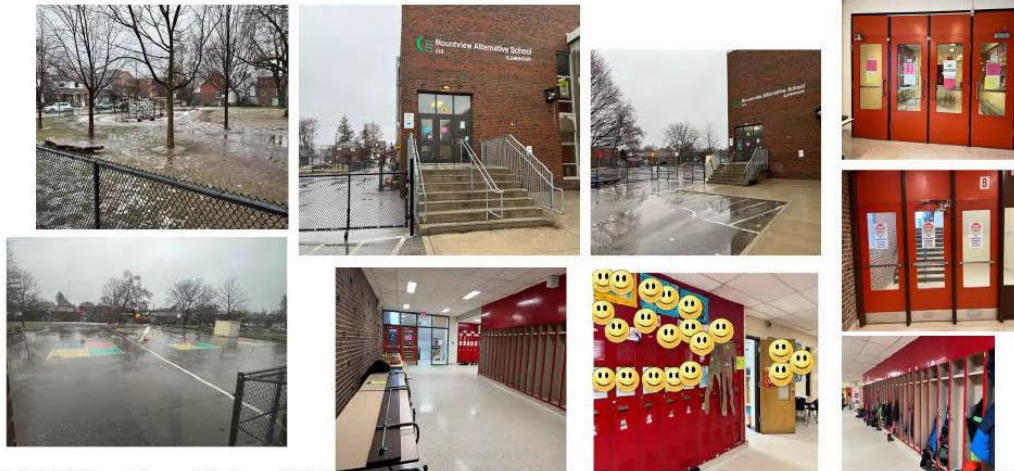
## What We Need

- Permanent marked area of the building for Avondale EA to call Home
- 1 kindergarten class, 5 regular classrooms, French room, library, multipurpose common space for 150 persons, staff room, office, storage space
- Access to Bayview MS gym, sports fields, stage, D&T. (Please note: we run many sports and whole school activities!!)
- Age appropriate outdoor play area and structures, outfitted kindergarten pen, inquiry garden
- Dedicated entrance and pick up/drop off area and parking
- Staggered entry and exit times
- Own scheduling and PA system
- Dedicated Staff including 0.5 VP and 1.0 office assistant
- Resource staff to support all learning types and needs
- A fully equipped age-appropriate library including a librarian
- Built-in projector system and Smartboards in every room, as currently available at 171 Avondale
- Tech Tub, full class set of iPads for JK/SK
- Full class set of chromebooks for primary grades
- Autonomy to run our alternative school program
- Improved ventilation and working A/C
- EDP

•Bussing  
Submitted to TDSB Avondale Accommodation Pressures PART, Meeting #4, February 14, 2023.  
•Involvement in the design and renovation of our new home

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## Mountview Alternative (JK-8)



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

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# Mountview Alternative (JK-8)

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Please see Mountview Alternative website for more information including a video tour of their school.


<https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/mountview-alternative/home>

## Learnings from Mountview Relocation

- Loss of 50% of the student population
- Loss of all but 2 teaching staff
- It has taken the last 4 years to redefine the core values of their alternative program and to rebuild their community within their new Home.
- Highlighting the differences between the two schools for better planning.
- Recognizing the needs of a young student population is very different and more frequent than older students. Having a separate office assistant is essential.
- Differentiating timetables was key to mitigate issues of flow and traffic. More traffic and parking needs for a young student population.
- Having a dedicated section of the building provided a Home for the alternative program.
- One of the highlights of this relocation process for the students was designing their outdoor play and learning space.
- TDSB created a focus group from all age groups of MV students to understand what they wanted out of the green space and incorporate principles of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) in alignment with the vision of their alternative school.
- Renovations started in May of 2018, still multiple deficiencies when they moved in September 2018.
- Sharing of gym space is at a disadvantage to MV due to Kunnymede running many sports and tournaments.

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

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Please help us keep our  
school the amazing place it is  
for our kids.

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YOUR DEDICATED AVONDALE ELEMENTARY ALTERNATIVE PARENT COUNCIL

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

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## Appendix C

### Avondale EA Parent Council letter submitted to Planning

**From:** Cheri Louie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** January 19, 2023 10:36 PM  
**To:** Naperstkw, Peter <[REDACTED]>; accommodationreviews <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** Melanie Tolensky <[REDACTED]>; Alison Burke <[REDACTED]>; Derek Yap <[REDACTED]>; Pei, Weidong <[REDACTED]>; Tsolos, Dimitra <[REDACTED]>; Manoukas, Artemis <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Avondale Alternative Review of PART Meeting #2

Hello Peter,

Avondale Alternative Parent Council Meeting was held in-person last night to review some key slides from PART session #2 and next steps.

**In attendance:**

Cheri Louie – Co-Chair Parent Council  
Dimitra Tsolos – Avondale Vice Principal  
Derek Yap – Treasurer Parent Council  
Alison Burke – Secretary Parent Council  
Dr. Weidong Pei – Trustee  
Parents of Avondale Alt Public School

In summary, myself, Dimitra and Dr. Pei communicated and confirmed that Avondale Public School is over capacity. There is a bigger issue at hand and moving the Alternative school is one small piece of a much larger puzzle.

Parents in attendance expressed concerns that this is a 'band aid solution'. They are upset at the lack of planning and foresight from TDSB and its partners. They are upset that the students and families are bearing the brunt of this.

I would like to share some specific comments noted in our Minutes.

1. *If Avondale Alt moves to Bayview Middle School and next year it is decided the Avondale Public 6, 7, 8 also need to move to make space in the school, could they also be moved to Bayview Middle School (it is clear there is no other space in the ward) and then Bayview would be over capacity OR could Alt be moved again?*
2. *There is currently a TDSB building/school being rented to a private school in our ward. It would fit the Alt School perfectly and the lease expires in 2024. Why isn't this option being considered? It is not fair nor right to have public school kids at over-capacity or sharing facilities when there are other buildings available.*  
<http://www.prestigeprivateschool.ca/> - address is 21 Eddfield Ave



3. *Is there a larger plan for getting school zoning, capacity under control and new schools built? Parents would like to see a plan.*
4. *The current TDSB model is for schools to transition or stay as K-8. Middle schools are being phased out – but would that change for Avondale due to population size?*
5. *If Alt is moving to Bayview Middle School, parents agreed it is NOT currently set up to house a K-8 program as it currently stands. Is there a budget to renovate the yard, increase the library, etc. Other points raised included building bike lanes, staggered start/end times with a dedicated drop off point and door only for Alt. All ideas and suggestions should be sent BEFORE TUESDAY to [accommodationreviews@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:accommodationreviews@tdsb.on.ca)*

As Parent Council, we understand that each family has their own circumstances and views on the recommendation. Our message to the community last night is that everyone voice their concerns by email to [accommodationsreviews@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:accommodationsreviews@tdsb.on.ca) and CC Trustee Dr. Weidong Pei and Avondale Alternative Parent Council Chairs.

As a community, we drew up a list of Avondale Alternative requirements at Bayview Middle. We can review more of these requirements on Tuesday, January 31.

#### **Bayview MS Requirements**

1. 1 kindergarten classroom and 5 regular classrooms in a concentrated area of the building with own designated entry door for Alternative only
2. Large Common space for 150 persons (exclusive to Avondale EA in order to remove scheduling conflicts between the 2 schools over its use)
3. Access to Art, Music, Science, Design & Tech rooms, gym, field and stage
4. Staggered entry different from Bayview Middle students
5. Library with book collection suitable for JK-5
6. Outdoor primary play space and play structure
7. EDP or equivalent before and after care
8. Designated pickup and drop off area and parking for JK-5
9. Bussing for families living in Avondale PS attendance area (59)
10. Bayview Middle is 65 years old and in need of renovation, upgrades, maintenance, working A/C, etc.

#### **Consideration of Burnett PS instead of Bayview MS**

Aside from the recommendation to relocate to Bayview MS, we require further investigation into the option of Burnett PS at 21 Eddfield Avenue. As noted previously in your slide deck, the lease to Prestige School expires June 30, 2024 – 12 month notice. Building rated at 173 pp. This option looks far better for a long-term fit for Avondale Alternative and the growing enrollment and accommodation issues at Avondale PS.

1. This option compared to Bayview MS will lose fewer Avondale EA students. It is closer in distance and the option of a permanent elementary space for Avondale EA is valued.
2. Shorter 2.8km walking distance from Avondale PS area (59 students come from this area) compared to 3.1km walking to Bayview MS.
3. Possibly no construction or renovation required. Age and grade appropriate indoor and outdoor spaces already exist. Playscape included.
4. Avondale EA having its own building reduces scheduling conflicts that result when 2 schools with different schedules and space needs are forced to share one school.
5. Located close to many green spaces including Earl Bales Park which is highly beneficial to the alternative program.

6. Gives all parties involved time to plan and make preparations. Less ambiguity for new admissions to Avondale EA, accepting applications January 16 to February 16, 2023.
7. Gives the opportunity for Bayview MS to redraw its boundaries and to accept more middle-school aged students. No investment needed if Bayview MS is maintained as a school for grades 6-8 only.
8. Gives opportunity to study the middle school pathway for Avondale PS grades 6-8 by not preoccupying Bayview MS with Avondale EA. Maintaining the JK-8 model at Avondale PS projects to be unavoidable in the near future. 13 new students alone received in the first week back of January 2023. Prematurely moving Avondale EA to Bayview MS will limit future options for TDSB and is a huge concern for the permanence of Avondale EA at Bayview. Avondale EA has moved two-three times already. (2015 to Bayview MS, 2018 older grades move to Cummer MS, April 2019 all move back to New School). Avondale EA does not want to move to Bayview MS in September 2023, only to be relocated again a couple years later.
9. Does not hinder Bayview MS ability to accommodate graduates of the future JK-5 CT Lands PS.

We recognize that the relocation of Avondale EA is seemingly unavoidable. The growing enrollment and accommodation pressures at Avondale PS is exponentially greater than the numbers suggested in the research. We are starting to question if the relocation of Avondale EA to Bayview MS is still the most viable option. We are questioning if a two-fold change, Avondale EA to Burnett and Avondale PS grades 6-8 to Bayview MS in September 2024 would solve more of the issues. This idea also presents itself as a more equitable recommendation to ask for a move from both Avondale PS and EA.

Respectfully,

Avondale Alternative Parent Council

## Appendix D

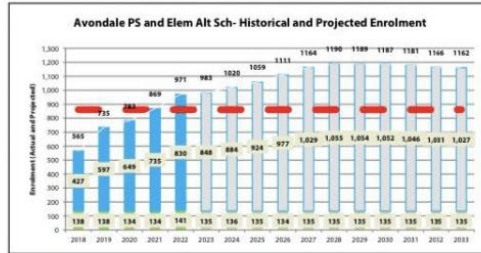
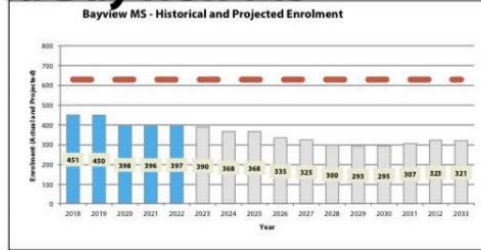
### Balancing Enrollments to improve possibility of a new JK-5 school near Bessarion Subway Station (CT Lands School)

Avondale Accommodation Pressures PART Meeting #1

## What is wrong with the Status Quo at Avondale PS and Bayview MS

#### Challenges:

- 1,110 students is too large for an elementary school site.
- Avondale is 5.4 acre site.
- Portables needed in the future at Avondale PS.
  - 3 portables greatly hinders program delivery and out door space.
  - 13 portables exceeds site's capacity.
- Significant surplus spaces exists at Bayview MS. Up to 14 classrooms vacant by 2027 and beyond
- The Ministry requires school boards to balance enrolments amongst schools before asking for new construction.
- Without balancing enrolments, the Ministry will not likely approve;
  - A new JK-5 school near Bessarion Subway Station?
  - Any future addition and or re-build of older schools and buildings in the area.



## **Dissenting Report of the Bayview MS Parent Representatives**

### Summary

Thank you Cheri and Melanie for bringing up salient points that should be added to the report so that Trustees can better understand the issues, and be able to make an informed decision when voting. Thank you to everyone on the committee who has drafted the report. We just have a few points to highlight.

### Content

In regards to point 2, from the perspective of Bayview Middle School, it is important that, in meeting requirements for Avondale EA, Bayview Middle School students do not lose the current quality of their education because of reduction in resources or access to specialized classrooms as resources and specialized classroom spaces are shared amongst an additional 140 students. For example, given the fixed number of hours in a school day, how much reduced time will Bayview Middle School students have in the design and technology room when sharing with additional students, and how will this affect the quality of their education having less time in the specialized classroom when such a topic is very dependent on hands-on learning.

In regards to point 3, were the factors that resulted in loss of students and staff in the relocation of Mountview Alternative School to Runnymede Collegiate identified so that these can be addressed in the relocation of Avondale EA? Mountview Alternative School also had to redefine the core values of their alternative program, so core values of both Avondale EA and Bayview Middle School should be reviewed and there should be alignment of values.

We ask that the safety and preservation of all our childrens' education quality be first and foremost in this relocation process. We empathize with the difficult environment that Avondale EA finds themselves in at this time given the delay in implementation date, and the disruption of their harmonious co-existence to date with Avondale PS.

We would also like to add that we feel the PART meeting sessions did not provide much opportunity for the voices of the most important stakeholders, students and teachers, to be heard so that recommendations from their perspective could be added to the report. We understand that these are recommendations, and there is no implementation process at this stage, but we feel that recommendations must represent the voices of the schools' students and teachers.

We thank everyone for their time and efforts.