

Updated February 23, 2023

## **Revisiting the Eglinton Jr PS to Whitney Jr PS Redirection Study – Questions and Answers**

### **Context regarding this study:**

The TDSB has a system of neighbourhood elementary schools. However, in some neighbourhoods, the amount of development puts significant accommodation pressures on the area's home school – that is especially true at Eglinton Jr PS. As a result, the temporary redirection of residential addresses to other TDSB schools is a method used to help address overcrowding at the home school. As part of the TDSB's guiding principles, this is to ensure that the educational needs of students are met at a school with an optimal capacity.

Once the home school decreases in enrolment and demonstrates it has the space, these redirected addresses are reversed and brought back to their home school. This speaks to the TDSB's guiding principles of focusing on building strong neighbourhood schools that offer programs and learning resources within a student's local neighbourhood, where safe and sustainable transportation is accessible to students and their families.

In regard to this proposal, the 10 residential addresses were temporarily redirected to Whitney Jr PS back in 2018 to help ease enrolment pressures at Eglinton Jr PS as a temporary measure. Since then, the TDSB has implemented long term solutions, which have created space at Eglinton Jr PS. These solutions include a boundary change with John Fisher Jr PS and the re-opening of Bannockburn as a French Immersion centre. In addition, during this time, Whitney's enrolment has increased above capacity and is experiencing space pressures.

As a result of these changes, TDSB staff are proposing to return the 8 of the 10 residential towers back to their home schools: 6 addresses back to Eglinton Jr PS and 2 addresses back to John Fisher Jr PS.

Please note that TDSB staff recognize that further accommodation solutions are still required to accommodate students emanating from new developments in the Yonge-Eglinton area and potential plans are being developed to expand Eglinton PS to accommodate all local students.

**1. Do the proposed changes affect students currently enrolled at Whitney Jr PS?**

As part of this proposal, students that are residing at the impacted addresses AND are attending Whitney Jr PS will have the choice of continuing to attend Whitney Jr PS until they graduate or the choice of attending their home school.

**2. My child is currently attending Whitney Jr PS and they have a younger sibling that is not in the school yet. Will my younger child be able to attend Whitney Jr PS with their older sibling?**

The younger siblings of existing students at Whitney Jr PS, who are not enrolled in school yet, will have the option of attending Whitney Jr PS with their older sibling.

**3. If the older sibling graduates from Whitney Jr PS before the younger sibling enters Junior Kindergarten, will the younger sibling still be able to enrol at Whitney Jr PS?**

If the older sibling graduates from Whitney Jr PS before the younger sibling reaches Junior Kindergarten, the younger sibling will not be able to enrol at Whitney Jr PS. The younger sibling will be directed to enrol at their designated home school. For the younger sibling to be eligible to enrol at Whitney Jr PS, the older sibling needs to be enrolled at the school at the time of registering the younger sibling.

The TDSB recognizes that delivering two or more children in the same household to two or more different schools can be challenging sometimes, especially when one of the schools is not walkable. In addition, if the older sibling graduates before the younger sibling begins school, the younger sibling does not qualify for busing services. As a result, the younger sibling will be directed to register at their home school, where they will be able to walk to and from school. Saving transportation costs is also critical to the board's financial position.

**4. How do I enrol my younger child at Whitney Jr PS, to join their older sibling?**

Please contact Whitney Jr PS administrative staff for direction on enrolling the younger sibling at Whitney Jr PS.

**5. Does John Fisher Jr PS have all grades for the Regular track program?**

For this school year, 2022-23, John Fisher Jr PS only has a Junior Kindergarten class for the Regular track program. For the next school year, 2023-24, John Fisher Jr PS will have Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten. Each year, the school will phase-in a new grade until it reaches grade 5. This means that John Fisher Jr PS will be a JK to grade 5 school for the Regular track program by September 2028.

**6. My address falls within the John Fisher Jr PS boundary. The school does not have my child's grade yet. Where do I enrol my child?**

Students that live at 101 Erskine Ave or 18 Erskine Ave and are in a grade that is not yet available in the Regular track program at John Fisher Jr PS, they can continue to enrol at Whitney Jr PS.

**7. If a child – living at one of the impacted addresses – is currently registered at the Whitney Child Care centre, will they be able to attend Whitney Jr PS when they are eligible for Junior Kindergarten?**

Please refer to the "Out of Area Admissions" Policy P013 document, section 6.2, subsection 6.2.1:

"Children from out-of-area who are enrolled in the school-based pre-school child care program prior to the end of February of the year they are to begin Junior Kindergarten, and who will be enrolled in the Before- and After-School Program ("BASP") at that school, have the option of attending the school in which the child care is located. No Out-of-Area Admissions process is required."

"If these students no longer attend the BASP prior to the start of Grade 3, they may remain at the current school (and in the same educational program) until the end of the current school year. They are then required to attend their designated elementary school by address. BASP Supervisors are responsible for sharing information around departing families with school administrators. Students withdrawn from the BASP prior to the start of Grade 3 may apply to remain at the current school via the Out-of-Area Admissions process."

"Should a student from Out-of-Area register in school-based pre-school child care after the end of February in the year they are to begin Junior Kindergarten, the family will be notified by the child care operator that they will not have access to attend the school in September for junior kindergarten." In the case of Whitney Jr PS, the school is closed to Out-of-Area admissions.

Please note that students admitted into Whitney Jr PS through the child care will not be entitled to receiving any school bus services from the TDSB.

For further information on this policy and the eligibility of your child, please refer to the rest of the Policy document P013 at the following link:

<https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/97/177.pdf>

**8. Which school do new students living at the impacted residential towers enrol at (note: a new student refers to a student not currently attending Whitney Jr PS)?**

A student's home school is based on their home address.

If the student resides at one of the following addresses, the student's home school is John Fisher Jr PS:

- 101 Erskine Ave
- 18 Erskine Ave

If the student resides at one of the following addresses, the student's home school is Eglinton Jr PS:

- 125 Redpath Ave
- 161 Roehampton Ave
- 33 Dunfield Ave & 44 Lillian St
- 11 Lillian St
- 99 Broadway Ave & 195 Redpath Ave
- 8 Eglinton Ave E & 15 Roehampton Ave

**9. I am interested in moving my children from Whitney Jr PS to their designated home school now. What is the procedure to get this done?**

The student will not be able to transfer out of Whitney now because the review has not been approved. If the proposal is approved by Board on March 8 2023, it will be made effective for September 2023.

Please contact your child's home school administrative office for instructions on how to register your child at their home school for September 2023. A student's home school is based on their address. Please refer to **Question 8** to determine your child's home school.

**10. There are two remaining addresses that will continue to be redirected to Whitney Jr PS. Why are they remaining at Whitney Jr PS? Is there a possibility of these two addresses of being redirected back to their home school, like the other addresses?**

There are two remaining addresses that will continue to be temporarily redirected to Whitney Jr PS. These addresses are 2221 Yonge St and 5 Soudan Ave/ 8 Hillside Ave E. The reason for this is to avoid creating enrolment pressures at Eglinton Jr PS again. The proposal is recommending redirecting the residential addresses that can be accommodated at Eglinton Jr PS at this time.

Residential redirections are a temporary solution to help reduce over-crowding at a school. Once long-term solutions have been implemented and the home school's enrolment has been stabilized, these residential redirections are reversed and students living at these addresses will be able to attend their home school. This will be the case with the remaining two addresses mentioned above.

**11. If a family resides at one of the impacted addresses and moves to a different address (outside of the Whitney Jr PS boundary), would existing students at Whitney Jr PS and their siblings be able to remain at Whitney Jr PS?**

Please refer to the "Out of Area Admissions" Policy P013 document, section 6.2, subsection 6.2.2:

"In-area elementary school students who move out-of-area during the school year may remain at the current school (and in the same educational program) until the end of the current school year (unless the next school year is a graduation year from that school) or may register in the new designated school."

For further information on this policy and the eligibility of your child, please refer to the rest of the Policy document P013 at the following link:

<https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/97/177.pdf>

**12. What if the family moves from one of the impacted addresses to another impacted address (for example: moves from 15 Roehampton Ave to 161 Roehampton Ave). Will those students be able to remain at Whitney Jr PS or will they be considered "new residents"?**

Please refer to the answer under **Question 11**.

**13. What if I move within the same building, can my children continue to attend Whitney Jr PS?**

Yes, if you stay within the same building, the student can remain at Whitney Jr PS.

**14. When parents need to leave Toronto or Canada with their children for several months, can they re-register at Whitney Jr PS after September 2023?**

If the child is expected to be absent for more than 15 consecutive school days but is expected to return within the same school year, a request can be made in writing to the Principal to be excused from attending school for a specific amount of time within a school year.

If the student is not expected to return within the school year, they would need to be demitted from school. When they return, the students would need to register as a new student at their designated school by address.

In this case, if the proposal is approved, the student living at one of the impacted addresses and is expected to return after September 2023, they would have to register at their designated school by address (Eglinton Jr PS or John Fisher Jr PS, depending on their address).

**15. Students living at these addresses are transported to and from Whitney Jr PS by a school bus. Will these transportation services be impacted by this proposal?**

School buses will continue to be provided to the following groups of students:

- Students living at one of the impacted addresses AND are current students at Whitney Jr PS.
- The younger siblings of students currently attending Whitney Jr PS (please refer to **Questions 2, 3, and 4** for eligibility)
- Students living at one of the impacted addresses within the John Fisher Jr PS boundary and are in a grade that is not available at John Fisher Jr PS yet.

**16. Will the current two bus stops remain no matter how many students are left for each bus stop?**

The number of bus stops will depend on the number of students that need to be serviced in the area. For students living at the impacted addresses, as they begin to graduate from Whitney Jr PS, the number of students requiring busing will begin to lessen each school year. As a result, any changes relating to bus stops or other transit related details will be communicated with families for each school year.

**17. There is a newly completed condo at 39 Roehampton Avenue. The home school listed for this address is Rippleton PS. Why is the home school for this address Rippleton PS?**

39 Roehampton Ave is one of the residential towers that has been temporarily redirected to Rippleton PS. The reason for this is to reduce enrolment pressures from the home school of that addresses, Eglinton Jr PS.

In addition, Rippleton PS was used as a holding school because there was insufficient capacity at Whitney Jr PS and it was the next closest school to Eglinton Jr PS with space.

**18. What will the TDSB do to make sure residents at the affected addresses receive appropriate information and time to form an informed opinion? How will the TDSB ensure that their voices are heard, and their concerns are addressed?**

To ensure that communication has reached the impacted community and to provide the opportunity to raise questions and express feedback, the TDSB has taken the following steps:

- Distributed electronic notices of this review on Tuesday January 24, 2023, through each of the involved schools: Whitney Jr PS, Eglinton Jr PS, and John Fisher Jr PS.
- 11,989 physical copies of the notices were delivered by Canada Post to the impacted addresses on Tuesday January 31, 2023.
- The public can submit questions and feedback through email or phone. TDSB Staff have been promptly responding to questions via email, phone, or the “Questions and Answers” document (posted on the TDSB website).
- The public will be able to participate in-person at the virtual public meeting on Monday February 13, 2023, at 6:30 PM.
- The public can their feedback by going to the TDSB review website and completing the feedback form (will be closed on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at noon).

In addition, there will be an opportunity for the members of the public to address the Board of Trustees on Wednesday March 1, 2023. They can make verbal presentations or submit written material. Additional information on how to participate on Wednesday March 1, 2023, will be provided on the day of the public meeting.

**19. Why is Eglinton Jr PS not rated on the Fraser Institute School Ranking website?**

The TDSB does not recognize or accept the Fraser Institute rankings. It is not a reliable indicator or measure of what the quality of education will be like at your local neighbourhood school.

**20. If enrolment at Whitney Jr PS continues to increase due to the exceptions you have set, how will the TDSB manage the enrolment pressures at the school?**

The plan in place is to continue using the staff room and the computer lab as classrooms. Improvements will be made over the summer to the computer lab to expand the space and make it suitable for running a class. In addition, improvements will be made to the two classrooms in the basement. Those classrooms will be the flex spaces that would be used if the enrolment grows beyond what is projected by TDSB staff.

**21. Why aren't families living at the impacted addresses being told to attend their local schools now? Why is Whitney Jr PS still a choice for these students?**

The TDSB aims to minimize disruption to the impacted families by allowing their children to continue to attend their current school until they graduate. The proposed change will impact new students residing at these addresses, whom will no longer be able to enrol at Whitney Jr PS. This will result in a steady decline in enrolment at Whitney Jr PS. In addition, there is a current plan in place to help support Whitney's current and future enrolment (as described in **Question 20**).

**22. Why can't the implementation of this proposal be postponed for September 2024?**

The concern with extending the implementation of this study for another year is that this will increase continue to increase the number of students at Whitney Jr PS, resulting in the school growing beyond the available flex space within the building. In addition, the Whitney school site is small, and portables would have to be placed on the play field, limiting play space for students during recess. The aim is to avoid a situation such as this.

As a result, redirecting these addresses back to their home school and allowing students to walk to a school with sufficient capacity is a solution that is consistent with the TDSB's vision of the neighbourhood school.



**23. Has a decision been made for this proposal? If not, when will a decision be made regarding this proposal?**

A decision has not been made yet. The TDSB is holding a public meeting on Monday, February 13 at 6:30 pm to hear the community's feedback and questions. A report on this proposal will then go to the Board of Trustees on March 8, 2023, where the Trustees will vote and make the final decision.

**24. How can I register to attend the Virtual Public Meeting?**

Participants must pre-register to join the Virtual meeting. Please register using the following link: [https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Bk1P\\_5QQQ5Gbs2NMrXaW3w](https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Bk1P_5QQQ5Gbs2NMrXaW3w)

**25. If I have additional questions, where do I send them?**

Questions or comments can be submitted through email at [accommodationreviews@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:accommodationreviews@tdsb.on.ca) or by phone at 416-394-PLAN (7526)