

November 11, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members:

I am writing you to share the final recommendations of the Program Area Review Team (PART) that was established this fall regarding AY Jackson SS, Arbor Glen PS, Cliffwood PS, Cresthaven PS, Cummer Valley MS, Finch PS, Highland JHS, Hillmount PS, Hollywood PS, Lillian PS, Pineway PS, Steelesview PS, and Zion Heights JHS. The PART has completed its work and has developed the following recommendations.

Staff is in general agreement with the recommendations of the PART. These recommendations result in improved utilization rates, efficient use of space, program choice, equity and fair access to specialized programs. They do not incur additional transportation costs. They achieve a significant decrease in the number of portables needed at the schools.

1. Grade Changes:

- a. The junior elementary schools (Arbor Glen PS, Hillmount PS, Cliffwood PS, Cresthaven PS, Pineway PS, and Steelesview PS) become JK to Grade 5 schools.
- b. That Highland JHS and Zion Heights JHS become Grade 6 to 8 schools.
  - Because of the Grade change to become Grade 6 to 8 schools, the schools' names change to Highland Middle School and Zion Heights Middle School.
- c. AY Jackson SS becomes a Grade 9 to 12 school.

2. Shift in Special Education Programs:

- a. Grade 4 and 5 Gifted Programs at Lillian PS and Hillmount PS be relocated to Steelesview PS, and implemented by phasing out Grades so that children already at Lillian PS and Hillmount PS finish Grade 5 at their existing school.
  - The first Gifted Program classes at Steelesview PS should be Grade 4 and should be started as soon as September 2016.
  - Graduates of the Gifted Program at Steelesview PS attend Zion Heights MS. Dependent upon the outcomes of concurrent PARTS, the Gifted Program pathway to Zion Heights MS also will include Lescon PS, and Seneca Hill PS as feeder schools.
  - Hillmount PS is currently a JK to Grade 6 school and Lillian PS is a JK to Grade 5 School. The phase out of the last grade at both schools needs to be coordinated so that it has minimal impact on students for the transition to Zion Heights MS.
- b. Grades 6 to 8 Gifted Programs at Cummer Valley MS and Zion Heights JHS be consolidated at Zion Heights MS, and implemented by phasing out grades so that the children already at Cummer Valley MS finish at their existing school.
  - The last Grade 9 Gifted class at Zion Heights JHS graduates June 2016.
  - The first Grade 6 Gifted class at Zion Heights MS should be started as soon as September 2016.
- c. The Gifted Program pathway from Cummer Valley MS and Zion Heights MS, for the Grades 9 to 12, will no longer be Don Mills CI but will be based on the student's home address, as approved by Board on October 28, 2015. For many students in these programs, this will lead to AY Jackson SS.

- As Zion Heights JHS already has a Grade 9 Gifted class, the first classes at AY Jackson SS will be Grades 9 and 10, and should be started as soon as September 2016.
  - d. The Autism Program at Finch PS be relocated to Pineway PS, and implementation be at the discretion of the Special Education department to ensure the best transition for the students in this program.
- 3. Shift in French Programs:
  - a. Extended French Program at Cliffwood PS be relocated to Cresthaven PS, and implemented by phasing out so that children already at Cliffwood PS will finish Grade 5 at Cliffwood PS before moving to the new middle school program at Highland MS for Grade 6.
    - The first French Extended class at Cresthaven PS should be Grade 4 and should be started as soon as September 2016.
    - The last Grade 6 French Extended class at Cliffwood PS will graduate June 2016.
  - b. The Mid-Immersion Program at Hollywood PS be relocated from Hollywood PS to Cresthaven PS by phasing out the Grades.
    - The phase out at the Hollywood PS should be started as soon as September 2016.
    - Students already in the Mid-Immersion Program at Hollywood PS will finish Grade 6 at Hollywood PS and graduate to LB Pearson PS.
    - At the time of relocation to Cresthaven PS, the French Program Department will decide if it is best for the local students and TDSB to convert it to an Extended Program at Cresthaven PS, or leave it as a Mid-Immersion Program.
  - c. The graduates of the Extended French Program at Cresthaven PS attend Highland MS for Grades 6 to 8, and then Newtonbrook SS for Grades 9 to 12.
    - The first French Extended classes at Highland MS be Grades 6 and 7 and be started as soon as September 2016.
  - d. The pathway for the graduates of the Cliffwood PS French Immersion program when graduating from Don Valley JHS be Windfield's JHS for Grade 9 (depending on the outcome of the Georges Vanier Cluster PART) and York Mills CI for Grades 10 to 12. However, it is recommended that these students be guaranteed placement at Newtonbrook SS for Grades 9 to 12 to continue their French Immersion program.
- 4. Change the shared Finch PS – Steelesview PS attendance area so that it becomes entirely the Steelesview PS attendance area with the pathway to Zion Heights MS and AY Jackson SS. The pathway to Cummer Valley MS and Earl Haig SS will no longer exist for this area.
  - a. Grandparenting: All students who currently reside in the attendance areas for these schools and attend these schools as of the end of the 2015-2016 school year and their siblings be allowed to remain at the current schools until they graduate.
- 5. Implementation:
  - b. That Grade 6 and 9 shifts happen at the same time for September 2016.
  - c. That program changes be phased in starting 2016, with phasing meaning new program sites have their first grade of intake.
  - d. That each school have a transition team, involving teachers, parents, principal, and when appropriate students, to identify and mitigate issues in student readiness, including such matters as student safety.
  - e. The Superintendent and Principal of Pineway PS should work together with the school community with the goal to improve enrolment and utilization by giving the school a focus-based curriculum (e.g. Arts, Science Technology Engineering Math, etc.).

One change that staff is recommending concerns the timing of the implementation of the relocation of the Extended French Program from Cliffwood PS to Cresthaven PS. The implementation date will change to September 1, 2017 to be consistent with other changes being made at Brian PS and Dallington PS as a result of other Program Area Reviews that occurred concurrently. This alignment will lead to a more viable program

with a larger critical mass of students and a stronger program at Don Valley MS that will be supported by increased classroom resources.

As per the PART's recommendation 3.b, staff can confirm that at the time of relocation to Cresthaven PS, the French Program Department plans to convert the Mid-Immersion Program to an Extended French Program at Cresthaven PS.

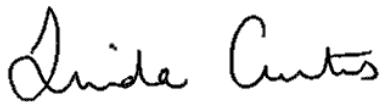
The next steps in the approval process regarding staff's recommended changes are as follows:

- School board staff will present a report with their recommendations to the Board's **Planning and Priorities Committee** on **Wednesday, November 18, 2015** at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to share your thoughts in person or in writing with Trustees, please contact Denisse Parra at [denisse.parra@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:denisse.parra@tdsb.on.ca) by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2015. For more information, please go to [www.tdsb.on.ca/boardroom](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/boardroom) and click on Delegations.
- The Planning and Priorities Committee will present its recommendations regarding the Program Area Review to the **Board of Trustees** at a meeting on **Wednesday, November 25, 2015**. At this meeting, the Board will make the final decisions about the schools.

If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact me. I will inform you about the Board's decision.

I would like to thank all members of the PART and those who attended the public meetings for their valuable contribution. A great deal of time was spent analyzing different options to develop recommendations that will benefit area students.

Regards,



Linda Curtis  
Superintendent of Education ER17

cc: Alexander Brown  
Trustee Ward 12

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