



# Shelley Laskin, Trustee – Ward 11

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June 28, 2017

Dear Hodgson Grade 7 Parents/Guardians, Staff and Community:

Re: School Facility Improvements

As the end of the school year approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the plans for an addition to Hodgson.

To remind you, on February 10, 2016, the Toronto District School Board made a decision regarding the Yonge-Eglinton Program Area Review (PART) that included the following elementary schools – Davisville Junior Public School (English stream only), Eglinton Junior Public School (English and Extended French streams), Maurice Cody Junior Public School, and Oriole Park Junior Public School be reconfigured from JK to Grade 6 schools to JK to Grade 5 schools effective 1 September 2017; as a result, Hodgson Senior Public School becomes a Grade 6 to 8 middle school (English and Extended French streams) effective 1 September 2017 and renamed Hodgson Middle School effective 1 September 2017 to reflect its new grade configuration.

The Board submitted a business case to the Ministry of Education (EDU) in June 2016 proposing a 12-room addition to Hodgson be funded to address the recommendations coming out of the PART. This business case was revised in November 2016 to a 14 room addition that would include the replacement of two existing rooms in order to provide a more compact and cost-effective layout to the addition. EDU provided approval in principle of the project based on this revised business case.

MC Architects will design the new addition. They are currently retained to provide architectural services for the addition at Terry Fox PS and have almost completed their service as architects for the replacement school at George Webster ES. The design will include a total of 14 new instructional spaces. These consist of 12 regular classroom spaces, 1 classroom space for art, and 1 classroom space for music. The existing art & music rooms are to be demolished and accommodated in the new addition. The new addition will accommodate the existing parking, as well as any additional spaces required by the program. The existing ice rink/tennis court, a partnership with the City of Toronto, is to remain undisturbed.

A New School Review Team (NSRT), consisting of the local Trustee, the Superintendent of Education, the Principal, Vice-Principal, parents, representatives from the local community and Major Capital Projects staff, will be formed early in September to review and provide input and information to staff and the architectural consultant as they develop schematic design options.

This summer, in addition to some internal room configurations, six portables will be erected at Hodgson to accommodate the addition of Grade 6 students from our feeder schools in the neighbourhood as described above, Hodgson becomes a Middle School (Grades 6-8) this September.

The duration of their stay will be tied to the Addition project that will begin construction in the spring of 2019 and will conclude in the summer of 2020.

Our strategy in placing the portables on the field was to ensure the field remained operation for the Physical Education Program while not being in the way of the construction of the Addition which will occur north of the Gymnasium. Our desire was to have all six portables along the west side of the field; however the existing area drains are prohibiting this and as a result we need to place one portable at the north end of the field. Placing the portable at the south end of the field would remove more space of the field (as the portable would be required to be set back from the street) and would block surveillance of the field from the street which is important for our security team during off hours. The 6th portable will be placed so that the entrance/exit stairs are not prohibiting the portable from being placed close to the fence line. This will remove the risk of creating a space that would be hidden from school supervision.

We look forward to building the improvements to Hodgson Middle School that will enhance our students' learning experience. Should you have any questions or concerns during the installation of the portables, do not hesitate to contact me.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer and will provide another update in early September.

Sincerely,



Shelley Laskin

cc. Ian Wilson, Principal, Hodgson Sr PS  
Lori Campbell, Vice-Principal, Hodgson Sr PS  
Ian Allison, Superintendent of Education – Learning Network 2 Schools, Learning Centre 1  
Jeff Latto, Senior Manager, Major Capital Projects and Building Partnerships  
Beth Butcher, Executive Superintendent – Learning Centre 1  
Josh Matlow, City of Toronto Councilor Ward 21