

Questions and Answers

Hodgson Senior Public School - Hodgson Senior Public School

December 21, 2016

(Updated February 15, 2017)

Update on the Construction of the Hodgson Addition

As many of our families and community members know, the Ministry of Education has provided the Board with a grant of \$5.84M under their Capital Priorities Program to support a 12-classroom addition at Hodgson Sr. PS. This grant will provide accommodation relief to the school in the form of 276 additional pupil places.

You will recall that as part of the Program Area Review Team (PART) for the Yonge-Eglinton Review, approved by the Board in February 2016, Hodgson Sr. PS became a Grade 6 to 8 middle school (English and extended French streams). As a result of the grade change, the school name will change to Hodgson Middle School. The junior elementary schools that feed into Hodgson - Davisville Jr. PS (English stream only), Eglinton Jr. PS (English and extended French streams), Maurice Cody Jr. PS and Oriole Park Jr. PS - will become JK to Grade 5 schools.

We are in the early stages of the planning and design process, but would like to provide you with on-going updates as we make progress. Should you have additional questions, please send them to **Principal Ian Wilson** at ian.wilson@tdsb.on.ca.

1. Q. Why did the TDSB conduct a Program Area Review Team (PART) for Yonge-Eglinton?

A: The Review was conducted due to existing and projected accommodation needs as a result of increasing enrolment and space constraints at a number of schools in the area: Davisville Jr. PS/Spectrum Alternative Senior School, Eglinton Jr. PS, Maurice Cody Jr. PS, Oriole Park Jr. PS, Forest Hill Jr. & Sr. PS, Hodgson Sr. PS, and Northlea E & MS.

To learn more about PART, please visit:
http://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/default/ARC_helpful_info_docs/P20151026-Yonge-EgPART_QandAs_Websitev%20Final.pdf.

2. Q: When are you planning to start the construction of the school addition?

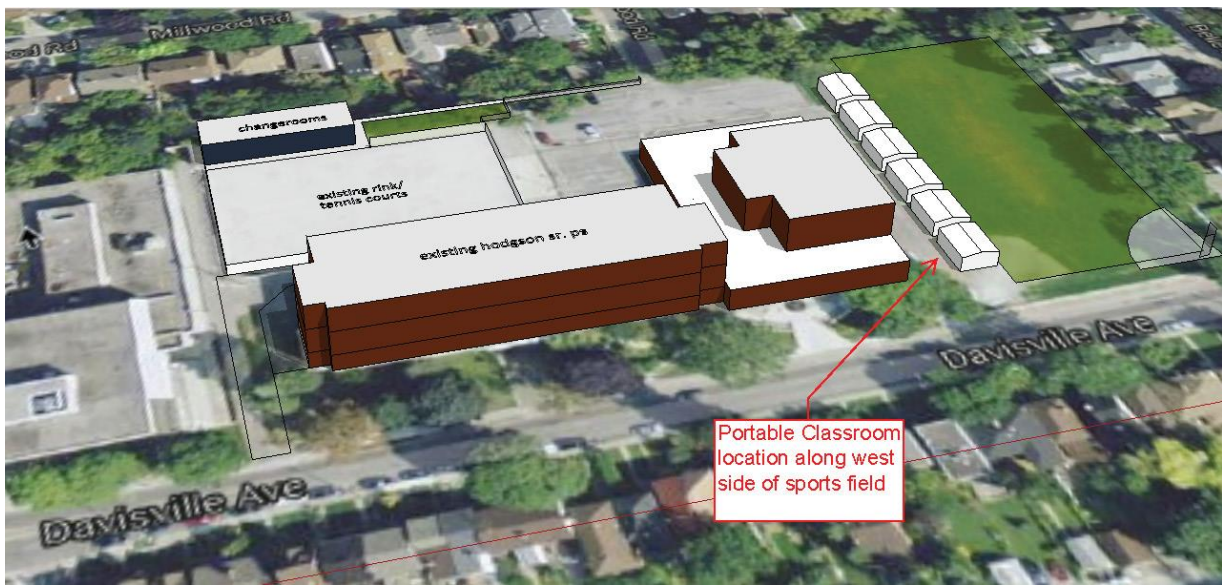
A: The current plan is to start in the summer of 2018. This addition should be ready for occupancy by September 2020. A detailed timeline will be shared with the community once the Board hires an architect for the project. On-site portables will be used before and during the construction of the school addition.



3. Q: Where will the portables be located?

A: TDSB Planning and Design staff is projecting the need for up to six temporary portables on-site, which will be located behind the basketball nets. This location is not used by students; therefore, they will be able to keep using the field for physical education programs, extra-curricular school teams and at lunchtime.

This location will be close to the school entrance number five, washrooms and gym, and across the change rooms. The location will also provide easy access between the portables and the school's main building and keep students away from any construction.



4. Q: When will the portables arrive?

A: The portables will arrive during the summer of 2017.

5. Q: Which classes will be assigned portables?

A: The plan at this time is that homerooms will be in classrooms located inside the school and 'rotary' subjects such as arts, dance, drama, math, health and resource programs will take place in portables. It should be noted that a portable classroom replicates the size, shape and environment of a classroom within a school.

6. Q: Are the portables air-conditioned?

A: At this time it seems that, like the majority of the classrooms at Hodgson, the portables will not be air-conditioned. More details will be provided as they become available.

7. Q: Will there be any interior changes required to the existing school?

A: In order to support the increase in enrolment and decrease the number of on-site

portables, the TDSB will renovate an area of the cafeteria's kitchen that is no longer used. This space will become an additional classroom and it will be ready for the 2017-2018 school year.

Another unused space beside the gym, the old home and school kitchen, will be considered as a future kitchen space to support potential nutrition and health programs and wash athletic uniforms.

8. Q: Will there be enough lockers for all the students?

A: The short answer is yes. We currently have a surplus of approximately 100 lockers. The school will also buy additional lockers over the summer of 2017, which will be in place to receive our first group of Grade 6 students.

9. Q: Are you planning to expand school learning resources such as library books, computer, musical instruments, etc.?

A: During our current 2016-2017 school year, the transition team will identify specific needs and options such as buying new items and transferring resources from feeder schools.

10. Q: What's the role of the transition team?

A: The role of the transition team is to receive, listen to and understand school issues related to the transition of students from the feeder schools to Hodgson. Issues may require a coordinated effort among schools or a unique school-by-school approach. Once the transition team reviews these issues, it makes recommendations to individual principals.

11. Q: How will new staff at Hodgson be hired?

A: The annual TDSB staffing process starts in the spring of 2017. Any new staff at Hodgson would be hired following TDSB vacancy and transfer procedures. More information will be available in the New Year.

12. Q: Will Grade 6 students have access to a Before and After School program?

A: The TDSB is committed to offering extended day programs where there is sufficient interest. When we receive or know more information, we will be sure to share it with our parents and families who have children in Grade 5.

13. Q: Will Grade 6 students have as many rotary classes as students in Grades 7 and 8?

A: Every student will have a homeroom and a dedicated homeroom teacher assigned by September 2017. Once the allocation of staffing will be determined (March 2017), we will be able to develop timetables for all grades.

14. Q: If my child attends a feeder school for Hodgson that is not our home school, can my child continue to Hodgson for Grade 5 or Grade 6?

A: Hodgson will be closed to optional attendance for the 2017-2018 school year. We will only be able to admit students whose primary address is in our attendance area. You will need to explore optional attendance or home school attendance for your child for the next school year.

15. Q: What is the transition plan for students heading to Hodgson next year and how will families be informed?

A: Hodgson will be hosting a parent information night on February 2, 2017 for all new parents and students in Grades 5 and 6 at our feeder schools.

Hodgson staff will also be participating in Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings at our feeder schools.

In May 2017, Grade 5 and 6 students at our feeder schools will visit Hodgson for a half-day of presentations and a school tour.

Once students arrive at Hodgson in September 2017, they will participate in various team-building events, such as the Hodgson Colour Games and grade-specific overnight trips.