**Questions & Answers**

**Development at 18-30 Erskine Avenue**

**March 21, 2017**

**These Qs&As are intended to address a number of questions that have been asked by parents/guardians and will be posted on the school website.**

1. **What is the TDSB doing to ensure the health and safety of students and staff?**

 The health and safety of students and staff is a top priority for the Toronto District

 School Board (TDSB).

 The TDSB has been in close contact with the City of Toronto and the developer,

 who are ultimately responsible for protecting the safety of all those near the construction site.

  The TDSB hired a third party consultant, ECOH, to conduct a risk assessment. Phase 1 of the risk

 assessment, which provided a generic evaluation, has been completed. The consultant is now

 working on Phase 2. Both reports will be uploaded to the [school website](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/johnfisher/Home.aspx) once this phase

 is completed.

1. **When will Phase 2 of the risk assessment be completed?**

The TDSB expects to gather the necessary information to complete Phase 2 earlier than expected.

 While ECOH will take the necessary time to conduct a thorough analysis, we expect our

 consultant will be able to complete Phase 2 of the risk assessment by mid-April.

1. **Is it true that the TDSB reduced the time frame to complete Phase 2 of the risk assessment to determine staffing needs for the 2017-2018 school year?**

No. The information from the City of Toronto and the developer required to complete Phase 2 is being provided within a shorter timeline than expected; therefore, Phase 2 can be completed earlier than the date that was originally predicted.

1. **How was the risk rating matrix determined and why is it not similar to the risk matrix shown on the Ontario School Boards’ Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) website?**

There is no single risk assessment matrix that is appropriate for all circumstances.  In constructing the matrix used for the risk assessment, ECOH consulted the Canadian Standards Association Standard and the Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems Standard.

In ECOH’s professional judgment, a 4 x 4 matrix is the most appropriate given the nature of the hazards and the information available.

1. **Will the school and child care centre be relocated to accommodate the development at 18-30 Erskine Avenue?**

 Based on the findings of Phase 2 of the risk assessment, the TDSB will assess

 measures to mitigate the risks associated with the development, including a

 possible relocation of John Fisher PS and the French Connection Child Care Centre.

 Relocating the students to another school is not the TDSB’s preferred option

 and a decision has yet to be made.

 The TDSB will consult with parents before making a decision.

1. **How will the TDSB consult with parents?**

 The TDSB will ask parents to complete a survey and indicate their preferred option. This survey will

 be conducted after Phase 2 of the risk assessment has been issued and reviewed. The

 risk assessment will be posted on the [school website](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/johnfisher/Home.aspx).

1. **How can parents voice their preference without having the proper information?**

The TDSB has uploaded all relevant information available to the [school website](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/johnfisher/Home.aspx).

In addition, once the TDSB gets the results of Phase 2 of the risk assessment, parents will be asked to complete a survey.

1. **How can the Vaughan Road building be the only potential relocation site?**

The TDSB has reviewed all school sites in the area and the nearest public school with the capacity to house the entire John Fisher PS population and the French Connection Child Care Centre for September 2017 is the Vaughan Road building.

1. **Would the Vaughan Road building require renovations in order to accommodate students from John Fisher PS and the French Connection Child Care Centre?**

 Yes. The TDSB is reviewing the classroom and site requirements to make it suitable for elementary

 students. Renovations would be completed prior to September 2017.

1. **I don’t have a car. How would my child get to Vaughan Road?**

The TDSB will provide transportation for all John Fisher PS students, including Grade 6 students, who have been relocated. This is not the first time the TDSB has bussed students from one school to another during construction.

 Parents who send their children to the French Connection Child Care Centre will also be

 accommodated on a bus. We will share more details as they become available.

1. **I don’t want my child to remain at John Fisher PS during construction or move to the Vaughan Road building. Do I have other options?**

If you choose to withdraw your child from French Immersion, the TDSB will accommodate your child in an English school. To ensure fairness, this will be done through a central placement process. Local schools have been instructed not to register students on a first-come first-served basis.

1. **Are you forcing students out of John Fisher PS?**

No. If it is determined by the TDSB, through the results of Phase 2 of the risk assessment, that it is safe to operate the school during the construction of the adjacent residential development, John Fisher PS may continue at its current location.

1. **Is this the first time the TDSB has had to relocate a school?**

No. This is not the first time the TDSB has relocated a school. Schools such as Eglinton JPS, Lambton-Kingsway JMS, Avondale PS and Avondale Elementary Alternative School have been relocated during construction of replacement school buildings.

1. **We have heard that Trustees Gershon and Laskin will bring a motion before the Board on Wednesday, March 22, 2017. What’s the purpose of this motion?**

 The TDSB’s current policy does not consider a situation, such as the one at John Fisher PS, where a

 potentially large number of students leave the French Immersion program to seek placement at

 their local English school.

             The purpose of this motion is to allow the Board of Trustees to consider a central placement

 process for students in exceptional circumstances. If the situation at John Fisher PS is designated

 as an exceptional circumstance, then TDSB staff will be able to address student placements

 according to the process identified in the motion. The motion, if passed, will provide TDSB parents

 and students with options to be placed at a local school where the student`s home school

 is over-capacity.  TDSB staff is identifying the closest local schools to each student’s home

 address.

1. **Can parents share their opinion at the Board meeting on March 22, 2017?**

No. There are no deputations at Board meetings. While parents can attend the public meeting, they won’t be able to depute or ask questions. However, they can always e-mail their trustee, who will share concerns with the other trustees at the Board meeting.

1. **Why can’t the TDSB accept all John Fisher PS students at local English schools?**

The TDSB didn’t anticipate a potentially large number of students leaving the French Immersion program at John Fisher PS to seek placement at a local English school. This is an exceptional circumstance.

 Planning staff must now analyze each school in the area and determine space availability. Some

 local English schools are beyond capacity and cannot accommodate portables. For these

 constrained schools, Planning staff will identify other nearby English schools with space in which to

 place John Fisher PS students.

1. **Why can’t the TDSB accept students at Eglinton PS?**

Eglinton PS is currently overcapacity at 112% utilization. In addition the Eglinton school site is one of TDSB’s smallest sites (1.6 acres) and has no room for portables.

1. **Why can't John Fisher PS students move to another French Immersion program?**

There will be a French Immersion program available to families at the current John Fisher PS location or at the Vaughan Road site. Other French programs in the area are full.

1. **How do I get further information on this issue?**

 You can visit the [school website](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/johnfisher/Home.aspx) where you can find updates and important information on this

 matter. This website will be updated as new information becomes available.