



March 8, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Thank you for your input regarding the Ontario Municipal Board approved development at 18-30 Erskine Avenue, a 35-storey tower adjacent to John Fisher Public School. The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) shares the school community's concerns regarding the proximity of the construction to the school and its potential implications. The health and safety of students and staff is a top priority for the TDSB.

The TDSB has been working with parent representatives from both, John Fisher Public School (JFPS) School Council and French Connection (daycare), who act as a liaison between the school community and the TDSB. At the same time, the TDSB has been in close contact with the City of Toronto, who along with the developer, are ultimately responsible for protecting the safety of all those near the construction site.

The TDSB has hired a third party company, ECOH, to conduct a risk assessment (RA). Phase 1 of the RA, which provided a generic evaluation was shared with parent representatives. We have also identified additional technical information that is required to complete Phase 2 of the RA. Part of this information is related to the proposed construction/mitigation management plan submitted by the developer. Depending on when we get this information, our consultant should have the risk assessment completed by mid to end of April.

The heightened level of concern has prompted parents to ask the Board about potential contingency plans, including the possibility of relocating the students to another school during construction. The Board has reviewed available school sites in the area and the nearest public school with the capacity to house all students from JFPS and the daycare is Vaughan Road Academy.

Relocating the students to another school is NOT the Board's preferred option and NO decision has been made or will be made without full consultation with parents. There is no question that the relocation of students and the daycare would pose significant challenges for the school community. We view relocation as a last resort option. We fully realize that this option would require modifications to the school to accommodate elementary students. In the meantime, we will continue to work with parents and staff to identify the potential health and safety issues that will need to be addressed by the City and the developer. This is the purpose of the RA.

The TDSB will also continue to advocate for strict health and safety standards as this development moves forward. Elected representatives including Chair of the Board Robin Pilkey, Trustee Gershon, Trustee Laskin, City Councillor Jaye Robinson, Mayor Tory and Local MPP and Premier Kathleen Wynne have all expressed the importance of ensuring the health and safety of students, staff and school visitors during construction.



Additional updates will be provided as information becomes available. Any decisions will be made in consultation with parents and staff.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Marlene Harroun (School Principal, JFPS), your Parent Council or French Connection. You can also visit the school website where you will find regular updates and background information on this matter.

Sincerely,



Beth Butcher
Executive Superintendent LC1



Angelos Bacopoulos
Associate Director
Facilities, Sustainability and Employee Services

