

# YORK MEMORIAL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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## June 10th update

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Dear current and incoming students and parents of York Memorial CI and George Harvey CI,

Thank you for your invaluable input and support over the last several weeks as we move from the initial phase of managing the aftermath of the May 7 fire at York Memorial CI building to consider school operations for September 2019. Over the last two weeks, we met with students and parents of both schools to present two options, providing an overview of each as well as advantages and disadvantages. Open houses were held at the Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy building and at George Harvey CI. We also shared a link for a brief online survey to seek further feedback on preferred options and features that are important.

The results of the survey indicated a clear preference for Option 2: accommodate York Memorial CI in the former Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy building at 15 Trehorne Drive, near Eglinton Avenue and Royal York Road, with George Harvey CI remaining in its building. This was the preferred option for most respondent groups, with overall support of 93%. It is also consistent with what we've heard in other feedback, including the paper survey that was done by staff and students.

The survey also indicated that exclusive use of spaces such as school field, library, gyms, and auditorium was important or very important for 93% of all respondents. However, a significant majority (68%) also identified that availability of a wide variety of programming options, including tech courses, is important or very important. Attending a school in the York-South Weston community was important or very important for only about 24% of all respondents. Access to a school pool was important or very important for 23% of all respondents, while parking was important or very important for 35%.

A staff report will be presented to TDSB trustees at a Committee of the Whole meeting on June 12. Following that, the Board of Trustees will consider the issue at its regular meeting on June 19. The staff report will recommend that York Memorial CI operate at the Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy site for September 2019 (Option 2), with necessary repairs and preparations taking place over the summer.

As we await the decision by the Trustees, I want to commend students and parents for their advocacy. It's important that we hear all voices in making a determination about next year and I am proud about the robust response we have seen. Understandably, there is a great deal of passion about this situation. That shows how deeply we care about our education, and it bodes well for the future of our community and our city. There will be much more to discuss and debate as we move forward, so I want to underscore that dialogue must always be respectful and constructive, even in disagreements, and demonstrate an awareness of the issues involved. When we express our views, we represent not only ourselves personally, but our school, our community, and our families. Let's continue to do that with honour.

Thank you,

Donna Drummond,  
Principal