

YORK MEMORIAL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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June 21 update

Dear current and incoming students and parents, and staff,

On June 10, we wrote to outline next steps in terms of determining school operations for September 2019. We shared that TDSB staff were recommending to the Board of Trustees that York Memorial CI operate out of the former Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy site at 15 Trehorne Drive this September, with necessary repairs and preparations taking place over the summer. This was consistent with feedback received from students and parents. At its regular Board meeting this week, Trustees formally approved that recommendation.

I want to thank you again for your input contributing to this direction, for all the support you've provided, and for the strength you've shown since that fateful day in early May. Over the last two months, York Memo and George Harvey have worked together to share a school space. It hasn't been perfect, nor was anyone expecting it to be so. But the fact that we were able to mobilize in such a short period of time and successfully complete the school year is nothing short of remarkable. And it is a testament to the resilience, resourcefulness, and compassion of our community.

In September, York Memo will reconvene at 15 Trehorne Drive, while George Harvey students and staff will resume operations in its building. However, this group of extraordinary individuals—students, staff and families of both schools-- will forever be connected by this event and strengthened by the way in which we navigated it together.

York Memo families will receive additional information over the summer about progress at 15 Trehorne, which requires a fair amount of repair, maintenance, and thorough cleaning to be prepared for use. We anticipate offering a date for an orientation session prior to first day of school so that students can become more familiar with the facility, and learn where classrooms, washrooms, and specialized spaces are located. The report approved by TDSB also addressed availability of TTC tickets for students who live in the York Memorial attendance area and live more than 4.8 kilometers from the 15 Trehorne Drive. This is consistent with the TDSB's Transportation of Students Policy. Our summer update will include more information about how to access tickets for those eligible.

Even as this next step is operationalized, there is still a longer-term phase to consider as well. At its May Board meeting, Trustees requested further information from TDSB staff later this year about the assessment of damage to the York Memorial CI building, which is ongoing, and the feasibility of repair or reconstruction. Earlier this month, the TDSB Chair also wrote to the Minister of Education on behalf of the Board to request authorization for a Pupil Accommodation Review. The TDSB had previously included such a review of York Memorial CI, George Harvey CI, and other adjacent secondary schools in

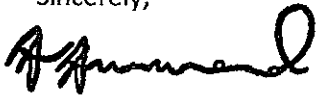
its Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy. So much more information is to come about that longer-term future, and we will endeavour to keep you updated about this as developments unfold.

Access to the York Memo building on Eglinton has been slowed due to the extent of the damage and the time it takes to make the building safe for entry. That has also slowed efforts to recover personal belongings. However, that work is happening and, as previously shared, items will be recovered where possible. Further updates regarding this process will be forthcoming shortly. The careful and methodical process to remove and restore heritage items is also ongoing, with the assistance of City of Toronto and third-party restoration professionals.

So, as we prepare to begin for our summer break, you can see that it will be a busy couple of months for many TDSB staff as 15 Trehorne is readied for use, and outstanding issues resulting from the fire are clarified.

Once again, thank you for your partnership to date and for your continued support as we chart the path forward together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Drummond', written in a cursive style.

Donna Drummond
Principal