



## Toronto District School Board

Ian Allison • Superintendent of Education • LN5, Learning Centre 1  
1 Civic Centre Court • 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor • Toronto • Ontario M9C2B3  
Tel: (416) 394-2034 Fax: (416) 394-2061

May 8, 2024

Dear Davisville Junior Public School / Spectrum Alternative Senior School Communities:

Re: Update on the construction of the Davisville Community & Aquatic Centre and the latest on planning for increased student growth

### Background

The Ministry of Education approved the rebuilding of Davisville Jr. PS/Spectrum Alternative Sr. School in 2015 after several years of advocacy. The TDSB and the City then worked towards a broader vision for a community hub on the Davisville Jr. PS/Spectrum Alternative Sr. School site.

After negotiations with the City of Toronto through the Toronto Lands Corporation (TLC), the TDSB approved a long-term shared-use arrangement with the City in conjunction with the redevelopment of the Davisville site. With a combined Provincial and City investment of nearly \$45M, supported by a long-term TDSB/City agreement, the new school with a capacity of 731-students opened in 2021.

The City's investment allowed for an expanded 6,000 ft<sup>2</sup> gym including a regulation size basketball court, underground parking among other amenities. The Board provided land on the site for the accommodation of a community hub. The vision for the site was to allow the community to enjoy access to recreational programming at the gym, pools, and recreation centre, which currently does not exist within the Ward.

Students will benefit from the daily use of the expanded gym, access to the pool with the school community being accommodated through the scheduling of special school evening events.

### Update on the construction of the Davisville Community & Aquatic Centre

After some delays, we now understand that construction for the [Davisville Community & Aquatic Centre](#), which will include two indoor swimming pools and several multi-purpose rooms to serve various community needs, is anticipated to start in **June 2024** and continue until February 2027. Please visit [toronto.ca/DavisvilleCAC](https://toronto.ca/DavisvilleCAC) for more information about the project.





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Prior to construction, please know that TDSB staff will be meeting with the City's Project Team to confirm the safety plan associated with the build and will provide more information in the weeks ahead.

### **Planning for increased student growth**

Each year, school boards in Ontario may apply to the Ministry of Education's Capital Priorities Program for funding to support construction projects such as school additions, school replacements or deep retrofits. School boards must identify their most urgent capital needs and submit business cases for these priority projects.

The new replacement school for Davisville Jr. PS/Spectrum Alternative Sr. School was approved by the Ministry in November 2015. The new school opened its doors in September 2021.

Revised and updated enrolment projections for Davisville Jr. PS/Spectrum Alternative Sr. School, however, indicated that the planned capacity of 731 pupil places would be insufficient to accommodate students over the long-term. The number of new residential development applications within the attendance area of Davisville Jr. PS had increased since the initial business case was submitted in 2015. These proposed residential units were not captured in the enrolment projections used to support the 731-pupil place replacement school.

While the school was still under construction, the TDSB submitted a revised business case to the Ministry requesting that the scope of the project be changed to add five (5) additional classrooms, which would have increased the school's capacity from 731 to 849 pupil places.

The additional scope included one FDK and four regular classrooms. The request was not approved by the Ministry. The accommodation requirements of Davisville Jr. PS and the surrounding community have not changed, and as such the additional classrooms remain an urgent capital project for the Board. The business case requesting these additional rooms has been submitted to the Ministry at every opportunity since but has yet to be approved. For more details, please read the 2023 [Business Case for a 5-Classroom Addition to Accommodate Enrolment Growth within the Midtown Community](#).





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### **How do we accommodate growth in the meantime?**

If Ministry recognizes the urgency of this addition and provides the funding required, it is the Board's intention to begin constructing the additional classroom space as soon as the City's Aquatic Centre is completed in the Spring of 2027.

As is standard practice for new schools in Ontario, the Davisville Jr. PS site was planned to accommodate portables. The site can accommodate a maximum of two. The portables will be placed near the northeast corner of the site. A plan showing where the portables will be placed can be found on the next page.

To ensure that the school has sufficient space for students, Principal Finkelstein is working with TDSB Planning and Facilities staff to arrange for the two portables to be delivered either this week or next week to ensure they will be ready for September 2024. For 2025-26 and 2026-27, Davisville Jr. PS students will continue to be accommodated within the building and in the two portables.

The Toronto Lands Corporation will engage in discussions with the city to determine if it is possible to use some of the community spaces in the future Aquatic Centre, if required, until the future 5-room addition is constructed ready for occupancy.

In the meantime, we are confident that Principal Finkelstein and Vice-Principal Moftakhar will continue to ensure students, staff and the community are kept updated.

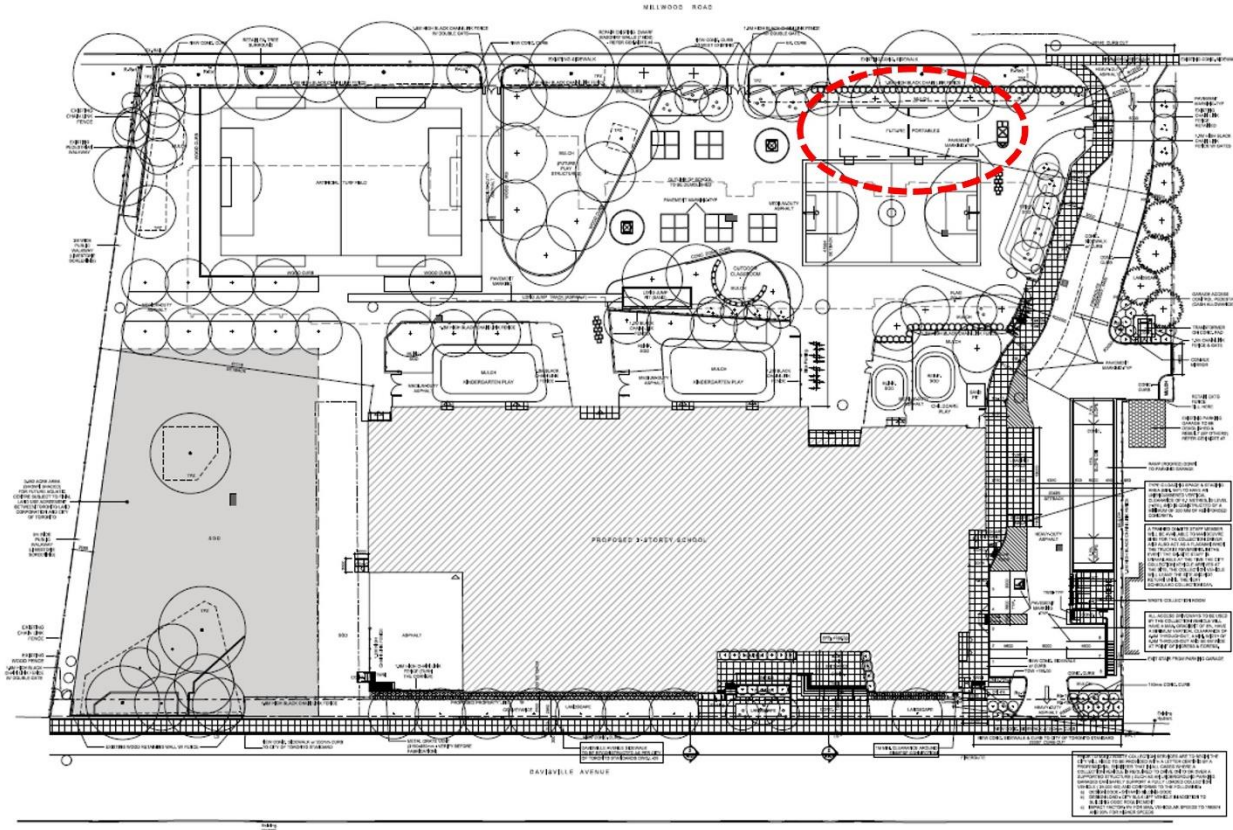




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## Davisville Jr. PS / Spectrum Alt. Sr. Site Plan – Location of Two Portables



*Shelley Laskin*

**Shelley Laskin**  
Trustee, Ward 8, Eglinton-Lawrence and Toronto-St Paul's  
Toronto District School Board  
5050 Yonge Street, 1st Floor  
Toronto, ON M2N 5N8

*Ian Allison*

**Ian Allison**  
Interim Superintendent of Education, Learning Network 5  
Toronto District School Board  
ian.allison@tdsb.on.ca





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*I acknowledge the ancestral and unceded territories on which we work of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.*

