



Pupil Accommodation Review Committee
Public Meeting #3
Guildwood JPS, Elizabeth Simcoe JPS, Poplar Rd. JPS, Jack Miner JPS
 April 24, 2018
 6:30 pm Auditorium
 Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI – Auditorium

C: Comment
Q: Question
R: Response

Item	GUILDWOOD SCHOOLS PARC DISCUSSION/COMMENTS	Attachments / Actions / Results
1.	<p>Q: I live next to Poplar Rd JPS; I attended Poplar Rd JPS, then Jack Miner SPS. Will the new school for Poplar JPS be built further back in the green space or on the same footprint there is now?</p> <p>R: It will be built in green space. The students will remain in the existing building until the new school is built. They will move to the new building once it is complete. Then the existing building will be demolished.</p>	
2.	<p>Q: Didn't we just put in new windows and a roof in the last 5 years at Poplar Rd JPS?</p> <p>R: The school has had renewal repairs/maintenance work done. The roof was also recently replaced.</p>	
3.	<p>Q: There have been new windows done all the way around the school I saw it from my backyard. How much money has been invested? I value tax payer's dollars and I know I am not going to get an answer.</p> <p>R: The windows have not been replaced at Poplar Rd JPS in the last few years.</p>	
4.	<p>Q: I am here for Poplar Rd JPS. With regards to the new the Child Care Centre's being offered in the school; are we keeping them at the school as part of the school or could we use one of the facilities as part of a larger Child Care Centre? There are a lot of independent child care spaces in this area.</p> <p>R: The Ministry is offering capital for child care spaces in schools and we apply for capital funding as those opportunities arise. The child care facilities will be located within the schools.</p>	

5.	<p>Q: Where is green space going to be located at Poplar Rd JPS? If the school is being put in the green space, that would divide the space. This is the largest green space in all of Scarborough and having parking in front of the school will divide the space.</p> <p>R: The new school at Poplar Rd JPS will be built very close to the existing building. It will start at the asphalt out the back then on a slight diagonal. At the side of the building there will be green space, and the front will have the child care drop off on one side, a playfield and parking. The existing building will be torn down after the new one is built and become green space with some asphalt. If we get approval then the next stage will involve design. The community is able to come out to see the plans and provide input before they are finalized.</p>	
6.	<p>Q: It seems the reason for the new school build is to accommodate the child care needs or is the school in such disrepair that it needs a new build?</p> <p>R: Poplar Rd JPS is in such a condition that it is qualifies to be considered for a new build.</p>	
7.	<p>Q: Can we have one building considered solely for childcare?</p> <p>R: No, at Poplar we currently have 2 rooms for childcare; we will be able to accommodate an extra room in the new build.</p>	
8.	<p>Q: With significant capital improvement going to Elizabeth Simcoe JPS and Poplar Rd JPS i.e. modern equipment etc. and Guildwood JPS not receiving any additional funding; has this panel reviewed the impact to Guildwood JPS' future enrolment?</p> <p>R: TDSB staff have met with Ministry on two occasions after last June to present this new option. When we started we wanted to replace two schools. We are working with the Board Option and this is the best we can do with what the Ministry is willing to offer. We wanted three more classes (450 pupil spaces) to operate at 80% capacity. The Ministry cut those classes and said that we need to operate at 90% capacity which is 387 pupil spaces in the new build. The schools will open at 90% capacity; there won't be any opportunities for optional attendance registrations because the school will open full. When a school operates at 85% or more capacity they cannot accept students out of area unless they go to the specialized program. Guildwood JPS would need to have at least an 85% to 90% capacity to be considered. They are not reaching those numbers at this time.</p>	

9.	<p>Q: I am from the Guildwood area, within the Jack Miner SPS/Poplar JPS catchment. I have a question regarding Jack Miner SPS. If Jack Miner closes do we have any sense of what would become of that property?</p> <p>R: We would like to explore different options to allow the property to stay within our Board i.e. Professional Learning Centre, Ed Vance program etc. If the Board declares this property surplus then it is subject to compliance with Ontario Regulation 444/98. This regulatory process provides for a 180 day circulation period whereby public agencies can submit to purchase the surplus site at market value. Should the Regulatory process be satisfied without a public agency purchase, the surplus site can then be offered For Sale to the open market. The Toronto Lands Corporation (TLC) ensures an open and competitive process through the engagement of a real estate broker. Keep in mind that there are restrictions to build on the property where Jack Miner SPS is located. There is very little space to build; we cannot even place portables on the space due to the restrictions. The Trustee has spoken to the TDSB Senior Staff to look at keeping this property. The process for the site is a separate process from the PARC.</p>	
10.	<p>Q: I live in the Guildwood area. Have you thought of the reallocation of the specialized programs? I.e. Gifted Program</p> <p>R: Many years ago when Poplar Rd JPS and Elizabeth Simcoe JPS received their specialized programs Guildwood JPS was full. Enrolment was healthy at Guildwood JPS until 5 years ago. The issue is the low enrolment at Jack Miner SPS. Also, the size of the facility is taken into consideration when allocating these programs at a school. The building needs to be large enough to run these programs. If we are looking at total population for the 4 schools then it doesn't solve the issue in the Guildwood area by juggling enrolments.</p>	
11.	<p>Q: Someone addressed a key concern. What will happen to this property at Jack Miner? While restrictions may be in place; this is prime lake front real-estate, we have the potential for a 32 story condo tower here. I would move heaven and earth to get the property here. I would also like to comment that last year we built a playground for the kindergarten students. This will be bulldozed. It is a waste of tax dollars. Most students don't walk to school, they usually get a ride.</p> <p>R: City Councilor Paul Ainslie. This area is zoned as a single family residential. It would be next to impossible to have condos put up on the Jack Miner site. What can happen here is that the property can be rezoned. There are a number of restrictions on the property. There is enough room for townhouses and for single family residences, up to 12 homes.</p>	

12.	<p>Q: For City Councilor Paul Ainslie; I live at 417 Guildwood Parkway and get up with Jack Miner SPS basketball team. Guildwood parkway is so busy between the Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI and Jack Miner SPS; is the city doing anything to slow down the traffic on Guildwood Parkway?</p> <p>R: The City has conducted traffic studies, and the motor vehicle volume on Guildwood Parkway is under capacity. It did not meet the warrant for a traffic light. We had the speed limits reduced a few years ago. From the community aspect I am going through this process at Borden site. We are looking at putting residential housing on the site. We would like to do something to Jack Miner SPS to keep within the schools system. In the long term we will not be able to get back this space.</p>	
13.	<p>Q: In the context for the whole City of Toronto; has there ever been a school area that has been consolidated?</p> <p>R: Yes numerous across the Board. Specific to this area is Joseph Brant SPS. They were fed by Heron Park Jr PS and Peter Secord Jr PS. Peter Secord Jr PS was bought by the French board and homes were built on the Heron Park site. Joseph Brant PS received an addition to their building. This was very successful, and it is being done all over the city, not only in Scarborough.</p>	
14.	<p>Q: The projected enrolment numbers presented at beginning does that include the absorption of the Jack Miner SPS?</p> <p>R: We actually showed both. This is status quo that all schools are operating at now.</p>	
15.	<p>Q: Students currently attending outside of catchment but attend the school through optional attendance. What will happen to these students?</p> <p>R: If this is approved the move will not happen until 2023. If a student is at the school at that time they are grandfathered and will remain at the school. Note that once a student is accepted under optional attendance, that school becomes their home school. We sometimes look at accepting siblings because we do not want to divide families.</p>	
16.	<p>Q: What are the exceptions to optional attendance registrations? This will impact certain schools not getting anything.</p> <p>R: The exceptions the principals may consider would be sibling registrations and students attending the full time day care facility.</p>	

17.	<p>Q: If there are exceptions what happens if enrolment further declines at Guildwood?</p> <p>R: We are trying to improve education in the Guildwood Community and would like to provide this area with up to date and better facilities. When we initially looked at the review we had a conversation with City staff who advised us that they require additional daycare spaces in this ward especially in the Guild. We want to make sure there are infant, toddler and preschool child care spaces available. Those spaces will be offered to those who live in catchment area first. We had a parent who came out last year and said she could only find space near the U of T Scarborough campus. We want the child care to be available to parents locally. The child care facilities are all independently operated and follow their own policies when accepting children. We have conversations with them about accepting students in the catchment area first.</p>	
18.	<p>Q: This has been a long planning process and I believe the school enrolments will increase in this neighborhood. My question is what is the plan if this does not go forward?</p> <p>R: If this proposal does not to go through and we are not provided capital funding by the Ministry then the facility renewals will continue. Guildwood JPS just had their gym floors refinished (sanded and varnished). Most schools had their roofing done; schools are getting wall to wall WIFI, painting, new boilers etc. We will continue to ensure the schools are safe, healthy and thriving. We are looking at the current generation of students but also students for the next 50 years.</p>	
19.	<p>Q: I am from the Poplar Road Jr PS school catchment. Can you tell us more about how this plan will benefit the DD students?</p> <p>R: It is beneficial to the DD students to remain in the school for a longer period of time. All students benefit from fewer transitions. The students will stay in the care of staff that knows them.</p>	
20.	<p>Q: There is a lot of traffic and speeding in the area; with the new build at Poplar Rd JPS, how will this affect the traffic issues?</p> <p>R: The school will have a “kiss-n-ride” drop off zone at new build. Mayor John Tory recently held a press conference regarding traffic in school zones and working with the city to improve this issue. The principal should communicate with the community and parents with information around safety in the school zones.</p>	
21.	<p>Q: I am a parent of the Guildwood JPS community. My children went to that school I am here now as a resident. I have a process question. What happens with this recommendation when it goes to the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting?</p> <p>R: We will be presenting Option #5 which is to close Jack Miner SPS and the 3 remaining schools will become K-8 schools. A new build for Poplar Rd JPS, and an addition for Elizabeth Simcoe JPS. This is the only option that will go forward.</p>	

22.	<p>Q: Will you be presenting with the anecdotal comments or what is on the screen?</p> <p>R: The first proposal to the Planning and Priorities Committee is what was supported by staff. The plan tonight is not supported by staff. We were asked by the Board of Trustees to review this option alone. The information we have provided will be on the recommendation. The Ministry is not in favour of this option, they preferred the first option. We can only do what the Trustees put forward. We are working with the best possible grants that are available to us today.</p>	
23.	<p>Q: Who asked you to give them a capital proposal?</p> <p>R: We asked the Ministry if this recommendation is approved what would they be willing to support. We originally asked for 2 new buildings. We don't have any commitment from the Ministry that they will support what we are offering here tonight. We will only proceed if the Ministry secures the capital grants</p>	
24.	<p>Q: Who is going to present at the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting?</p> <p>R: The Planning Department Manager, I will be at the meeting only as a support to the manager.</p>	
25.	<p>Q: All or nothing; is this the proposal all or nothing you accept or back to square one?</p> <p>R: We are proceeding with an all or nothing proposal. If it is not approved then the schools will remain status quo.</p>	
26.	<p>Q: At the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting, can there be something else presented to the Board?</p> <p>R: We have 5 year period before we can review this again. The planning staff can put in an amendment i.e. 4 rooms at Elizabeth Simcoe JPS.</p>	
27.	<p>Q: I have a question regarding daycare. I understand that there is a really long waiting list for daycares in this area and choose to stay home. Will they consider increasing the childcare at Guildwood JPS because of the long waiting lists?</p> <p>R: When we considered increasing the Child Care space for the Guildwood JPS facility, we realized that it is not possible. The school does not physically have the space to increase the number of child care spaces in that facility.</p>	

28.	<p>Q: So if the schools remain status quo whether Jack Miner SPS closes or not, are you going to go forward with closing Guildwood JPS?</p> <p>R: Not at all.</p>	
29.	<p>Q: My interests are regarding Guildwood JPS; I did not attend the public school system. I am involved with statistics and consulting and I find it hard to believe the proposed enrolment for 2023. After closing Jack Miner JPS and converting the 3 junior schools to K-8. The projected enrolment demonstrates that at Guildwood JPS there will be 3 students in grade 7. The numbers change from 19 to 17 to 3 students. Is it worthwhile to have a class of 3? How did you come up with the numbers for 2023?</p> <p>R: The Planning Dept. is very accurate from year to year in their enrolment projections, with minimal adjustments. For this reason most schools don't have to reorganize their classes which allow for a stable school community. They do a lot of work to project future enrolment. They track actual enrolment and retention rates and use many resources to collect this data. Many schools have transition points; students move from JK to SK French Immersion; in grade 4 students move to Extended French programs possibly at another site; students in the Gifted program draw from elementary school in the area. Over the last 15 years we have been losing students to the "905 areas" in the GTA i.e. Durham, York, etc. We have a lot of surplus capacity in our schools. The birth rate is much lower, as well as immigration rates. We track births in each catchment right up to 2016 and how many of those births will enroll in JK. Population is hard to predict and it is always wrong but we are very close. In September, if we are wrong then we have to move students from one class to another depending on whether we are creating a new class or collapsing a class. This can be very disruptive to the school, the students and parents. We try to avoid this disruption to the school communities as much as we can.</p>	
30.	<p>Q: What happens in this type of situation for 2023; the grade 7 class with 3 students; what if it really is only 3 students or 0 students grade 7 students, will you do a 3 grade split?</p> <p>R: We would have a split 7/8 class; we cannot do a triple split. We encountered this issue before and the Superintendent has given Guildwood JPS an extra teacher to avoid a 3 grade split.</p>	

31.	<p>Q: I am here for Elizabeth Simcoe JPS. I would like to thank the PARC committee, staff, and Board for their work, and clarification of information. I really appreciate all your efforts. I am worried about June 7th election, I understand that the recommendation will be presented to the Board at the end of June. Should we have a new government, do they have the final decision? With a PC government, could they decide to close the schools?</p> <p>R: We have to operate with whatever party is in office. If this goes through the Board we will go forward to the Ministry. We will continue with the process that is in place right now. The Ministry cannot close schools unless they change the regulation's.</p>	
32.	<p>Q: Can the Ministry issue a new recommendation to the PARC committee?</p> <p>R: The Ministry does not issue new recommendations; they can ask the PARC to reconvene. They can ask us to review all schools in the province.</p>	
33.	<p>Q: If all schools remain underutilized; could this be a risk for the future of these schools?</p> <p>R: That is a possibility. We cannot predict what will happen; we can only follow the regulations we currently have. This is a much larger issue within the system. We are dealing with this all over the city; this issue is not exclusive to the Guildwood community. We have to think about our entire school system and how this will impact all schools.</p>	
34.	<p>Q: The proposal is basically recommending that Jack Miner SPS closes and the 3 remaining junior schools convert to JK-8. How much of the details such as, the green space, where will the new build be placed, etc.; is part of the all or nothing recommendation? Also can the students at Poplar JPS attend Jack Miner SPS and Elizabeth Simcoe JPS while the school is being built to allow it to remain in the same footprint?</p> <p>R: The details will go through the Design and Construction Department after the recommendation is approved by the Board and the Ministry. We would need to do extensive renovations to Jack Miner SPS to enable the student at Poplar Rd JPS to attend during the new build. Jack Miner SPS doesn't have the washroom facilities for younger students. Elizabeth Simcoe JPS doesn't have the capacity to take on more students. This may complicate things for parents with the possibility of having children at multiple schools. There will be an opportunity for community input once we have a final design.</p>	

35.	<p>Q: This will impact the green space, track and field, and sports with the green space split in the middle by the school.</p> <p>R: We would need to look at the design; this concept has been used successfully in schools all over the Board. We have many examples of this happening in our system.</p>	
36.	<p>Q: Regarding the daycare at Guildwood JPS. We have been trying to find daycare in the area for 18 month old children. The government allowing 18 month parental leave is presently underutilized. This is an opportunity to have more daycare spaces. Why can we not have more spaces available at Guildwood JPS?</p> <p>R: With Guildwood JPS we looked at space and where we can provide longevity. There may be some space currently but when we move from the Jr. model to the K-8 model the school cannot sustain that.</p>	
37.	<p>Q: The Principal of Jack Miner SPS is here and I would like to ask him if he thinks he could honestly hold 350 students at the school. When I went there we had less than 200 students. At this moment the way the classrooms are right now could they hold 350 students?</p> <p>R: We can hold as close as possible to 350. The problem is that programming is challenging right now; we have a small staff size. We could hold a lot more than we can hold right now. Regarding the capacity of the facility, the Ministry calculates the pupil spaces for each room. The Shop Room, Music Instrumental is rated at zero but the Music Vocal room is rated at 23. Every other room is rated. Right now there are empty rooms that are being used on the third floor by staff. In September of 2018 the last junior high school is closing. The Ministry will only approve K-8 new builds.</p>	
38.	<p>Q: I think there are benefits for students to attend a Junior High School. Where are you getting your information from?</p> <p>R: There are many who have varying opinions on grade 7/8 school vs K-8 school. I have worked as a principal and teacher at schools in each model Junior, Senior, Junior High etc. I found the K-8 model the most effective for teaching and learning for students and staff. Rotary programming can be available for 7/8 students in a K-8 school. Also, in a K-8 school the teachers in building get to know the kids and their families. Their first transition will be in grade 9, but they will be 14 years old and more mature to handle the transition. There are also many opportunities for the student to become familiar with the high school to allow for an easier transition. In grade 7/8 the hormones can be challenging. I find that in a K-8 school those hormones are toned down. There are parents in the building and having that presence makes a difference. In a Senior school the parent presence is practically non-existent. The most important aspect is the amount of leadership opportunities available for the older students. These students educate students on how to play safe, role model etc. the K-8 model pros outweigh the cons.</p>	