

System Review Elementary Academies

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, March 6th, 2025

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Overview
3. Elementary Academies location and enrolment
4. Survey Summary
5. Review Staff Proposal
6. Questions/Discussion
7. Next steps

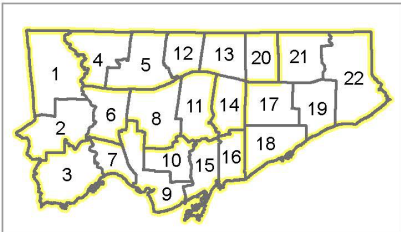
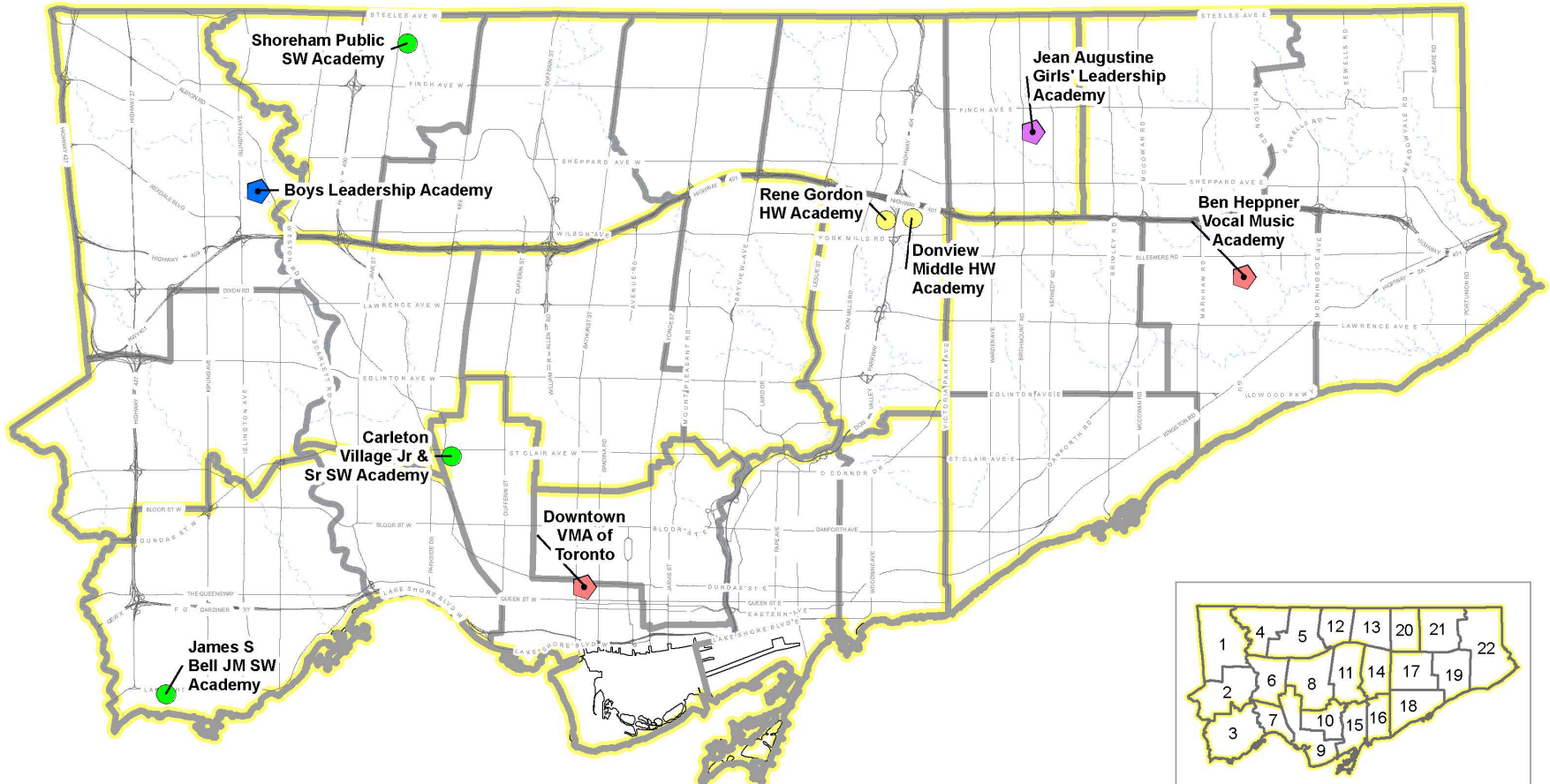
Participants

School	Name	Title
Carleton Village Jr & Sr SWA	John Currie	FOS08 Superintendent
Carleton Village Jr & Sr SWA	Cathy Chumfong	Principal
James S. Bell Jr Middle SWA	Harpreet Ghuman	FOS03 Superintendent
James S. Bell Jr Middle SWA	Jeffrey Newman	Principal
Shoreham PS SWA	Jacqueline Spence	FOS04 Superintendent
Shoreham PS SWA	Joan Lattie	Principal
Rene Gordon HWA	Kurt McIntosh	FOS13 Superintendent
Rene Gordon HWA	Marianne Scott	Principal
Donview Middle HWA	Kurt McIntosh	FOS13 Superintendent
Donview Middle HWA	Sam Niarchos	Principal
Planning	Nechama Hirschberg	Accommodation Manager
Planning	Reema Khanna	Planner

Overview

- Introduced in 2012 to increase the number of choices available for families.
- Nine programs were established:
 - Four were Standalone schools: Boys Leadership, Girls Leadership Academy, and two Vocal Music Academies. All were Grades 4 to 8 models.
 - Five involved a rebranding of existing neighbourhood schools to infuse a theme; sports & wellness (3) or health & wellness (2)
- Standalone programs were accommodated at schools with available space, transportation was not provided. As of September 2024, all standalone programs have been paused due to low enrolment
- The LTPAS includes a Program Priority to conduct a system-wide study of the Elementary Academies during the 2024-25 school year.

Elementary Academies – Location Map





Produced by:
Strategy & Planning, TDSB
March 2022
Source:
Base Map- Geospatial Competency Centre
Facility - Strategy & Planning, TDSB



Academies established as standalone schools:

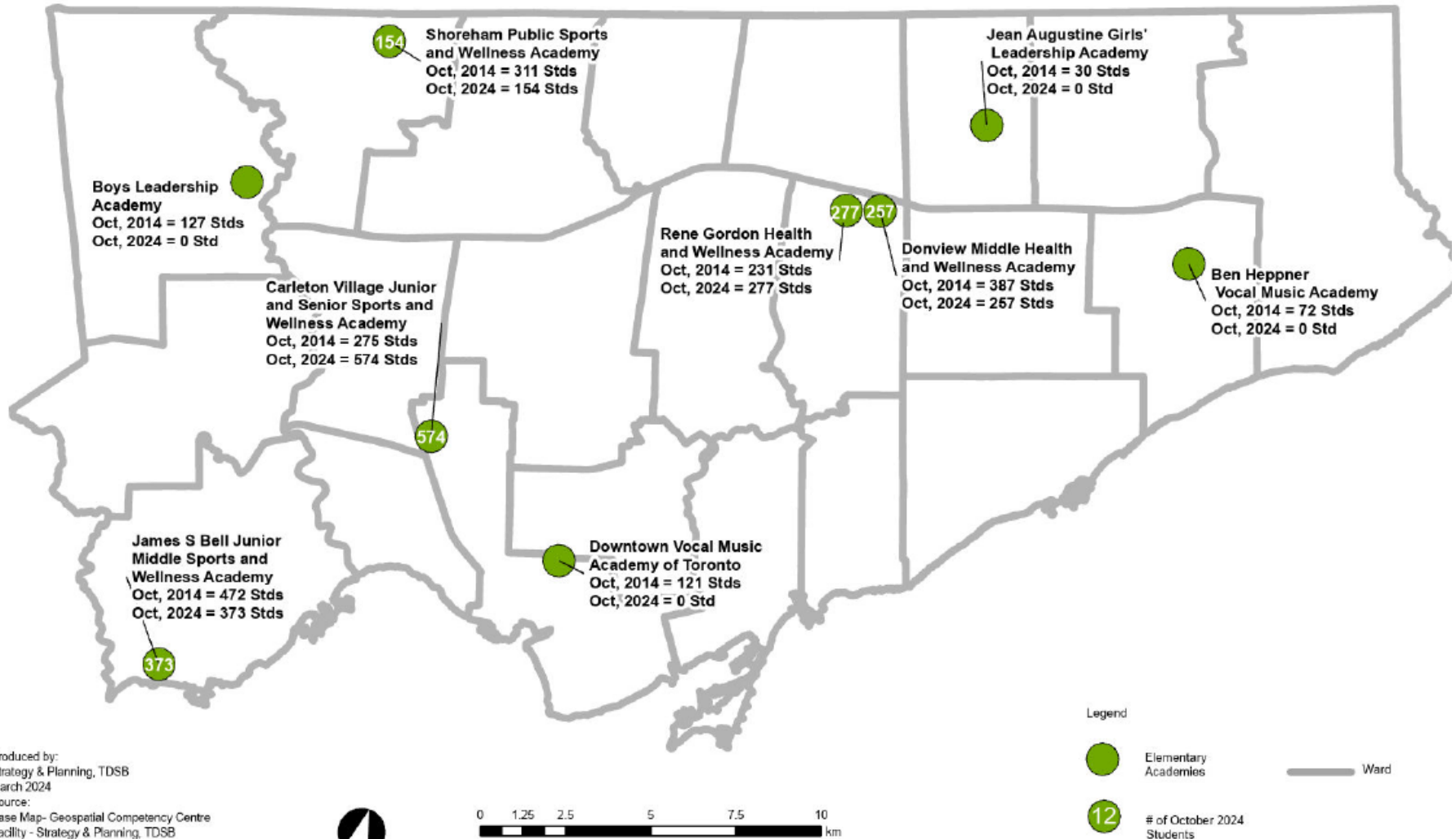
-  Boys Leadership Academy
-  Girls Leadership Academy
-  Vocal Music Academy

Academies established as neighbourhood schools with a program theme:

-  Health and Wellness Academy
-  Sports and Wellness Academy

-  Learning Centre
-  Major Road
-  Waterway
-  Ward

Elementary Academies – 2014 to 2024 Enrolment



Produced by:
Strategy & Planning, TDSB
March 2024

Source:
Base Map- Geospatial Competency Centre
Facility - Strategy & Planning, TDSB

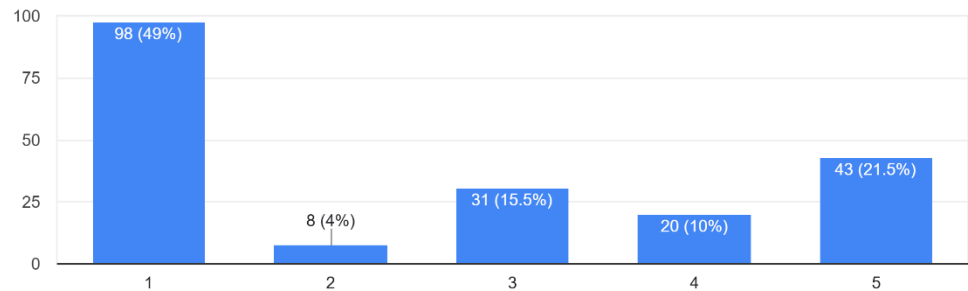


Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Survey - Summary

- A parent/guardian/caregiver survey was circulated to all five neighbourhood schools with a theme.
- About half of the respondents (50%) indicated that Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness had no influence on their family's decision to attend the school.
- Although about 30% of respondents were unsure, the majority indicated that Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness had a minimal to moderate focus on their children's homework and projects

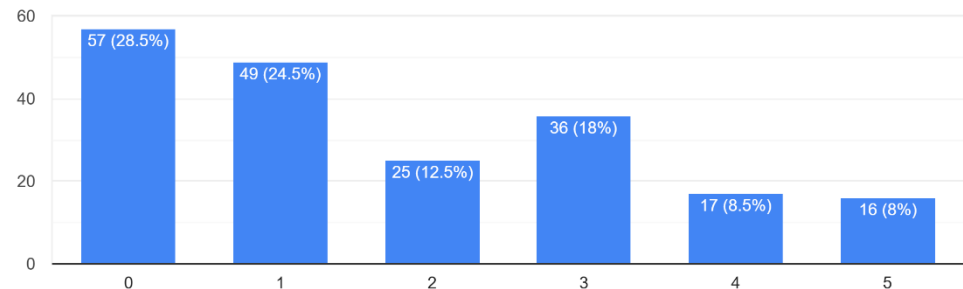
2. To what extent did the Sports & Wellness/ Health & Wellness Academy influence your family's decision to attend the school?

200 responses



3. How much of your child(ren)'s homework and projects focus on Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness?

200 responses

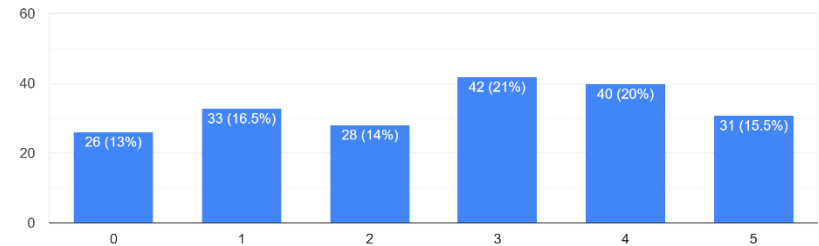


Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Survey – Summary

- About 20% of respondents reported moderate focus on Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness in school-led activities, while approximately 35% noted a high level of focus.
- Respondents indicated that the visibility of the Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness theme inside the school varies. Almost half (47%) felt the theme was either not evident at all or slightly evident.

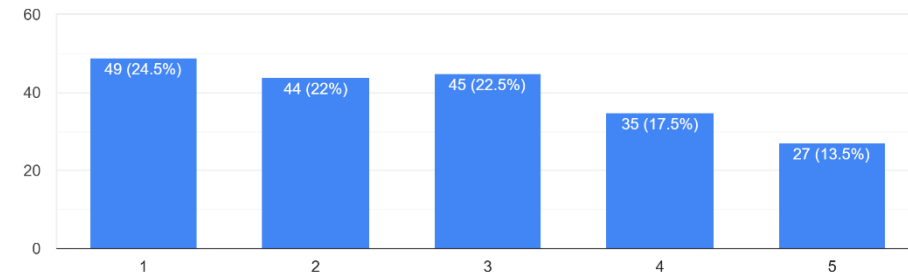
4. How much do school-led activities focus on Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness? (school-led activities may include school assemblies, field trips, or clubs)

200 responses



5. When you are inside the school, how evident is the Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness theme?

200 responses

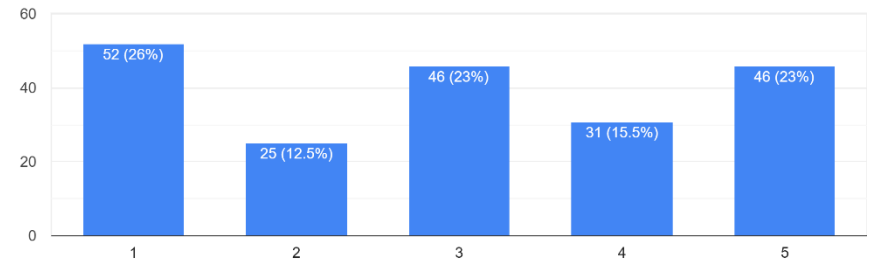


Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Survey - Summary

- Responses varied regarding the benefits of the Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness theme, with 45% reporting no or minimal benefits and 39% experiencing moderate to major benefits.
- About 45% of respondents feel the name suffix either does not reflect or slightly reflects the school, while 23% feel it moderately reflects, and 33% believe it mostly or accurately reflects the school.

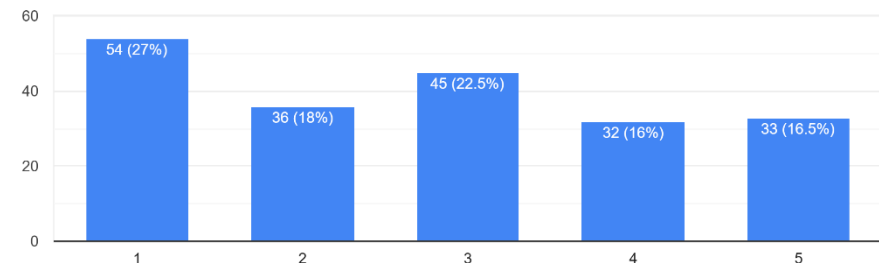
6. Have you or your child(ren) benefited from the Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness Academy theme at your school?

200 responses



7. Does the name suffix of Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness reflect the school?

200 responses

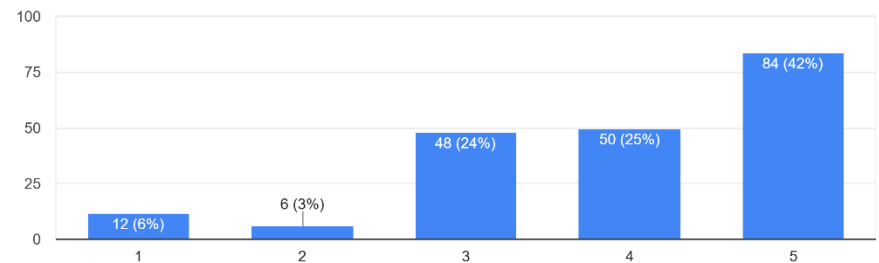


Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Survey - Summary

- Majority of respondents (67%) would like to see more or much more focus on Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness, while 24% preferred no change.
- The responses are split, with 51% of respondents believing the school should continue with the Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness Academy, while 50% think it should be removed or are uncertain.

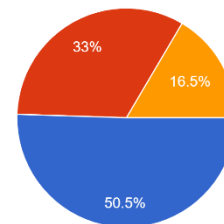
8. Would you like to see more or less focus on Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness at your school?

200 responses



9. Do you think your school should continue as a Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness Academy or remove the name suffix?

200 responses



- Continue as a Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness Academy
- Remove the name suffix (return to the original school name)
- Don't know

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Survey - Summary

- General feedback included:
 - Keep the name due to strong pride in the school, but more programming is needed to support Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness theme.
 - Keep the name to avoid the costs associated with the name change.
 - Neighbourhood schools should not have themes, as not all students are interested in athletics.
 - Some feel the Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness offerings at the school are similar to those at other schools.
 - Some believe the school name should change to reflect the evolving meaning of Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness.
 - Respondents that supported name change or were indifferent felt that the programming should remain unchanged.

Parent Council Survey - Summary

- Most respondents felt that Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness theme did not influence their decision to attend the school.
- Most respondents believe the theme is integrated into daily instruction.
- Some respondents felt that the theme has evolved over the years.
- Some felt that the theme cannot fully measure the impact on student experience or the community, while others believe it meets the school community needs, and additional programming would enhance its impact.
- Initial benefits included a variety of activity options for students, increased happiness, and strengthened identity.
- Challenges include budget constraints for better equipment and programming.
- Most respondents still support keeping the current name.

Principal Survey- Summary

- All Principals expressed a strong sense of school community across all schools.
- Sports & Wellness/Health & Wellness is integrated in all grades and school-wide initiatives, but the options are similar to those offered at other schools.
- The themes at some schools have evolved to include mental wellbeing and music.
- Principals have expressed that the theme in the name is misleading as families perceive it as a separate school or specialized programming.
- Some schools have requested a suffix name change for several years.

Staff Proposal

- Rename schools as appropriate. Changing the suffix.
 - Where necessary will update signage around school

School Name	Change in name suffix
James S. Bell Sports & Wellness Academy	James S. Bell Junior Middle School
Carleton Village Sports & Wellness Academy	Carleton Village Junior & Senior Public School
Shoreham Sports & Wellness Academy	Shoreham Public School
Rene Gordon Health & Wellness Academy	Rene Gordon Elementary School
Donview Middle Health & Wellness Academy	Donview Middle School

- Themes could become Local Student Interest Programs (Policy P100 - Student Interest Programs Section 6.6)
 - Process at the school level
 - School would continue the community partnerships

Next Steps

- Staff will draft a report to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- The report will be presented to the Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) of the Board on **Wednesday, May 14, 2025**.
- PPC meeting is when the public has an opportunity to depute to the Board.
- To register a delegation, you must e-mail Governance and Board Services at delegates@tdsb.on.ca by **Monday, May 12, 2025**
- For more information regarding this process, please visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/leadership/boardroom/delegations>
- The Board of Trustees will make a final decision on **Wednesday, May 21, 2025**.
- Comments and questions can be submitted by e-mail to: accommodationsreviews@tdsb.on.ca

