

Questions and answers from June 2, 2016 public meeting

The following document includes the questions and answers discussed at the first public meeting of the Pupil Accommodation Review for secondary schools south of the 401 that took place on June 2, 2016 at Port Credit Secondary School. The questions and answers have been grouped by theme.

Continuing and Adult Education

What's the enrolment of the current Adult Education Centre compared to Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School?

Approximately, 1,800 adult learners attend class at the Adult Education Centre, located on Elm Street. Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School's enrolment is currently 694.

If the Adult Education Centre turns into a kindergarten to grade 8 school, what will happen to Fairview Public School?

A new school is required because the schools in the city centre area are over capacity. The construction of a new elementary school will relieve enrolment pressures at a number of elementary schools in the city centre area.

TL Kennedy Secondary School is only at 47 local students. Why not make it the new Adult Education Centre, as it is very central and keep the Developmentally Delayed program in the allocated wing?

In September 2015 there were 454 local students attending T.L. Kennedy i.e. students who live within the boundaries for the school. By moving the Adult Education Centre to TL Kennedy Secondary School, the Peel District School Board would displace too many local students and segregate students in the District Development Disabilities program.

Autism Spectrum Disorder/Vocational Programs

The Accommodation Review Committee seemed to support all of the recommendations except moving the Vocational, Autism Spectrum Disorder to Glenforest Secondary School. They are continuing to discuss it. What factors/reasons are impacting their support of this recommendation?

The Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) will continue to discuss the most appropriate placement for the Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder programs, currently at Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School. The ARC recommends that wherever these programs are relocated, appropriate capital improvements will be required to support enrolment and provide a 21st century student experience.

What is the communication plan for the movement of the Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder programs? What does the timeline look like?

As the board has not yet made any final decisions, it's too early to say at this point. Rest assured that the once decisions are made, the board will develop a transition plan and this plan will ensure that proper communication takes place with the affected families to ensure a smooth transition for all students.

What are the options for the Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder locations?

The Accommodation Review Committee will continue to discuss the most appropriate placement for the Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder programs.

Applewood Heights Secondary School is under enrolled even with its regional programming. Why was it not considered as the home for Vocational instead of Glenforest Secondary School?

The growing French Immersion program at Applewood Heights Secondary School will increase student enrolment in the coming years, and it would not have space to accommodate two additional programs.

Why was Applewood Heights Secondary School not included in the review since it is lower in % numbers than Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School?

The growing French Immersion program at Applewood Heights Secondary School will increase student enrolment in the coming years. The projected enrolment numbers at Applewood Heights are significantly higher than Gordon Graydon.

PAR process

Could Lorne Park Secondary School not have sent a representative on behalf of the Lorne Park Trustee?

All schools were invited to have a parent representative and alternate on the ARC. There is now one Lorne Park Secondary School representative and one alternate representative for Lorne Park Secondary School on the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). The Lorne Park principal also sits on the ARC and attended both ARC meetings.

International Business & Technology at Meadowvale Secondary School

Why was the International Business & Technology program at Meadowvale Secondary School introduced? Ultimately, this program killed Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School's enrolment.

The International Business & Technology program at Meadowvale Secondary School was introduced to expand program offerings to students, located in west Mississauga.

Glenforest Secondary School

Why are so many programs moving to Glenforest Secondary School when it is already over capacity?

Where possible, the programs will be placed close to where most of the students accessing the program live.

Can enhanced students at Glenforest Secondary School move to The Woodland or Lorne Park secondary schools now?

No, however, the Accommodation Review Committee is currently proposing the following changes to the original Peel District School Board staff recommendations:

- Moving the timelines outlined in the Initial Staff Report up 1 year. This would mean the relocation of the Enhanced Learning program starting September 2017 and the relocation of other programs and the closure of Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School for September 2018.
- Phasing out the Enhanced Learning program at Glenforest Secondary School so existing grade 9 to 12 students in the program can graduate from Glenforest SS. In September 2017, grade 9 students in the Enhanced Learning program would be redirected to The Woodlands and Lorne Park secondary schools. Students in the Enhanced Learning program would be completely phased out of Glenforest and into their respective schools by September 2020.

At Glenforest Secondary School, have there been any traffic studies done with respect to the local traffic during construction at Glenforest, and when the larger number of school busses arrive each day? Are local residents aware of this?

Currently there are two regular-size private buses that bring students to Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School for the Graphic and Design Management program. For the Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder programs, there are a combination of buses and vans for a total of 14 (1 regular size, 11 small busses, 1 van, 1 wheelchair). This information is as of March 2016 and is subject to change as enrolment and student needs change. There are also a number of Vocational students living in the Glenforest area who will not need to be transported by bus because they will be within walking distance to the school. Furthermore, with the Enhanced Learning Program moving to Lorne Park and The Woodlands Secondary Schools, those students will no longer be transported by bus to Glenforest Secondary School and this will mean that those buses will no longer be coming to Glenforest Secondary School. If the proposed recommendation is approved in the final staff report, any necessary traffic improvements will be implemented at Glenforest Secondary School.

Requiring that Glenforest Secondary School Enhanced students who enter Grade 9 in 2016 to leave their alma mater for another high school part way through their high school experience seems unkind. Could these students be allowed to complete high school at GFSS?

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- Phasing out the Enhanced Learning program at Glenforest Secondary School so existing grade 9 to 12 students in the program can graduate from Glenforest SS. In September 2017, grade 9 students in the Enhanced Learning program would be redirected to The Woodlands and Lorne Park secondary schools. Students in the Enhanced Learning program would be completely phased out of Glenforest and into their respective schools by September 2020.

Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School

Due to the relocation of the Graphic and Design Management program to Glenforest Secondary School, what will happen to the students (who will enter grade 9 in September 2016), who wish to apply to the program? Is it possible to relocate the program by September 2018?

The Accommodation Review Committee is recommending that the Graphic and Design Management program be moved to TL Kennedy Secondary School, effective 2018. Students would move with the program.

Why were principals not consulted in the design of this plan that impacts the Graphic and Design Management program?

For the past four years, a working group, comprised of Superintendents of Education and Planning and Curriculum staff, has been closely monitoring declining secondary enrolments and excess school space in south Mississauga. The working group identified several opportunities to better serve students in this school community and to make the best use of secondary school space. Through the review process, which includes public consultation through the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) meetings and two public meetings, the Peel board will work with its school communities to best meet the learning needs of the students in this area. Principals of the affected schools are members of the ARC.

Why not make Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School the only International Business & Technology secondary school and promote the program to more students?

If Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School's enrolment is an issue, why was part of the International Business & Technology program moved to Meadowvale Secondary School? There used to be 100's of students on the waitlist.

The International Business & Technology program at Meadowvale Secondary School was introduced to expand program offerings to students, located in west Mississauga. Students living in west Mississauga are now able to attend an IBT program closer to their home location.

Lorne Park Secondary School

How do we ensure that the Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder programs is permanently off the table for Lorne Park Secondary School? And, the focus is on the current programs already at Lorne Park?

The Peel District School Board has confirmed that the option of Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder programs will not move to Lorne Park Secondary School, even if recommended by the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) because most of the students reside too far from Lorne Park Secondary School.

Approximately 100 students in the Lorne Park Secondary School boundary go to International Business & Technology. Why is there not even a high school major in business or Science at Lorne Park?

This is not under the mandate of the Accommodation Review Committee. Parents should speak with the principal of Lorne Park Secondary School, who would be able to provide clarity.

Since the Accommodation Review Committee has not yet decided this location of programs, can you definitely say that Lorne Park SS will not be looked at as an option for the Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder programs? Is that option no longer on the table?

The Peel District School Board has confirmed that the option of Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder programs will not move to Lorne Park Secondary School, even if recommended by the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) because most of the students reside too far from Lorne Park Secondary School. The ARC is continuing to gather information about the Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder programs and considering relocation options.

Why wouldn't Lorne Park SS even be considered for the Vocational and Autism Spectrum Disorder programs?

The majority of students in the Vocational program do not live in that area.

Communications

Is the board planning to inform the parents and students entering programs in GGMS in 2016 (September)?

The Peel District School Board provided a letter to Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School to share with incoming grade 9 students at their open house.

Other schools considered?

Why is Port Credit Secondary School not involved in this process? Its students could be moved to other area schools. For example, mainstream students move to Cawthra Secondary School and Cawthra mainstream students move to Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School.

The majority of students who attend Port Credit Secondary School live in the Port Credit area. The changes being suggested in this question would result in too many students being displaced from their neighbourhood school.

Why not change boundaries back to 2013 boundaries? What about making a change to boundaries back to pre-2013 boundaries?

Even if the boundaries for Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School were revised to the 2013 boundaries, there would not be enough students to maintain programming at the school.

Enrolment

Why were the boundaries of Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School changed and not other local schools to accommodate community numbers?

Changing the boundary for Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School to obtain sufficient enrolment to ensure the timetabling of a wide range of course offerings would have required the creation of a very large boundary for the school. The changes being suggested in this question would result in too many students being displaced from their neighbourhood school. This would mean that many students would be living closer to another secondary school but required to attend Gordon Graydon. This would not be in the best interest of students.

Will there be a new boundary map so that you don't keep adding students to school that will later get affected in a year or two later?

The recommendation to close Gordon Graydon will not require changing any boundaries for students not enrolled in a specialty or Special Education program.

There are a number of sub-divisions under construction in the south. How do you come up with numbers for projected enrolment in the Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School community?

The enrolment growth in the Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School community is predicted to be at least 10 years away. If the Inspiration Lakeview project is built in 15 years, we may need a secondary school in the community at that time. This is why the board is suggesting that the school be repurposed as the new Continuing and Adult Education Centre so that we retain the property in case a secondary school is needed there in the future.

Other questions

With these changes, will there be funds allocated to these schools to bring them closer to the 21st century?

All school facilities will be reviewed. Building enhancements will be undertaken, as required, based on identified needs.

How will regional program quality be maintained through and after transition?

Each school in the Pupil Accommodation Review remains committed to helping all students be successful—that has not changed. During the review, each school will continue to receive the same staffing, resources and support. If any changes come out of this accommodation review, the board will work to ensure an effective transition for affected students and their families. An implementation plan will be developed following approval of the Final Staff Report by the Board of Trustees.

Why was Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School announced as the choice for school closure BEFORE the whole review?

The Ministry of Education PAR process requires that staff identify recommendations in an Initial Staff Report at the beginning of the PAR process and this report recommended the closure of Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School. No decisions have been made to close Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School. At this point, it's simply a recommendation in the Initial Staff Report of the Pupil Accommodation Review for secondary schools south of the 401.

Why has the board decided on a dollar amount for renovations for other schools before setting foot in Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School to see what requirements “plant wise” are needed to run the Autism Spectrum Disorder and Vocational programs? Schools suggested for these students to move to do not have any of the facilities required.

The Peel District School Board has not decided on any particular dollar value for facility requirements. The Initial Staff Report identified an estimate amount only. An independent, third party architect has been hired to review sites and provide information to Peel board staff and to the Accommodation Review Committee. Capital improvements are an opportunity for receiving schools to revitalize.

Why didn't they announce the closure of Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School before students had accepted the program application this year?

No decisions have been made to close Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School. At this point, it's a recommendation in the Initial Staff Report of the Pupil Accommodation Review for secondary schools south of the 401. The Pupil Accommodation Review process could not be completed in time for program applications, given the timelines required by the Ministry.

Why move up the date to move Glenforest Secondary School students to 2017? Will it only be grade 9 enhanced students or all?

At this point no decisions have been made. However, the Accommodation Review Committee is currently proposing the following changes to the original Peel District School Board staff recommendation:

- Phasing out the Enhanced Learning program at Glenforest Secondary School so existing grade 9 to 12 students in the program can graduate from Glenforest SS. In September 2017, grade 9 students in the Enhanced Learning program would be redirected to The Woodlands and Lorne Park Secondary Schools. Students in the Enhanced Learning program would be completely phased out of Glenforest S.S. and into their respective schools by September 2020.

Is it true for enhanced students to move to The Woodlands Secondary School sooner?

At this point no decisions have been made. However, the Accommodation Review Committee is currently proposing the following changes to the original Peel District School Board staff recommendation:

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- Phasing out the Enhanced Learning program at Glenforest Secondary School so existing grade 9 to 12 students in the program can graduate from Glenforest SS. In September 2017, grade 9 students in the Enhanced Learning program would be redirected to The Woodlands and Lorne Park secondary schools. Students in the Enhanced Learning program would be completely phased out of Glenforest and into their respective schools by September 2020.
- The relocation of the Graphic and Design Management program to TL Kennedy Secondary School, effective 2018.

Why aren't the feeder schools involved?

Students currently in feeder schools are not impacted because the programs will be moved a number of years out.

Should all trustees be members of the ARC?

There are three Trustees who are attending the ARC meetings as ad hoc members. The trustee representatives on the ARC are Janet McDougald, Sue Lawton and Robert Crocker.