



November 2009

## Ward 3 Oakville Report Card

**From the desk of Stuart Miller, Superintendent of East Oakville schools**

This report will be issued on a regular basis to update the school communities in Ward 3 with respect to progress and issues concerning reconfiguration of the elementary schools in the ward. In addition to the report we will continue to update the website. In spite of this report there may be some unanswered questions we have not addressed. Please continue to post these on the Board's website. Go to [www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca) (Ward 3 Oakville community consultation information is found on the main page).

I can also be contacted at [millers@hdsb.ca](mailto:millers@hdsb.ca) or by phone 905-335-3665 ext 3385.

### **Renewal / Renovations / Builds:**

The majority of the work below is expected to be completed for the beginning of September 2010. A report will be brought to the Board in January 2010 with the scope of the work and a budget for E.J. James, Maple Grove and New Central.

#### ***Clearview:***

The groundbreaking for the new school in Clearview took place on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> and construction has begun.

There is a great deal of excitement about this school. The location of the school is beautifully situated beside a wooded area and within close proximity to sports fields. There will be a community library at the school. The gym will also be used by the community.

#### ***Maple Grove:***

There is \$6 million currently allocated for the renewal of Maple Grove. The renovations to the school will include a larger gym and a number of specialty classrooms. The architectural firm has visited the school and has begun to work on some initial designs. Gerry Cullen, Superintendent of Facilities Services, has also met with the Maple Grove School Council.

#### ***New Central:***

There is \$1.3 million allocated for an addition and upgrades to New Central. The architectural firm has been appointed and begun their design work.

## ***E.J. James:***

In the motion passed by the Board there is recognition that E.J. James required a renewal, but no money was allocated to this process. The money will be allocated once the extent of the renewal is determined.

The Halton District School Board (HDSB) Facilities Department toured the site along with the School Superintendent to determine the scope of the work. In the summer some members of the community met with the Superintendent to discuss renovations at E.J. and to provide input. This input will be included in the determination of the work.

## **Contingency Planning:**

If the work on any of these projects is not completed by September 2010 then a short-term contingency plan will be worked out to accommodate students. This plan has not yet been developed as the expectation is that the work will be completed on time. A better determination of the completion date will be made in Spring 2010. If it appears the work will not be completed in time, a contingency plan will be developed and communicated to all parents.

## **Disposition of School Properties:**

The three properties (Linbrook, Brantwood and Chisholm) have not been sold at this point. The process for selling properties of the Board is governed by S194 of the Education Act and Regulation 444/98. Before the property can be sold, it has to be declared surplus to the needs of the Board. After this process, the Board shall issue a proposal to sell, lease or dispose of the properties to the following bodies:

- a) French Language Public Board
- b) Separate Public Board
- c) French Separate Board
- d) Colleges and Universities
- e) Crown of Ontario
- f) Municipality

## **Transition of Students:**

At this point the staff of all schools impacted have not discussed any “transition” issues with students. This will occur in the spring. Teachers are all very professional and will support the students throughout this process. Administrators of the newly configured schools will begin their planning with staffs and students for the transition in early November, with a series of meetings. The HDSB will also provide support to administrators to organize their transition work of the students. If there is a need for a contingency plan to accommodate students, this will be communicated to the community as soon as it is known.

Finally, administrators will develop some plans to carry over some of the transition work

into the next school year. Our past experience as a Board has indicated that bringing students together again for an event(s) in the following school year is a positive experience for the students.

We will also organize an event(s) for parents sometime in January to help them provide support to their children during the transition. We will bring in an expert on change and have an evening event where parents can ask questions. We hope to do the same for the students later in the spring.

### **Transition of Staff to Schools:**


Staff members have not been allocated to different schools at this point. This work will begin prior to the Christmas Break when the HDSB's Human Resources Department will meet with the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO). These meetings will begin in December and an agreement on the allocation of staff will be achieved in accordance with the contractual obligations of the Board to teachers. In the spring, teachers will be notified in which school they will work. The Board's experience of working through this process with ETFO has always been positive.

Caretaking and Secretarial staff have a separate contractual agreements between their unions and the Board. The obligations in these agreements will be adhered to. Some staff members have started to apply for vacancies in the Board as they are entitled to do. This is the normal procedure that occurs every year.

The Educational Assistants (EA) are allocated in June, July and August. And this process will continue as it is dependent on the needs of the students in the schools. Additional EA's may be allocated in September if there is need in a particular school. All schools will be fully staffed for September 2010.

### **Themes for Newly Configured Schools:**

On October 8<sup>th</sup> a public meeting was held with Clearview parents to present a potential theme for the school and to receive input. As a result of that meeting the HDSB staff is continuing its work on the theme. The proposed theme for Clearview will come before the Board in a report by late November or early December (it is anticipated at the November 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting). Staff was to report to the Board by the end of the October, but the public meeting provided input that required some work and this deadline could not be met. Also it is significant that the theme be determined sooner rather than later as the new Principal will need time to work through the implications of the theme. It will also provide the contractors an opportunity to incorporate any design associated with the theme.



The theme presented to the Clearview community was related to a healthy child, a healthy environment. It incorporates healthy active living with a healthy concern and knowledge of the environment. As mentioned previously the community has provided input and the theme is still being worked on.

A meeting was held at New Central P.S. on October 19<sup>th</sup> with respect to the theme for that school. The theme proposed by staff was an arts-focused theme. Like Clearview, the parent input received at the meeting has caused staff to continue its work. It is expected a report will come to the Board on November 18<sup>th</sup> with the recommendation for the school's theme. The same rationale applies for the timing of this report as for the Clearview report.

## **French Immersion for Clearview:**

A public meeting was held on October 8<sup>th</sup> to receive input on a delivery model for French Immersion (FI) at the new Clearview school. A report will go to the Board on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The recommendation is to grandfather the FI students currently at EJ James. This means that the current Grade 6 and 7 students at EJ James will finish their elementary schooling at that school. All the Clearview FI students presently at Linbrook will attend the new Clearview school, which will be dual track. The Board is committed to growing the program at Clearview. EJ James will be a single track French Immersion school (Grade 1-8).

## **Principal Appointments:**


Although principals will not assume their new positions immediately, it is expected the appointment of the principals of all Ward 3 schools will occur before Christmas. The timeline for their transfer to the new schools has yet to be determined.

## **Division of Resources from Present Schools:**

The first and most significant statement is that schools in Ward 3 will not lose any value of their current resources. There may be a case of duplicate resources that make one of them redundant. In this situation the resources may be transferred to another part of the Board that does not have them and their equivalent value returned to Ward 3.

To divide up the resources in an equitable manner, Integration Committees will be formed in early January 2010. These committees will be composed of the Superintendent, the Principals, the Trustee and school council representatives. In our experience, the decisions of these committees is very positive as they work to support all students.

## **Final word**



I appreciate this report may not have answered all questions, however we will continue to publish this report every month over the next few months. The hope is that with this communication, many of the community's questions will eventually be answered.