



February 2010

Ward 3 Oakville Report Card

From the Desk of Stuart Miller, Superintendent of Education, East Oakville schools

Welcome to the 3rd newsletter for Ward 3. I hope these newsletters have been helpful in keeping the community informed regarding the many activities going on in Ward 3. If you feel there is information missing that you may want, please do not hesitate to contact me at millers@hdsb.ca or by phone 905-335-3665, ext 3385. In addition to this report, we will continue to update the website. Please post additional questions on the Board's website at www.hdsb.ca, where Ward 3 Oakville community consultation information can be found on the main page.

Renovation/Construction/Renewal:

New Central:

The design plans for New Central have been developed and presented to the Board. They are not included in this newsletter but can be found on the Board's website. *On the website, go to the top right side of the page and click on the [About Us](#) link. After this page is open, click on [Facility Services](#) on the left navigation bar. When that page is opened, click on the [Construction](#) link on the left navigation bar. Scroll to New Central where a PDF file of the designs can be found.*

Clearview:

Work on the new school at Clearview is progressing well. It is expected to be completed by August 15, 2010. Information about the school can be found on the Board's website.

E.J. James:

The scope of the work at E.J. James is not the same as it is for the other three area schools since it doesn't include an expansion. There will, however, be an upgrade of E.J. James and this information will likely come to the Board on February 17. The other school projects in Ward 3 were presented to the Board earlier because they involve new construction. These require site plan approval from the Town of Oakville and it is a longer process. The next newsletter will provide more detail about the work at E.J. James.

Maple Grove:

The design plans for Maple Grove have been posted on the Board's website and they have been shared with the School Council. Work includes a \$6M addition, which makes the site plan process, permit acquisition and construction complex. The front of the school is an old carriage house and has been designated a historical property. Work will likely take longer to complete. The timeline for completion is March 2011, or sooner if no delays.

Contingency Plan for Accommodation of Students:

Due to the likelihood that at least some of the schools or parts of the schools will not be completed by September, we have started work on temporary accommodation for the students for next school year. The

planning department, along with Facilities and the Superintendent of Schools, will work on these plans over the next month. The plans will be shared with the School Council Chairs for feedback and then be made available to the public on April 1, 2010.

Disposition of Properties:

The first step in dealing with disposing of Chisholm, Linbrook and Brantwood is for the Board to declare the properties "surplus". This report will come to the Board in the near future and as the process unfolds, closing dates will be negotiated to support the accommodation of students in the event the schools are not completed on time.

Super Council:

A Super Council of all the School Councils in Ward 3 has been created. It is comprised of the Chairs and/or Vice Chairs, and/or a designate representative. The council also includes two parents from the Clearview community. The purpose of this group is to be a conduit of information both from, and to, the Superintendent. Principals and the local trustee will help the group work through the integration issues and the re-distribution of resources from the schools closing. The next meeting of the Super Council is February 24 at E.J. James Public School. The council will meet the last Wednesday of every month but as the year moves on, it is expected to meet more frequently.

Staffing:

Allocation of teachers to the schools is underway. A meeting was held with the teachers on January 19, 2010 outlining the process. All teaching staff will be allocated to the schools by March 31, 2010.

A meeting was also held with school secretarial staff and they were informed of the staffing process. This staffing will be completed by May 2010.

Optional Attendance:

The process of approving Optional Attendance happens in February. Optional Attendance requests will be approved based on the school's designation as open or closed. However, we will look at every request. Requests will be approved if it can be accommodated by both the home school and the receiving school. Appeals of denied requests must be made in writing, with detailed reasons. Parents will be notified of the final decision in March. Requests for Optional Attendance of Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten students occur in September, due to compliance of primary class sizes of 1 teacher to 20 students.

Final Word

Although there is much work still to be done, most projects are on schedule. Appointments of administration, the staffing process, the development of the integration and Super Councils, and the timing of construction reports have all been on schedule. I appreciate there are still concerns in the community and there are questions yet to be answered as the construction picture becomes clearer and the transition of the students nears. We will continue to address your questions and, more importantly, work with school staff to support students through their transition. Please continue to work through your School Councils as they will be working closely with the Board to try and ensure the experience for the students will be as good as it possibly can.

Updates to come in March 2010:

Budget and scope of work for E.J. James
Progress on site plans and work permits