

Opportunities & Challenges
Huntington Hills Community – Open House
Feedback
November 5, 2009

Approximately 75 attendees

What do we need to pay attention to as we move forward?

Opportunities:

- Meeting with learning leaders/experts TLC teachers to discuss challenges facing open concept
- Brainstorming sessions with parents – council – to address possible ways of altering classrooms/layout/etc.
- Utilizing schools that already have the potential to house a school that needs an open concept in an open concept building
- We don't like the open concept school idea for TLC program. Can we put Highwood School as pure TLC program as French Immersion moves out?
- See long term growth of the TLC program – can there not be a long term plan – Dr. Mulloy can not be a long term solution (due to conditions of the school). Major renovations – can those be done without school closure?
- Staying at Highwood and becoming a single track school at this location does not have the open concept challenges.
- Dr. J.K. Mulloy School may give residents of Kincora opportunities to enrol their wards.

Challenges:

- Not in favour of JK Mulloy as an open concept school. I do not want my child moved to this school without renovations for separate classrooms. The noise would be a problem for his learning. I would prefer a solution where renovations are complete before a move or have another school chosen or find a way to remain at Highwood, possibly without French Immersion, so TLC could expand further to some degree.
- Embrace the parents and their concerns by not just studying closures by numbers but by the intentions of the school and their children's needs.
- What can we do to address the open concept set up of the classes?
- It really is not conducive to an optimum learning environment in this program.
- Not in favour of J.K. Mulloy School due to:
 - Open concept
 - See need of major renovations
 - No windows – restricted day light
- If J.K. Mulloy gets chosen – final decision in April 2010 – too late to move children to another program
- My opinion – 500 spots is way over-rated for JK Mulloy

- As a parent of a child currently enrolled in the TLC program at Highwood, I strongly oppose having to relocate my child to the open concept school of JK Mulloy. Open concept is not a conducive learning environment for younger children. I understand that renovations are planned for JK Mulloy to address this issue; however the issue will not be addressed in time. It does not make sense to close Highwood (a school where there are separate rooms for separate classes) and move those students to an open concept school with the promise of future actions. As an alternative, could we not keep our children at Highwood until the renovations at JK Mulloy are complete and at that point it would make sense to close Highwood?
- Another challenge that I would like to see addressed is the lack of open and transparent communication with parents.
- TLC uses choral responses in much of the learning. This will be loud and distracting in an open concept school.
- The TLC program is not a program that is set up to function in an open concept school. None of the other TLC programs in the city function as an open concept system. (Chris Akkerman School in the NE was renovated when TLC program came there). Alex Munro would be more appropriate for TLC and can hold 500 students.
- JK Mulloy is on the capital plan for renovations, but with the deficit in the province, they probably won't be done. Why not leave us at Highwood School until we can't fit there anymore?
- Two years ago we were also told that when the TLC program left Highwood, we would get our own program in two years. We will be sharing our school at JK Mulloy!!!
- My concern is with the size of the classes and how this new school (open concept) will be administering it.
- With a population upward of 100 in each grade/class. Will there be an adequate conducive learning environment for these kids/pupils?
- Impacting knowledge on a child may be challenging sometimes, with this population. Will the standard as witnessed in Highwood TLC program be sustained/ made even higher?
- If these questions are in the affirmative/positive, then I may be supportive of this move, however, if this is not, I am not in support of this program at all.
- Consider relocating the open classroom to a closed one – can this be done to limit distraction between teachers and pupils?

Comments: None

Questions:

- Will the students from Highwood TLC still go to Balmoral for grade 5-8? If not, how many schools will you transfer them to over the four year period?