

**Area II Huntington Hills  
Highwood TLC Parent Meeting  
December 10, 2009**

Seven parents in attendance; Jerry Pedron, Principal; Susan Church, Director Area II; Phil Carlton, Director, Community Engagement & Operational Planning

This meeting was held to answer questions that were raised at the open house on November 5, 2009 and at a TLC parent meeting on November 10, 2009.

**Question:** *Is Dr. J.K. Mulloy an appropriate structure for the TLC?*

A parent from Highwood TLC and Director Carlton visited Chris Akkerman, Highwood, and Dr. J.K. Mulloy schools. Some observations were:

- Chris Akkerman – some classes were separated by portable chalk boards
- Teachers took different time to have their carpet activities.
- At almost every classroom visited, one class was out for another class, ie gym, so there were often not two classrooms in the shared spaces
- A key piece is the expectations of principal for students
- Louder at Dr. J.K. Mulloy than at Chris Akkerman

**Question:** *What can be done to mitigate concerns around noise issue at Dr. J.K. Mulloy?*

- 4 rooms open to the library at Dr. J.K. Mulloy (these rooms will have walls added to them and are expected to be in place by fall 2011), the remaining rooms are the same as Chris Akkerman, and at Chris Akkerman they are divided by moveable chalkboards
- *Are the chalkboards really the best way to divide the classrooms?* We are investigating a 6ft divider that can be put together or pulled apart made of acoustic material, for some of the other classrooms at Dr. J.K. Mulloy.
- The rooms at Dr. J.K. Mulloy are very large - 79.8 sq meters (10 meters larger than Chris Akkerman)
- 6 double rooms will require the dividers
- In 2012 (when Panorama Hills students enter the new middle school) all spaces at Dr. J.K. Mulloy will be available for TLC use
- Growth is expected to be at capacity at Dr. J.K. Mulloy by 2012, 500 students.

**Question:** *Is there sunlight getting into any of the rooms?*

- Some have small windows, but not a lot of natural light. There are also skylights over the library.

**Question:** *Do the temporary changes change the priority on the list for ongoing maintenance?*

- No

**Question:** *When will the modifications be made? Can you start now? When are budgets allocated?*

- It will be added to the budget for next year unless we can get the funds from the current year budget.

**Question:** *How are lockdowns handled if there are no doors on some of the classrooms?*

- There are established plans for this type of classroom at the school.

### **Organizational challenges**

- Class configuration is up to the principal of the school and the Area Director will work with the principal to determine what will work best depending on classroom size and number of students.
- Current K-4 program at Dr. J.K. Mulloy has been handled very effectively

**Question:** *For next year – how will the principal manage the changes with the existing program currently in Dr. J.K. Mulloy?*

- Principal and AP will be spending time with Chris Akkerman to examine how the program works in a dual track setting and then observe a single track program to get a sense of how the program operates in different settings.
- In organizing for instruction there will be conversation with the school council.
- There will be a transition plan for parents and students.
- Teaching staff from Highwood will be able to transfer with the students.
- Conversation will also happen between the principal at Highwood and the principal at Dr. J.K. Mulloy at the point of transition, if the board goes forward with the recommendation.
- New communities in the north would also be designated to the new location.

It would be nice to have teachers who are experienced with the TLC program for the middle school program.

- There are different factors that come into play when a new school opens, one of them being teacher contracts and the options that they have.
- Principals look for opportunities to enhance teacher learning.
- The goal is to be as consistent as possible

**Question:** *Some students have been moved frequently due to high demand, so that all students that wanted the program were able to attend. What about the overflow at Colonel Sanders?*

- Highwood location was a temporary space, and acknowledged that this location and splitting of siblings was not ideal.

**Next steps**

- Report to the board on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, consideration of closure for the purpose of relocation.
- If this report is accepted by the Board of Trustees there will be a public meeting at the school. Bold signs will advertise the meeting to the community. A written notice to parents will also go home with students.

**Opportunity to provide feedback:**

- At any public board meeting stakeholders can give a 3 minute stakeholder report.
- Written notice to parents will provide an opportunity for further questions, to be submitted prior to the meeting.
- There will be an opportunity at the public meeting for stakeholders to make comments and/or questions.
- For three weeks after the public meeting stakeholders can submit questions and comments to the board of trustees.

**Question:** *What is the back up plan if the Board of Trustees do not approve the recommendation?*

- The Area Director and CEOP Director would look at other options.