

Ottawa Carleton District School Board
Centretown, Glebe and Old Ottawa South Area – Interim Accommodation Measures
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The Glebe Community Association (GCA) Education Committee (the Committee) wishes to express its appreciation to the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) for issuing a discussion paper and holding consultations regarding the accommodation pressures currently being experienced in our neighbourhood.

The Committee recognizes the difficulty in finding an appropriate solution. There are many factors to balance: operational (which option will solve the problem?), impact on the children (which option will have the least impact on the children?), and impact on the community (which option will cause the least disruption to the community?). In fact, no one option can be judged to be successful on all counts.

As a community association, we strive to represent all members of the community and to find a consensus solution. In this case, there is no consensus. Of the most likely options (moving First Avenue Public School junior kindergarten students to Mutchmor Public School, or moving First Avenue grade 6's to Glashan Public School), each has significant challenges and impacts on the children. While the community association cannot in this case champion one option over another, we can identify some general concerns.

In its consideration of the options, and in addition to the comments solicited at the public meeting held on January 10th and in the written submissions, the Committee encourages the school board to review the parent surveys conducted by some of the local schools. These surveys had significant response rates and can provide insight into the thoughts of the parent and family communities of the schools. These can be found at the following web-links:

First Avenue:

http://www.firstaveps.ocdsb.ca/UserFiles/file/temp/FAPS_Accommodation_Report.pdf
http://www.firstaveps.ocdsb.ca/UserFiles/file/temp/FAPS_Accommodation_Survey%20Results.pdf

Hopewell Public School:

<http://www.hopewellschoolcouncil.com/>

Mutchmor:

<http://mutchmorse.ca/>

Regardless of the option the school board implements, it is clear that resources beyond the regular allocation will be required to make this interim solution successful. For instance, additional junior kindergarten classrooms at Mutchmor would be required to accommodate the students from First Avenue. This would require improvements to existing classrooms, new age-appropriate toys, equipment and learning material,

transportation for some children who currently are not eligible for busing, and additional crossing guards, particularly for those crossing Bank Street. First Avenue Early French Immersion (EFI) grade 6 students who may attend Glashan would require French-specific learning supports, as well as classroom and library resources. Similarly, many parents are concerned about 10 and 11-year olds crossing Chamberlain Street – a very busy and sometimes dangerous traffic corridor. In this regard, the Committee strongly encourages the school board to ensure additional resources are provided to the impacted schools regardless of the option chosen.

Finally, the Committee is cognizant that short-term solutions will not hold in this community. To that end, we would like to understand what long-term options the OCDSB is considering, when consultation on these options will begin and what target date it has established for implementation.

We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this process. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Christine McAllister,
Chair, GCA Education Committee