

February 10, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware, Trustees recently voted to establish a French Immersion program at Mary Hopkins beginning in September 2017. The program will begin with students in grades 1 to 3 in September 2017 for students living within the Balaclava, Flamborough Centre and Mary Hopkins English boundary. The results of the consultation are available at <http://bit.ly/2j6M84q>.

We know parents have raised concerns about the facility condition at Mary Hopkins and we are committed to addressing the issues that you have brought forward. We have generated a Q&A based on questions presented at the recent Mary Hopkins School Council meeting.

What is a Facility Condition Index?

The Facility Condition Index (FCI) refers to the ratio of five-year renewal costs compared to the estimated replacement value of the school facility. The FCI includes a warehouse of data on the condition of every school in the Ontario. Information on school conditions is gathered in five year cycles. The last cycle took place from 2011 to 2015. HWDSB monitors facility condition through facility condition assessments completed by VFA Canada. VFA Canada has been tasked with assessing all the schools under the Ministry of Education.

How does the Ministry of Education determine a school's FCI rating?

Based on the findings of each school inspection over a five-year period, the ministry can determine a school's repair and renewal costs. The cost of a school's repair and renewal needs are then compared against the cost of rebuilding that same school from the ground up. The results of this comparison — fixing a school or rebuilding it — give the school its FCI, which is measured as a percentage.

Example 1: If the ministry estimates that rebuilding a school would cost \$1 million, but repairing it would cost \$100,000, that school would have an FCI rating of 10 per cent.

Example 2: Alternatively, if repairing that same million-dollar school were to cost \$900,000, it would have an FCI rating of 90 per cent.

It should be noted that the ratings are a snapshot in time as of the date of inspection. The renewal needs and FCI rating can vary from the time of assessment for many reasons, such as investments made by a board to address renewal needs since the inspection.

What is the current FCI at Mary Hopkins?

The Ministry of Education and HWDSB use a different timeframe to calculate FCI. As a result, the FCI number can vary. HWDSB's FCI calculations are more stringent and use a longer timeframe.

Ministry of Education: FCI is 51 per cent HWDSB: FCI is 64 per cent.

What was Guy Brown's FCI when the 'new' Guy Brown was built?

The construction of the new Guy Brown occurred prior to the introduction of FCI. Before then, schools used the ReCAPP database to report school renewal projects. As such, no comparable data is available. It is also important to note that the original Guy Brown was 144 pupil spaces with a 10 classroom portapak. Growth in the area projected a need for a 575 pupil place school.

Year	Number
2010	389
2011	450*

*growth increased due to boundary change and phase in of French Immersion program

What is the facility maintenance plan to bring Mary Hopkins from 'poor' to 'fair'?

The FCI at Mary Hopkins is 64 per cent. This means the building is now rated in fair condition because of recent work completed from 2014 to 2016. Facilities' staff continue to review the infrastructure at Mary Hopkins and are planning capital improvements over the next three years to further reduce the FCI. These improvements include building systems (HVAC supply & return), exterior stairs and building controls. New building systems will also mean temperature and conditions within the school will be monitored centrally.

What is a Pupil Accommodation Review?

The *Pupil Accommodation Reviews (PAR)* process is a province-wide standard used by school boards when looking to close or consolidate school facilities. PARs help school boards make more efficient use of school space while continuing to ensure that communities have the opportunity to provide meaningful input. The reviews provide a chance for communities to give input on shaping school communities for future generations of students.

When is the PAR scheduled for Mary Hopkins?

[HWDSB's Long-Term Facilities Master Plan](#) (LTFMP) indicates Flamborough is tentatively scheduled for an accommodation review in 2020/2021. The LTFMP schedule is reviewed annually and approved by the Board of Trustees.

What is the age of the boiler at Mary Hopkins and is it in good working condition?

The boiler was installed in 1975. According to VFA Canada, the life cycle of the boiler is 55 years. The boiler is currently in good working order and is not due to be replaced until 2027.

What is the capacity of the building in September with two portables on site?

School	Capacity	Portables	Portable Capacity	2017 Enrolment	Utilization	Utilization with 2 Portables
Mary Hopkins (JK-5)	401	2 (46)	447	395 (if 50 FI) 377 (if 32 FI and others stay at GB)	98% 88%	88% 84%

The addition of two portables will allow for flexible use of space within the school.

What work has been done to repair the heating concerns in both room 309 and entire school?

We have replaced the air lines to the thermostats and have confirmed that steam is entering the radiators as designed. A radiator was also eliminated below room 309 to stop the heat from rising to the room above. An exhaust fan has been installed in the boiler room to assist with air flow and ensure excess heating is not radiating through the floor. Facilities staff continue to monitor conditions and are acting accordingly.

A ceiling tile recently broke in a classroom. Was there any asbestos exposure?

A ceiling tile became dislodged because of work that was taking place in the room. There was no asbestos exposure since there was no asbestos in the ceiling. We always inspect the area as a precaution to confirm there are no concerns. The Board has an asbestos management plan that outlines where asbestos is located in every building. There is a stringent safety protocol that is followed whenever an area containing asbestos is touched.

How do you know where the asbestos is located?

HWDSB's asbestos management plan - which covers Mary Hopkins - details how to deal with asbestos in schools. HWDSB did an inventory of asbestos in all schools in 2008. This information is updated every year.

Do we have a 'safe' internal temperature for all HWDSB staff and students?

In legislation, there is no single value for the maximum temperature to which you can be exposed at work, **nor** is there a single value above which work should stop. Room temps between 19 to 27 degrees Celsius are considered in the comfortable range for most occupants. If a learning space is uncomfortable for students and/or staff, then it is reported immediately to the caretaker or building administrator. The class is temporarily relocated to another location in the school, while Facilities investigates and completes necessary repairs.

Do we post any concerns or reports from employees regarding Occupational Health and Safety?

When a health and safety concern is investigated, we post the results of any testing performed. For example, Indoor Air Quality or Noise testing results. These are posted on the Health and Safety Bulletin board as outlined in HWDSB's Joint Health Safety Committee terms of reference.

What work has been done at Mary Hopkins over the past few years?

The following work has been completed at Mary Hopkins over the past three years:

- July 2014 replace control valves on classroom radiators
- July 2014 install radiator covers
- July 2014 replace sump pumps and install alarms
- December 2015-June 2016 install new LED lighting in north wing
- Feb 2015 replace roof in north wing
- July 2015 replace ceilings in north wing
- July 2016 improvement to boys washroom in the north wing
- August 2016 demolish porta pac and lay asphalt
- December 2016 replace stairway treads

Do we have broken window air conditioners in classrooms?

We will be assessing existing units in the spring. Any unit not functioning will be repaired.

Do we have a broken/exposed electrical plug in a FDK classroom?

During our site visit we identified a receptacle in 217B (FDK) which was loose. A work order has been created and it will be repaired immediately.

Why do we have a pipe in the middle of the playground? Has Union Gas been contacted?

This pipe was removed approximately two months ago.

Work trucks on the field left tire marks on the field. When will this be repaired?

This will be completed in the spring.

When will the baseball diamond be fixed?

This work will be completed at the same time as the field is repaired.

We remain committed to the Mary Hopkins facility and will continue to ensure the building remains a safe quality teaching and learning environment for our staff and students. We will continue to provide ongoing communication as we implement the new French Immersion program and updates on any work taking place in the building.

Thank you for your ongoing support for our Mary Hopkins students and please do not hesitate to contact Ms. George if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jamie Nunn
Superintendent of Student Achievement