



13 September 2019

To the Elmdale Public School Parents and Guardians:

I am very pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Education has provided “Approval to Proceed” with the Elmdale Public School (PS) project. My apology for not providing an update to you last week, but the announcement was confirmed yesterday, 12 September 2019. We are thrilled to have this final approval confirmed in order for the work to commence. All necessary municipal approvals have been secured and contactors will be mobilized and on site as early as Monday or Tuesday of next week.

As we move forward with construction, it is necessary to revisit our project schedule. Unfortunately, the loss of the summer season means that we will not be in a position to move students back to Elmdale PS for September 2020. The September 2020 return was predicated on a schedule that saw work commencing in July 2019 and allowing 14 months for construction, necessary inspections, approvals and finally the move back into the Elmdale PS site.

Now that we have the approval in hand we will be working with our staff and the general contractor to examine schedules and refine the construction plans to look for any opportunities to accelerate the schedule. At this time, we are planning that school will continue at the Century PS site for the 2020-2021 school year. Even if the space were to be ready for January 2021, we would need to consider a variety of issues before deciding if a mid-year move is viable. Our experience has been that mid-year moves are often too disruptive for students, families and staff.

The “Approval to Proceed” is great news for the community, notwithstanding that the delay in timelines was not what any of us had hoped for. However, we have had great community support throughout this project and will maintain open lines of communication with the Elmdale PS family as we proceed. We are excited to commence this project and look forward to a renewed Elmdale PS that is ready to serve our students for many years to come.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

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