

# Summary of Community Meeting to Discuss Future High School in Riverside South

October 4, 2018

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## Hosted by:

- Mark Fisher, current OCDSB Trustee for Zone 7
- Steve MacLean Public School (SMPS) Parent Council
- Riverside South Community Association (RSCA)

## Presentations by:

- Mark Fisher, current OCDSB Trustee for Zone 7
  - Karyn Carty Ostafichuk, Manager of Planning, OCDSB
  - Barbara Shantz, Office of Goldie Ghamari, MPP Carleton
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## Highlights of the Meeting

### Background:

- In spring 2018, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) undertook a District Needs Analysis (DNA), to help establish a list of capital priorities for the board, for both elementary and secondary schools.
- Through this process, the board reviewed projected growth patterns in Riverside South and identified the need for a high school in Riverside South, which would also alleviate pressures in other areas of the district (e.g. Barrhaven).
- In May 2018, the list of OCDSB 2018 Capital Priorities was approved by the OCDSB board of trustees, with a high school in Riverside South ranked as priority #2.
- Although the board has established the need for a high school in Riverside South for September 2020, the provincial Ministry of Education will determine whether/when this proposal is approved.
- The capital funding process is managed centrally through the Ontario Ministry of Education:
  - The Ministry of Education issues a call for capital priorities to all of the school boards in Ontario
  - School boards submit their list of priority projects (usually no more than eight)
  - The Ministry of Education reviews all proposals from all boards and determines which projects will be approved.
  - If the Ministry does approve projects in the OCDSB, they may/may not approve them in the order ranked by the board (i.e. they may choose to approve a project that the board has ranked as a lower priority)
- Prior to 2018, a high school in Riverside South has never been on the capital priority list for the OCDSB, and has never been presented to the Ministry.
- Though the proposal for a high school in Riverside South has never been submitted to the Ministry, the OCDSB is quite confident that there is a strong business case to support a high school in Riverside South

**Current status:**

- The Ministry of Education typically issues a call for capital priorities on an annual basis, however a call has not been issued in 2018 and at this time, the Ministry has given no indication of when the next call will be.
- The board owns land for the proposed high school which is located at the South East corner of Spratt Road and Earl Armstrong Road. The site is “development ready”; once approved, construction would happen fairly quickly, though the typical timeline from approval to school opening is approximately 24 months.

**Next Steps:**

- Though the approval process is dependent on the Ministry of Education, there is an opportunity for the Riverside South community to engage in a coordinated effort to advocate for a high school in Riverside South.
- In collaboration with the Riverside South Community Association and the office of our local MPP, Goldie Ghamari, the SMPS Parent Council is planning to lead a public campaign to advocate for the high school which will include:
  - Submitting a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario
  - Launching a campaign for parents/community members to write letters of support directly to the Minister of Education
- We are actively working out the details for the petition campaign; to ensure that the petition meets the requirements to be formally presented to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and to develop a plan to maximize the reach of the petition campaign (i.e. including families whose children are not yet in the school system, the Riverside South community that lives beyond the boundary of SMPS, graduates of SMPS, etc.) Timelines and next steps will be announced via the SMPS Parent Council within the next 2-3 weeks.
- We are also planning to support families in the letter writing campaign; we are waiting until after the election on October 22, 2018, to ensure that all stakeholders have been identified (including the schoolboard trustee and city councillor) and we can circulate the appropriate contact information.

If you have questions/comments, please contact Laurie Rogers at [laurie.rogers@smpscouncil.org](mailto:laurie.rogers@smpscouncil.org)

**Links/References:**

- OCDSB 2018 Capital Priorities (approved May 2018)  
[https://www.ocdsb.ca/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_55394/File/Report%2018-056%20OCDSB%202018%20Capital%20Priorities%20-%20Staff%20Recs%20and%20Appendices.pdf](https://www.ocdsb.ca/UserFiles/Servers/Server_55394/File/Report%2018-056%20OCDSB%202018%20Capital%20Priorities%20-%20Staff%20Recs%20and%20Appendices.pdf)
- District Needs Analysis – Secondary Panel report (January 2018)  
<https://ocdsb.ca/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=6422404>
- Growth Needs for Riverside South:  
[https://ocdsb.ca/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_55394/File/Board%20of%20Trustees/Consultations/Other%20Consultations%20&%20Reviews/%202018%20Capital%20Priorities/New%20Riverside%20South%20SS.pdf](https://ocdsb.ca/UserFiles/Servers/Server_55394/File/Board%20of%20Trustees/Consultations/Other%20Consultations%20&%20Reviews/%202018%20Capital%20Priorities/New%20Riverside%20South%20SS.pdf)