

## Building Update

### Frequently Asked Questions

July 2017

**1. How are you taking into consideration increased commuting time for students and staff.**

UTS will adjust the school timetable to begin at 9 a.m. instead of 8:45 a.m. to allow for increased commuting times. There will be a shuttle bus running between the school and the University during the day, when needed, to provide transport for activities held on the University campus.

**2. Will there be any school bus service from Ossington subway station to the new location?**

The 63 Ossington TTC bus runs every four minutes during peak hours. Next year UTS will work with the TTC, parents and students to explore additional options if necessary including shuttle buses.

**3. Is there parking at the new location?**

Parking space is limited at 30 Humbert. Our recent survey of staff indicates that only 18% regularly drive to work.

**4. What about kids who come via GO Train or GO Bus?**

Students arriving at Union Station via GO services can take the subway and TTC streetcars to Ossington Avenue. The journey takes approximately 30 minutes during peak hours which is 10 minutes more than the time to UTS.

**5. What is the timeline for the move?**

The date for the move is not yet known since we do not have a firm construction start

date. **We can guarantee that we will not move during the 2017-2018 academic year.** We will give ample notification to parents, students and staff of the move date when it becomes known to us. If, for whatever reason, we cannot arrange to start at the new location in September, we may have to move midway through the year. We will try to avoid this eventuality, but it may be necessary.

**6. Is the entire building being renovated or just a some parts of it?**

The entire east side of the building will be renovated and new construction will be added in the parking lot south and east of the auditorium. The heritage facade along Bloor and Huron is being preserved and restored for the entire building which will entail some construction on the west side of the building as well.

**7. Are there going to be new additions to the building?**

There will be a new double gymnasium, a new 700 seat auditorium, a new atrium, and several new classrooms in the new part of the building. A new blackbox theatre will be incorporated where the swimming pool is currently located.

**8. Is this location the final decision?**

The decision has been approved by the Project Steering Committee and by the Board of Directors. A lease of the property at 30 Humbert has been signed.

**9. Is UTS the only one using the school or we are sharing the building with the existing students and staffs at that school?**

UTS is the sole occupant of the property.

**10. Did the Committee try to lease any space within the U of T campus? If so, what was the outcome?**

UTS approached the University about available space on campus as its first recourse. The University does not have excess space to rent.

**11. Is there a safer place than this address to make sure both the students and their parents feel safe?**

Unfortunately, no. This site is the only school building in the City of Toronto that was available to rent which would accommodate our students and staff.

**12. Is the new site safe?**

UTS will ensure security as we do currently at 371 Bloor. The safety/ crime statistics at both sites are similar. We also have a close relationship with the local community patrol (Toronto police) now and will at our new location.

**13. Have you checked out the school just beside Dufferin subway station?**

This school (Bloor Collegiate) is a property of TDSB and is not available for rent.

**14. Has the Committee considered the middle town area, which is south of Finch, north of Bloor, east of Allen and west of Yonge?**

Yes. There were no suitable school properties to rent in that area.

**15. How many locations were put into consideration?**

The school researched school sites throughout Toronto as well as additional non school sites.

**16. Has anyone thought about north region, or west-east region where GO train can easily reach?**

The school researched school sites throughout Toronto.

**17. Why didn't Eastern Commerce, located at Jones and Danforth, work?**

This school (Eastern Commerce) is a property of TDSB. TDSB had no schools available for UTS to rent.

**18. What about Glendon College--would they be able to accommodate?**

Glendon is part of York University.

**19. Would it be possible to pursue sharing a currently used TDSB building close to UofT, or a private school?**

TDSB was approached on several occasions and did not have any school sites available to rent. TDSB will not rent school space to private schools. UTS population is 700 students and staff. We require about 56,000 square feet.

**20. Was this decision discussed with parents? What was the process for this decision? How did the school ensure transparency?**

The decision to move was made by the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the Project Steering Committee. A Stakeholder Committee comprised of 15 parents, staff, students, and alumni was convened in early 2017 to provide input to the Project Steering Committee. Their input was used by the Steering Committee to develop the main criteria for decision-making on staging. It was their opinion that keeping the student body together in one building, minimizing disruption to learning, and ensuring safety during construction were key criteria. They were also concerned that once construction began there could be safety issues that would require moving. Reducing the time for construction and minimizing costs were also important in the decision as was remaining close to the University to ensure we had continued access to University facilities and to work with our University partners. Two parent/prospective parent meetings were held in February to discuss staging and the new building and to receive input. A communication update on staging and the building project was sent out in April. The negotiations over the lease for the temporary site were confidential and the name of the school could not be communicated. We did not learn that our bid had been successful until July 21, 2017. The lease was not finalized until July 25, 2017. We notified our community immediately as promised in April.

**21. Will a staff member be on duty until the last kid is safely on a TTC bus?**

A security guard will be on site everyday and every evening. We currently have a security guard on site everyday from 4 p.m. until midnight.

**22. Was there ever consideration for relocating only part of the school so that younger students would not have to cope with the additional stresses of commuting to a new location?**

Yes, we did investigate this possibility of part of the school moving. Our teachers teach across grades 7 to 12. The Stakeholder Committee felt that keeping the school together and maintaining the full UTS experience was important.

**23. Will tuition increase during or after building or was this budgeted into the plan?**

We do not anticipate significant tuition increases related to the costs of construction.