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## New school for EMSB?

By Joel Ceausu The Suburban Nov 7, 2018

The English Montreal School Board is hoping to add a new school to its west-end network of immersion schools.

With West-End elementary schools at capacity in terms of enrolment, the EMSB plans to launch a Français Plus primary school at 4850 Coronation Avenue in N.D.G. for the 2019-20 academic year.

The board says immersion schools in the area – Edinburgh, Merton and Willingdon, are overcrowded from 90-127 percent capacity – and its Long-Range Planning Committee is recommending the two alternative high schools, Focus and Outreach, currently located in the Coronation St. school relocate to the James Lyng High School facility in St. Henri.

Plans call for this first Français Plus immersion program to operate from Kindergarten to Grade 4, with 50-50 English and French in Grades 5 and 6.

The EMSB is betting on this new model of immersion to help stop the bleeding of students with English eligibility to French schools.

Focus and Outreach students would have a private wing at James Lyng and have use of additional amenities like a full-sized gym, weight room, library, cafeteria, two labs and a Work-Oriented Training Pathway (WOTP).

The proposal will now go to consultation to the affected governing boards and other stakeholders who will be invited to give their feedback to the council of commissioners by January 8, 2019.

The Coronation St. school was already coveted by parents three years ago at the neighbouring Commission scolaire de Montreal Ste. Catherine de la Sienne, who cried foul at the notion of an English school far below capacity, when their own school was closed for complete renovations and students had to be relocated far beyond their neighbourhood. At the time, the EMSB vigorously defended holding on tightly to its school, insisting that the low student population of the alternative schools is crucial for student success, and thus made the property indispensable.

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