



## MEMORANDUM

**Memo No. 19-133**

TO: Trustees  
Student Trustees

FROM: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board  
Nadia Towaij, Superintendent of Program and Learning K-12  
Shawn Lehman, Superintendent of Instruction

DATE: 19 November 2019

RE: **High Performance Athlete (HPA) Program - Supplemental Information**

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This memorandum and attachment are provided to inform the discussion on a notice of motion to phase out the High Performance Athlete Program at John McCrae Secondary School commencing in September 2021.

The High Performance Athlete Program was started in the early 1990s at Confederation High School. It was located there because of its proximity to the Nepean Sportsplex where many of the athletes trained in swimming and skating. When Confederation H.S. closed in 1999, the program was transferred to John McCrae Secondary School and has resided there since that time.

When the program was created, it was designed to have more academic flexibility for student athletes who missed a lot of class time due to their training and competition schedule, at both the provincial and national levels. Staff provided flexible learning conditions for students so they could continue their studies while training and competing elsewhere.

Today, staff who teach HPA courses continue to offer flexible learning conditions for students. This includes the use of websites, learning management platforms that facilitate the submission of student assignments and collaborative spaces (e.g., Google Classroom, Virtual Learning Environment), video conferencing, etc. The use of a variety of technology tools enables students to continue their learning while away from school due to training and competitions.

The number of HPA courses have evolved over the years. Initially, there were multiple grade levels and course codes in each HPA class. For instance, an English class consisted of grades 10, 11 and 12 English courses. As enrolment has increased, so have the number of courses. This has enabled individual courses to be offered in most classes (e.g., grade 9 English is

offered by one teacher in one period, grade 10 English in another). In 2019-2020, there are 17 HPA sections scheduled in such areas as math, english, science, social sciences, physical education and co-operative education. Students in the HPA program are able to take non-HPA courses as well. Some HPA students also enrol in e-learning courses that further assist them in meeting their academic and sports needs.

As this is a system program, students from across the District can apply. The criteria used for selection is:

- portfolio submission including report cards and any other supporting documentation;
- a student reflection on what he/she will bring to the program and school;
- a sport résumé and a coach training and competition plan;
- letters of reference from a coach and teacher; and
- a meeting with the HPA co-ordinator and vice-principal.

The decision to admit the student into the program is based on the above information; this decision is made by the HPA co-ordinator and school administration.

There is an HPA co-ordinator associated with the program. The role of the co-ordinator is to facilitate HPA course offerings, work with HPA students on such things as timetable changes, post-secondary applications and opportunities and liaison between classroom teachers and students in the program. This is a 0.5 FTE position funded centrally at a cost of \$60,000.

This year, there are 21 sports represented in the HPA program, including BMX Cycling, Curling, Diving, Figure Skating, Golf, Artistic Gymnastics, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Lacrosse, Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Ringette, Soccer, Squash, Swimming, Synchronized Swimming, Tae Kwon Do, Tennis, Volleyball and Water Polo.

Student enrolment in the HPA program has grown over time. In 2006, there were 25 students in the program. Enrolment increased since that time to a high of 201 students in 2017- 2018. As of October 31, 2019, there are 140 students in the program. Please refer to table 1 for a breakdown of student enrolment year over year.

**Table 1: Number of Students in JMSS HPA Program since 2006 - 2007**

Year	Number of HPA	School Enrolment	HPA Students as
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	<b>Students</b>		<b>Percentage of JMSS Enrolment</b>
2019 - 2020	140	1400	10%
2018 - 2019	180	1301	14%
2017 - 2018	201	1155	22%
2016 - 2017	182	1054	17%
2015 - 2016	146	969	15%
2014 - 2015	115	904	13%
2013 - 2014	107	906	12%
2012 - 2013	94	886	11%
2011 - 2012	89	907	10%
2010 - 2011	55	899	6%
2009 - 2010	47	931	5%
2008 - 2009	49	1020	5%
2007 - 2008	18	1024	2%
2006 - 2007	25	1074	2%

Information is based on October 31 and March 31 OnSIS data

Below, please find the number of students in the HPA Program broken down by grade level, since 2016 - 2017.

**Table 2: Number of Students in Grades 9 - 12 in HPA Program since 2016 - 2017**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>	<b>Total</b>
2019 - 2020	19	29	38	54	140
2018 - 2019	24	40	53	63	180
2017 - 2018	36	51	61	53	201
2016 - 2017	41	56	46	39	182

Information is based on October 31 and March 31 OnSIS data

Students residing in the John McCrae Secondary School (JMSS) boundary would be eligible to continue to attend the school, regardless if the program is maintained or not.

**Table 3: Number of Students in JMSS Boundary Attending HPA**

<b>Number of Students in HPA who reside in the JMSS Catchment</b>	<b>2016 - 2017</b>	<b>2017 - 2018</b>	<b>2018 - 2019</b>	<b>2019 - 2020</b>
	70	58	53	65

Information is based on October 31 and March 31 OnSIS data

Below, please find the number of students who reside outside of the JMSS catchment area and are attending JMSS because they are part of the HPA program.

**Table 4: Number of Students Outside of JMSS Boundary Attending HPA**

<b>Number of Students in HPA who reside outside the JMSS Catchment</b>	<b>2016 - 2017</b>	<b>2017 - 2018</b>	<b>2018 - 2019</b>	<b>2019 - 2020</b>
	112	143	127	75

Information is based on October 31 and March 31 OnSIS data

**Table 5: Number of Students from outside of OCDSB Area Attending JMSS HPA**

<b>Number of Students in HPA who came from outside the OCDSB</b>	<b>2016 - 2017</b>	<b>2017 - 2018</b>	<b>2018 - 2019</b>	<b>2019 - 2020</b>
	2	1	1	4

Information is based on October 31 and March 31 OnSIS data

Students who live outside of JMSS boundary but reside within the District are eligible for transportation through OSTA. Out-of-District students are responsible for their own transportation. In-boundary student athletes receive transportation if they live more than 3.2 kilometers from the school as per OSTA guidelines.

Attached, please find PR.629.CUR Changes to Programs and Program Delivery Structures at Secondary Schools. This provides guidance on the procedures to enlist when looking at making changes to District programs.

Please do not hesitate to contact Nadia Towaij at [nadia.towaij@ocdsb.ca](mailto:nadia.towaij@ocdsb.ca) or at 613-596-8211 ext. 8573 if you have any questions.

cc     Senior Staff  
         Manager, Board Services  
         Corporate Records