

Special Meeting

April 4, 2024

A special meeting was convened at 4:43 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2024 in the Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street and by electronic means, in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#), with Rachel Chernos Lin, presiding.

The following members were present: Trustees Michelle Aarts, Rachel Chernos Lin, Alexis Dawson, Matias de Dovitiis, Sara Ehrhardt, Liban Hassan, Debbie King, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Alexandra Lulka Rotman, Dan MacLean, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Weidong Pei, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Farzana Rajwani, Neethan Shan, Anu Sriskandarajah, Deborah Williams and Manna Wong.

The meeting was a hybrid model with Trustees Aarts, Chernos Lin, de Dovitiis, Ehrhardt, Laskin, MacLean, Patel, Shan, Williams and Wong participating in person, and other trustees present participating by electronic means, in accordance with amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the 2024-2025 Budget.

2. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

3. Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 5, March 19, 2024 (see page 9)

Item 1, Proposed Options to Balance the 2024-25 Budget [4668] (see page 9)

Trustee Laskin, seconded by Trustee Aarts, moved: **That the report be received.**

The motion was carried.

Item 2, Business Arising: Vice-Principal and School Safety Positions (see page 10)

Trustee Laskin, seconded by Trustee Aarts, moved:

Whereas, on March 6, 2024, the Board decided:

That, in preparation of the detailed options to balance the 2024-25 Budget that will be coming to a special meeting of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee on March 19, 2024, that staff reconsider assumptions presented to the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee on January 29, 2024 in preparation of the projected 2024-25

Financial Position, specifically the removal of the vice-principal positions added through the 2023-24 budget process, and the safety positions that were added in January 2023

Therefore, be it resolved:

That, prior to determining options to balance the 2024-25 budget, the vice-principal and safety positions that were assumed to be reduced in the original projection at a cost of \$6.8M, as presented in the report, be added back, to bring the starting deficit position from -\$20.8M to -\$27.6M.

The motion was carried.

4. Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 6, March 26 and 27, 2024 (see page 55)

Trustee Shan, seconded by Trustee de Dovitiis, moved: **That the report be adopted.**

The motion was carried.

5. Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 7A, April 2, 2024 (see page 61)

Item 4, 2024-2025 Budget (see page 61)

Trustee Pei, seconded by Trustee Sriskandarajah, moved:

Whereas, provision 1.2.2 of the Board's bylaws state that "the Board may temporarily suspend one of the bylaws' provisions on a one-time basis, with a two-thirds majority vote of the members present, unless prohibited by the *Education Act* or other legislation; and

Whereas, provision 5.13.10 states that "at Board, a member may speak only once to each motion and for up to five minutes";

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the following provision of the Board's bylaws be suspended to allow members to speak an unlimited number of times, for up to five minutes to the matter, 2024-2025 Budget, as presented in the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee Report, No. 7A dated April 2, 2024:

5.13.10 At Board, a member may speak only once to each motion and for up to five (5) minutes. A member, who moved the main motion, but not amendment, may speak a second time for up to three (3) minutes in order to close debate.

The motion to temporarily suspend the bylaws was carried.

Trustee Li, seconded by Trustee Aarts, moved:

Whereas, staff confirmed that the Toronto District School Board had a (\$20.8M) projected budget deficit for the 2024-2025 school year, which increased by \$6.8M with the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee's decision to add back vice-principals and safety staff; and

Whereas, material reductions to programming have been recommended by staff to reduce the budget deficit; and

Whereas, FBEC has received extensive feedback from the community on the impacts of proposed program reductions and the broad benefits of adult education, outdoor education and after school programming; and

Whereas, Section 231 of the *Education Act* requires school boards to adopt a balanced budget;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the following be approved:

(a) A reduction of \$17M of staff options to balance that involve operational efficiencies including:

- i. Central staff (\$5M)**
- ii. School renewal (\$5M)**
- iii. Supporting staff self-wellness (\$7M)**

(b) That the Director:

- i. Present options to institute a fee-based revenue stream for one-to-one devices that will generate ~\$1M annually, that include parent/guardian/caregiver contributions, subsidies, donations, and an administrative cost benefit analysis to the next meeting of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee;**
- ii. Delay the implementation of course time migration for International Language programs until an in-depth report on student impact can be reviewed at the Program and School Services Committee, while continuing to implement the recommended 25 student pre-register minimum;**

- iii. Delay the cancellation of General Interest / Seniors' Daytime courses until an in-depth report on community impact can be reviewed at the Program and School Services Committee;**
- iv. Delay the changes to the Scarborough Outdoor Education School and provide a detailed plan, before the final vote on the 2024-2025 operating budget, to ensure students impacted by programming change at SOES will continue to receive outdoor education on-par with other students at the TDSB, and that the overall scope of the Board's outdoor education will not be reduced with the recommended changes;**
- v. Review and consult with partner organizations on the TDSB's permit fee structure and subsidies and present a report to the Planning and Priorities Committee on recommended changes;**

(c) That the Chair:

- i. Share the TDSB Budget and Continuing Education information with the City of Toronto's City-School Boards Advisory Committee and work with the City to align Continuing Education programming to address service gaps;**
- ii. Explore operating agreements with the Ministry of Seniors to support subsidized access to continuing education;**
- iii. Explore operating agreements with the City, and Provincial Ministries to support continuing education programming and skills development;**
- iv. Promote, together with staff, Learn 4 Life programs to Toronto businesses and organizations and explore partnerships to support programming with current participants of the program;**

(d) That the Chair write a letter to the Ministry of Education explaining the status of the Board's budget. That it include:

- i. There is still a deficit despite making significant operational efficiencies;**
- ii. There is still a deficit due to a structural deficit (CPP, EI, Salary Gapping and the inability to consolidate schools due to the moratorium);**
- iii. There would be significant reserves if the Toronto District School Board were fully compensated for the funding spent to keep its schools safe during COVID and if the TDSB were compensated for funding it ought to have if it were funded for CPP, EI, the salary gap and the costs of the moratorium;**

- iv. **That the letter also include the challenges to accept all staff options to balance due to the impact on the Board's communities;**
 - v. **Request the Minister to consider these very real funding concerns and address these in the upcoming GSNs;**
 - vi. **That the letter be shared with all TDSB parents/caregivers and stakeholders, Federations and Union partners and all Toronto MPPs;**
- (e) That the Chair work with the Director to plan two to three Trustee consultations with stakeholders, during the month of April to consult on staff recommended efficiencies and that the Director work with the Chair and Vice-chair of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee to create a survey to issue broadly, that can also be used in Trustee townhall outreach.**

At the Committee meeting, the parts of the motion were voted on separately as follows:

On motion of Trustee Li, seconded by Trustee Aarts Part (a) (i) was carried.

On motion of Trustee Li, seconded by Trustee Aarts Part (a) (ii) was carried.

On motion of Trustee Li, seconded by Trustee Aarts Part (a) (iii) was carried.

On motion of Trustee Li, seconded by Trustee Aarts Part (b) (i) was carried.

On motion of Trustee Li, seconded by Trustee Aarts Part (b) (ii) was carried.

On motion of Trustee Li, seconded by Trustee Aarts Part (b) (iii) was carried.

On motion of Trustee Li, seconded by Trustee Aarts Part (b) (iv) was carried.

On motion of Trustee Li, seconded by Trustee Aarts Part (b) (v) was carried.

On motion of Trustee Li, seconded by Trustee Aarts Part (c) to (e) were carried.

Item 5, Business Arising: Lifting the Ministry of Education's Moratorium on School Closures (see page 65)

At the Committee meeting, the following matter was introduced as business arising.

Trustee MacLean, seconded by Trustee Aarts, moved:

Whereas, the moratorium on school closures has been in effect since 2017, limiting the ability of school boards to close and amalgamate under-utilized and under-enrolled schools; and

Whereas, the operation of under-utilized and under-enrolled schools creates costly operational budget pressures and programming challenges; and

Whereas, prior to 2015, the Ministry of Education provided “top-up” funding through the School Facilities Operation and Renewal Grant to support the operation and maintenance of facilities where enrolment was under capacity; and

Whereas, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) previously received \$35.5 million in “top-up” funding per year prior to the phasing out of the School Facilities Operation and Renewal Grant beginning in 2015; and

Whereas, the Ministry of Education eliminated the “top-up” funding in 2018; and

Whereas, in recognition of the costs incurred by and programming limitations associated with under-utilized and under-enrolled schools, TDSB Trustees passed the Secondary Review recommendations in November of 2020, committing to:

- i. have fewer but larger secondary schools that provide greater access, improved programming, and rich pathways as close to home as possible, ideally serving a minimum of 1000-1200 students each;**
- ii. strengthen the role of the neighbourhood secondary school;**
- iii. continue to support specialized schools and programs, with a focus on increased access for all students; and**
- iv. have larger neighbourhood schools with the flexibility to respond to students needs and interests by creating programs they desire, supported by strong enrolment;**

And

Whereas, TDSB staff project potential operational savings of \$585,000 per year for each of the Pupil Accommodation Reviews in the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Plan (LTPAP) associated with each school consolidation project. These potential savings do not include the deferred maintenance that could be eliminated should school consolidations be allowed to proceed, creating even further savings; and

Whereas, the TDSB has strongly advocated for many years now, along with other school boards and the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA), on behalf of all school Ontario boards, for the lifting of the moratorium on school closures; and

Whereas, the Provincial government, including the Ministry of Education, repeatedly asks school boards to provide feedback on potential efficiencies and cost savings, and based on provisions included in Bill 98 seems particularly interested in superfluous landholdings of school boards;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education write a letter to the Minister of Education:**
- i. advocating once again for the removal of the Ministry of Education’s 2017 moratorium on school closures;**
 - ii. proposing that if the Ministry of Education is unable to lift the moratorium, that they grant the Toronto District School Board a special exemption allowing the TDSB to provide improved programming for students by doing up to four school consolidation projects per year, until such a time as the moratorium is lifted provincewide;**
 - iii. indicating that this will allow the TDSB to both operate in a more financially efficient manner, while at the same time, better serve the needs and aspirations of students, families, and communities in the district;**
- (b) That the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association and all Toronto area MPPs be copied on the correspondence at Part (a).**

The motion was carried on a recorded vote (Recorded Vote 163, see page 8)

6. Adjournment

At 8:02 p.m. on motion of Trustee Patel, seconded by Trustee Li, the meeting adjourned.

Rachel Chernos Lin
Chair

Confirmed by the Board at the meeting held on
April 17, 2023

Rachel Chernos Lin, Chair of the Board

Summary of Recorded Votes

Trustee	Recorded Vote 163 (see pg.55)
Aarts	Y
Chernos Lin	Y
Dawson	Y
De Dovitiis	Y
Ehrhardt	Y
Ghous	Y
Hassan	Y
Hastings	Y
King	Y
Laskin	Y
Li	Y
Lulka Rotman	A
MacLean	Y
Nunziata	Y
Patel	Y
Pei	Y
Rajakulasingham	Y
Rajwani	A
Shan	Y
Sriskandarajah	Y
Williams	Y
Wong	Y
Total Y	20
Total N	0
Total A and C	2

Y Vote in favour **N** Vote against **A** Absent * No vote cast (the Chair). The Board's Bylaws, Section 28.5 states: "The chair may vote once on each motion under consideration."
N* No vote cast. The Board's Bylaws, Section 28.3 states: A member, except the chair, who is present and who fails to vote on a motion shall be deemed to have voted against the motion.
C Absent due to declaration of a possible conflict of interest



**Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee
(Special Meeting)
Report No. 5**

FBEC:005A
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
4:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street

Members Present Trustees Zakir Patel (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Matias de Dovitiis, Liban Hassan, Shelley Laskin, James Li and Dan MacLean

Also Present Trustees Rachel Chernos Lin, Alexis Dawson, Sara Ehrhardt, Malika Ghous, Dennis Hastings, Debbie King, Patrick Nunziata, Weidong Pei, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Farzana Rajwani, Neethan Shan, Anu Sriskandarajah, Deborah Williams and Manna Wong

The meeting was a hybrid model with Trustees Aarts, Chernos Lin, de Dovitiis, Hassan, Hastings, Laskin, MacLean and Patel participating in person, and other trustees present participating by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#).

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. Proposed Options to Balance the 2024-25 Budget [4668]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see FBEC:005A, page 1 and attached) presenting information on proposed options to balance the 2024-25 budget.

Moved by: Trustee Chernos Lin

Seconded by: Trustee Aarts

The Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 5, March 19, 2024

2. Business Arising: Vice-Principal and School Safety Positions

At the Committee meeting, Trustee Laskin, seconded by Trustee MacLean, moved the following as business arising following the matter, Proposed Options to Balance the 2024-25 Budget [4668]

Moved by: Trustee Laskin

Seconded by: Trustee MacLean

The Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, on March 6, 2024, the Board decided:

That, in preparation of the detailed options to balance the 2024-25 Budget that will be coming to a special meeting of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee on March 19, 2024, that staff reconsider assumptions presented to the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee on January 29, 2024 in preparation of the projected 2024-25 Financial Position, specifically the removal of the vice-principal positions added through the 2023-24 budget process, and the safety positions that were added in January 2023

Therefore, be it resolved:

That, prior to determining options to balance the 2024-25 budget, the vice-principal and safety positions that were assumed to be reduced in the original projection at a cost of \$6.8M, as presented in the report, be added back, to bring the starting deficit position from -\$20.8M to -\$27.6M.

Carried

Part B: For Information Only

3. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

A special meeting of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee was convened on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, from 4:32 to 9:40 p.m. with Zakir Patel, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to consider budget matters.

4. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matter to report

5. Delegations

No matter to report

6. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Laskin, seconded by Trustee Aarts the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

7. Written Notices of Motion

Trustees MacLean and Aarts provided notice of the following for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee.

Lifting the Ministry of Education's Moratorium on School Closures

Whereas, the moratorium on school closures has been in effect since 2017, limiting the ability of school boards to close and amalgamate under-utilized and under-enrolled schools; and

Whereas, the operation of under-utilized and under-enrolled schools creates costly operational budget pressures and programming challenges; and

Whereas, prior to 2015, the Ministry of Education provided "top-up" funding through the School Facilities Operation and Renewal Grant to support the operation and maintenance of facilities where enrolment was under capacity; and

Whereas, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) previously received \$35.5 million in "top-up" funding per year prior to the phasing out of the School Facilities Operation and Renewal Grant beginning in 2015; and

Whereas, the Ministry of Education eliminated the "top-up" funding in 2018; and

Whereas, in recognition of the costs incurred by and programming limitations associated with under-utilized and under-enrolled schools, TDSB Trustees passed the Secondary Review recommendations in November of 2020, committing to:

- v. have fewer but larger secondary schools that provide greater access, improved programming, and rich pathways as close to home as possible, ideally serving a minimum of 1000-1200 students each;
- vi. strengthen the role of the neighbourhood secondary school;
- vii. continue to support specialized schools and programs, with a focus on increased access for all students; and
- viii. have larger neighbourhood schools with the flexibility to respond to students needs and interests by creating programs they desire, supported by strong enrolment;

And

Whereas, TDSB staff project potential operational savings of \$585,000 per year for each of the Pupil Accommodation Reviews in the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Plan (LTPAP) associated with each school consolidation project.

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 5, March 19, 2024

These potential savings do not include the deferred maintenance that could be eliminated should school consolidations be allowed to proceed, creating even further savings; and

Whereas, the TDSB has strongly advocated for many years now, along with other school boards and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), on behalf of all school Ontario boards, for the lifting of the moratorium on school closures; and

Whereas, the Provincial government, including the Ministry of Education, repeatedly asks school boards to provide feedback on potential efficiencies and cost savings, and based on provisions included in Bill 98 seems particularly interested in superfluous landholdings of school boards;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (c) That the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education write a letter to the Minister of Education:
 - iv. advocating once again for the removal of the Ministry of Education's 2017 moratorium on school closures;
 - v. proposing that if the Ministry of Education is unable to lift the moratorium, that they grant the Toronto District School Board a special exemption allowing the TDSB to provide improved programming for students by closing up to four schools per year, until such a time as the moratorium is lifted provincewide;
 - vi. indicating that this will allow the TDSB to both operate in a more financially efficient manner, while at the same time, better serve the needs and aspirations of students, families, and communities in the district;
- (d) That the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and all Toronto area Members of Provincial Parliament be copied on the correspondence at Part (a).

Submitted by: Zakir Patel, Committee Chair

Options to Balance

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

March 19, 2024



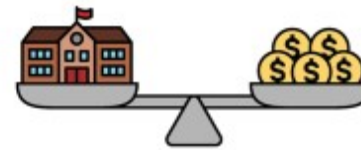
Updated Financial Position

- On January 29, 2024, staff estimated a projected deficit for 2024-25 of \$34.8 million
 - \$50.7 million if use of Proceeds of Disposition (POD) not approved
- Staff continue to finalize expenditures, i.e. school based staffing and utilities
- Updated financial position is \$ **20.8 million**
 - \$36.7 without use of POD



**-\$20.8
MILLION**

Requirement to Submit Balanced Budget



- Requirement under the Education Act to submit a balanced budget
- In a regular year, the Board is allowed to submit a deficit of the great of:
 - 1% (approximately \$30 million); or
 - The Board's Accumulated Reserves (approximately \$13.8 million)
- However, the Board is in year 3 of its 3 year deficit recovery plan
 - The original commitment was a surplus of \$8.2 million to start to build back the reserves that have been used to offset the structural deficits in previous years



Structural Deficit

- TDSB is operating a structural deficit
 - Planned spending is greater than expected revenue
- In some cases, TDSB is choosing to spend more in certain areas than funded based on priorities.
- In some cases, TDSB is not fully funded for certain areas

Reasons for Structural Deficit

- Canada Pension Plan (CPP) has been gradually increasing from 4.95% in 2019 to 5.95% in 2023. In 2024, a second additional contribution rate was added.
- EI has also been increasing over this period of time
- There has not been a corresponding increase in funding.
- The total underfunding for these statutory benefits in 2024-25 will be \$35.2 million.



Statutory Benefits
(Canada Pension Plan
and Employment
Insurance)

Reasons for Structural Deficit



Difference in Funding
for Teacher Salaries vs.
Actual Salary Cost

- In 2014, the Province began Central Bargaining and came up with a central teacher grid.
 - Funding for teachers is based on this grid.
- At that time, the TDSB grid was higher than the central grid leading to an unfunded amount per teacher
- The amount continues to increase annually as the centrally bargained percentages are applied.
- The amount that is unfunded in 2023-24 is \$22.3 million.

Reasons for Structural Deficit

- TDSB has more capacity than it has students
- This results in underutilized schools and the potential to close schools to reduce operating costs
- The issue is that the moratorium on school closures prevents TDSB from closing schools
- In addition, the Ministry eliminated the “top up” grant that recognized that it costs the same to operate an underutilized school as a fully utilized school and then prevented Boards from being able to fix this issue.
- The top up grant for TDSB was approximately \$35 million in 2014/15 and enrolment has decreased since this time.



Cost of Operating
Under-Utilized
Schools due to
School Closure
Moratorium

Reasons for Structural Deficit



Replacement Costs
for Sick Leave

- The Putting Students First Act changed the allocation of sick leave in 2012.
- Since this change, SBCI says that the Provincial average use of sick days has doubled from 8 to 16 days
- Each day costs the Board approximately \$600,000 in replacement costs.



Things to Consider

- Draft Multi-Year Strategic Plan
 - Report for March 21, 2024 PPC
 - Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action
 - Equity is foundational to all our work
 - Four draft strategic directions Belong, Achieve, Thrive and Revitalize
 - Ministry of Education Student Achievement Plan expectations
- Ministry Regulations
- Collective Agreements
- Impact of Decisions on Direct Support to Students

Proposed Options to Balance



Continuing Education



Continuing Education

Final Summary for 2023-2024 and Estimated Savings through Program Changes

Continuing Education Programs	Financial Summary 2023-2024	Estimated Program Savings at Full Implementation
International Languages Elementary - African Heritage	(\$2,906,589)	\$1,185,000
General Interest/Seniors' Daytime Courses	(\$694,954)	\$694,954
Adult Day Schools	(\$2,528,836)	\$2,183,582
Total deficit	(6,130,379)	\$4,063,536

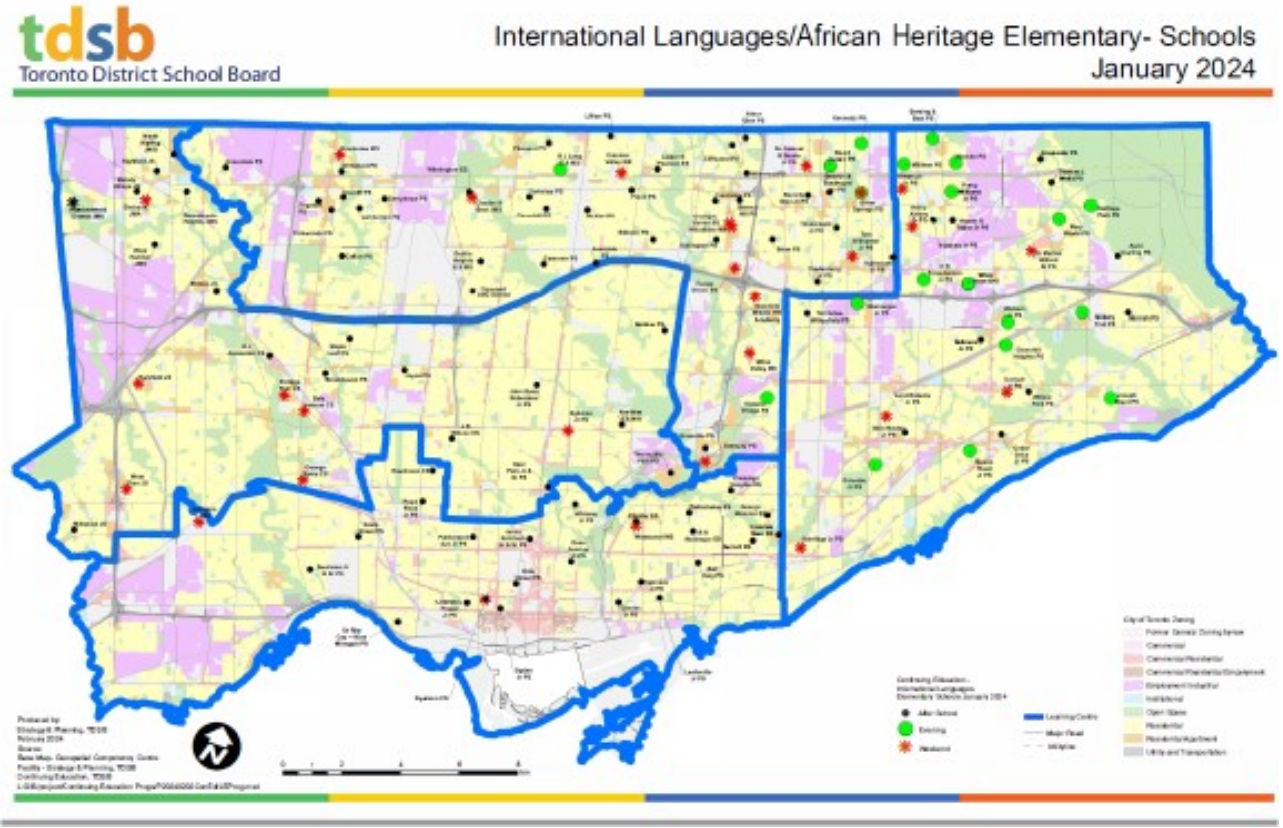


International Languages/African Heritage Program

Background:

- The International Languages/African Heritage Program runs at a \$2.9M deficit
- Salary and benefits exceed funding levels
- A jurisdictional scan of neighbouring boards that most have a minimum enrolment of classes of 25 students and operate fewer sites
- TDSB offers International Language/African Heritage Programs in 135 sites





International Languages/African Heritage Program

Program changes include:

- Creating community hubs through larger sites to maximize enrolment per instructor enough to accommodate students from larger catchment areas. This will enable more families to access classes through the weekday programming.
- Migrating course times to 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (weekdays) and Saturdays.
- Pre-registering a minimum of 25 students to open a new class.
- Monitoring attendance in each class to respond to increased or decreased numbers of students attending.
- Aligning sites with community presence so that existing relationships and structures continue to thrive.
- Migrating to a staffing level of one Program Officer and one ILE/AH Administrator for each site so that instructors, students and families may benefit from a responsive, familiar and supportive leadership team.



Community Programs (General Interest/Seniors' Daytime)

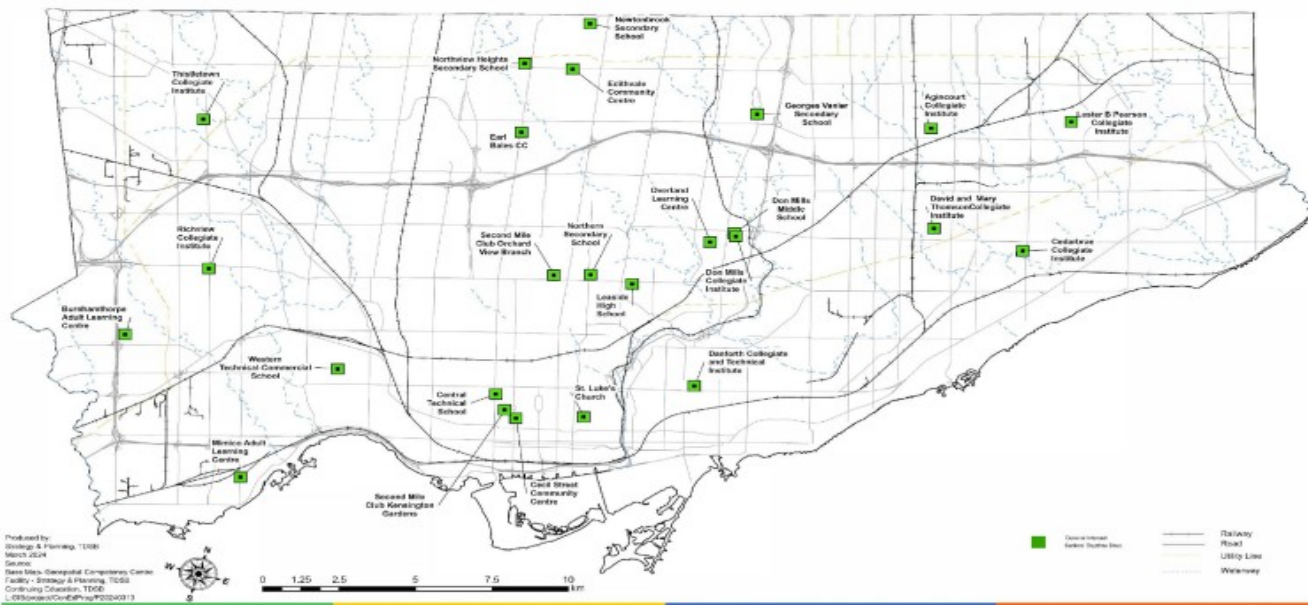
Background:

- General Interest/Seniors' Daytime Programs are projected to have an in-year \$0.7M deficit.
- Policy 019 outlines, "The Board will provide...community programs for adults 18 years of age and older to provide them with opportunities to develop knowledge and skills and to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle...Community programs should be fully funded by user fees and other revenues."
- Course fees were raised by 20% in 2023 -2024 in an effort to become fully funded.
- Overall enrolment has declined by 15%.





General Interest/Seniors' Daytime Locations
2023-24





Community Programs (General Interest/Seniors' Daytime)

Recommendation:

- Given the provision of similar courses in Toronto to interested community members, the needs of K-12 TDSB students, and a projected persistent deficit, it is recommended that the TDSB no longer provide General Interest/Seniors' Daytime programming.



Adult Day Schools

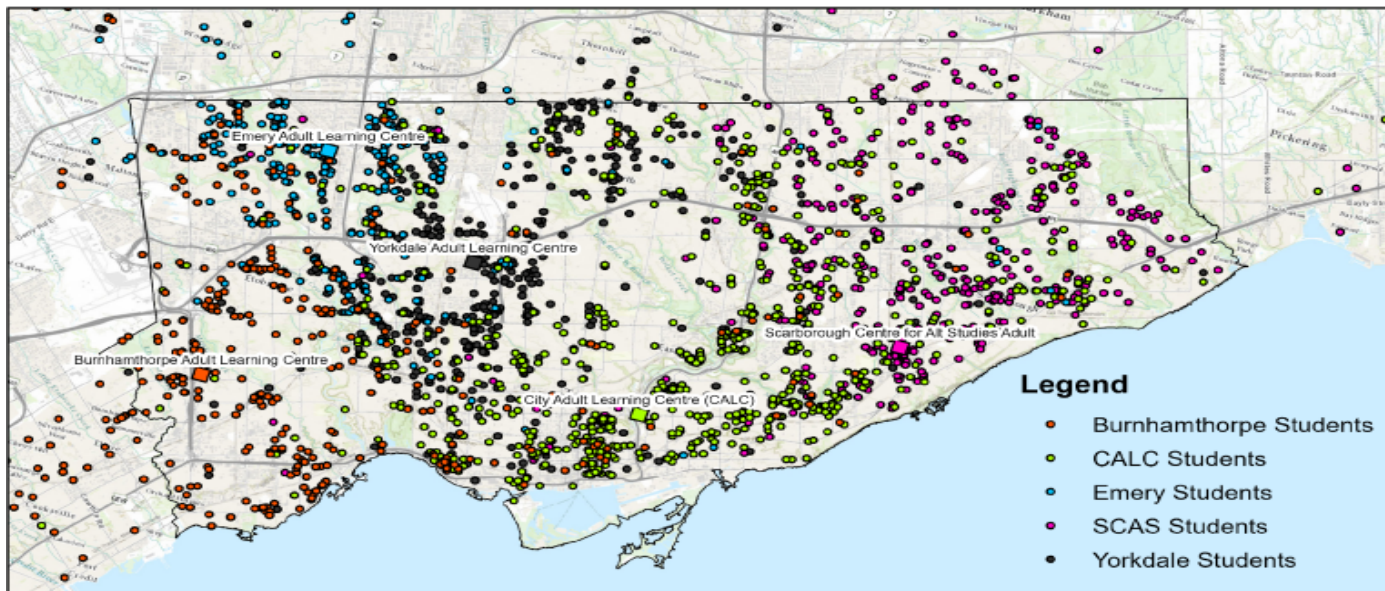
Background:

- TDSB operates five Adult Day Schools (Burnhamthorpe Adult Learning Centre, City Adult Learning Centre, Emery Adult Learning Centre, Yorkdale Adult Learning Centre and Scarborough Centre for Alternative Studies), funded through the Continuing Education grant.
- In addition, each Adult Learning Centre houses an EdVance program for students aged 18 to 20 that generates funding as do all other secondary day schools.
- Average Daily Enrolment at Adult Day Schools has declined by 50% since 2009. Maintaining support for adult day learners and fiscal responsibility will be prioritized while restructuring Adult Day Schools.





Distribution of Adult Students (March 2024)



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Adult Day Schools

Recommendations:

- Program changes to Adult Day School are proposed to include fewer sites, optimizing class enrolment and retention across all sites, streamlining registration processes, delivering all adult virtual courses at one Adult School.



Outdoor Education





TDSB Outdoor Education Background

From the beginning of TDSB the importance of Outdoor Education has been recognized through Board Motions which have mandated that all students have equity of access to these programs.

Every Grade 6 or 7 student will have the opportunity to participate in an overnight program and every JK to Grade 8 students will have opportunities to participate in day programs. In addition, there will be limited opportunities for secondary students to participate in both overnight and day experiences.

Board Motion June 2000





TDSB Outdoor Education

**Financial Summary 2022-2023
Proposed Changes**

Outdoor Education	Financial Summary
Operating Budget	7.2 Million
Revenue	2 Million User Fees 2.1 Million GSN
Total Deficit	(3.1 Million)

Estimated Savings From

Action	Estimated Savings
Eliminate Weekend Grade 6 Trips to SOES	\$300,978
Charge Transportation Costs to Schools 151+ for trips to Overnight Centres	\$422,000
Increase User fees for Day Centers	\$300,000
Total	\$1,022,978





TDSB Outdoor Education Proposed Changes

Eliminate Weekend Grade 6 Trips to Scarborough Outdoor Education Centre (SOES)

- Of the 5 Overnight Centres, SOES is the only one that offers regular Grade 6 weekend trips.
- Last year programs ran on 15 weekends serving approximately 1,000 students.
- There are enough spaces at SOES and the other Overnight Centres to accommodate these students during the week.

Impact of Change	Estimated Savings
Reduction of 2 Outdoor Education Specialists Positions	\$235,978 (Salary and Benefits)
Food Contract Costs	\$65,000
Total Savings	\$300,978





TDSB Outdoor Education Proposed Changes

Share Transportation Costs to Overnight Outdoor Education Centres with Schools

- Currently, transportation costs to overnight sites are covered by the Outdoor Education Budget.
- By shifting the costs of transportation to participating schools we can reduce costs centrally.
- To acknowledged the impact on schools lower on the LOI, the costs for transportation for LOI 150 schools will continue to be covered by Outdoor Education.

Impact of Change	Estimated Savings
Transportation Costs to Outdoor Ed Centers for Schools LOI 151 and above will be covered by participating School Budgets	\$422,000



TDSB Outdoor Education Proposed Changes

User Fee Increase for Visits to Outdoor Education Day Centres

- User Fees are collected to support facility maintenance costs at Outdoor Education Centres.
- The Fees are on a sliding scale depending on the LOI of the school.
 - Currently Fees per student are \$5.00, \$7.50 and \$10.00.
 - Proposed Fees per student are \$10.00, \$15.00 and \$20.00
- Schools will have the discretion to utilize local funds (eg school budget, local fundraising, grants etc) to waive fees for students based on family needs.

Impact of Change	Estimated Revenue
User Fees for Day Outdoor Education Centres will increase on a sliding scale	\$300,000



Increase In/Resumption of User Fees



IB Fees

- In 2019, the Board approved a motion to collect IB Fees
- In 2020, as a result of the pandemic and the temporary change in the delivery of the program, the Board was not paying certain expenses related to IB and the Board approved a motion to eliminate the IB fees
- This decision was seen as a “pause” during the pandemic
- Recommendation:
- Now that the program and expenses have returned to pre-pandemic levels, staff is recommending that the Board return to the intention of the 2019 motion.



Permit Fees

- Policy P011 “Community Use of Board Facilities” provides direction with regards to permit fees
- There are 2 areas covered in the policy where permits fees are impacting the budget:
 - The Board has not been fully recovering ancillary costs including staffing of non-scheduled custodian services, media and technology specialists, stage crews, security officers and parking attendants. The recovery of these costs would generate an additional \$3.1 million.
 - The Board has been overusing the subsidy provided by the Ministry by \$2.5 million.



Permit Fees

- Recommendation:
- Review the permit fees to ensure that fees are being appropriately charged based on the Policy and funding
- Implement CPI increase as indicated in the Policy

1:1 Device Fees

- 2024-25 will be year four of implementation. All grade 5-12 will have access to a device, if required.
- Currently, schools pay for the repairs of 1:1 devices
- Recommendation :
- the language be adjusted in the 1:1 device agreements with students/parents/caregivers in order to allow schools to charge for repairs, when appropriate.

Other Proposed Options to Balance



Central Staffing

- Based on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, decreased enrolment over time and a best practice of reviewing positions when people leave the Board, staff are proposing a decrease in central staffing of approximately \$5.0 million.
- The areas include:
 - Senior team
 - Other central administration
 - Central teaching staff



Replacement Costs Related to Sick Leave

- People and Culture concluded a review of its Disability Management function and are in the process of developing and implementing several strategies.
- The strategies will reduce employee absences through organizational and process improvements to facilitate early and safe return to work.
- Goal to reduce replacement costs by \$7.0 million.

Renewal Costs Included in Operating Budget and Overspending in School Operations

- Staff are reviewing ways to decrease spending in this area without impacting the level of service.
 - This includes decreasing absenteeism, filling vacancies, and reviewing contracts to find additional savings.
- The estimated savings is approximately \$5.0 million.

Other Areas Where the Board is Spending More Than Funded

- There are areas of the budget where TDSB spends more than funded, or there is no funding provided.
 - The chart represents the major departments/areas
- It should be noted that the areas identified in this section have value and are an important part of fully implementing the Board’s priorities, obligations, resolutions and operations.

DEPARTMENT/AREA	Millions
Cafeterias	(\$0.9)
Continuing Education	(\$6.9)
Early Years Programming - EDP and EarlyON	(\$0.6)
Elementary Supervision (Lunchroom)	(\$12.9)
Outdoor Education	(\$3.2)
Safe & Caring	(\$9.2)
School Based Safety Monitors	(\$15.1)
School Office Administration	(\$7.0)
Special Education	(\$40.6)
Itinerant Music Instructors	(\$4.4)
Statutory Benefits	(\$48.0)
Supply costs (Teachers, Educational Assistants & Designated Early Childhood Educators)	(\$11.9)
Student Nutrition	(\$1.2)
Pools	(\$6.1)
Transportation	(\$0.8)
School Operations	(\$22.9)
Information Technology	(\$47.5)
Total	(\$239.1)



Updated Financial Position

Projected Financial Position- January 29, 2024 -34.8

Updates

School Based Staffing	4.8	
Utilities	5.5	
International Student Fees	1.7	
Other	2.0	
		14.0

Updated Projected Financial Position -20.8



Financial Position After Options to Balance

Updated Projected Financial Position	-20.8
Reductions Based on Options to Balance	
Continuing Education	2.0
Outdoor Education	1.0
International Baccalaurate Fees	0.8
Permit Fees	2.6
Central Staff	5.0
School Renewal	5.0
Sick Leave	7.0
	23.4
Financial Position After Options to Balance	2.6





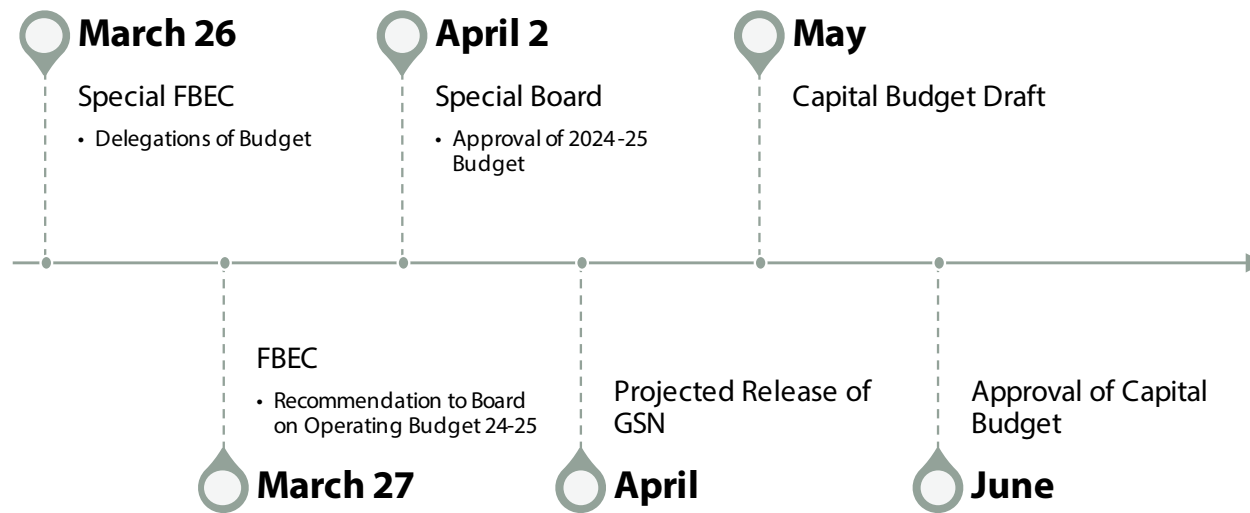
Financial Position After Options to Balance

Financial Position After Options to Balance	2.6
Additions Based on Trustee Motions	
Vice Principals	3.8
Safety Positions	3.0
Community Support Workers	1.1
	- 7.9
Projected Financial Position if Positions Added to Budget	- 5.3





Updated Budget Schedule







Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee
(Special Meeting)
Report No. 6

FBEC:006A
 Tuesday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 27, 2024
 4:30 p.m.
 Hybrid Meeting
 Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street

Members Present Trustees Zakir Patel (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Matias de Dovitiis, Liban Hassan, Shelley Laskin, James Li and Dan MacLean

Also Present Trustees Rachel Chernos Lin, Alexis Dawson, Sara Erhardt, Debbie King, Patrick Nunziata, Weidong Pei, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Farzana Rajwani, Neethan Shan, Anu Sriskandarajah, Deborah Williams, Manna Wong and **Student Trustee Bell.**

The meeting was a hybrid model with Trustees Aarts, Chernos Lin, Dawson, de Dovitiis, Hastings, King, Laskin, MacLean, Patel, Shan, Williams and **Student Trustee Bell** participating in person, and other trustees present participating by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#).

Part A: Committee Recommendations

No matters to report

Part B: For Information Only

1. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

A special meeting of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee was convened on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, from 4:38 p.m., with Zakir Patel, presiding.

At 10:32 p.m., on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, the meeting recessed until

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 6, March 26, 2024
 Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 4 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear delegations regarding the 2024-2025 Operating Budget.

2. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

3. Delegations

re Petition for more resources to ensure children's safety and prevent assaults in the Developmentally Disabled Program

1. Aditya Chityala, Parent, Clinton Street Junior Public School

re Recommendation to increase permit fees and the impact on youth programs

2. Pablo Vivanco, BGC Albion/ Albion Neighbourhood Services

re Allocations

3. Soodabeh Fathi and Emma Begoumian, Co-Chairs of Parent Council, Owen Public School
4. Munira Khilji, Community Advocate, LC3 schools/Staff, SAAAC Autism Centre
5. Susan Fletcher, SPACE Coalition (Saving Public Access to Community Space Everywhere)
6. Jennifer Volk, Ward 15 Council Rep, Earl Grey School and Riverdale Collegiate

re Budget cuts

7. Alejandra Gonzalez Jimenez, Toronto School Caregiver Coalition/Dovercourt Public School
8. Katrina Matheson, Rosedale Heights School of the Arts, Toronto Schools Caregiver Coalition
9. Rita Gallippi and Alisa Cashore, Toronto School Administrators' Association
10. Cathy Crowe, Community Member
11. Ana Ledo, Parent, Roselands Public School
12. Gwendolyn Moncrieff-Gould, BGC Canada
13. Jennifer Huang, Parent, Duke of Connaught
14. Calum Houston, Volunteer Lead, Progress Toronto
15. Leonardo Zúñiga, Community Worker
16. Joanne Penhale, RH McGregor Parents' Council
17. Siu Sui (Susie) Cheung, TDSB Continuing Education G.I Department
18. Freya Hodd, Student, Perth Avenue Junior School
19. Alex Merrick Hodd, Parent of 3 kids, Perth Avenue Junior School
20. Veronica Uzielli, Assistant Coordinator and Site Supervisor, Scarborough Outdoor Education School

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 6, March 26, 2024

21. Alyssa Goodrham McLaine, Student, Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute
22. Mercy Charles, Portage Trail Community School, Ward 6
23. Nancy Ferguson, Secretary Birchmount Collegiate Institute School Council
24. Andrew Waters, Dewson School Council

re Potential Impact for Students

25. Tracey O'Regan, Community Living Toronto
26. Ashley Trang, Parent, Flemington Public School

re More Community Support Workers

27. Latoya Aldridge, Inner City Community Advisory Committee

re The Restructuring of the International Language-African Heritage Programs

28. Ahmed Hawamdeh, International Languages Program

re Appendix A: Continuing Education Proposal, Elimination of General Interest/Seniors' Daytime Programs

29. John Weatherup, Toronto Education Workers/Local 4400
30. Terri Preston, CUPE 4400, Unit B
31. Wendy Terry, The Workers' Education Association, Learning Curves
32. Lisa Skeete, Community Member
33. Edward Chin Jr., Community Member and TDSB Parent
34. Magdalene Winterhoff, Community Member
35. Danielle Woods, Attendant, Seniors Wood Carving and Sculpture, Caricature Dani
36. Ebony Bertorelli, Mimico Adult Learning Centre/ Central Tech High School
37. Susan (Wen-San) Han, Participant, Orchardview Arena, TDSB International Folk Dance Class
38. Sheryl Demetro, Teacher, Orchardview Arena
39. Jared Westreich, Learn4Life Learners
40. Lindsey Crymble, Community Member
41. Helene Kingsley, Continuing Education Community Program Administrators Organization
42. Laura Lindberg, Participant, Learn4Life Learners
43. Janet Killey, Participant, General Interest/Seniors' Day Program
44. Marilyn Wilcoxon, Adult Learner
45. Brenda Kritzer, Participant, General Interest Courses
46. Miriam Kaufman, Learn4Life (*Student since 1982*)

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 6, March 26, 2024

47. Katherine McCrady, Participant, General Interest Courses
48. Joanna Cudmore, Northern Secondary School
49. Meg Swetman, Community Member
50. Adam Rodgers, Community Member
51. Julie Hutchison, Mimico Adult Learning Centre, Royal York Rd.
52. Stephanie Sawah, Community Member
53. Zack Bradley, Community Member
54. Ana Maria Antunez Dominguez, Learn4Life
55. Renée Brunton, Community Member
56. Alison Fowles, Community Member
57. Ann Simon, Participant, Continuing Education - General Interest/Seniors' Daytime Program (French language classes)
58. Joanne Madore, Participant, Learn4Life Programs
59. Wayne McDonald, Overland Public School
60. Su Yan Bai, Northern Secondary School
61. Joanne Woodward, Community Member
62. Alexander Mason, Representative, Students and Teachers, Learn4Life
63. Andrew Lapchinsky, Course Attendee, Learn4Life
64. Leslie Goodyear, Community Member
65. Karen Hanley, Community Member
66. Susan Stopps, Instructor and Learner, General Interest Learn4Life
67. Gwendolyn Moncrieff-Gould, BGC Canada
68. Karen Englander, Community Member
69. Geary Shorser, Community Member
70. Manisha Dhar, Progress Toronto
71. Geraldine Lindley, Member, Adult Learning Community
72. Alicia Elliott, Active Member, Continuing Education/ Learn4Life
73. Doug Dixon Participant, Continuing Education Programs
74. George Edwards, Participant, Continuing Education Programs
75. Jane Curran, Learn4Life, TDSB Evening Programs
76. Ehsan Foroughi, Student, TDSB Adult General Interest Program
77. Azadeh, Zereshkian, Student, TDSB Adult General Interest Program
78. Besa Halili Con Ed Community & Lit/Num Prgs Admin; Community programs Administrator-Danforth Collegiate Technical Institute
79. Raphael Lopoukhine, Student, Learn4Life Continuing Education Programs
80. Barbara Warren, Student, Learn4Life Continuing Education Programs
81. Anu Tomar, Jean Lumb Public School
82. Sarah Cassel, Community Member
83. Khrystyna Stepczuk, Representative, Adult General Interest Program
84. Leslie Mac Kay, Central Technical High School

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 6, March 26, 2024

85. Paramjit Kaur, Leaside and Overland

86. Roy Underhill, Learn4Life

re IB Fees

87. Kiran Mirchandani, Community Member

re Appendix A (Group from Yorkdale Adult Learning Center)

88. Ubah Farah, Yorkdale Adult Learning Center

4. Adjournment

On Wednesday, March 27, 2024, on motion of Trustee Chernos Lin, seconded by Trustee MacLean, the meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Zakir Patel, Committee Chair

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Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Report No. 07 (Part A)

FBEC:007A
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
4:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street

Members Present Trustees Zakir Patel (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Matias de Dovitiis, Liban Hassan, Shelley Laskin, James Li and Dan MacLean

Also Present Trustees Rachel Chernos Lin, Alexis Dawson, Sara Ehrhardt, Liban Hassan, Dennis Hastings, Patrick Nunziata, Weidong Pei, Neethan Shan, Anu Sriskandarajah and Deborah Williams

The meeting was a hybrid model with Trustees Aarts, Chernos Lin, Dawson, de Dovitiis, Hastings, Laskin, MacLean and Shan participating in person, and other trustees present participating by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#)

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. Contract Awards, Facilities [4686]

To be considered at the Board meeting on April 17, 2024

2. Contract Awards, Operations [4687]

To be considered at the Board meeting on April 17, 2024

3. York Memorial Collegiate Institute Update and Construction Tender Award [4689]

To be considered at the Board meeting on April 17, 2024

4. Proposed Options to Balance the 2024-25 Budget [4688]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see FBEC:007A, page 35 and attached) presenting options to balance the 2024-2025 budget.

Moved by: Trustee Li
Seconded by: Trustee Aarts

The Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, staff confirmed that the Toronto District School Board had a (\$20.8M) projected budget deficit for the 2024-2025 school year which increased by \$6.8M with the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee's decision to add back vice-principals and safety staff; and

Whereas, material reductions to programming have been recommended by staff to reduce the budget deficit; and

Whereas, FBEC has received extensive feedback from the community on the impacts of proposed program reductions and the broad benefits of adult education, outdoor education and after school programming; and

Whereas, Section 231 of the *Education Act* requires school boards to adopt a balanced budget;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the following be approved:

(a) A reduction of \$17M of staff options to balance that involve operational efficiencies including:

- i. Central Staff (\$5M)**
- ii. School Renewal (\$5M)**
- iii. Supporting Staff Self-Wellness (\$7M)**

(b) That the Director:

- i. Present options to institute a fee-based revenue stream for one-to-one devices that will generate ~\$1M annually, that include parent/guardian/caregiver contributions, subsidies, donations, and an administrative cost benefit analysis to the next meeting of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee;**
- ii. Delay the implementation of course time migration for International Language programs until an in-depth report on**

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 7A, April 2, 2024

student impact can be reviewed at the Program and School Services Committee, while continuing to implement the recommended 25 student pre-register minimum;

- iii. Delay the cancellation of General Interest / Seniors' Daytime courses until an in-depth report on community impact can be reviewed at the Program and School Services Committee;**
- iv. Delay the changes to the Scarborough Outdoor Education School and provide a detailed plan, before the final vote on the 2024-2025 operating budget, to ensure students impacted by programming change at SOES will continue to receive outdoor education on-par with other students at the TDSB, and that the overall scope of the Board's outdoor education will not be reduced with the recommended changes;**
- v. Review and consult with partner organizations on the TDSB's permit fee structure and subsidies and present a report to the Planning and Priorities Committee on recommended changes;**

(c) That the Chair:

- i. Share the TDSB Budget and Continuing Education information with the City of Toronto's City-School Boards Advisory Committee and work with the City to align Continuing Education programming to address service gaps;**
- ii. Explore operating agreements with the Ministry of Seniors to support subsidized access to continuing education;**
- iii. Explore operating agreements with the City, and Provincial Ministries to support continuing education programming and skills development;**
- iv. Promote, together with staff, Learn 4 Life programs to Toronto businesses and organizations and explore partnerships to support programming with current participants of the program;**

(d) That the Chair write a letter to the Ministry of Education explaining the status of the Board's budget. That it include:

- i. There is still a deficit despite making significant operational efficiencies;**

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 7A, April 2, 2024

- ii. There is still a deficit due to a structural deficit (CPP, EI, Salary Gapping and the inability to consolidate schools due to the moratorium);**
 - iii. There would be significant reserves if the Toronto District School Board were fully compensated for the funding spent to keep its schools safe during COVID and if the TDSB were compensated for funding it ought to have if it were funded for CPP, EI, the salary gap and the costs of the moratorium;**
 - iv. That the letter also include the challenges to accept all staff options to balance due to the impact on the Board's communities;**
 - v. Request the Minister consider these very real funding concerns and address these in the upcoming GSNs;**
 - vi. That the letter be shared with all TDSB parents/caregivers and stakeholders, Federations and Union partners and all Toronto MPPs;**
- (e) That the Chair work with the Director to plan two to three Trustee consultations with stakeholders, during the month of April to consult on staff recommended efficiencies and that the Director work with the Chair and Vice-chair of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee to create a survey to issue broadly, that can also be used in Trustee townhall outreach.**

Carried

Staff had recommended that the Board approve the options to balance, as presented in the report.

The motion moved by Trustees Li and Aarts, was presented and considered in substitution.

The parts of the motion were voted on separately.

On amendment of Trustee Shan, seconded by Trustee de Dovitiis, "Delay the changes to SOES and" was added before "provide a detailed plan" and "before the final vote on the 2024-2025 operating budget" was added after "provide a detailed plan" at Part (b) (iv).

On amendment of Trustee Chernos Lin, seconded by Trustee de Dovitiis, "together with staff" was added after "Promote" at Part (c) (iv) and "That the letter be shared with all TDSB parents/caregivers and stakeholders, Federations and

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 7A, April 2, 2024

Union partners and all Toronto MPPs” was added at Part (d) (vi).

At the Committee meeting, the following moved by Trustee Shan, on behalf of Trustee King, and seconded by Trustee de Dovitiis, was defeated by the Committee:

That “Delay the resumption of International Baccalaureate fees until an in-depth report on community impact can be reviewed at PSSC”, be added at Part (b).

Minority Report (submitted in accordance with Bylaw 5.14.13)

Trustee Shan disagreed with the decision of the Committee and recommends instead that the amendment be approved.

At the Committee meeting, during consideration of the matter, the meeting resolved into private to discuss private personnel and legal matters.

5. Business Arising: Lifting the Ministry of Education’s Moratorium on School Closures

At the Committee meeting, Trustee MacLean, seconded by Trustee Aarts, moved the following as business arising following the matter, Proposed Options to Balance the 2024-25 Budget [4688]. At the March 19, 2024 meeting of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee, the matter was provided as notice of motion and for consideration at the April 4, 2024 meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee, which was subsequently cancelled.

Moved by: Trustee MacLean

Seconded by: Trustee Aarts

The Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, the moratorium on school closures has been in effect since 2017, limiting the ability of school boards to close and amalgamate under-utilized and under-enrolled schools; and

Whereas, the operation of under-utilized and under-enrolled schools creates costly operational budget pressures and programming challenges; and

Whereas, prior to 2015, the Ministry of Education provided “top-up” funding through the School Facilities Operation and Renewal Grant to support the operation and maintenance of facilities where enrolment was under capacity; and

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 7A, April 2, 2024

Whereas, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) previously received \$35.5 million in “top-up” funding per year prior to the phasing out of the School Facilities Operation and Renewal Grant beginning in 2015; and

Whereas, the Ministry of Education eliminated the “top-up” funding in 2018; and

Whereas, in recognition of the costs incurred by and programming limitations associated with under-utilized and under-enrolled schools, TDSB Trustees passed the Secondary Review recommendations in November of 2020, committing to:

- i. have fewer but larger secondary schools that provide greater access, improved programming, and rich pathways as close to home as possible, ideally serving a minimum of 1000-1200 students each;**
- ii. strengthen the role of the neighbourhood secondary school;**
- iii. continue to support specialized schools and programs, with a focus on increased access for all students; and**
- iv. have larger neighbourhood schools with the flexibility to respond to students needs and interests by creating programs they desire, supported by strong enrolment;**

And

Whereas, TDSB staff project potential operational savings of \$585,000 per year for each of the Pupil Accommodation Reviews in the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Plan (LTPAP) associated with each school consolidation project. These potential savings do not include the deferred maintenance that could be eliminated should school consolidations be allowed to proceed, creating even further savings; and

Whereas, the TDSB has strongly advocated for many years now, along with other school boards and the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA), on behalf of all school Ontario boards, for the lifting of the moratorium on school closures; and

Whereas, the Provincial government, including the Ministry of Education, repeatedly asks school boards to provide feedback on potential efficiencies and cost savings, and based on provisions included in Bill 98 seems particularly interested in superfluous landholdings of school boards;

Therefore, be it resolved:**(a) That the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education write a letter to the Minister of Education:**

- i. **advocating once again for the removal of the Ministry of Education's 2017 moratorium on school closures;**
- ii. **proposing that if the Ministry of Education is unable to lift the moratorium, that they grant the Toronto District School Board a special exemption allowing the TDSB to provide improved programming for students by doing up to four school consolidation projects per year, until such a time as the moratorium is lifted provincially;**
- iii. **indicating that this will allow the TDSB to both operate in a more financially efficient manner, while at the same time, better serve the needs and aspirations of students, families, and communities in the district;**

(b) That the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and all Toronto area MPPs be copied on the correspondence at Part (a).

On amendment of Trustee Chernos Lin, seconded by Trustee Shan, "by closing up to four schools per year" was changed to "by doing up to four school consolidation projects per year" at Part (a) (ii).

Part B: For Information Only**1. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands**

A meeting of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee was convened on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, from 4:31 to 10:53 p.m. with Zakir Patel, presiding.

2. Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Trustee Aarts, seconded by Trustee Laskin, the agenda was approved.

3. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

4. Delegations

re School Council Account Service

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (Special Meeting), Report No. 7A, April 2, 2024

1. Lu Sun, Claude Watson School For The Arts Parent Council

5. Adjournments

On motion of Trustee de Dovitiis, seconded by Trustee Shan, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Zakir Patel, Committee Chair

2024-25 Budget

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

April 2, 2024

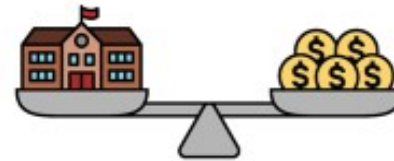




Updated Financial Position

- On March 19, 2024, staff estimated a projected deficit for 2024-25 of \$20.8 million
 - \$36.7 million if use of Proceeds of Disposition (POD) not approved
- A motion was approved to add \$6.8 million of staff to the deficit
- Updated financial position is \$ **27.6 million** if motion is passed
 - \$43.5 million without use of POD

Requirement to Submit Balanced Budget



- Requirement under the Education Act to submit a balanced budget
- In a regular year, the Board is allowed to submit a deficit of the greater of:
 - 1% (approximately \$30 million); or
 - The Board's Accumulated Reserves (approximately \$13.8 million)
- However, the Board is in year 3 of its 3 year deficit recovery plan
 - The original commitment was a surplus of \$8.2 million to start to build back the reserves that have been used to offset the structural deficits in previous years



Structural Deficit

- TDSB is operating a structural deficit
 - Planned spending is greater than expected revenue
- In some cases, TDSB is choosing to spend more in certain areas than funded based on priorities.
- In some cases, TDSB is not fully funded for certain areas

Reasons for Structural Deficit

- Canada Pension Plan (CPP) has been gradually increasing from 4.95% in 2019 to 5.95% in 2023. In 2024, a second additional contribution rate was added.
- Employment Insurance (EI) has also been increasing over this period of time
- There has not been a corresponding increase in funding.
- The total underfunding for these statutory benefits in 2024-25 will be \$35.2 million.



Statutory Benefits
(Canada Pension Plan
and Employment
Insurance)

Reasons for Structural Deficit



Difference in Funding
for Teacher Salaries vs.
Actual Salary Cost

- In 2014, the Province began Central Bargaining and came up with a central teacher grid.
 - Funding for teachers is based on this grid.
- At that time, the TDSB grid was higher than the central grid leading to an unfunded amount per teacher
- The amount continues to increase annually as the centrally bargained percentages are applied.
- The amount that is unfunded in 2023-24 is \$22.3 million.

Reasons for Structural Deficit

- TDSB has more capacity than it has students
- This results in underutilized schools and the potential to close schools to reduce operating costs
- The issue is that the Provincial moratorium on school closures prevents TDSB from closing schools
- In addition, the Ministry eliminated the “top up” grant that recognized that it costs the same to operate an underutilized school as a fully utilized school and then prevented Boards from being able to fix this issue.
- The top up grant for TDSB was approximately \$35 million in 2014-15 and enrolment has decreased since this time.




Cost of Operating
Under-Utilized
Schools due to
School Closure
Moratorium

Reasons for Structural Deficit



Replacement Costs
for Sick Leave

- The Putting Students First Act changed the allocation of sick leave in 2012.
- Since this change, School Boards' Co-operative Inc. (SBCI) says that the Provincial average use of sick days has doubled from 8 to 16 days
- Each school day costs the Board approximately \$600,000 in replacement costs.



Things to Consider

- Draft Multi-Year Strategic Plan
 - Report approved at March 21, 2024 PPC
 - Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action
 - Equity is foundational to all our work
 - Four draft strategic directions Belong, Achieve, Thrive and Revitalize
 - Ministry of Education Student Achievement Plan expectations
- Ministry Regulations
- Collective Agreements
- Impact of Decisions on Direct Support to Students

Consultations/Feedback Opportunities

- To date, the Board has provided a number of opportunities to receive information about and provide feedback related to the 2024-25 Budget. They include:
 - 4 Ward Forums covering 9 different wards
 - 2 Budget Town Halls
 - Presentation to/Feedback from various Community Advisory Committees including SEAC and CUSAC.
 - Presentation to/Feedback from Student Senate and the Equity Collective
 - 2 evenings of delegations on the Options to Balance and written delegations

Options to Balance

- The proposed options to balance were provided on March 19, 2024
- The options are:
 - Reduction in Replacement Costs Related to Sick Leave
 - Continuing Education
 - Restructuring International Language/African Heritage Programs to be delivered in fewer sites while ensuring equity of access
 - Eliminating General Interest/Seniors' Daytime Programs and referring participants to other available programs
 - Restructuring Adult Day Schools to be delivered in fewer sites while maintaining robust programming



Options to Balance (cont'd)

- Outdoor Education
 - Eliminate **weekend** Grade 6 Outdoor Education school trips to Scarborough Outdoor Education School (SOES) at Camp Kearney and **accommodate these overnight excursions during the weekdays at other sites**
 - Share Transportation to overnight Outdoor Education Centres with participating schools
 - Increase user fees for visits to Outdoor Education Day Centres
- Increase in/Resumption of User Fees
 - International Baccalaureate (IB) Fees
 - Permit Fees
 - 1:1 Device Repair Costs
- Reduction in Central Staff
- Reduction in Renewal Costs Included in the Operating Budget and Overspending on School Operations



Options to Balance

- There were a number of questions related to the options to balance that staff has provided answers to in Appendix A of the report.
- A couple that were asked a number of times and staff wanted to highlight included:
 - Cost recovery of space for general interest courses
 - Charging of fees for 1:1 devices

Other Areas Where the Board is Spending More Than Funded

- There are areas of the budget where TDSB spends more than funded, or there is no funding provided.
 - The chart represents the major departments/areas
- It should be noted that the areas identified in this section have value and are an important part of fully implementing the Board’s priorities, obligations, resolutions and operations.

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Continuing Education	(\$6.9)
Early Years Programming - EDP and EarlyON	(\$0.6)
Elementary Supervision (Lunchroom)	(\$12.9)
Outdoor Education	(\$3.2)
Safe & Caring	(\$9.2)
School Based Safety Monitors	(\$15.1)
School Office Administration	(\$7.0)
Special Education	(\$40.6)
Itinerant Music Instructors	(\$4.4)
Statutory Benefits	(\$48.0)
Supply costs (Teachers, Educational Assistants & Designated Early Childhood Educators)	(\$11.9)
Student Nutrition	(\$1.2)
Pools	(\$6.1)
Transportation	(\$0.8)
School Operations	(\$22.9)
Information Technology	(\$47.5)
Total	(\$239.1)



How does the Board reduce by \$4.2 million?

- Increase the speed on implementation for continuing education and permit increases
- Make additional reductions
- Request use of additional Proceeds of Disposition to balance
- Await the release of the GSN and determine if the grants reduce the deficit





Financial Position After Options to Balance

Updated Projected Financial Position -\$27.6

Reductions Based on Options to Balance

Continuing Education	2.0	
Outdoor Education	1.0	
International Baccalaurate Fees	0.8	
Permit Fees	2.6	
Central Staff	5.0	
School Renewal	5.0	
Sick Leave	7.0	
	23.4	

Financial Position After Options to Balance -\$4.2

Use of Proceeds of Disposition

- Proceeds of Disposition (POD) are received when the Board sells a property
- The Regulation states that POD should be used to address deferred maintenance needs in schools
- Boards can request exceptions to use POD in other areas
- POD are not a sustainable way of balancing the budget
- Included in the current budget is \$22 million related to the amortization of the employee future benefits liability
 - The liability will be fully amortized halfway through 2025-26 and this will start to free up \$22 million annually in the budget
- As a result, staff would support a one-time request of up to \$22 million to assist in balancing the 2024-25 budget
- It is anticipated that the Ministry may have additional requirements in approving this request.



Next Steps

- The GSN is expected to be released in April
 - Staff will use this information to calculate actual revenue for 2024-25 and adjust the financial position, if required
- Capital budget
- The capital and operating budget are due to the Ministry on June 30

