

Notice of Possible New Business
Program and School Services Committee
April 11, 2018

Trustee Gough might move the following as an item of new business for consideration by the meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee on April 11, 2018.

Communication to City of Toronto re Creation of a School Zone Traffic Safety Steering Committee

Whereas, the Board made the following decision on May 24, 2017:

- (a) That a task force be established consisting of both trustees and City of Toronto councillors, supported by staff, with the goal of working together over the next five years to modify the built environment in school zones, so as to reduce future student pedestrian fatalities to zero;
- (b) That the other co-terminus boards, such as the Toronto Catholic District School Board, be invited to join the task force, should they so wish;
- (c) That the Chair(s) meet with the Mayor of Toronto to begin the process of establishing the task force.;

and;

Whereas, it was envisioned that the task force would act as a coordinating body to enable both the City and the school boards to work together to modify the built environment in school zones so as to reduce future student pedestrian fatalities to zero; and

Whereas, the task force was not created, with the City instead deciding to send the matter to the City-School Boards Advisory Committee; and

Whereas, the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan endorsed by the City of Toronto in 2016 subscribes to an inclusionary planning process that encourages many stakeholders to work together in the interests of protecting vulnerable road users, of which children are a major group; and

Whereas, a gap in the implementation of the Vision Zero plan for school zones still exists in that there is no overarching governing body at the city level to coordinate staff in the planning, engineering, and enforcement aspects of school traffic safety throughout the city and work with the four school boards, with the result that:

- (a) Speed limits, traffic calming, and other elements of road safety in school zones are different from one ward to another,
- (b) Data tracking of student-vehicle collisions in school zones is highly problematic, and
- (c) There is no working table where champions of school zone road safety from all stakeholder groups can work together to set benchmarks, develop “big-picture” goals and solve problems in accordance with Vision Zero planning principles; and

Whereas, children continue to die or suffer serious injuries from vehicle collisions as they make their way to school and back in Toronto, with two student deaths already in the first three months of 2018;

Therefore be it resolved:

- (a) That the Chair call on the City to establish a multi-jurisdictional School Zone Traffic Safety Steering Committee consisting of representatives from the four Toronto school boards and the City of Toronto Planning Department, the City of Toronto Transportation Department, City of Toronto Board of Health, Toronto Police Services Board, and other departments or agencies as appropriate, to oversee school zone traffic safety in a coordinated and accountable manner;
- (b) That a communication be sent to the Mayor and the Chairs of the boards in Part (a) requesting that they establish an organizing committee within their organizations at the earliest possible opportunity to provide a representative to the multi-jurisdictional School Zone Traffic Steering Committee;
- (c) That early in October 2018, the Director present a report on the outcome of Parts (a) and (b).

Trustee Gough