



Committee of the Whole
Report No. 11

CW:012A

Wednesday, March 04, 2020

Boardroom, Main Floor, 5050 Yonge Street. Toronto

Members Present Trustees Trixie Doyle (Chair pro tem), Michelle Aarts, Alexander Brown, Rachel Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Harpreet Gill, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Dan MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Anu Sriskandarajah, Jennifer Story, Chris Tonks and Manna Wong

Regrets Regrets were received from Trustees Alexandra Lulka, Robin Pilkey (Chair) and David Smith

Trustees Donaldson, Gill Mammoliti, Patel and Tonks participated by electronic means. Trustees Nunziata and Wong participated for part of the meeting by electronic means and for part in person.

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. Toronto Lands Corporation: Appointments to the Positions of Citizen Director and Chair of the Toronto Lands Corporation

The Committee considered correspondence from the Acting Chair of the Toronto Lands Corporation (CW:012A, page 1) presenting recommendations for filling the positions of citizen director and chair of the TLC.

Moved By: Trustee Moise

Seconded By: Trustee MacLean

The Committee of the Whole **RECOMMENDS:**

- (a) That the following citizens be appointed to the positions of director of the Toronto Lands Corporation for a period of two years from March 11, 2020 to March 1, 2022:
- i. Laurie McPherson
 - ii. Doug Annand
- (b) That the term of office of Steven Zakem as a (citizen) director of the Toronto Lands Corporation be extended for the one-year term March 11, 2020 to March 1, 2021;
- (c) That the term of office of Michael Fenn as a (citizen) director of the Toronto Lands Corporation be extended for the one-year term March 11, 2020 to March 1, 2021;
- (d) That the term of office of Sheerin Sheikh as a (citizen) director of the Toronto Lands Corporation be extended for the three-year term March 11, 2020 to March 1, 2023;
- (e) That Brenda Patterson be reappointed to the position of (citizen) director of the Toronto Lands Corporation for the three-year term March 11, 2020 to March 1, 2023;
- (f) That Brenda Patterson, (citizen) Director, be appointed to the position of Chair of the Toronto Lands Corporation for a three-year term March 11, 2020 to March 1, 2023.

Carried

At the Committee meeting, on amendment of Trustee Story, seconded by Trustee Moise, “for a three-year term March 11, 2020 to March 1, 2023” was added at Part (f).

2. School Year Calendar, 2020-21 [3852]

The Committee considered a report from staff (CW:012A, page 23) presenting information on the school year calendar for 2020-2021.

Moved By: Trustee Aarts

Seconded By: Trustee MacLean

The Committee of the Whole **RECOMMENDS** that the school year calendar for 2020-2021 for elementary, secondary and year round alternative schools, as presented in the report, be approved.

Carried

3. Climate Action in the TDSB [3850]

The Committee considered a report from staff (CW:012A, page 31) presenting information on the Board's actions to address climate change, in terms of both climate literacy and facility operations.

Moved By: Trustee Story

Seconded By: Trustee Wong

The Committee of the Whole **RECOMMENDS:**

- (a) That the Director develop a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;**
- (b) That the Director present a report in the fall of 2020 to share the plan at Part (a).**

Carried

4. International LGBTQ Leaders Conference 2020: Expense Approval [3855]

The Committee considered a report from staff (CW:012A, page 49) presenting a request from Trustee Chris Moise to attend the International LGBTQ Leaders Conference 2020 from December 2 to 5, 2020 in Washington, D.C..

Moved By: Trustee Li

Seconded By: Trustee Nunziata

The Committee of the Whole **RECOMMENDS** that the request from Trustee Chris Moise to attend the International LGBTQ Leaders Conference 2020 from December 2 to 5, 2020 in Washington, D.C., be approved.

Carried

5. Information on Immunization

Moved By: Trustee Aarts

Seconded By: Trustee Chernos Lin

The Committee of the Whole **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, the World Health Organization has declared vaccine hesitancy as one of the top ten global health threats in 2019¹ and that measles, a vaccine preventable, serious disease, has recently seen a global increase of 30 percent, and

Whereas, in September 2019 the Toronto Medical Officer of Health and the Toronto Board of Health reported on the growing risk of vaccine hesitancy in the City^{2,3}; and

Whereas, vaccine hesitancy stems, in part, from communication gaps about vaccine safety and efficacy and misinformation that is spread via the internet and social media; and

Whereas, low vaccination rates can also stem from limited access to information and resources and insufficient access to medical services; and

Whereas, vaccine hesitancy reduces herd immunity (the critical immunization level required to prevent disease outbreaks) and therefore increases the risk of serious disease outbreak in TDSB schools, posing a risk to students, staff and their families; and

Whereas, every school board in the province works with a local public health unit to ad-minister those school-related requirements of the Immunization of School Pupils Act⁴ that:

¹ World Health Organization - "Ten Threats to Global Health in 2019" (<https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/ten-threats-to-global-health-in-2019>)

² (September 9, 2019) Report from the Medical Officer of Health on Moving to Acceptance: Toronto Public Health's Strategy to Address Vaccine Hesitancy (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-137355.pdf>)

³ (September 23, 2019) Presentation from the Associate Medical Officer of Health on Moving to Acceptance: Toronto Public Health's Strategy to Address Vaccine Hesitancy (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-138045.pdf>)

⁴ Immunization of School Pupils Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. I.1: (Immunization of School Pupils Act, RSO 1990, c. I.1)

- (i) **allow students to register for school only once they have disclosed their immunization record, and**
- (ii) **issue suspension notices each year for non-compliance with the legislation;**

and

Whereas, the TDSB issues approximately 4000 non-compliance suspensions each year representing an unnecessary administrative burden; and

Whereas, absenteeism due to suspensions can negatively impact student success; and

Whereas, the TDSB is a strong partner of Toronto Public Health and is committed to communicating critical information to families on topics that impact student health, well-being, and achievement; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization and the Toronto Board of Health report that health workers, especially those in communities, remain the most trusted advisors of vaccination decisions, and can be supported to provide trusted, credible information on vaccines;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Chair write to Ontario's Minister of Health, the Minister of Education, and Health Canada to request:**
 - (i) **that the Provincial and Federal governments provide resources and funding to enhance digital record-keeping that will reduce the administrative burden on schools and streamline notification to families;**
 - (ii) **that the Provincial and Federal governments provide resources and funding for enhanced education for parents and school communities about immunizations, including but not limited to, resources targeted specifically at the most vulnerable communities;**
- (b) That the Director strengthen the Board's communications to support the provision of information about immunizations, such as:**

- (i) **updating the Board's website and resources for Kindergarten and General Registration to include links to the Toronto Public Health online vaccination reporting website⁵,**
- (ii) **working with Toronto Public Health to facilitate greater access to public health community resources, including existing educational resources and school-based supports for parents, teachers and schools.**

Carried

6. Black Youth Mental Health Day, March 2

On motion of Trustee Moise, seconded by Trustee MacLean, the Committee of the Whole decided that the matter be added to the agenda and discussed as emergency business.

Moved By: Trustee Moise

Seconded By: Trustee MacLean

Whereas, over the past two years, the Toronto District School Board has deepened its commitment to strengthening the mental health and well-being of students and human rights, equity, anti-racism and anti-oppression articulated in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan - Action Plans; and

Whereas, the Board has acknowledged that anti-Black racism exists in the district and is committed to understanding, intervening and preventing all forms of discrimination; and

Whereas, mental health is an important component of overall health for all Canadians and the link between racism and mental health has been documented; and

Whereas, specifically, the 2016 Advancing the Mental Health Strategy for Canada: A Framework for Action, the Mental Health Commission of Canada noted that "mental well-being is deeply impacted by social determinants of health, such as precarious housing, poverty, social exclusion, and racism"; and

⁵ Toronto Public Health - Report Student Immunization (<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/immunization/get-immunized-children-youth/report-student-immunization/>)

Whereas, moreover, the Commission reported that African and Caribbean Canadians face significant challenges that have negative implications for their mental health; and

Whereas, these challenges include experiences of interpersonal and institutional anti-Black racism and discrimination, systemic socio-economic and other disadvantages, disproportionately lower rates of educational attainment, higher levels of poverty and social exclusion, and more frequent interactions with law enforcement, criminal justice and child welfare systems and a lack of access to culturally appropriate and culturally competent services. (The Public Health Agency of Canada's Initiative - Promoting Health Equity: Mental Health of Black Canadians Fund); and

Whereas, the City of Toronto has recently launched a campaign focused on raising awareness of the impact of anti-Black racism on mental health; and

Whereas, the City's campaign will culminate in a Black Mental Health Day on March 2, 2020 and annually in March thereafter; and

Whereas, the City has asked institutions to take action focused on protecting and promoting the mental health and wellness of Black Torontonians; and

Whereas, Board staff provide mental health and well-being support services to students through Professional Support Services in schools and in partnership with community agencies serving Black and other equity-seeking students;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That March 2 be recognized annually as Black Mental Health Day in the Toronto District School Board to:
 - (i) promote awareness of the effects of anti-Black racism,
 - (ii) increase acceptance and support for those individuals so affected,
 - (iii) encourage respectful and informed dialogue about the impacts of discrimination on mental health;
- (b) That the Director present a report, as part of the mental health and well-being annual report in 2021, describing actions aligned with providing culturally responsive and competent mental health supports through social work, psychology and other relevant mental health and well-being services.

Amendment

Moved By: Trustee Laskin

Seconded By: Trustee Moise

That Part (a) be changed to:

(a) That Toronto District School Board continue to:

- i. promote awareness of the effects of anti-Black racism,
- ii. increase acceptance and support for those individuals so affected,
- iii. encourage respectful and informed dialogue about the impacts of discrimination on mental health

(b) That March 2 be recognized annually as Black Youth Mental Health Day in the Toronto District School Board.

Amendment Carried

Amendment to the Amendment

Moved By: Trustee MacLean

Seconded By: Trustee Rajakulasingam

That “as part of the mental health and well-being annual report in 2021”, be changed to, “a follow-up report in February 2021.”

Amendment Carried

With the permission of the meeting, an amendment moved by Trustee Story, seconded by Trustee Mammoliti for the Director to present a report in the fall of 2020, was withdrawn by the mover.

Main motion, as amended:

The Committee of the Whole therefore **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, over the past two years, the Toronto District School Board has deepened its commitment to strengthening the mental health and well-being of students and human rights, equity, anti-racism and anti-oppression articulated in the Multi-Year Strategic Plan - Action Plans; and

Whereas, the Board has acknowledged that anti-Black racism exists in the district and is committed to understanding, intervening and preventing all forms of discrimination; and

Whereas, mental health is an important component of overall health for all Canadians and the link between racism and mental health has been documented; and

Whereas, specifically, the 2016 Advancing the Mental Health Strategy for Canada: A Framework for Action, the Mental Health Commission of Canada noted that "mental well-being is deeply impacted by social determinants of health, such as precarious housing, poverty, social exclusion, and racism"; and

Whereas, moreover, the Commission reported that African and Caribbean Canadians face significant challenges that have negative implications for their mental health; and

Whereas, these challenges include experiences of interpersonal and institutional anti-Black racism and discrimination, systemic socio-economic and other disadvantages, disproportionately lower rates of educational attainment, higher levels of poverty and social exclusion, and more frequent interactions with law enforcement, criminal justice and child welfare systems and a lack of access to culturally appropriate and culturally competent services. (The Public Health Agency of Canada's Initiative - Promoting Health Equity: Mental Health of Black Canadians Fund); and

Whereas, the City of Toronto has recently launched a campaign focused on raising awareness of the impact of anti-Black racism on mental health; and

Whereas, the City's campaign will culminate in a Black Mental Health Day on March 2, 2020 and annually in March thereafter; and

Whereas, the City has asked institutions to take action focused on protecting and promoting the mental health and wellness of Black Torontonians; and

Whereas, Board staff provide mental health and well-being support services to students through Professional Support Services in schools and in partnership with community agencies serving Black and other equity-seeking students;

Therefore, be it resolved:

(a) That the Toronto District School Board continue to:

- i. promote awareness of the effects of anti-Black racism,**
- ii. increase acceptance and support for those individuals so affected,**
- iii. encourage respectful and informed dialogue about the impacts of discrimination on mental health;**

- (b) That March 2 be recognized annually as Black Youth Mental Health Day in the Toronto District School Board;**
- (c) That the Director present a follow-up report in February 2021, describing actions aligned with providing culturally responsive and competent mental health supports through social work, psychology and other relevant mental health and well-being services.**

Carried

Part B: For Information Only

11. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

12. Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Trustee Rajakulasingam, seconded by Trustee Story, the agenda was approved.

13. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

14. Delegations

The following oral delegations were heard in accordance with the Board's procedure for hearing delegations.

re French Immersion Cuts/Changes at Palmerston Avenue Junior Public School

- 1. Julian Douglass, parent, Palmerston Avenue Junior Public School
- 2. Jay Charbonneau, Palmerston Avenue Junior Public School
- 3. Terri Chu, Palmerston Avenue Junior Public School
- 4. Christopher Chen, parent, Palmerston Avenue Junior Public School
- 5. Diana Mockute, parent, Palmerston Avenue Junior Public School

15. OPSBA Directors' Report

The Committee heard an oral update from Trustee Story, on behalf of the Directors of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association on activities of OPSBA. Trustee Donaldson provided a report, which was circulated at the meeting, on the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting held on February 21 and 22, 2020.

16. Adjournment

At 7:21 p.m., on motion of Trustee Aarts, seconded by Trustee Chernos Lin, the meeting adjourned.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Trixie Doyle, Chair pro tem

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