

PIAC Update: Trustee Jennifer Arp, December 8, 2016

It is with excitement that I begin my year with you all as the Trustee Representative for PIAC. As many of you know, I was a highly-engaged parent prior to becoming Trustee 2 years ago, a perspective that I hope to bring here. My monthly report will include recent decisions of the Board, however, it is also my intention to highlight future committee discussions that are of specific importance to PIAC in the hopes that you will plan to attend and give delegations.

TDSB Chair and Vice Chair Elected

Robin Pilkey was acclaimed Chair of the Toronto District School Board during the annual Organizational Board meeting on December 1, 2016. Trustee Chris Moise was elected to the position of Vice Chair. Chair Pilkey, who was also acclaimed Chair last December, was first elected as Trustee for Parkdale-High Park in the fall of 2014. Vice Chair Moise was first elected as Trustee for Toronto Centre-Rosedale in June of 2016. For detailed results of the elections, as well as the schedule and agendas for Board and Standing Committees, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/boardroom.

Summary of Recent Board Decisions

The Board met on November 23 and December 7, a full summary of decisions is available on TDSB's website.

Reduction of Duplicate Forms: The Board has asked the Director present a report to the Program and School Services Committee on options for reducing the number and repetition of start-of-year forms that parents are required to submit in any given year and year over year and that the report be presented to allow sufficient time for implementation of proposed improvements for the start of the 2017-18 school year.

Instructional Practices During Heat Waves: the Director present a report on the development of instructional and environmental practices for school use during difficult days, including teaching and learning that can be employed on hot days, as well as how to use the building and school grounds not just to mitigate the discomfort, but to make it a useful teaching tool.

Changes to Committee Structure: The Board has approved changes to the structure of our Standing Committee's that were effective December 1. The new committees are: Program and School Services, Governance and Policy and Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee. This new structure will help streamline and focus our work and has combined many existing non-standing committees into standing ones.

Revised Delegation Procedure: The Board's delegation procedure has been revised and bylaws have been adjusted accordingly. The full procedure is available on TDSB's website.

City of Toronto's Proposed Budget Cuts to Childcare

It has come to the attention of the Board that the City of Toronto has proposed significant budget cuts and changes to funding for childcare. The cuts include the elimination of 4.1 million in direct payments to the TDSB for child care centre occupancy costs and at least 75 subsidized childcare spaces when there are currently 18,582 children on the waitlist. In our December 7 Board meeting we unanimously voted to oppose these cuts and to launch a public campaign to highlight the issue. I encourage all of you to write to your city councilors and attend any of the budget consultation sessions. More information is available at www.toronto.ca/budget.

Ontario's Well-Being Strategy for Education

The province has launched a portal for community members to submit feedback on the development of a K-12 Well-Being framework. As we know, student well-being is a key component to making sure our students succeed at school. You can access the portal until January 15 at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/Wellbeing2.html.

High School Information Nights

To help you make an informed decision when choosing a high school, TDSB schools host information nights for parents and Grade 8 students each year between October and January. Learn everything you need to know about our incredible variety of schools, programs and courses. The dates and times for all High School Information Nights are available online at www.tdsb.on.ca/goingtohighschool.

Cancellation of Buses During Severe Weather

Severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation or, in extreme conditions, close schools. The decision to close schools is made by the director of education. In the event transportation is cancelled or schools are closed, the local media will be informed before the beginning of the school day. Tune in to your radio and television news stations for the latest information or visit www.tdsb.on.ca.

Guide to Safer Streets

Trustee Gough has asked that I share the Guide to Safer Streets with all of you. As well, she has suggested that this be a possible agenda item for PIAC in the future. You can view the entire document at www.toronto.ca.