**Item 1)**

In January 2017, The Director of Education John Malloy, distributed for the first time at the TDSB Responsibility for Outcomes Letters to all members of Executive Council and all Superintendents of Education. These letters outline system and department priorities for the year and, in some cases, a sustained focus over two or three years. They are consistent with the expectations of the Board of Trustees and may be adjusted during the course of the year to take on additional priorities in response to new or changing policies. In keeping with the Board’s efforts to promote transparency and openness with information, they are part of the TDSB's ongoing work and commitment to senior level accountability and they have been posted online.

**Read all the letters here:**

 [**www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/SeniorTeamResponsibilityLetters.aspx**](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/DirectorofEducation/SeniorTeamResponsibilityLetters.aspx)

The letters came to my attention recently. I have attached the entire letter that was sent to Executive Superintendent Uton Robinson for you to read here. If you wish to find out more about the letter and its contents, please speak to Uton Robinson directly.

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

5050 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario M2N 5N8

January 1, 2017

Uton Robinson Executive Superintendent Special Education and Sections Programs

**Dear Uton,**

During the 2016-2017 school year, I would ask you to focus on the following key areas while fulfilling all of the duties of your position:

* **Determine changes required to our Special Education Plan.**
* **Create ways for the Special Education Department to more effectively through the Learning Centre Model to become more responsive to the needs of parents, principals, vice-principals and most importantly, students. In other words, determine how to bring about appropriate cultural changes.**
* **Enhance communication strategies for our parents and communities as it relates to Special Education.**
* **Support Superintendents and Principals in the creation and implementation of IEP’s.**
* **Provide effective leadership of Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).**

*(Letter continued)*

* **Bring focus and leadership to our collective responsibility to help all students achieve in more inclusive learning environments by adopting a “Learning for All” stance and by developing and implementing a plan for this commitment.**
* **Develop and implement the Special Education portion of the Action Plan for the Integrated Equity Framework.**
* **Enhance digital accessibility for all students with special needs.**

**I ask that you collaborate intentionally and strategically with the following colleagues:**

* Pat Rocco, Chris Usih, Jim Spyropoulos, Colleen Russell-Rawlins, Manon Gardner, Beth Butcher, John Malloy\* (A)
* Manon Gardner, Chris Usih (B) (You are the lead)
* Jim Spyropoulos\*, Karen Falconer, Chris Usih, Sandy Spyropoulos (C)
* Chris Usih\*, Manon Gardner, Jim Spyropoulos, Pat Rocco, Carla Kisko, Lori Barnes, Beth Butcher(D)

***\*Lead***

**In order to achieve the following impacts for TDSB:**

**A. Developing and implementing an Integrated Learning Plan for all leaders with a focus on our Special Education Coordinators and Consultants.**

**B. Improvement of our Learning for All stance as a foundation for School Improvement.**

**C. Support our community engagement work as it relates to Special Education.**

**D. Action Plan – Integrated Equity Framework – Special Education.**

Please develop an action plan with deliverables, measurements and budget and the date when various aspects of the plan will be completed. Thank you for your Executive leadership in TDSB.

Sincerely,

****

John Malloy

Director of Education

**Item 2)**

**TDSB Open Data Policy**

**Open data is the idea that some data should be freely available to everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control.**[**[1]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_data#cite_note-1)*Wikipedia*

* In December 2015, the Board of Trustees established the Documents for Access, Transparency, and Accountability (DATA) Work Group with the mandate to develop an open data policy which would guide the implementation of an **online platform** where the public could access a variety of published Board data.
* On November 23, 2016, The Board of Trustees directed staff to initiate development of an Open Data Policy. The draft policy will be on the **March or April agenda of the Governance and Policy Committee** (www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx**)**.

A number of organizations, committees and people will be consulted widely before this policy is approved by the board.

**SEAC’s input will be valuable. Recommendations about the release of certain kinds of data concerning Special Education at the TDSB can help us to become a more open and accountable public body. We can also ensure that students, parents and communities benefit from access to information.** Recommendations on accessibility options for Open Data formats will also be important.

* I will keep you posted about when the draft policy consultations are to be held. As the chair of the Governance and Policy committee, I welcome feedback and participation on the development of this policy.
* Keep in mind that everyone is also welcome to address the committee (or any committee) directly about this item (or any item) once it comes forward for a recommendation before going to the board for a final decision.
* The City of Toronto has an Open Data Policy and webpage. It provides information about government, services, infrastructure and development, environment, finance and all of the

departments you would expect to find in a municipality. You can locate it at **www.toronto.ca**

**Item 3)**

**Trustee Vacancy in Ward 21 - Trustee Appointment Process in Ward 21**

* Unfortunately the trustee elected to represent Ward 21 approximately one year ago, was recently elected as Toronto City Councillor for Ward 42 (Scarborough-Rouge River). As a result the Trustee position in TDSB Ward 21 is currently vacant. This is the second time during this term (2014-2018) that the trustee in the area has run for other offices.
* While the position is being filled, those who wish to connect with a Trustee about a TDSB issue can contact the Ward 21 Office at 416-395-8787, ward21@tdsb.on.ca.

**Trustees recently voted to appoint a qualified person to the Ward 21 seat.** A Ward 21 Selection Committee was established to work with a third-party consultant to develop the appointment process, conduct interviews and recommend a candidate.

* I am a member of that committee and welcome any feedback, advice or suggestions.

**Why an appointment and not a by-election?**

In accordance with the *Education Act*, Trustees passed the following resolution at the March 8, 2017 Special Board Meeting:

*(a) That a qualified person be appointed to fill the trustee vacancy in Ward 21, Scarborough-Rouge River following a process as presented in the report;*

*(b) That a Ward 21 Trustee Selection Committee consisting of nine members, including the Chair and Vice-chair of the Board, be established to work with the Phelps Group to develop an appointment process, conduct interviews and make the selection;*

*(c) That the cost of the appointment process be absorbed as part of the Board’s total overall expenditures;*

*(d) That Trustees Arp, Brown, Cary-Meagher, Chadwick, Gough, Lister, Lulka, Moise and Pilkey be appointed to serve on the Ward 21 Trustee Selection Committee.*

* Trustees decided to appoint a Trustee, rather than hold a by-election, to best serve the needs of students and families in Ward 21. Due to the proximity of the next election in 2018, it is important to have a representative and an advocate in that seat as soon as possible for the remainder of the term which is less than two years away.
* The City of Toronto has estimated the cost of holding a by-election in Ward 21 between $220,000 - $320,000 (plus HST). The cost of an appointment process will not exceed $50,000. We have already spent approximately $1 million dollars on by-elections (two in Ward 21 due to resignations and two additional because of sudden deaths) in the past three years.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**How does the appointment process work?**

* To ensure a transparent and accountable process, a Ward 21 Trustee Selection Committee was established and is working with The Phelps Group - an executive search firm - to develop the appointment process. The committee is comprised of nine Trustees, including the Chair and Vice Chair.
* A successful candidate needs to be appointed within 90 days of the seat becoming vacant, which means we will have a candidate for approval by the Board at the **April 19, 2017 Board Meeting.**
* **For more information about the process and the criteria for selection of a candidate for the appointed role of trustee in Ward 21 visit the TDSB and Click on this icon on the homepage:**

 

I encourage you to spread the word on this opportunity. We are looking for people with a passion for public education to step up and apply for this role. Keep in mind that preference will weigh heavily on a person living in the Scarborough area who has fairly extensive knowledge of the schools and communities there. However, that does not disqualify anyone from applying. ALL applicants who meet the municipal elections requirements will be considered and a short list of interviewees will be created. If you have questions, please contact me anytime or speak to me in person. ***EMAIL:*** ***alexander.brown@tdsb.on.ca*** ***TELEPHONE: 647-391-8410***

**Item 4)**

**Financial Facts, Februray 2017 - DRAFT**

The TDSB has an operating budget of $3.1 billion dollars. Each year we publish a Financial Facts document that focuses on the Board’s key expenditures and identifies major operating costs. The data presented is based on the board’s audited financial statements from 2012/13 up to 2015/16 and on budget projections for 2017/18. This is a DRAFT document and the final version will be available in April 2017.

I present a copy of the Financial Facts Draft document (as an attachment) for your consideration, as well as any comments / questions. Feel free to share your opinions with me by email (alexander.brown@tdsb.on.ca) or telephone: 647-391-8410.

**NOTE: Pages 24-26 are specific to Special Education at the TDSB.**

**Special Education** (page 24)

Provincial funding for Special Education must be used solely for the purposes of supporting students with exceptionalities.

The TDSB has consistently spent more than its full grant for Special Education. This year, the Board is spending approximately $28M above the grant.

The Ministry announced changes to the Special Education High Needs Amount allocation starting in 2014-15.

In previous years, the High Needs Amount allocation was based on student claims information. In 2014-15, funding moved to a statistical prediction model that uses the same pot of funds to shift money among boards.

As a result of the new funding model, TDSB experienced a $7.3M reduction in 2014-15 and a $3.6M reduction in 2015-16 when compared to the old funding model. There is a four year transition period for the new model and future impacts are not known at this time.

Transportation costs for Special Education cannot be applied against this grant and are part of the overall cost of transportation.

Please see attachment in email or visit the TDSB website for the Financial Facts Document.