

PIAC Trustee Report: April 27, 2023

Trustee Debbie King

Happy Sikh, Latin-American and Hispanic Heritage Month

Multi Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) Renewal

As the TDSB approaches the end of its current strategic plan, we are launching the renewal process for the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). The MYSP establishes clear priorities that will guide system and school leaders over the next four years. The goal is to develop a four-year roadmap that is driven by student-centered needs and goals that are equity-informed and evidence-based.

Throughout the next few months, we will be asking students, **parents/guardians/caregivers**, staff, and community members to reflect on the current strategic priorities and goals and to contribute to renewing the MYSP. Community Advisory Co-chairs have been invited to learn more about facilitating consultations for their committees, while Trustees have been invited to host facilitated ward forums in Spring and Fall 2023.

PIAC members are encouraged to participate in the consultation, as well as to help communicate opportunities for input to their respective ward communities. Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/MYSPrenewal for ongoing updates throughout the renewal process and to watch a video with more details about the Multi-Year Strategic Plan Renewal.

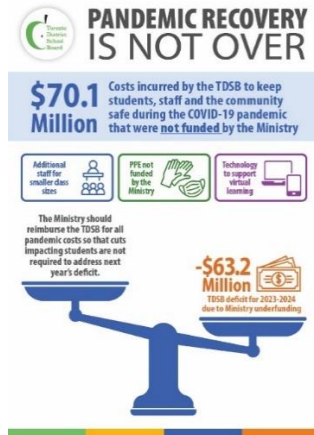
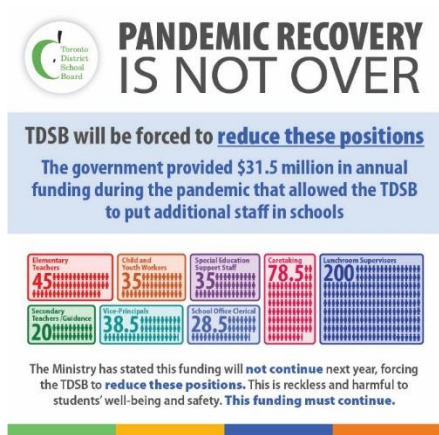
2023-2024 Funding and Budget Development

TDSB staff and trustees have begun what will be an acutely challenging process of developing the 2023-2024 operating budget.

TDSB's financial position includes a projected deficit of \$60.1 million, and depletion of available working reserve funds. The deficit is attributed in part to pandemic spending costs not being reimbursed by the Ministry of Education.

The TDSB sent a [joint letter to the Ministry of Education](#) advocating for reimbursement of pandemic funds (\$71M) and continuation of Covid Recovery Funding (\$31.5) which directly contributed to over 400 school-based staffing positions in the 2022-23 school year. Thus far, the Ministry of Education has indicated that Covid Recovery Funding has expired and will not be renewed.

The majority of parents who completed the brief survey on pandemic recovery indicated that the impacts are still being felt by students and that further support remains necessary. Various parent groups have organized to advocate for funding to support continued pandemic recovery, sharing concerns with the respective MPPs and Minister of Education.



Trustees received an update from staff at the Monday, April 24th Special Finance, Budget and Enrollment Committee meeting. The Ministry of Education has announced the 2023-24 Grants for Students Needs (GSN), Capital Funding, and Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF).

Some highlights include:

- New formula for transportation funding
- Funding for remote learning administration
- Safe and clean schools supplement
- and more

Staff continue to analyze the funding information received and throughout May and June 2023, will schedule a number of meetings with updated projections, public consultations and presentations of options to balance the budget before submission to the Ministry of Education at the end of June. The next meeting Finance, Budget and Enrollment Committee meeting is May 15, 2023.

Bill 98: Building Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023

The Ministry of Education has announced a new bill with several implications for the governance of Ontario school boards including the TDSB.

The Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) will participate in the consultative process, and Trustees are considering a motion directing the Chair of the Board to contribute to that process as well. The motion will be considered at the Wednesday, April 26th board meeting.

Whereas on the same day as announcing the Grants for Students Needs, the Minister of Education introduced Bill 98, Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023; and,

Whereas the Bill was also posted for commentary on Ontario's Regulatory Registry with a feedback deadline of May 16, 2023; and,

Whereas the Bill considers several areas that relate directly to school boards and areas currently within the purview of trustees; and,

Whereas, OPSBA has communicated it will be responding to these proposed changes;

Be it resolved that:

The Board Chair

- Work in close partnership with OPSBA to respond to these proposed changes
- Participate in the legislative process, including where appropriate preparing oral or written submissions regarding the proposed legislation and any future implementing regulations
- Share the views of the Toronto District School Board on the proposed bill, including:
 - Concerns around
 - proposals that will result in duplication and added burdens on board staff
 - proposals that could remove, or restrict the role of trustees
 - The need for funding to support any direct or indirect costs that may arise from Bill 98 or its implementing regulations
 - Increased opportunities for boards to share views on proposed Bill 98 and any implementing regulations
- Communicate these views to the Minister of Education and OPSBA

The OLA Standing Committee on Social Policy intends to hold public hearings in Toronto on Monday, May 8, 2023 and Tuesday, May 9, 2023. Interested people who wish to be considered to make an oral presentation on Bill 98 are required to register by **12:00 p.m. (EDT) on Monday, May 1, 2023**. Those who do not wish to make an oral presentation but wish to comment on the bill may send a written submission by **7:00 p.m. (EDT) on Tuesday, May 9, 2023**. To register or send a written submission, please visit the following link: ola.org/en/apply-committees.

Addressing Islamophobia

At the Wednesday, April 19th Planning and Priorities Committee meeting, Trustees considered a motion to address Islamophobia.

Many in-person and virtual public delegations were heard and committee members voted unanimously in favour of the motion, which has been recommended for receipt at Regular Board Meeting scheduled Wednesday, April 26. ([agenda page 91](#))

Therefore, be it resolved: (a) That the Toronto District School Board develop and implement a system-wide comprehensive strategy to address Islamophobia; (b) That the

Director present a report to the Planning and Priorities Committee in the fall 2023 on the development of a system-wide strategy to address Islamophobia; (c) That the Director ensure that this newly developed system-wide strategy to address Islamophobia is incorporated into the broader framework being set up by the Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Strategy of the Board; (d) That the report at part (b) include information on: i. any actionable items and accountability measures both those currently in place as well as those being proposed; ii. plans for meaningful engagement; iii. human resources, professional development, mental health supports, curriculum reflection, community engagement and student leadership; (e) That a steering committee be established as follows: Mandate To develop a system-wide strategy to address Islamophobia Membership Staff and community members

Elementary Alternative School Admissions Update

The new Elementary Alternative School application process was established to provide greater access to excellent learning opportunities and increase the number of students from underrepresented communities (Indigenous as well as Black, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, and students with disabilities) in alternative schools.

As previously shared, the first two stages of the new admission process were successful, with Indigenous applicants and students with siblings at the school receiving offers first, where available, and 25% of remaining seats offered to students from underrepresented communities.

In the third step, a technical error occurred where all remaining applicants should have been included in the lottery but were not.

To fully redress the error and restore opportunities for students from underrepresented groups, TDSB is taking the following actions:

- After determining that 98 additional spots should have gone to students from underrepresented groups, we are making 98 seats available to these students.
- In addition to this, we are offering 34 more seats across the 17 schools to students from underrepresented groups.
- Continuing to place students from the underrepresented groups, based on their waitlist position, in spaces as they become available (should offers be declined by any students) until Friday, June 16.

This will ensure that the number of students from underrepresented groups in elementary alternative schools will slightly exceed original expectations if all students accept the seats which they will be offered.

Families will receive an offer or updated waitlist position by email during the week of May 1, 2023.

Trustees continue to receive emails and feedback from parents dissatisfied with this response and Trustees continue ask questions of staff for a better understanding of data and insights from the school-by-school review.

Reports and Decisions of Note

Please note the following reports heard at committees and recommended for receipt at the Wednesday, April 26th Regular Board Meeting.

- 2021-22 School Budget and School Generated Funds, and 2023-24 Proposed School Budget Allocation [4500] ([agenda page 38](#))
- Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care System [4502] ([agenda page 39](#))
- School-Based Staff Allocation 2023-2024: Non-Classroom and Support Staff [4501] ([agenda page 39](#))
- Indigenous Education Annual Report ([agenda page 77](#))
- Special Education and Inclusion Annual Report ([agenda page 97](#))
- Science Annual Report ([agenda page 105](#))
- Human Rights Annual Report 2021-22 ([agenda page 119](#))
- Caring and Safe Schools Annual Report

Written Notices of Motion

- Incorporating Deconstructing Anti-Black Racism, a Grade 12U Interdisciplinary Course in the TDSB, as Provincially Accredited Coursework
- Reconsideration of board motion regrading Student Interest Programs