



TDSB Budget – Virtual Town Halls

To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Date: 9 June, 2020

Report No.: 06-20-3907

Strategic Directions

- Transform Student Learning
- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that the TDSB Budget – Virtual Town Halls report be received.

Context

At this point, it is anticipated that the Ministry of Education will release the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) in early/mid-June. Should the Ministry follow this timeline, the TDSB's draft projected financial position, including identification of transitional supports to students and staff during COVID-19, will be presented to FBEC on 7 July.

As a result of the closure of schools and cancellation of in-person meetings at the TDSB due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual budget town hall has been scheduled for 8 July to ensure that the community has the opportunity to provide their feedback.

Appendix A of this report details the communication plan for the TDSB Budget Virtual Town Halls. Trustees will be provided with a summary of the questions received during the town halls for consideration before voting on the 2020-21 budget.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

See appendix A – Communications Plan: TDSB Budget Virtual Town Halls

Communications Considerations

See appendix A – Communications Plan: TDSB Budget Virtual Town Halls

Appendices

Appendix A – Communications Plan: TDSB Budget Virtual Town Halls

From

Ryan Bird, Executive Officer, Government, Public & Community Relations (Acting) at ryan.bird@tdsb.on.ca or 416-540-4449

Zoya McGroarty, Communications Officer, Government, Public & Community Relations at zoya.mcgroarty@tdsb.on.ca or 416-706-1998

Communication Plan: TDSB Budget – Virtual Town Halls

BACKGROUND:

At this point, it is anticipated that the Ministry of Education will release the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) in early/mid June. Should the Ministry follow this timeline, the TDSB's draft projected financial position, including identification of transitional supports to students and staff during COVID-19, will be presented to FBEC on July 7.

As a result of the closure of schools and cancellation of in-person meetings at the TDSB due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual budget town hall has been scheduled to ensure that the community has the opportunity to provide their feedback on the TDSB's 2020-21 budget and the options to balance.

LAUNCH DATE:

The budget virtual town hall has been scheduled for July 8.

AUDIENCE:

- Parents/Guardians
- Students
- Community Members
- Trustees
- Staff

ABOUT THE VIRTUAL TOWN HALLS:

- From an end user perspective, participants/viewers will be able to access the virtual town hall via the TDSB website or a link shared on social media.
- The town halls will begin with a live video presentation from Executive Officer, Craig Snider regarding the 2020-21 TDSB budget.
- Participants will then be able to ask questions via ScribbleLive (text only, not on video). These questions will be asked to Executive Officer Snider on camera by a host. Executive Officer Snider will then answer the questions on video.
- The ScribbleLive feed will remain on the screen (like during a Board meeting) to allow participants' comments to be featured publicly, even if they are not questions asked by the host to the Executive Officer. Comments and questions will be moderated for inappropriate content only.
- The virtual town halls will be promoted using the following channels: TDSB website, Budget webpage, TDSB Connects (staff and parent/guardian versions), social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram), TDSB Update and Trustee newsletters.
- The town halls will be recorded and posted to the TDSB budget website so they can be viewed at a later date.
- A summary of the questions received during the town halls will be provided to trustees for their review prior to voting on the 2020-21 budget.

Prepared By:

Zoya McGroarty, Communications Officer, Government, Public and Community Relations, zoya.mcgroarty@tdsb.on.ca, 416-706-1998