

PIAC TRUSTEE UPDATE

January 19, 2021

BOARD MEETING

No Regular Board meeting has occurred since the December PIAC meeting.

OTHER UPDATES

DIRECTOR SEARCH

The search for the permanent Director has been extended. Next steps in the recruitment process for a permanent Director of Education, including timelines, are now available on the TDSB's Director Search [website](#).

Previous Interim Director Kathy Witherow retired from the TDSB as of December 30, 2020. The Board reconvened the Interim Director Search Committee in December in order to find a new Interim Director of Education until a permanent Director can be appointed. On Thursday, Dec. 17, TDSB Chair Alexander Brown announced the appointment of **Karen Falconer** as TDSB's Interim Director of Education.

The news release introducing our new Interim Director Karen Falconer and update on the Permanent Director Search can be found [here](#).

STATEMENT BY CHAIR ALEXANDER BROWN ON EVENTS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Please click [here](#) to read Chair Brown's message regarding the recent events in Washington D.C.

SPECIAL COVID PLANNING & PRIORITIES MEETING - JANUARY 12

[Agenda](#)

Trustees were given updates on the following:

1. Toronto Public Health Update - including maps of high risk neighbourhoods and schools
2. Schools Dismissed by Toronto Public Health
3. Provincial Testing Update
4. Students with Special Education Needs

5. Mental Health and Well-Being Supports
6. Elementary Switching Survey Update - including charts showing number of requests by Learning Centre and grade
7. Toronto Public Health Response - including consideration for the February switch date
8. Virtual Elementary School DECE UpdateSecondary Quadmester Changeover
9. Virtual School Budgets

Please refer to the [slides](#) presented to trustees for more information.

The next Special Planning & Priorities meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 26.

RESULTS OF PROVINCE'S TARGETED TESTING PILOT

From November 23 to December 18, 2020, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health conducted a pilot program in schools to support disease control and develop testing strategies. Schools in the province's 4 regions with high incidence of active cases (Toronto, Peel, York, and Ottawa) were offered voluntary school-wide COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic students and staff. Toronto Public Health identified the schools based on the school having multiple cases of COVID-19 for which there were no epidemiological links and/or where multiple cohorts had been dismissed. Eleven schools in the TDSB participated in the pilot program. Please [click on the link](#) for the summary of the results of the testing.

Please note we continue to support asymptomatic testing to be available for all schools - and since August are on record for asking to pilot saliva-based tests.

GOVERNANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE (GPC) - JANUARY 13

[Agenda](#)

Recommendations

- The committee recommended that the Board accept the [Policy Review Schedule](#) for 2020-21 to 2023-24 School Years. Trustees also asked that the review schedule (once approved by the Board) be shared with all Community Advisory Committees so that the CACs can better prepare for and plan any recommendations and feedback from their committees on upcoming policy reviews.
- The committee recommended that the Board refer the [revised Advertising and Distribution of Materials Policy \(P006\)](#) back to staff for consideration over the comments made by the committee and trustees.

Both items will go to the Board for approval at the February 3rd Regular Board Meeting.

PROGRAM & SCHOOL SERVICES COMMITTEE (PSSC) - JANUARY 13

[Agenda](#)

Thank you to PIAC Co-chairs D Williams and Felicia Seto-Lau for attending this month's PSSC meeting and providing a PIAC update. During the PIAC report, the committee was given an update by staff regarding the implementation of the recommendations from the PIAC Virtual Engagement Working group.

Recommendations

Regarding the report on solar signs in schools, the committee recommended that the Board

- a) receive the report on solar sign options for schools;
- b) that the Director implement the online and interior actions as presented in the report, through the Sustainability Department's budget
- c) that ESCAC be invited to work with staff on the wording of the posters

This item will go to the Board for approval at the February 3rd Regular Board Meeting.

Trustees were also provided with the following updates:

- [Update](#) on the Implementation of the MYSP (Multi-Year Strategic Action Plans) - Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression, 2019-20 Including Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement
- Model Schools for Inner Cities [Update](#)
- Use of Outdoor Spaces for Instructional Time Implementation and Feasibility [Report](#)

UPCOMING BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A calendar of all upcoming Board and Board Committee meetings can be found at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Agenda-Minutes>

Agendas are posted 3 business days before a meeting. Agendas can be accessed by clicking on the meeting title in the [calendar or meeting list](#) and are available online or in PDF format. Reports and other meeting materials are linked in the agendas document.

The Board welcomes members of the public to bring forward issues and concerns they have through a delegation to a *committee* of the Board of Trustees by speaking or submitting a written statement. Delegation requests will still be accepted during the closure of all schools and administrative sites at the Toronto District School Board; however, oral delegations to address a committee of the Board will be presented by phone. To learn more about the process and submit a delegation request (written or oral), please visit the delegation webpage.

LIVE WEBCAST OF MEETINGS

The Toronto District School Board is committed to developing opportunities for our wider school community to connect and engage in conversations about education issues.

Due to the closure of all schools and administration sites at the Toronto District School Board, all standing committee and regular board meetings will be held virtually and broadcasted live to the public.

Link to live and upcoming webcasts:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Live-Webcast-of-Meetings>

Archive of previous webcasts:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Live-Webcast-of-Meetings/Webcast-Archives>