

PIAC Trustee Report: November 7, 2023

Trustee Debbie King

I'd like to start by acknowledging the profound devastation and grief that many parents, guardians and caregivers have been experiencing and navigating since October 7th. Trustees have received numerous emails regarding the statements issued, as well as concerns about safety expressed by members of Jewish, Palestinian, Arab and Muslim communities and their allies. Trustees have been sharing communications reiterating steps to address incidents of hate, bias and racism, and providing culturally responsive resources like the affinity wellness videos. At Board, we heard timely and encouraging messages from the Director, Chair and Trustees about focussing on our commonalities and what brings us together.

November is recognized as Hindu Heritage Month and Indigenous Education Month at the TDSB. Families are encouraged to participate in learning and access resources provided by the [Hindu Heritage Month Committee](#) and the [Urban Indigenous Education Centre](#).

The October 2023 cycle of committee and Board meetings included some particularly productive conversations. A complete list of decisions the November 1st Board meeting is available at: <https://pub-tdsb.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=16233>

The following items are ones which PIAC reps may want to be aware of and discuss further with their Trustee and/or School Council reps.

1. Policy Review Schedule for the 2023-2024 to 2027-2028 School Years

The board decided that the policy review schedule be changed from four year to five years. The discussion at committee included suggestions for providing the public with a clear overview of the review schedule and status.

2. Business Arising: French Immersion Programs Student Enrolment Demographics

Following receipt of the annual report on French program enrollment, the Board decided that the Director present a report on the social demographics of students enrolled in French Immersion programs across the TDSB, in winter 2024. The intention of this motion is to provide data which helps staff and Trustees assess the impact of changes implemented to improve student representation in immersive French programs, and to identify any correlation with changes in Learning Opportunities Index ranking.

3. Business Arising: Support for Students Without Legal Immigration Status and Newcomer/Refugee Students and Families

Following receipt of the Supporting Newcomer/Refugee Students and Families report, the Board decided establish a plan to ensure that policy P061 SCH, Students Without Legal Immigration Status is being adhered to by all staff; consult with stakeholders including migrant organizations and undocumented residents to determine barriers to accessing education for undocumented children; and that the Chair write to the provincial and federal government requesting funding and resources for further support.

4. Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy 2023-2032

The board received the Long-Term Program and Accommodations Strategy. The LTPAS includes current and upcoming studies that may impact programs or boundaries in your ward. PIAC reps may want to speak to their Trustees for a better understanding of next steps.

5. Business Arising: Consultation on Accelerated Apprenticeship Pathways

Following consideration of the OPSBA Director's report, Trustees discussed the Ministry of Education memo regarding Accelerated Apprenticeship Pathways received by school boards, On March 8, 2023, the government announced the development of an accelerated apprenticeship pathway, starting in Grade 11, to help students enter a rewarding career in the skilled trades faster. Organizations are asked to comment on possible models before November 24, 2023. You can [review the consultation paper which includes information on two proposed models here](#) and [submit feedback via this form](#) or by email to skillsdevelopmentandapprenticeshipbranch@ontario.ca.

The board decided that:

(a) That the Chair respond to the consultation, on behalf of the Board with the following:

- I. Reject models that would remove students from public school boards prior to the completion of a high school diploma;
- II. Support models for apprenticeship pathways that allow persons under 18 to:
 - i. remain a part of public school board programming and supports;
 - ii. complete their secondary school diplomas at the same time as their peers;
- III. Request targeted resourcing and enhanced system supports to:
 - i. better integrate education and apprenticeship, including supports to public school boards continuing education programming that complements apprenticeship training;
 - ii. guidance and other supports for system navigation;
 - iii. uphold educational and workplace rights, including youth occupational health and safety;
- IV. Publicly collect and report identity-based data on student pathways and outcomes to monitor how policies and programs are impacting different students;

(b) That the response above also be communicated to the Minister of Education, Minister of Labour, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO).

6. Support for the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Request for a Provincial Anti-Hate Strategy

The board decided That the Chair write to Hon. Minister Michael D Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism of Ontario, affirming the Toronto District School Board's support for the Ontario Human Rights Commission's request for a province-wide, well-resourced anti-hate strategy.

7. Status of Child Care Services (Funding)

The Chair wrote to the Minister of Education expressing concerns about the funding shortfall that is preventing TDSB from building previously agreed to child care spaces in TDSB schools, particularly in Scarborough, York, Etobicoke and the Northwest. The advocacy letter is posted on the TDSB website and can be found here:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/Details/mid/43824/itemId/194>

Wednesday, November 15th is the organizational Board meeting during which elections are held for Chair and Vice-Chair positions, as well as selection of Statutory, Standing and Community Advisory Committees.

The next regular Board meeting is Wednesday, December 6th.