

PIAC TRUSTEE UPDATE

November 16, 2021

BOARD MEETING – November 10

A summary of all decisions can be found [here](#).

Supporting Free Public Transit for High School Students

The Board decided:

Whereas, the Toronto Transit Commission is seeking feedback from stakeholders as it creates a 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook and will present an initial proposal on November 17, 2021 and hold a final vote in February 2022; and

Whereas, using transit at a younger age can encourage life-long use of transit, influencing behavioural change for a more sustainable future (Lachappelle et al, 2016); and

Whereas, a program in Kingston, Ontario to provide free transit passes to high school students, along with an on-bus orientation session to teach students how to ride the bus, has increased overall transit ridership by 73% since 2012 (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2019); and

Whereas, students and teachers have reported a reduction in low-income students' enrolment in specialized programs, after financial constraints resulted in the end of a TDSB program to provide free TTC tickets to Grade 9-12 students taking French Immersion, Extended French, and Gifted programs in 2019 and to elementary Grade 6-8 students taking Gifted and French Immersion programs in 2020; and

Whereas, the TTC is free to ride for children 12 years and younger, but many young people do not have or carry identification and high school students reported in focus groups (TTCriders, 2021) that as younger teenagers they experienced discrimination from fare enforcement based on race and age, and were challenged about their age;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- a) That the Toronto District School Board express support for an expansion of free public transit to high school students;
- b) That the Chair write to the Toronto Transit Commission Board by November 17, 2021, recommending that they expand free TTC rides to high school students as they develop their 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook;
- c) That the Chair write to the Mayor of Toronto, Ontario Minister of Transportation and Transport Canada to advocate for funding support for the Toronto Transit Commission in order to implement free transit for high school students;
- d) That a copy of the letters in parts (b) and (c) above, be shared with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the federal Minister of Youth;
- e) That trustees be encouraged to advocate to the City councillors in for support of free public transit for high school students;

- f) That trustees be encouraged to delegate to Toronto City Council and the Toronto Transit Commission Board;
- g) That a copy of the letter be sent to the federal Minister of Youth, requesting funding for free public transit for youth 18 and younger.

Support for OPSBA Advocacy and a Recovery Plan for Students and Schools

The Board decided:

Whereas, Toronto District School Board schools continue to align protocols with instructions issued by the Ministry of Education and guidelines provided by Toronto Public Health, including cohorting and modified semester timetables; and
Whereas, student, parent, and staff voice have indicated frustration and challenges of the modified semester system and remote learning; and
Whereas, according to Toronto Public Health, youth vaccination rates in Toronto are at 89% for ages 12-17, greater than 95% for ages 18-24, and mandatory vaccinations are in place for TDSB staff¹; and
Whereas, the Government of Ontario is expecting to begin to lift COVID-19 restrictions in January 2022; and
Whereas, the Board has made previous requests for pandemic funding and a return to regular semesters last spring and summer; and
Whereas, in order to properly support implementation of student and family feedback, adequate planning time is involved;
Therefore, be it resolved:

(a) That the Chair write to the Minister of Education:

- i. To echo the Board's support for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association's letter dated October 28th, 2021 to the Minister of Education, which recognizes that the positive learning and social opportunities for students provided by in-class learning cannot be equaled in a virtual setting for the majority of students; calls for measures to improve the learning experiences of our students, including local decision-making for the elimination of pandemic-related schedules such as the modified-semester schedule for Term 2; and reiterates the request to add the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of designated diseases in Ontario Regulation 261/13 Designated Diseases under the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*;
- ii. To request that the Ministry of Education release pandemic funding grant dollars for the second half of the school year so that the TDSB can plan accordingly knowing it can afford to ensure that risk mitigation measures remain effective and support the Board's pandemic education recovery plan;

(b) That the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and all chairs of public school boards in Ontario be copied on the correspondence at Part (a).

Emergency Business: Addressing Instances of Anti-Black Racism and Hate in the Queen Victoria Public School and Parkdale Collegiate Institute Community

The Board decided:

Whereas, the hateful and dehumanizing acts of anti-Black racism documented at Queen Victoria Public School, Parkdale Collegiate Institute and their community are a severe and immediate threat to the safety and well-being of Black students, staff and families at the schools; and

Whereas, ongoing overt acts of racism have taken place within TDSB schools and communities; and

Whereas, the Board is committed to creating a culture of student and staff well-being; and

Whereas, community stakeholders are also committed to and important partners in addressing different forms of racism and hate;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Director:

- (a) work in partnership with staff, students and families experiencing racism and hate to develop a strategy to ensure that schools are as safe as possible for Black students and staff experiencing anti-Black racism;
- (b) engage additional partners in the work at Part (a), including community agencies already engaged in successfully delivering culturally responsive services in the community, the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario;
- (c) present a report on the strategy at Part (a) and how it could also form the basis of a framework for addressing similar issues in other schools;
- (d) present a report on:
 - i. the strategy at part (a) and how it could also form the basis of a framework for addressing similar issues in other schools;
 - ii. staff accountability mechanisms for intervening in hate and racism.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PLANNING & PRIORITIES MEETING (PPC) – NOVEMBER 3

[Agenda](#)

This meeting included discussion on the following items:

- [French-as-a-Second-Language: Update](#)

FINANCE, BUDGET, & ENROLMENT COMMITTEE (FBEC) – NOVEMBER 2

[Agenda](#)

This meeting included discussion on the following items:

- [Update on Pandemic Funding and Costs](#)
- [2022-23 Ministry of Education Budget Consultation](#)
- [2022-23 Operating Budget Communications: Overview of Communication Supports](#)
- [Vice-principal Allocation Process Review](#)

- [School Banking Update](#)
- [Section 37 and Section 45 Funding For Schools](#)

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE (SPECIAL MEETING) - OCT 28, 2021

[Agenda](#)

This meeting included the following reports:

- [Implementation of PR734, COVID-19 Vaccination Procedure for Employees, Trustees and Other Individuals: Update](#)
- [United States Travel for Student Excursions, Competitions and Professional Learning](#)

PROGRAM & SCHOOL SERVICES COMMITTEE – OCTOBER 28

[Agenda](#)

This meeting included the monthly CAC reports and the following:

- [Elementary Alternative Application and Admission Procedures Feasibility: Update](#)

GOVERNANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE – OCTOBER 27

[Agenda](#)

This meeting included the following reports:

- [Specialized Schools and Programs Policy: Consultation Update](#)
- [Policy Review Schedule 2020/21-2023/24 School Years](#)
- [Anti-Sex Trafficking: New Policy](#)

OTHER UPDATES

[Director's Statement Re: Parkdale CI/Racism & Hate](#)

[TPH Webinars about COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Aged 5-11](#)

[TDSB System Calendar](#)

- includes Google calendar with events and activities for families and school councils from PCEO, TDSBHub (Community Support Workers), and Mental Health and Professional Support Services. Please share with families and school councils in your community.