



## TRUSTEE REPORT, JANUARY 2019

### Ministry of Education Cuts Specialized Program Grants - Impact on the Toronto District School Board



On Friday, December 14, the Ministry of Education announced that \$25 million in Specialized Program Grants funding would be cut, affecting all Ontario school boards. At this time we estimate that the total funding of provincial grant cancellations is \$744,500. These cuts include Focus on Youth After School Program, Tutors in the Classroom Program, Daily Physical Activity Funding for Elementary Schools and others.

Please refer to the [link](#) here for detail breakdown of grants cancelled in 2018-19 as well as other In-year (2018-19) Funding Reduction to Grants. We have also recently received news that the Ministry is cutting the provincial subsidy, mid-year, that allows TDSB to offer no cost school permits for schools (Community Use of Schools grants) in the city's priority neighborhoods.

*Please see below from Chair Robin Pilkey:*

*In reviewing this most recent grant reduction to community use of schools, there is an alarming trend in the Ministry's grants cancellations dating back to mid-December when we first received news of which EPOs would be funded and which ones would see a funding reduction or cancellation. In short, many programs that provide extra supports for students from the city's priority neighborhoods or lower income communities have been cancelled and some important ones remain unfunded with no decision as of yet. Naturally, as a Board that views equity as a strategic priority and does what it can and where it can to create a level playing field for our students and their families, cancelling proven grants and programs that help and support students from families facing social-economic challenges is a significant concern.*

Chair Pilkey has sent a letter to Minister Thompson expressing these concerns and asking the Minister to reconsider these cuts and to continue to fund the Focus on Youth Summer Program. You can read more in [the article](#) in Saturday's Toronto Star.

## 2019-20 Budget



TDSB Trustees and staff are working together to pass a balanced budget that best supports the achievement and well-being of all students as committed in our [Multiyear Strategic Plan Action Plans](#).

The budget year of 2010-20 will be challenging given the prospects of more funding cuts from the Ministry of Education. In preparation, key discussions regarding the annual budget are scheduled for our Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (FBEC). Below you will find links to the proposed Committee Schedule, Timelines and Milestones. We will be posting a link to those recorded meetings following the first meeting on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Learn more about the TDSB's [2019-20 Operating Budget](#):

- [Draft-Finance, Budget & Enrolment Committee Meeting Timeline & Milestones](#)
- [Draft-Proposed Meeting Schedule – Finance, Budget & Enrolment Committee](#)
- [TDSB Response to Education Funding Engagement Guide 2019-2020](#)
- [Three-Year Enrolment and Financial Projections](#)
- [Financial Facts: Revenue & Expenditure Trends](#)
- [Investments in Student Education](#)

### TDSB Policy Consultations

We would like to know your thoughts about our policy decisions by inviting you to our [policy consultations](#). You are welcome to provide your comments, including suggestions on the wording and provisions of the draft policies, questions or recommendations using the contact information below.



**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (P0XX)** - To establish the framework for the Board's compliance with the MFIPPA and other applicable legislations; and; to demonstrate the Board's commitment to protection of personal information while recognizing and supporting the public's right of access to information in the custody and control of the Board and its third party providers. **Closes February 4, 2019** Contact: [Gillian.venning@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Gillian.venning@tdsb.on.ca)

**Home Instruction Policy (P060)** - To establish the Board's commitment to providing home instruction services for all eligible pupils in accordance with the requirements of Ontario Regulation 298, Operation of Schools – General under the *Education Act*. **Closes February 22, 2019** Contact: [Ron.Felson@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Ron.Felson@tdsb.on.ca)

## Optional Attendance

Students have the right to attend schools based on their home address. Students also have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their residential address by applying on [optional attendance](#). Check the [Policy, Procedure and Forms](#) relating to optional attendance here. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability.

You can apply to 2 regular programs and 2 specialty programs out of area.

Elementary applications must be received by Friday, **February 15, 2019**.

Secondary applications must be received by Friday, **February 1, 2019**.



The Toronto District School Board is excited to host the first-ever **TDSB Employment Opportunity Fair**

**Date: Saturday, January 26, 2019**

**Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Location: Montecassino Hotel & Event Venue, 3710 Chesswood Dr**

Click [here](#) to register and learn about the opportunities available.

## Global School Play Day

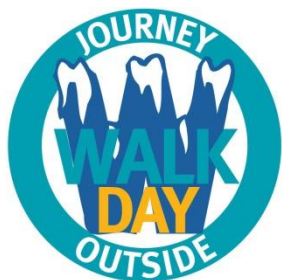
Restoring unstructured play to a generation of kids!

[Global School Play Day](#) is a grassroots effort created by educators support of unstructured playtime for students around the world. I really hoping all schools in our Ward participate and sign up for February 6, 2019. And when you do, please let me know and twitter pictures.



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am

In his [TEDx lecture](#), Peter Gray clearly argues the case that today's kids do not grow up playing and this has negatively impacted them in many ways. It's time we return the gift of play to this generation. [Sign up for February 6th, 2019!](#)



[Winter Walk Day](#) is celebrated by schools across the province on the first Wednesday of February each year. This year it coincides with [Global School Play Day](#) on February 6.

Walking and wheeling to and from school is encouraged - journey outside throughout the entire month of February and in fact, every day! Resources are available on the [website](#).

Share your Winter Walk Day 2019 photos and stories - Tag @tdsb

@OntarioAST#WinterWalkDay #WWD2019 #Walk2School #ActiveSchoolTravel

## **Facilities Improvement Work in Progress**

Sir John A MacDonald CI - roof replacement work - February and March  
David Lewis PS – parking lot asphalt replacement - July and August



[trending@tdsb](#) is a new online publication that features stories by former education reporter Louise Brown that will take you inside schools across the Toronto District School Board. Her stories focus on the exciting changes that are underway in and out of our classrooms, including new ways of learning and teaching, reaching deeper into communities and putting equity into action.

## **HOLD THESE DATES**

2019 PIAC's School Council Appreciation & Information Night, **February 21, 2019**, 6 – 9 pm  
Register [here](#).

The **Parents as Partners Conference**, Saturday, **March 30, 2019** at the Beanfield Centre, 105 Princes' Blvd.

**Junior Extended French program** (Grade 4 entry) – application closes February 4, 2019. Please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/french](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/french).

Opening launch and celebration of the Chinese Heritage Month, Friday, February 1, 2019 at Kennedy Public School, 20 Elmfield Crescent, 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

**Eco Fair 2019** – Saturday, **April 6, 2019**, 11 am – 2 pm

A fun day of hands-on activities and exhibits of student work in environmental protection and community initiatives on green practices.

## **Upcoming Ward Meetings:**

Thursday, **February 28, 2019**, 6:30 – 8:30, Tam O'Shanter Jr PS, 21 King Henrys Blvd

Monday, **April 15, 2019**

Monday, **May 27, 2019**

*As always, I look forward to your comments, questions and suggestions for topics to explore at ward meetings and in future updates.  
Please e-mail me at [manna.wong@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:manna.wong@tdsb.on.ca)*