



TRUSTEE REPORT, MARCH 2019

2019-2020 Budget Process - 8 Areas of Focus

The Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (FBEC) have been meeting to develop a draft Operating Budget for 2019-2020. You can find all the information on the Budget at the [Board's Website](#).

Based on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan's ([MYSP](#)) goals and related action plans, staff have identified and proposed eight key areas as proposed strategic drivers for the 2019-2020 budget. They are broad areas of focus which will be used as a first step in guiding these important budget conversations. The proposed strategic drivers are:

Professional Development;

Early Years;

Different Approaches to Serve our Students;

Modernization and Accessibility;

Staff Allocation;

Student Success;

Parent Engagement and Student Voice;

Indigenous Education

For more information you can read the [Research References](#) that underpin the Strategic Drivers.

On **March 27**, my Scarborough colleagues and I will be holding a **Joint Budget Ward Forum** from 7 – 9 pm at 140 Borough Drive. Staff will present the information about the budget process and draft strategic drivers. An online survey will be developed to capture feedback from the community.

Cancellation of funding for Priority School Initiatives

The Ministry of Education has cancelled funding for The Priority Schools Initiative (PSI) aimed at making 77 TDSB school spaces more accessible by providing not-for-profit organizations and community groups, free after-hours access to school facilities in communities that need it most.

In Ward 20, the following schools were included: **Chester Le Jr PS, Fairglen Jr PS, Highland Heights Jr PS and Pauline Johnson Jr PS.**

HOLD THESE DATES

TDSB Operating Budget Forum
March 27, 2019, 7 – 9 pm

Parents as Partners Conference
March 30, 2019, 9 am – 3 pm

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

Upcoming Ward Meetings:
April 15, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
May 27, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Arts Intersection Bus Tour
May 30, 2019, 9 am – 2 pm
(more info to follow)

Given the importance of this grant to the city's priority neighbourhoods, the Board recently voted to proceed with no cost permits for schools serving these communities without a subsidy from the province to fulfill our commitments for this school year.

In addition, the Ministry has made no decision as to whether funding will continue for the **Summer Focus on Youth Program**. Last year, funding from this program allowed the TDSB to hire and train more than 600 youth to work alongside community partners – from all across the city – to help serve over 11,000 young people. This program has documented evidence of helping children with more access to learning, employment and leadership opportunities. If the funding is cancelled, the Summer Focus on Youth Program at our schools/sites will be seriously affected:

L'Amoreaux CI, Stephen Leacock CI, 2330 Midland Avenue, Sir John A MacDonald CI, Silver Springs PS, Lynnwood Heights, Highland Heights JPS and 2743 Victoria Park Avenue

Chair Pilkey has written to all Toronto MPPs to express the Board's concerns for the reduction in provincial funding for the Community Use of Schools - Priority Schools Initiative EPO, as well as the cancellations and reductions of other grants that help our most in-need communities and youth. She has also appeared before the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs and presented a [submission](#) focusing on:

- Concerns with the early signs of the provincial government's fiscal restraint plan.
- Advocacy for Education Development Charges (EDCs)
- Stable and predictable funding to tackle TDSB's renewal backlog which sits at about \$3.9 billion as of January 2019, and continues to rise



To express your concerns and opinion over the cuts and/or the province's value-for-money direction on education, please email Scarborough-Agincourt MPP Mr. Aris Babikian at aris.babikian@pc.ola.org

Parent Engagement Opportunities

These webinars are coming soon to help parents/guardians learn more about how school councils work.

Thursday, **March 28, 2019**, 7:00 pm: [School Council Bylaws](#)

To be an effective School Council, you need a firm foundation. This webinar will take participants through the writing School Council Bylaws.

Wednesday, **April 10, 2019**, 7:00 pm: [School Council Effectiveness](#)

This webinar examines how communication, committees and volunteers will connect with your community and will ease your workload.

It was my pleasure meeting and discussing issues with the following School Council representatives at the PIAC School Council Appreciation Dinner last Thursday - please do not hesitate to follow-up with me or each other! Beverly Glen Jr PS, David Lewis PS, Fairglen Jr PS, Lynnwood Heights Jr PS, Sir Ernest MacMillan Sr PS, Sir William Osler HS and Timberbank Jr PS.

[TDSB Policy Consultations](#)

Student Dress Code Policy (P042) - To establish standards and fair and equitable practices for student dress in schools; centered on student engagement and student voice. To recognize that students need the freedom to express themselves and experience school as an important social environment, not a professional work environment, and that dress plays a fundamental role in how students build healthy relationships and express themselves. **Closes February 28, 2019**

Contact Kenneth.Jeffers@tdsb.on.ca

Safe Schools Policy (P051) - To ensure that all students feel that they belong, are heard, accepted, safe, supported and cared for through the creation of positive school climates that reflect themselves, value their voices and foster a culture of mutual respect and healthy relationships; and to enhance and maintain working and learning environments that embed principles of equity, anti-oppression, anti-racism, acceptance and inclusion in procedures, practices and programs that support the safety, dignity, health and well-being of all. **Closes March 4,**

2019 Contact: ted.libera@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 March 15,**

2019 Contact ron.felsen@tdsb.on.ca

Autism Funding Announcement

As you may know, the Government of Ontario recently [announced changes](#) to how they support families of children with autism.

The announcement has shifted significant funding from school-aged children to pre-school aged children in order to prioritize early clinical intervention for students aged 4 or younger. The reality is the funding provided for school-aged children has been reduced dramatically, likely resulting in many families no longer being able to afford clinical services.

*We anticipate the result of this being more school-aged children transitioning from being in a clinical setting for part of the day or week to being in school with us full time. **Consequently, we anticipate the potential impact on our resources regarding access to behavioural expertise, staffing, and to critical capacity building to support the effective use of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) strategies by our front line staff throughout the system. There is the very likelihood that we will experience additional demands on these support services while the TDSB has*** already spent close to \$39M more in special education funding than the government provides as you can read in [Financial Facts](#).



We will continue to advocate for an increase to special education funding so that we are able to provide the support all students need to thrive.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Summer Employment Opportunities program provides up to 5,000 students with the opportunity to gain valuable work experience through supervised summer employment in the Ontario Public Service.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/summer-jobs-students>

Agincourt Mall Re-Development Planning Framework Review Open House
March 6, 2019, 6 – 7:45 pm, Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Drive

Youth Job Fair, March 12-14, 2019, 11 am – 2 pm

Youth must **pre-register** to attend the job fair on either **February 28th OR March 5th from 4 - 6pm**.

To register, contact Keesha Dakin at kdakin@springboardservices.ca or (416) 849-4421 ext. 234.

There will be a number of employers on site conducting interviews and accepting resumes.

Available jobs include positions in Customer Service, Sales, Crew Members, Sales, Admin and Cleaning.

Free training and certification on standard first-aid, CPR-C and AED training for young parents 24 and under, **March 14 & 15, 2019**, 9 – 5, Rosalie Hall, 3020 Lawrence Ave. E. Contact: Michael, mkissi@rosaliehall.com 416-438-6880 ext. 248

Mental Health Talk, March 16, 2019, 2 – 4 pm, Agincourt Library

Discussion on mental health and how certain issues can be overcome, organized by Scarborough-Agincourt Youth Council and MP Jean Yip, for more info: abdeali.saherwala@gmail.com

Fashion Show, April 29, 2019, 7:30 pm, 2234 Ellesmere Road

A fundraiser presented by the Canadian Federation of University Women to support various awards and projects as well as the Scarborough Women's Centre. For more info: Donna, 416-265-5995

ARTS INTERSECTION PROJECT Call out for Participation

JOIN ARTS!

In a time when achievement, wellbeing, equity and inclusion are at the centre of our educational strategy, we need to ensure all students have equal opportunity to engage in activities that foster student success.

Recognizing artistic exploration as a part of the mandated curriculum and as an essential tool in support of student wellbeing, I am calling on parents, educators and community members to join me at the Ward 20 Arts Education Work Group to brainstorm on what we can do collectively.

Please email me at manna.wong@tdsb.on.ca or Twitter: @MannaWongTDSB