

# MANNA WONG

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## TRUSTEE REPORT, MAY 2017

### BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

#### Trustees Approve Balanced Budget for 2017-18

At the Board meeting on April 19, TDSB Trustees approved a [balanced budget plan](#) for the 2017-18 school year. As a result of enrolment stability over the past three years, the TDSB is currently in a financially stable operating position and cuts were not required to balance the budget this year. Despite, the current stable position, there continues to be significant gaps between funding the TDSB receives from the province and what is actually spent to best support students. For more information, please see **Financial Facts**:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/0/aboutus/budget/final%20financial%20facts%202016.02.05.pdf>

In 2016, the TDSB approved an extensive budget review and priority setting exercise through the work of the [Enhancing Equity Task Force](#). The recommendations from this work, expected in fall 2017, will reshape the Board's budget in future years, starting with the 2018-19 budget. As part of the 2018-19 budget process, the Board will revisit past resource allocation decisions and consider new funding directions.



#### TDSB - City of Toronto Pool Lease Agreement Update

In 2012, the TDSB and the City of Toronto entered into a 5-year lease agreement whereby the Board provided exclusive after hour use of 33 school swimming pools. Over the past two years the City has opted to remove 6 pools and the TDSB has removed two. Given the timing of notice from the City and the financial impact on TDSB when pools are released from the agreement, there has been a great deal of concern regarding the overall longevity of TDSB pool operations.

At the TDSB Board meeting of May 2016, the Toronto Lands Corporation (TLC) was authorized to lead, with input from TDSB staff, the negotiation with the City on a renewal agreement for the continued leasing of the TDSB's pools. Following presentation and acceptance from City staff, TLC proceeded and crafted an Extension Agreement to the current TDSB-City pool agreement.

The following are highlights of the Extension Agreement:

- The existing 5-year pool agreement will continue in effect until June 30, 2019.

- There will be a moratorium placed on any pool being removed from the pool agreement during the extension period.
- The City agrees to access and program all pools contained within the appendix to the extension agreement along with the payment schedule established as of September 1, 2017 and increased by 3% each year.
- TLC will undertake the commissioning of a pool condition audit for all schools contained within the extension agreement.
- Agreed upon capital investment in pools will be amortized over a period not to exceed 20 years

During the lease extension period the City has agreed to work with TLC to develop a broader City-wide pool strategy. For the complete report:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward11/15.1%20TLC%20Pools%20Agreement.pdf>

### **TDSB Launches Online Exhibit: Radical Reform - Education and Society 1845-1945**



The Toronto District School Board, with the support of the Virtual Museum of Canada's Investment Programs, has created an online exhibit that features photos and historical information from our archives and illustrates education in Canada over the past 100 years.

#### **Introducing Radical Reform: Education and Society 1845-1945**

Here's a 'radical' idea: universal, state-provided, compulsory education. This may not seem like a lofty ideal today, but in 1845 it was nothing short of radical. Compulsory education, available to all, seemed to some like a good solution to the pressing needs of the increasingly industrial economy. However, not all agreed – and not all benefited. You are invited to travel through this time to find the people, the stories and the advancements that make 1845 to 1945 a pivotal time in public education. [www.1845rr1945.ca](http://www.1845rr1945.ca), [www.virtualmuseum.ca](http://www.virtualmuseum.ca)

### **TDSB Graduation Rate Remains at All-Time High**

The numbers are in and the TDSB's graduation rate remains at an all-time high of 85%. TDSB students continue to graduate at this high rate thanks to a focus on connecting students with the right programs and providing targeted supports for at-risk students, re-engaging early school leavers, and expanding partnership opportunities with college, university, government and community agencies. This most recent graduation rate is for the 2011-2016 cohort of students. To study graduation rates, the TDSB follows a group of Grade 9 students over five years. Since the TDSB began tracking graduation rates in 2000, there has been a 16% increase (69% to 85%). We are planning through our Enhancing Equity Task Force to identify the barriers that prevent these rates from being even higher.



## May is Get Outside Month at the TDSB

This year, teachers are introducing theme-based, curriculum-connected activities for each day of the month. These lessons, designed to support teachers teaching in the outdoors, will focus on inquiry, active citizenship, and making connections to the real world that are ideal for our school grounds.

Stay connected and follow [@TOES\\_TDSB](#) on Twitter. Families can also get a daily dose of nature in May by joining the Suzuki Foundation's 30x30 Nature Challenge at <http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/>.



Riding a bike or walking to school is a daily ritual for children and youth around the world that helps them start their day refreshed, energized, and ready to learn. Research demonstrates that active school travel helps kids do better in school, while also getting the exercise they need. Many schools will receive Cycling Education Kits and other incentives. They will be tracking students' active transportation trips to school, offering safety activities, hosting contests, and more. <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ecoschools/home/biketoschoolweek.aspx>

### **Congratulations to the students elected as SuperCouncil LC2 Co-chairs on May 5, 2017:**

Amin Ali from Sir John A. MacDonald CI  
Shreya Sivaloganathan from L'Amoreaux CI

### **Student Transportation Contracts**

The 2016-2017 school year start-up was an extremely challenging one. There were driver shortages experienced throughout the Province of Ontario and the consortium had recently gone through a new tender for bus operators. The tender resulted in two new operators being added to the system and therefore all operators' territories were shifted to accommodate these changes. As a result, many of the bus operators were running in new areas they had not previously operated before. The above also impacted the timing of when routes were assigned to operators, exacerbating an already strained system. The report below provides a status update and to outline many of the actions taken to ensure a more effective start-up in the 2017-2018 school year, and beyond. Complete report:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20170510&Filename=170510+Transportation+Contracts+3118.pdf>

**2017-2018 School Year Calendar** begins on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 following the Labour Day long weekend:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Calendar/SchoolYearCalendar20172018.aspx>

## **HOLD THESE DATES**

**Enhancing Equity Task Force Ward Forum Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 25, 2017, 6:30-8:30 pm, Georges Vanier SS,**  
**3000 Don Mills Rd.**

The first of a two-part public consultation process where we will be sharing information and seeking advice that will help the Board improve equity. The Ward Forum will focus on understanding people's experience today (both good and bad) with equity in TDSB schools. The second part of consultation will take place this Fall to share and seek feedback on the draft recommendations developed to address the feedback received.



**2017-18 Parents Reaching Out Grants (PRO)** – application deadline extended: June 15, 2017  
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html>

**Please join me, PIAC reps and other parents on an Arts Education Work Group to work on a PRO regional grant application. Please contact me for more information.**

## **COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Youth Speaks 2017 – Friday, June 9, 2017, 5 – 8:30 pm, 2000 McNicoll Ave.**

Youth Speaks 2017 is organized by the SLYE Youth Council! This year's theme is **Pursuit of Happiness!** Volunteer hours, TTC tickets and free dinner provided.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/youth-speaks-2017-tickets-33537496555>

Scarborough Arts invites you to submit an iconic Scarborough design for the **Scarborough Design Competition!** Contest officially opens on **May 1** and closes on **July 1 at 11:00 PM EST.**

The Scarborough Design Competition seeks to encourage your creativity and participation around the community. The winning applicant will receive a \$500 prize and the design will be used on future Scarborough Arts merchandise. The two runners up will receive a \$200 prize and also have their designs featured on Scarborough Arts' new merchandise and marketing materials.

<http://scarborougharts.com/scarborough-design-competition/> or 416-698-7322.

Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI) GTA facilitates **family iftar (fast-breaking) dinners** for those who wish to experience an iftar dinner at the home of a muslim family, and make new friends during Ramadan (May 27 to June 25 this year), a month of sharing.

<http://toronto.interculturaldialog.com/upload/MeetYourNeighbour/index.html>

**AS PARENTS, YOUR PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL TO STUDENTS SUCCESS.**  
**FELLOW PARENTS AND PIAC REPS, CHRIS LEVIEN AND LAURIE POIRIER, INVITE YOU**  
**TO JOIN AND VISIT THEIR NEWLY CREATED FACEBOOK PAGE:**



**TDSB WARD 20 MEMBERS**