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TRUSTEE REPORT, FEBRUARY 2017

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Enhancing Equity Task Force Update

At the regular meeting of February 8, the board has approved the Consultation Plan and appointed Trustees Ford, Lulka and myself to the Enhancing Equity Task Force Working Group for Learning Centre 2. The Working Group will meet in early March to develop a framework to bring the consultation directly to parents, students, staff, advisory committees, as well as community representatives. I look forward to speaking with you over the next few months and seeking your input so that we can come up with concrete recommendations and actions to:

- assess what the TDSB has done to address the impact of poverty;
- determine what this means for student achievement and well-being; and
- develop recommendations for what must be done now to increase equity.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20170112&Filename=170112+Inner+City+Task+Force+2990.pdf>

Funding in Support of Equity

The Board reaffirms its commitment to equity and to (a) using the Learning Opportunities Index as per its stated intention to ensure that children who have access to fewer resources at home and in their neighbourhoods have increased access to available resources in their school, by steering additional resources to schools that serve students who face greater challenges; (b) that the Director present a detailed analysis of how individual grants, including the Learning Opportunities Grants (LOG) are utilized across the range of programs and services to students; (c) that the report from (b) above, along with the recommendations of the Enhancing Equity Task Force:

- (i) guide any reallocation of funding needed to ensure communities receive its fair share of funding;
- (ii) inform future discussion and negotiation with the province around under-funding of the education system, particularly with regards to at-risk or vulnerable students.

Before-and-After School Programs Kindergarten – Gr 6

Beginning this coming school year (September 2017), school boards will be required to provide before-and-after school programs to Grade 6, where there is sufficient demand and/or viability, as part of the second phase implementation of the Child Care and Early Years Act. The TDSB is now working with Ministry guidelines and will be communicating to all schools. Given the potential funding challenges, the Chair will write to the Minister of Education requesting that the Minister acknowledge the funding challenges involved in implementation. We will also ask to work with the Ministry and the City of Toronto to adopt a staged approach similar to the staged implementation of Full-day Kindergarten.

TDSB 2017-18 Operating Budget

On January 25, there was a preliminary discussion of the TDSB 2017-18 Operating Budget on proposed timeline, reconciliation of the 2015-16 budget to actuals as well as the proposed 3 year budget plan.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20170125&Filename=170125+Prelim+Fin+Projections+3000.pdf>

The Board is currently forecasted to have a balanced position for the 2017-2018 with the following key assumptions:

- Grant projections are based on the current government funding model in place for 2016-2017 - including a reduction to the Special Education High Needs Grant amount (final year of phase-in \$4.0M) for 2017-2018; an increase in the School Facility Operations and Renewal Grant funding (increase in benchmarks \$8.9M); reduction in Administration and Governance Allocation (final year phase in \$0.5M); and the School Foundation Allocation.
- Classroom teachers and other school based staff have been adjusted for changes in enrolment each year, while all other staff are being maintained at 2016-2017 levels.
- Increases in utility costs will be offset by grant increases.
- Assumes any contract settlements will either be funded within the current funding model or additional funding will be provided to offset increased costs.

We have worked very hard over the last few years to balance our operating budget and sustain programs and services that are outside the funding model and ensure maximum attention is brought to our Capital needs to repair schools. We will continue to advocate for funding formula changes and access to Education Development Charges while drawing attention to funding shortfalls in our **Financial Facts** document.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/AboutUs/Budget/FINAL%20Financial%20Facts%202016.02.05.pdf>

Improving School Traffic Management

In addition to encouraging students to choose more active modes of transportation, more work can be done to help schools under the most pressure from the surge in traffic during drop off and pick up times. TDSB and Green Communities Canada are in discussions to expand their existing partnership in order to provide more assistance to schools experiencing the worst traffic problems in and around their schools. Read the full report here:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20170201&Filename=170201+Traffic+Manage+3012.pdf>

Cycling Education and Bike Rack Programs

Schools can apply to have a skills-based cycling education program delivered to their students free of charge! All schools are eligible to apply. For more details, visit the EcoSchools Cycling Supports webpage at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ecoschools/Home/EnrichyourProgram/CyclingSupports.aspx> and click on the Cycling Education Programs tab. The deadline to apply is February 28th.

Schools can also now apply to have bike racks installed at their school free of charge through the EcoSchools Bike Rack Program (deadline June 30th, 2017). Schools will be selected to receive bike racks based on need and commitment to promoting active transportation.

HOLD THESE DATES

Saturday, April 1, 2017 Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC), Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Mental Health and Well-Being Parent Partnership Committee and Model Schools for Inner Cities' Parent Academies are thrilled to join together to bring one all-inclusive conference to TDSB parents and caregivers. **Parents as Partners Conference 2017** is



a **FREE** conference, with childcare, transportation, breakfast and lunch provided. The Conference is planned by parents, for parents offering a selection of sessions that cover a broad range of topics to provide parents with useful information and resources to help your child improve their achievement and well-being at school and at home. For session info: <http://www.parentsaspartners.ca/Workshops.aspx>.
To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/parents-as-partners-conference-2017-tickets-30889303739>

TDSB Student and Parent Census Month is coming up soon: April 2017

This will be the third large-scale system-wide survey conducted by the TDSB as a way to hear the voices of students and parents in order to help the board meet its equity, achievement and well-being mandate. For more info about the Census and its publication, refer to:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/research/research/parentandstudentcensus.aspx>

In order to ensure the continued success and value of this upcoming Census, it's key to maximize the student and parent participation rates. Your support is crucial!

Alternative Schools Review Consultation

If you are interested in Alternative Schools, please hold the following dates for public meetings:

- Parent Consultation (East) – Thursday, March 23rd, 6:30 – 8 pm @ former Eastern Commerce, 16 Phin Ave. (Library)
- Parent Consultation (West) – Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 – 8 pm @ Western Technical Commercial School, 125 Evelyn Cres. (Library)

Nominations Open for the Excellence Awards

We invite you – staff, students, parents, community members – to nominate a TDSB staff member or team whose work has made a difference in your life or the lives of those around you. Recognizing our staff not only celebrates their accomplishments and efforts, it inspires others to excel in their own roles.

Nominate now, deadline: Tuesday, March 21, 2017

<https://surveys.tdsb.on.ca/index.php?r=survey/indec&sid=984318&newtest=Y>
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Innovation/Excellence/ExcellenceFAQs.aspx>

In collaboration with TDSB Sustainability Office and EcoSchools Teams,
Trustee Manna Wong Presents

ECO FAIR 2017
Saturday, April 22, 2017
11 am – 2 pm
L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute
2501 Bridletowne Circle

**Come for a fun day of information, student work display and activities
to coincide with Earth Day celebrations
Be inspired to make greener choices in your homes and communities**

For more info and table request for non-profit environment group displays: manna.wong@tdsb.on.ca

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

3rd Taming of the Dragon - Youth Social Impact Competition

The Rotary District 7070 Committee is calling for high school students who want to have a positive social impact in their community and beyond. There will be over \$4,500 up for grabs, mentorship opportunities, team training, and personal development experiences. Students will get to present in front of 100-300 guests ranging from high school peers to industry professionals. Full booklet of competition details: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0HoS7UfMZN_djI3RkQ5VEVXWVU

Choices Youth Program – an exciting free 10-week program starting March 22nd for youth between the ages of 12-17. **Choices** teaches youth life skills and builds their confidence in the life decisions they make. The program runs in English, with language supports in Cantonese and Mandarin.
<http://hongfook.ca/index.php/component/content/article/41-jcomments/187-choicesyouth>

Ladies Learning Code's social and collaborative approach and unique 4-1 ratio of learners to volunteer mentors in every workshop has helped Ladies Learning Code become known as a safe, welcoming environment where beginners of all backgrounds can come together to learn essential 21st century technical skills. High school students are encouraged to join the Teen Club to be invited to attend technical workshops, industry field trips and volunteer opportunities all year round that will help them to envision and prepare for a future in technology. The next workshop is on **Saturday, February 25 from 10:00am to 4:00pm**, the lesson will be on HTML & CSS. <http://ladieslearningcode.com>

March Break Youth Job Fair, March 14th, at Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School, summer job for youth 15 – 18

Registration is required for youth interested in attending this Job Fair. Registration dates are: Monday, February 27th 4-5pm and Monday, March, 6th 4-5pm, at Springboard Employment Services located at 3195 Sheppard Ave E, Unit 105. Info: call 416-894-4421 or email kdakin@springboardservices.ca

NEXT WARD COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, April 10, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Terraview-Willowfield Public School, 95 Pachino Blvd.