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TRUSTEE REPORT, JANUARY 2016

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

TDSB Welcomes New Director of Education John Malloy

The Toronto District School Board is pleased to welcome John Malloy as the Board's new Director of Education.

John brings with him a wealth of experience in public education, having served as Director of Education for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and a Superintendent of Education with the York Region District School Board and the Durham Catholic District School Board. Most recently, John was an Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Student Achievement Officer with the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Facility Condition Index (FCI)

You will have recently read or heard about the TDSB raising awareness of the need for capital funding to help address the condition of our schools by releasing their FCI values. The FCI rating is a building industry standard for calculating facility condition and is the ratio of a facility's renewal needs divided by its replacement value, expressed as a percentage out of 100. It is important to note that the FCI value for all schools is calculated by the Ministry of Education and is updated by teams of assessors every few years. A critical rating is given when a school's FCI rating is 65% or greater.

You can find our current FCI Summary at http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward11/FCI%20for%20Open%20Schools%202015-FINAL_Redacted.pdf

The FCI rating for a school does not reflect on the safety of a school building. The safety of our schools is a top priority for us at the TDSB and with the budget we are provided, we schedule maintenance to fix the most critical problems related to the health and safety of our students and staff.

Due to our large backlog, it is important to understand that the FCI is not the only factor determining project priority in the TDSB. The determining factor of the projects priority is the actual condition of the building component as verified by our staff. Annually, we spend a large portion of the Renewal funding in extensive repairs to all the major building components to extend their service life.

However, even with the additional renewal funds provided by the Ministry last year, our maintenance backlog still sits at \$3.3 billion and continues to rise. The TDSB continues to argue for a change to the Education Development Charges (EDCs) legislation to allow all school boards access to EDC revenue for school capital. Current legislation mandates that EDCs can only be used for the purchase of land to support schools in growth areas. This needs to change to include repairs and renovations to schools throughout Toronto, especially in high residential growth areas.

If you want to help us advocate, please consider joining Fix Our Schools: www.fixourschools.ca.

TDSB Chair Robin Pilkey met with the Honourable Associate Minister of Finance Mitzie Hunter on Monday, January 18, 2016 as part of the Ministry's province-wide pre-budget consultations. The focus of the Chair's presentation is based on our capital and renewal challenges the need for adequate and predictable funding to repair and modernize schools. Read more about the Board's budget priorities through Chair Robin Pilkey's submission to the province at [http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward11/Desktop/Pre-Budget%20Submission%202016%20FINAL%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward11/Desktop/Pre-Budget%20Submission%202016%20FINAL%20(3).pdf)

Labour Negotiation Update

TDSB has reached local tentative agreements with our elementary teachers represented by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), education workers represented by the Professional Student Services Personnel (PSSP) Unit of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) and skilled trades workers represented by the Maintenance and Construction Skilled Trades Council (MCSTC). Ratification votes will be held in January.

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Terry Fox PS Capital Grants

As you're aware, the Ministry of Education has provided the board with a grant under their Capital Priorities Program to support a 12-classroom addition at Terry Fox PS. This grant will provide much needed

accommodation relief to the school and will also support the construction of a 5-room child care center that will serve infant to pre-school aged children.

Meetings are currently underway to review the scope of the addition allowing us to move forward seeking the necessary Ministry approval(s). Note that an architect for this project cannot be hired until the board demonstrates that the addition will meet all Ministry square footage benchmarks for operational and instructional space.

Focus On Youth Toronto (FOYT) 2016

Since 2007, the Toronto District School Board's (FOYT) program has been an integral part of summer programs in the City of Toronto. The objective of FOYT is to support high quality recreational opportunities for children and youth in Toronto's urban priority neighbourhoods by offering school space at no cost for organized community-based programs. FOYT provides employment and leadership opportunities for the youth in these communities. FOYT is now one of the largest summer youth employment programs in the province and the TDSB employs over 600 high risk youth to work in urban priority neighbourhoods.

This year, for the first time, the Ministry of Education is providing funding for after school youth employment in addition to our summer program. The FOYT website will be updated early next week to include online applications and all relevant information. www.tdsb.on.ca/community/communityuseofschools/focusonyouth.aspx

Mental Health and Well-Being Belongs to Us – January Newsletters

This month's publication features "Bringing Mental Wellness to Life". This edition, as well as all previous editions, can be found: www.tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SupportingYou/MentalHealthStrategy/Newsletter.aspx

You can access other valuable TDSB Mental Health and Well-Being information at www.tdsb.on.ca/mentalhealth.

Resources for Welcoming Syrian Newcomers

Ministry of Education has released new resources to assist school boards and schools to welcome Syrian refugees and raise awareness about mental health issues that could arise. Check out the resources developed by the School Mental Health Assist team:

www.smh-assist.ca/blog/2016/01/21/welcoming-syrian-newcomer-students-families-to-school-info-sheet/

EduTOX Video Challenge

Do you like making videos? Do you want to be part of making our world a healthier place? Are you interested in helping get the word out about hazardous substances that can affect our health and what can be done to avoid them?

Enter this video challenge and win some scholarships: www.edutox.ca.
Deadline: March 21, 2016.

Ecoschools: Applying for bike racks, water refill stations, schoolyard greening

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ecoschools/Home/EnrichyourProgram.aspx>

The implementation of the TDSB Charter for Active Safe and Sustainable Transportation is underway. The TDSB Ecoschools Cycling Support program is developing new ways to help schools create a culture of cycling by providing infrastructure and programming support. Visit Ecoschools website to find out how to apply for bike racks. Soon to come: opportunities to have a free skills-based cycling education program presented at your school.

Water Bottle Refill Stations: Plastic water bottles are expensive, take a lot of energy to make and transport, plus they last 400 years in landfill. The TDSB is encouraging students and staff to bring portable refillable water bottles. Send a message of environmental stewardship and go from landfill to refill by applying for a free Oasis water bottle refill station in your school for fall 2016.

Schoolyard Greening: in March 2015, the TDSB approved new guidelines for schoolyard greening and landscaping projects. EcoSchools has resources to help schools with smaller projects such as building outdoor classrooms, or larger scale multiple-year partner-funded projects. Find out more and book a schoolyard design consultation at no cost.

SAVE THESE DATES

Social Networking Safety – Tuesday, February 16, 2016

7 – 8:30 pm, 25 Brookmill Blvd.

A presentation for parents hosted by Brookmill Blvd Jr PS School Council. Topics include Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, CyberBullying, HandHeld Devices, Texting, Xbox & Playstation, Legal Matters, and a Common Sense Approach to dealing with the technology your children have!

Premier's Awards for Accepting Schools – Deadline to nominate: Friday, February 19, 2016

Nominations are now open for the 2015-16 Premier's Award for Accepting Schools. This award recognizes “exceptional and innovative work being done in schools to create a safe and accepting school environment.”

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/nominate.html

School Council Appreciation and Information Evening - Thursday, February 25, 2016

Montecassino Hotel, Downsview

A special evening to celebrate the work and contributions of school councils and parents to the education system. It’s an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful dinner, network with school council members, and participate in round-table discussions. www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference .

TDSB Parent Conference 2016: Parents as Partners – Saturday, April 16, 2016

The 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 partnering to bring one INCLUSIVE conference on Saturday, April 16, 2016. Please save this date in your calendar. Registration information for parents/guardians and communities will follow.

Next Ward Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Bridlewood Junior Public School
60 Bridlewood Blvd.