

MANNA WONG

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TRUSTEE REPORT, NOVEMBER 2016

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Integrated Equity Framework Action Plan

The Board approved an Integrated Equity Framework Action Plan on October 26 with a renewed strategic focus on equity and provide a system-wide approach. A critical part of this work is requiring staff to engage in difficult conversations about bias, barriers and perspectives that can create obstacles. The goal of this coordinated effort is to see measurable improvement in achievement and well-being for all students. <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/161026IntegratedEquity2932.pdf>
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Equity.aspx>

Addressing Systemic Racism Through the Curriculum Review Process

The TDSB is concerned that the current curriculum being taught in public schools from Grade 1 to Grade 12 does not adequately reflect the ethno-racial diversity of Ontario. Trustees recently decided to write to the provincial government requesting the Ministry of Education undertake an ethno-racial, equity-based, comprehensive review of the curriculum beginning with Grade 1 and continuing to Grade 12 in all major subjects.

Building a Positive School Climate

Over the past weeks, a number of disturbing incidents of racism and hate have occurred across our city. These acts of hate have no place in our city and will not be tolerated by the Toronto District School Board. <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/News/ArticleDetails/TabId/116/ArtMID/474/ArticleID/1006/Addressing-the-Recent-Incidents-of-Racism-and-Hate-in-our-City.aspx>
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/climate.html>

As parents and guardians, we are encouraged to speak with our children about equity and inclusion and empower our students, staff and parents to challenge bias.

Voices into Action is a FREE online curriculum-based resource to teach students about human rights, prejudice and hatred.

Register now at no charge to gain access to a personalized Dashboard with teaching plans, customizable hand-outs and curriculum links to many secondary courses. Developed by a team of 20 curriculum experts at OISE-UT, a wealth of information encourages critical thinking with 30 original videos and many actions for students. www.voicesintoaction.ca

2016 Special Education Plan Available Online

Each school board is required to maintain a Special Education Plan. This plan is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it meets current needs. Amendments are submitted to the Ministry of Education for review (Regulation 306).

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/SpecialEducation/SpecialEducationPlan.aspx>

Special Education Survey for Parents

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) wants to hear from you. They have created an on-line survey so that the TDSB can improve the education it offers to students with special education needs. Tell us what your experiences have been like for your children and give recommendations on how the TDSB can better meet the needs of students with special needs.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/HowtoGetInvolved/CommunityAdvisoryCommittees/SpecialEducationAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>

Summary of Decisions of regular board meetings

Below are some of the key ones from the last meeting:

- The Right of Parents, Guardians and Students With Special Needs to Know About and how to Access Special Education Programs, Services and Supports
- Ensuring a Fair and Effective Process for Raising Concerns About the Board's Accommodation of the Education Needs of Students With Special Education Needs
- Ensuring a Fully Accessible Built Environment at Schools
- Consultation Regarding Transportation Services for Students With Special Needs - that the Special Education Advisory Committee be fully included and consulted
- Instructional Practices During Heat Waves - development of instructional and environmental practices for school use during difficult days
- Addressing the Mental Well-being Needs of East Asian Students
- International Languages: Internationalization Strategy

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx>

Review of Before- and After-School Programs for Full-Day Kindergarten

The TDSB will be reviewing how provincial regulations for lunch-time supervision and before- and after-school programs for full-day kindergarten students were implemented. The final report will examine areas including parental access, equity and the effectiveness of this service delivery model.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=M&Year=2016&Filename=161026+Summ.pdf>

Terry Fox PS and David Lewis Expansion Project Updates

Planning staff, architects and community stakeholders have been meeting for the last 3 months putting design proposals forward in discussion with the city's planning, traffic, childcare and by-law departments.

For the second year in a row, David Lewis PS submitted a business case supporting the construction of an 8-classroom addition to address over-crowding. The province did not approve the application for the 2016-2017 school year.

TDSB Recognized for Environmental Stewardship

Earlier this month, the TDSB was honoured with a [2016 Living City Award](#). This recognition, which is given by the [Toronto and Region Conservation Authority \(TRCA\)](#) and the [Living City Foundation](#), was presented to the Board for its leadership in building sustainable communities. In particular, the TDSB was recognized for its long-standing commitment to outdoor education and to the Eco Schools program. Environmental protection truly starts from every one of us. www.Ecoschools.ca

Workshops for School Councils

In conjunction with the TDSB Parent and Community Engagement Office, *With Equal Step* will present: **Building on Your Work**: learn how to enhance your work through committees, volunteers and partnership.

Feb 1, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm: Northview Heights Secondary School, 550 Finch Ave. W.

Feb 8, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm: 140 Borough Dr., Meeting Room 3 and 4

Working Towards Next Year: learn tips for evaluating (and celebrating) your projects, writing reports, and thinking ahead for next year.

March 30, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm: Northview Heights Secondary School, 550 Finch Ave. W.

April 6, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm: 140 Borough Dr., Meeting Room 3 and 4

For information, contact Vandana.bharti@tdsb.on.ca or call 416-397-3529.

PROVINCIAL INITIATIVES

School Zone Safety Announcement

The province announced on November 11 regarding intended legislation to enhance traffic safety in school zones. If passed, the legislation would permit municipalities to introduce automated speed enforcement technology (photo radar) in school zones.

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2016/11/ontario-making-toronto-streets-safer-for-pedestrians-and-cyclists.html>

Renewed Math Strategy

The Ministry of Education recently released its Renewed Math Strategy looking at effective math learning, teaching and assessment. The strategy provides financial resources to all schools, and differentiated support to schools that have been determined by the Ministry as having more intensive needs in mathematics based on three year trend analysis of EQAO data for each school using Grades 3, 6 and Grade 9 Applied Math results. For information about the support provided at your school, please check with the principal.

http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/april2016/min_math_strategy.html

Basic Income Pilot Project

The Ontario Government is launching a pilot project to study how giving people a basic income might reduce poverty and improve health, housing and employment outcomes in Ontario.

Complete the survey below by January 31, 2017 and help explore new ways to deliver income support across the province.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/basic-income-pilot-consultation>

http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org/poverty_costs_toronto_up_to_5_5_billion_each_year

School-Age Before-and-After School Care for 6-12 years old (Update #1)

Staff is awaiting the release of the guidelines and policies associated with before and after school care described in the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA) Phase 2 Regulations.

Parents/guardians of children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 will be invited to complete a survey of interest in before-and-after school care. The survey will assist in assessing demand for care in each school. <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/regulations.html>

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND EVENTS

Free Math Programs

TVO's mPower is a free creative online game that teaches fundamental K-6 math skills while enabling students to have fun and learn more about the world around them. It also tracks student progress and responds to learners' needs. <https://mpower.tv.org/educators/#/login/>

Homework Help is a free online math help resource for students in Grades 7-10. It provides free, live one-on-one tutoring from Ontario teachers Sunday to Thursday from 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

<https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org>

Young Entrepreneurs, Make Your Pitch Competition

The contest challenges high school students to pitch their business idea in a two-minute video. Twenty finalists will present their ideas to a judging panel at OCE's Discovery conference in Toronto on May 15-16, 2017, where they will also receive coaching from a number of Ontario business leaders. The video submission ends March 29, 2017. Finalists will be announced April 24, 2017.

<http://www.makeyourpitch.ca/>

NPower Canada IT Training and Employment Program – Now accepting applications

Industry-certified entry-level IT skills training for youth 18-29 at no cost.

Paid internships and job placements at leading companies.

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/9bd9ea99bd10b84161fb81a7e/files/NPower_Canada_Program_Overview_Apply_Now_Start_Jan_2017_2_.pdf

IDC International Development Conference 2017, hosted at UT Scarborough Campus, February 11-12, 2017. Registration fees for high school delegates are waived. Students wishing to register need only put in a \$10 deposit on eventbrite and they will be reimbursed on the day of the conference.

<http://www.utoronto-idc.org/>

Kick-Start Your Child's Education Savings

Open a no-fee, zero contribution Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) account and apply for the Canada Learning Bond. The Canada Learning Bond is a grant from the Government of Canada to help kick-start the education savings account of eligible kids with up to \$2,000.

Don't wait! Get started at www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, January 16, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

JB Tyrrell Sr. Public School

10 Corinthian Blvd. (Pharmacy and north of Huntingwood)

**PIAC and FSLAC representatives will be nominated and elected for Ward 20 at the Board.
Please email me at manna.wong@tdsb.on.ca to have your name included in the ballot.**

**YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT! CALL OUT FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS
TO ENGAGE IN A DISCUSSION ON STUDENT MENTAL WELL-BEING AND EQUITY
AND/OR
HELP IN ORGANIZING A WARD 20 ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR
(first organizing meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 4 – 6 pm, Stephen Leacock CI)**