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TRUSTEE REPORT, JANUARY 2017

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Enhancing Equity Task Force

In order to address the challenges and barriers that students living in poverty face in our schools, the TDSB re-established the Inner Cities Task Force last June aiming at auditing and examining the effectiveness of the Model School for Inner Cities program on mitigating the impact of social and economic inequities.

At the Special Board Meeting on January 12, 2017, the task force was renamed as **Enhancing Equity Task Force** which will put community consultation and participation at the centre of the process and include TDSB Trustees, staff, community advisory committees, parents and students, as well as representatives from many stakeholder groups including community agencies, universities, government and youth.

The final report, which will include concrete recommendations and actions, will be presented at the November 2017 Board. Over the coming months, the task force will 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>

Chair Deputes at Provincial Budget Consultations

On January 9, 2017, TDSB Chair Robin Pilkey presented the Board's recommendations for the 2017 Ontario Budget. The Chair's deputation focused on:

Community hubs - Changes to provincial funding for schools boards and municipal funding must occur to support providing community services and activities in schools. This has become especially evident in recent days with the release of the City of Toronto's recommended 2017 operating budget. Cuts to funding for childcare and community pools will have a direct and negative affect on the lives of thousands of families across the city. In our view, these proposed cuts to the City's budget contradict the provincial vision of community hubs in schools and challenge the TDSB's ability to provide space in our schools. *The cuts clearly demonstrate the need for all levels of government – provincial, municipal and school boards – to work together on a clear community hubs policy that outlines appropriate funding sources to help school boards make these services more accessible for all.*

Transportation - The driver shortage issue experienced in September 2016 continued to plague GTA boards throughout the first quarter of the school year. Parents have high service expectations and the demand for service is outstripping the supply of available drivers. In the absence of provincial funding

benchmarks for transportation, school boards have no guidance to support a change in service expectation and the inequity among coterminous boards is left unaddressed because boards will continue to use transportation as a means to compete for students. *In addition, the TDSB is advocating that transportation for special needs students be identified and funded separately.*

Education Development Charges - It is imperative that the province commit to providing predictable and sustainable funding for school repairs so that the TDSB can continue implementing our long-term plan for renewal, lower our current \$3.4 billion repair backlog and modernize our schools. Toronto City planning figures indicate that 275,000 residential units are in the building process, which could generate EDC revenue of approximately \$300 million in funding for school improvements. Toronto is one of Canada's fastest growing cities. Overlooking the use of EDCs to fund badly needed school repairs is a lost opportunity. As a Board, we will continue to advocate for access to EDCs. *We once again ask the Ontario government to amend the EDC regulations to ensure that the TDSB can capture this revenue and use it to build and repair schools.*

TDSB has long argued a start to this should be to ensure the provincial benchmark costs which form the basis of funding for education reflect the actual costs in Toronto. For more on funding gaps and TDSB financial facts:

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

Revised Procedure to Speak to the Board at Committee Meetings

It is important that members of the public can provide information and perspectives to trustees and are actively involved in the Board's decision-making process. Just before the break we revised our Delegation Procedure (To set out a consistent and easily understandable process for the public to address Committees of the Board through delegations (i.e., by speaking in person or through written submission)). <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Policies,ProceduresForms/Detail.aspx?docId=2007>

Optional Attendance - Information for September 2017 Now Available

Students who reside within the City of Toronto have the right to attend a school which is designated to serve their residential address. Students also have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their residential address by applying on optional attendance. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Findyour/School/OptionalAttendance.aspx>

Important Dates – Elementary deadline for optional attendance forms: February 17, 2017

Secondary deadline: February 3, 2017

Speak out against City of Toronto Budget Cuts - Childcare, Student Nutrition, Pools

As part of the City of Toronto Budget 2017, Child Services is recommending phasing out the occupancy grant for childcares located within Toronto schools and freezing subsidized spaces. In addition, the budget is recommending potential cuts to student nutrition programs and operating costs for school pools.

Budget proposes the elimination of the Childcare Occupancy Grant and cuts to 75 new subsidized childcare spaces. The elimination of the occupancy grant would mean a fee increase for 60 percent of children who attend childcares in schools alone.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/leadership/boardroom/childcarefunding.aspx>

Budget proposes a \$1.58 million cut to public health spending. This includes a \$700,000 cut to student nutrition programs. There is a direct relationship between healthy nutrition and academic achievement for students. Nutrition programs are vital to support all children and youth to be ready and able to learn in our classrooms.

Budget proposes eliminating funding to support three pools located in schools. This is in addition to last year's city funding reduction for three other pools. Swimming is a key part of physical education and supports students' social, physical, mental, emotional and academic well-being. Cutting funding to more pools will reduce opportunities for more children and families.

What we need – and what children and families need most – is for the city to abandon these harmful budget cuts. If you are concerned, please share this information widely and let your city councillor know that you don't support these cuts.

Have your say on Ontario's well-being strategy

Promoting well-being is one of the key priorities in addition to achieving excellence and ensuring equity. The Ministry of Education is seeking input from parents, students, educators, and other education stakeholders. Please visit the website and provide your inputs by Monday, February 6, 2017. www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/Wellebeing2.html

Missing Opportunities: How budget policies continue to leave behind low-income students

http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org/new_report_finds_61_million_in_provincial_funding_for_low_income_toronto_students_being_diverted

Social Planning Toronto released a report on January 12, 2017 about TDSB's use of the Ministry of Education's Learning Opportunities Grant. The purpose of the Learning Opportunities Grant is to provide boards with funding to support the academic achievement of at-risk students. This grant is "unsweated" which means that boards across the province have considerable discretion and choice in how they use these funds to enhance success for vulnerable students.

LOGs are currently used to support Special Education, Model Schools for Inner Cities, Toronto Foundation for Student Success nutrition programs, classroom teachers supplementing LOI schools and Outdoor Education. However, there are gaps between what we spend in certain areas and the funds we receive from the province in those areas. For example, we exceeded the province's funding for Special Education by more than \$16 million in 2014-15.

HOLD THE DATES

PIAC School Council Appreciation & Information Evening, February 23, 2017, 6 -9 pm

Montecassino Hotel and Event Centre, 3710 Chesswood. Registration will close by February 17, 2017 <https://surveys.tdsb.on.ca/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=394617&lang=en%20>

FSLAC upcoming meetings:

This partnership of trustees, staff and parents will foster excellence and growth in FSL programs at the Board." Meetings start at 7 pm at the TDSB offices at 5050 Yonge St. www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac
Upcoming meeting: **Feb. 28, 2017.**

Junior Extended French applications must be completed online by February 2, 2017.

www.tdsb.on.ca/french

Safe and Accepting Schools: Awards Criteria - Nominations are now open!

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/award.html> Deadline: **February 17, 2017**

TDSB Parents as Partners Conference, Saturday, April 1, 2017 (more details to follow)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES

Steeles L'Amoureux Strength in Partnerships (SSIP) – call for participation to identify community needs
Youth Focus Group, Monday, Jan. 30, 2017, 4 – 6 pm, Stephen Leacock Community Centre
Adult Focus Group, Monday, January 23, 2017, 1 – 3 pm, L'Amoureux Recreation Centre
416-396-4040/647-217-6020

Steeles L'Amoureux Youth Empowerment (SLYE) where youth connect, engage and learn about access to services and youth jobs: slyenetwork.com
10 Scarborough students to help plan a *YOUTH SPACE* at *L'Amoureux CRC*

RCTech OUTREACH provides low-income individuals and their families with quality renewed computers for an affordable fee to help meet their educational and career goals. www.Rcto.ca, 905-795-0267.
Computers are also available for schools as well as IT Co-op placements for students.

Homework Help <http://tvo.org/education>

Homework Help offers live, 1:1, confidential Math tutoring in a log-in secured environment. The Ask-A-Tutor program, complete with an interactive chat and whiteboard with tutors helping students answer hundreds of questions nightly. All tutors on the site are Ontario Certified Teachers.

The Canada We Want Conference Series, March 1 – 5, 2017

The conference will focus on providing young people with an opportunity to have a say in the decisions that affect them and to determine the Canada We Want for the next 150 years.

http://www.tgmag.ca/cww_conf/index.php

Let's Get Together www.letsgettogether.ca

Download your complimentary math e-book: Succeeding in Math and other one-hour computer science activities: Hour of Code

Coding and its associated activities are important components of TDSB's Vision for Learning and the Global Competencies including Critical Thinking & Problem Solving, Creativity, Inquiry & Entrepreneurship and Communication. For more information about coding, <https://code.org/learn>

Mindfulness Presentation

Access guest speaker Troy Shepherd's presentation on **strategies to develop mindfulness**.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1sXYj5ySkZvZJVhNroCiKDjNdJuBFsvFbWTJcjqNQwPE/edit#slide=id.p>

Summer Jobs with the Ontario Government - 2017

These jobs help Ontario students with limited work experience develop transferable skills, support their career goals and learn more about the Ontario Public Service!

<https://www.gojobs.gov.on.ca/Pages/SEODatesAndResources.aspx>

**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 THE WARD 20 ECO FAIR ON APRIL 22, 2017
(next organizing meeting, Monday, February 13, 2017, 4 – 6 pm, L'Amoureux CI)
RSVP: manna.wong@tdsb.on.ca**

NEXT WARD COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
North Bridlewood Jr PS, 50 Collingsbrook Blvd.