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TRUSTEE REPORT, DECEMBER 2017

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Robin Pilkey Acclaimed Chair, Jennifer Arp Elected Vice Chair

Robin Pilkey was acclaimed Chair of the Toronto District School Board, and Jennifer Arp was elected Vice Chair, at the Organizational Board meeting on December 4. First elected as Trustee for Ward 7 (Parkdale-High Park) in the fall of 2014, Chair Pilkey became Chair of the Board in 2015. Trustee Jennifer Arp was elected to the position of Vice Chair. Trustee Arp was first elected as Trustee for Ward 8 (Eglinton-Lawrence) in the fall of 2014 and has previously served as Vice Chair.

Trustees Vote to End School Resource Officer Program

The School Resource Officer program that existed in 45 of 113 TDSB high schools has been discontinued. [The decision](#), made by Trustees at the November Board meeting, followed consultations with thousands of students, staff, parents and community members. These consultations culminated in a recently released summary report that found while many students had a positive impression of the program, a number of students said the presence of an SRO made them feel uncomfortable, intimidated, and/or watched or targeted.

We recognize the importance of creating an environment where each and every student can reach their full potential and students cannot be expected to reach their full potential in an environment where they feel insecure or intimidated. We will continue to be guided by the [Police-School Board Protocol](#) (PR698) which encourages a positive relationship between school communities and police officers and establishes guidelines for these relationships. As always, TPS will continue to respond to any incident that threatens the safety of our school, students and staff and school communities.

Information on Condition of Schools

The TDSB shared its annual Facility Condition Index which reports on the condition of each of our school buildings, along with updated figures for the Renewal Needs Backlog.

As of September 2017, the TDSB's repair backlog is \$3.7 billion, up from \$3.5 billion last year. While funding for school repairs has improved, it is not keeping pace with the growing backlog. We continue to advocate for adequate, predictable, long-term funding.

Please read the [new funding strategy needed for school repairs](#) here.

Policy Revision: Early Years and Child Care Policies

Policy Consultations

TDSB staff have recently undertaken a review of our Child Care in Schools Policy (P.022) and Early Years Policy (P.059). The Draft Early Learning and Care Policy is an amalgamation and revision of these two policies. It aims to provide principles and commitments that will guide system planning, implementation, and improvement across a range of programs for children from birth to age 12.

This Draft Early Learning and Care Policy is now posted online for [public consultation](#) and can be accessed until January 2, 2018.

To Learn here about the [Early Years and Childcare programs](#) in the local area, Ward 20, Scarborough-Agincourt.

Enhancing Equity Task Force Report – What Happens Next?

The [updated report](#) will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the Board Meeting on December 13 and consultant Liz Rykert will be in attendance. This will provide an opportunity for Trustees to ask specific questions and gain the clarity that is necessary to engage in these discussions. The Report will then be sent to senior staff to study and to propose which recommendations should go forward for consideration and implementation.

In January, staff recommendations will go before a Committee where parents will have an additional opportunity to comment in writing and/or in person. Taking into account this additional input from the community, a final set of recommendations will be presented in February to the Board of Trustees for discussion and decision making.

Classes for students with gifted exceptionalities are special education programs. There is **NO** intention to discontinue congregated gifted classes across the district. With regards to destreaming, we have already done this for some courses in Grade 9 with much success for all students in the programs. If the Board chooses to go that route for all secondary schools, the roll out would likely be one course at a time, with the opportunity to learn from the experience to ensure it works for students, staff and parents.

Beyond 8

Students and parents can access valuable resources about the wide range of learning opportunities available at the TDSB. For students just beginning high school, visit the [Beyond 8 | Choices for 9](#) interactive website for more information about this important transition year.



To help make an informed decision when choosing a school, TDSB schools host [information nights](#) for parents and students. Learn everything you need to know about our incredible variety of schools, programs and courses.

Join the  +  **TDSB Hour of Code event!**

Hour of Code is a  global movement led by code.org. Its goal is to raise awareness of the benefits

of learning  coding in elementary and secondary  schools beyond the Computer Studies

curriculum. During the week of  December 4th - 10th 2017,

spend as little as an  hour of their time and  inspire a lifetime of wonder.

<https://sites.google.com/a/tdsb.on.ca/hour-of-code-starter-kit/home>

Province-wide Conversation About Assessment

Join the province-wide conversation about how best to improve Ontario's approaches to classroom assessments, large-scale provincial assessments including Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments, and Ontario's participation in pan-Canadian and international assessment programs.

Your feedback will help inform a report to be submitted by Spring 2018 to the Premier and Minister of Education providing actionable advice for student assessments in Ontario. Participate and share your input at public engagement sessions (December 8 in Toronto) or online via survey, Twitter or webcast. www.ontariolearningprovince.ca/participate

Nominate a Teacher for the Prime Minister Awards

The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence

The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence in STEM

These awards honour outstanding and innovative teachers in all disciplines for their remarkable educational achievements and for their commitment to preparing their students for a digital and innovation-based economy.

[Nomination](#) deadline: January 12, 2018.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

STEMFellowship is a nonprofit organization that gives students opportunities in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). Currently, they are expanding their STEMPowerment initiative which specifically looks into giving underrepresented demographics STEM mentorship and internship opportunities. Applications will be open from December 19, 2017 until February 1, 2018. [Click here](#) for information to apply for their 2018 research projects.

Spelling Bee of Canada 2018 Competition:

Registration is now open for students within the age range of 6 - 14 years old to participate in the [Annual Community Spelling Bee Competition](#) (SBOC).

Steps to Justice is a new website and a part of Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) providing step-by-step information about legal problems. This [website](#) has an open chat between 11:00 am to 1:00 pm with a lawyer and if the lawyers are busy, leave a message and they will respond to you in 48 hours.

City of Toronto Jobs

Resume required

Friday, January 12, 2018, 4:30pm - 6:30pm

ages 14-19

Location: L'Amoreaux Community Centre, 200 McNicoll Ave

Please contact Eileen Alexander at 416-396-4525 or ealexan2@toronto.ca and if you are interested in volunteering!

Steeles L'Amoreaux Youth Empowerment (SLYE)

Empowering youth to become active participants in making a difference. Join [SLYE](#) to meet new friends, get volunteer hours, lead and support community initiatives.

HOLD THESE DATES

Next meeting:

Monday, January 15, 2018, 6:30 pm Silver Springs Public School, 222 Silver Springs Blvd.

Planning meeting for school council chairs and interested parents to organize an arts event in respective schools, as funded by the PRO Regional Grant.

Eco Fair 2018

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 11 am – 2 pm

L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute, 2501 Bridletowne Circle

As always, I look forward to your comments, questions and suggestions for topics to explore at ward meetings and in future updates.

Please e-mail me at manna.wong@tdsb.on.ca