

TDSB Ward 3 Council Meeting
Monday November 13, 2017 7:00-8:30
Lambton-Kingsway JMS
Minutes

- 1. Welcome & Introductions:** At 7:00 pm, Trustee Pamela Gough called the meeting to order and acknowledged the ancestral lands of the Indigenous peoples in the area around the school. Lambton-Kingsway JMS Principal, John Currie, introduced the school along with School Advisory Council Chair, Kerry Collings.
- 2. Ward Representative Reports:** Felicia Lau, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Alternate: PIAC is organizing the upcoming Parents Make a Difference Conference on Nov. 25th 2017 (<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Conferences>). The conference is now full and closed to registration however, PIAC is encouraging people to go on the waitlist. Those on the waitlist who cannot get in will be given priority registration for the spring conference. Richard Carter SEAC: SEAC is currently looking into the Refusal to Admit rule, working to build a policy <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Community-Advisory-Committees/Special-Education-Advisory-Committee>. Sarah Ali from TDSB Ward 2: Sarah is a guest from Ward 2, a TDSB parent and former PIAC rep. Sarah is encouraging TDSB parents to become familiar with City of Toronto Neighborhood Grants Program, which can supply funding for community projects: <https://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=fc78f40f9aae0410VgnVCM1000071d60f89RCRD>.
- 3. Superintendents' Update:** Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst: TDSB Consultant Liz Ryhert, in conjunction with the TDSB's Enhancing Equity Task Force, has released a draft initial report and is looking for feedback. Further information can be found and online comments can be given [here](#) up to November 20th 2017. November is Aboriginal Education Month. There are great resources on the TDSB website from the [Aboriginal Education Centre](#). Superintendent Sandra Tondat: A report on the TDSB's School Resource officer program is going to the board's Priority and Planning Committee on Wednesday November 15, and there will be an opportunity for public delegations that night to speak to that report. Learn more [here](#). Thursday November 16th and Friday November 17th are Parent Teacher Interviews. Friday is a PA Day to accommodate interviews.
- 4. Trustee's Report:** Trustee Gough thanked all SAC chairs and members and asked them to contact her with suggestions for future ward council topics. Newsletter: Trustee Gough's e-news is her primary communication tool and all school council members should sign themselves on to it. This can be done via a button on the trustee webpage [here](#). Ward Meetings: All school council chairs are expected to attend ward meetings as they are important for connecting schools to one another and for

consultation on issues. Please designate a ward representative to attend ward meetings and make sure your school is represented and that you or your rep reports back to the school council on ward level information.

Equity Report: Equity, well-being, and achievement are this year's three pillars for school improvement plans. Metastrategies Inc. consultant Liz Rykert's draft Enhancing Equity Report was released for consultation in September. Some of the more controversial recommendations for increasing equity include phasing out specialized schools and programs (the Director has made it clear that this will not happen) along with de-streaming grades 9 and 10 so that almost all students take academic courses, and reforming the gifted and "home school" congregated programs so that special education students are integrated into the regular classrooms with support. Feedback on the draft report is open until Monday November 20th. A second draft of the report is being written by Ms. Rykert to incorporate public feedback and will be presented to the board on December 13th 2017. A TDSB staff report with recommendations for action will follow in the early months of 2018.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Program: A report on the TDSB's SRO program is coming to Planning and Priorities Committee in two days. The SRO program is a 10 year old program in which armed police officers work in some of the high schools of the board. A survey of students has shown that many high school students are uncomfortable with armed officers in schools and are not sure why they are there and whether the program has a positive influence on the school. Given this finding, the report recommends the program be discontinued but that efforts be made to build positive relations with TPS.

Vision Zero (VZ), School Active Transportation and Traffic Management Program: In the spring, Trustee Gough passed a motion to set up a joint city-TDSB task force on Vision Zero in school zones to protect the safety of students walking, rolling, or cycling to school. This motion was taken to the City of Toronto's City-School Boards Advisory Committee, which recommended to the City's Executive Committee that more funds be put into VZ to increase the number of schools per year (currently only 13) that will get improved street safety infrastructure. The TDSB and the city are working together on a new traffic management program in school zones. The TDSB continues to encourage active transportation as the healthiest way for students to get to school.

Norseman/Castlebar Update: After construction of Norseman's addition is finished in 2019, Castlebar will no longer be needed as a satellite site. However, enrolment trends show a continuing increase in the Norseman/Castlebar area and Castlebar will need to be reopened as a junior school with its own boundaries, which will act as a feeder to Norseman for middle school. A Local Feasibility Team (LFT) committee has been set up, consisting of TDSB planning staff, Trustee Gough, Superintendent Hayhurst and Principal Carolyn Wright, to develop recommendations with regard to Castlebar's future grade configuration and boundaries. This committee will consider the situation, produce a short report, then community members will be invited to join the group to form a Program Area Review Team in January. This larger group will make further recommendations and will hold a public meeting in the winter to invite feedback, then by spring 2018 will issue a final report with recommendations to the board regarding

Castlebar's re-opening, future boundaries and grade configuration.

School-Based Daycares/ Before and After School Programs: Trustee Gough proudly announced that all elementary schools in Ward 3 (other than middle schools) now have before and after school programs for Full Day Kindergarten and the grades, up to grade 5. More information and a list of third party child care providers in the Ward 3 schools is [here](#) on Trustee Gough's website.

5. Panel: Parent Involvement 101: Panelists introduced themselves:

- **Trevor Burnett:** Senior Kindergarten parent, Seventh Street Jr. School Advisory Council (SAC) Chair & PIAC Representative for Ward 3, Trevor is engaged in literacy in the school. He finds great enjoyment in reading with students in his son's class. Encouraging parents to commit to volunteering in schools one day a month, Trevor especially encourages fathers to get involved.
- **Sheila Chochinov:** As a Park Lawn SAC member, Sheila (an urban planner) discovered a need at her school and used her professional skills to benefit the school and community. Sheila was integral in accessing Section 37 funds from the City of Toronto to have a pedestrian pathway built through the schoolyard, connecting the school community on the east side of Park Lawn Road to the school and the rest of the community on the west side. Sheila harnessed the communications and public relations skills of a small committee of SAC members at Park Lawn to lobby the city for this project, and steered it through a number of challenges along the way. Thanks to their efforts, a safe and well lit pathway now exists through the large school field, part of which is owned by TDSB and part owned by the City. This means that parents and students from the Stonegate area can safely get to the school and back, even in the dark after-school hours of the late fall and early winter.
- **Richard Carter:** Richard represents the Down Syndrome Association of Ontario on the TDSB Special Education Advisory Committee. He represents the 10% of parents who have children with special needs. He believes that parent volunteers support not only the students but the teachers, the administration, and the community as a whole. Suggestions: get involved with your child's school and bring your personal perspective to volunteering. Make the journey from saying, "what difference will it make?" to "what a difference that made!"
- **Christy Heath:** George R. Gauld Jr. School SAC Chair, former PIAC Alternate and Ward 3 Chair. Christy found her experience in dance production to be highly valuable when she became the SAC chair of her children's school since the school staff needed help in running many of the traditional school evening events. Suggestions: use your own skills and interests as the place to start in finding out how you can be involved in the school system. No matter how little time you have, there are ways to get involved- even on weekends. Do what you are able in the time slots you have available, and find how you can fill a need.
- **Kerry Collings:** Lambton Kingsway Jr. Middle School SAC Co-Chair. LKS is a humming school with a SAC group of about 100 involved parents. Opportunities to volunteer abound, including Grade Parents, Pizza Lunch volunteers, Grade 8

Graduation Committees and fundraising. The school council has numerous subcommittees. Kerry first involved herself as a Grade Parent and eventually gained the position of SAC Co-Chair. Being on the SAC provides a knowledge of how the school functions and builds relationships with the staff at the school.

LKS Principal John Currie & Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst also sat on the panel and provided a staff perspective on parent involvement.

After the panel spoke, Trustee Pamela Gough opened the floor to questions. Comments revolved around the question as to how can this valuable volunteer knowledge be shared with other schools that have not sent representatives to this evening's event. Sheila Chochinov also expressed the need to pass on knowledge from parents who leave the school councils as their children graduate to parents who are newly involved. Trustee Gough asked Christy Heath and Trevor Burnett to field this question as they have been involved in developing a blog for sharing information among Ward 3 Parents. The blog, called the **TDSB Ward 3 Essential Parent Resource Guide** <http://ward3parents.blogspot.com>, was started with an idea from a small group of Ward 3 SAC representatives looking for a convenient, accessible and manageable way to share and disseminate information. The blog can be accessed through Trustee Gough's website <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward3> and information, resources and ideas can be sent to Christy Heath for posting at ward3parents@gmail.com. Everyone is invited to send material to the blog so that knowledge can be shared with others.

6. Meeting Adjourned: at approximately 8:35 the meeting was adjourned with a door prize draw.