

**Ward 3 Council
Minutes
TDSB's Enhancing Equity Initiative
Monday January 22, 2018 7:00-8:30 pm
Etobicoke School of the Arts - Library, 675 Royal York Rd**

1. The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 with an overview of the agenda by Trustee Pamela Gough. **Christy Heath, Ward 3 Parent Rep**, spoke to the Ward 3 Essential School Resource Guide <https://ward3parents.blogspot.ca/> a blog by parents for parents. **Maureen Murray, Co-Chair of ESA SAC** introduced **Principal Peggy Aitchison** who gave an overview of Etobicoke School of the Arts and its programs.
2. Ward Rep Reports: **Trevor Burnett, Ward 3 PIAC Rep**, gave an update re two events:
1) Thursday February 22nd, PIAC Parent Council Appreciation Dinner
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/piac-2018-school-council-appreciation-information-event-tickets-41298820885> Also 2) Saturday April 28th, Parents as Partners Conference
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Conferences> -registration begins February 1st. **Melanie Amadasan, Ward 3 FSLAC Rep**, gave an update: Extended French program registration is currently open. Early French Immersion registration has already taken place. **Richard Carter, Ward 3 SEAC Rep**: Richard is now Chair of SEAC (congratulations extended from Trustee Gough). He gave an overview of the groups that make up SEAC. The SEAC goal for this year is to help implement the Equity Initiative.
3. Superintendent Report: **Tracy Hayhurst, Superintendent Learning Network 22:** February is Kindergarten Registration Month
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/EarlyYears/KindergartenMonth>, Report card time is coming, January/February. PA Day for parent -teacher interviews are February 16th, JK & SK students will be receiving the new Communication of Learning report. **Sandra Tondat, Superintendent Learning Network 27:** Secondary Schools heading into exams and EQAO Grade 9 math assessments. New semester starts February 2nd.
4. Trustee Report: **Trustee Pamela Gough** gave a brief overview of the latest news from the boardroom and around the ward. TDSB is taking on a new initiative to offer a mixed mode of before and after school programs, and for the first time is planning to run its own before and after school programs according to the Charles Pascal wrap-around model in schools that do not currently have a child care provider. Castlebar Junior School is now operating as a satellite of Norseman to relieve congestion while Norseman has a new extension built in 2018-2019. Enrollment is projected to continually increase and therefore a feasibility study is ongoing regarding the possibility of re-opening Castlebar as a stand-alone school in September 2019. Indications are that this will be a recommended step for the board to take.
5. Equity Task Force: Trustee Pamela Gough introduced the panel of speakers and **Superintendent Jim Spyropoulos**, who spoke to the TDSB's Equity Task Force and the Equity Report <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Equity/Related-Reports/Directors-Response-to-the-Enhancing-Equity-Task-Force>

6. The Students' Perspective: **ESA Students: Temple - grade 12 Film, Noah - grade 12 Visual Arts, Sophia - grade 11 Film.** The students spoke on Equity as it relates to their experiences as students at ESA. The students find that race is an issue at ESA, as in their experience students of colour experience marginalization and bias. Black students in particular are the fewest in numbers of all racial groups entering the school and the largest in numbers leaving the school program before graduation. Students with special education needs struggle with having IEPs met and having a diagnosis to begin with so that IEPs can be formulated. Trustee Gough thanked the students for sharing their perspectives and for their courage.
7. The Parent Perspective: **Richard Carter** is the parent of a child with an intellectual disability. Special Education has been a journey for the family. It is time for change, looking at how resources are allocated and finding the right programs, the right schools and getting access to the right resources. He advocated that the TDSB support all children at their home schools so that they can be in their community, and learn and grow in their own community. His advice: make sure that as parents you use your voice and have your say.
8. Question & Answer: A 20 minute Question and Answer period followed.