



**WARD FORUMS – SAVE THE DATE**  
**JOINT WARD FORUM – TRUSTEES ARP, GERSHON & LASKIN**  
**Thursday, April 27 6:30-8:30**  
**Lawrence Park Collegiate, 125 Chatsworth Dr**

PLEASE JOIN US! The TDSB is kicking-off a two-part public consultation process where we will be sharing information and seeking advice from parents, students, staff, and the broader community that will help the Board improve equity in Toronto's public school system. The Ward Forums are the first part of the consultation and will focus on understanding people's experience today (both good and bad) with equity in TDSB schools. The second part of consultation will take place this Fall to share and seek feedback on the draft recommendations developed to address the feedback received.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO KNOW? We want to know: What is working? What are the things we need to protect, expand or spread for greater impact? What is not working? Where do barriers and systemic discrimination remain despite our best efforts? What bold and courageous actions must we now take to achieve greater equity for all?

WHAT'S THE BIG PICTURE? The TDSB is always striving to treat students fairly and that all students achieve their full potential. At the same time we know we must continue to identify and remove barriers and bias in the school system that can hurt students' ability to succeed. We know some things are going well – like many of the Model Schools that are now celebrating 10 years in 150 communities across the city – however we know many challenges persist. To make sure we continue our efforts to improve, TDSB Trustees have created an Enhancing Equity Task Force that will be providing advice to the Board in the Fall of 2017. The Task Force will be working closely with Trustees, teachers, staff, parents, students, and the broader community to do its work.

WHAT WILL CHANGE BECAUSE OF THIS? The public consultation advice will directly inform the recommendations that the Enhancing Equity Task Force will make to the Board in the Fall of 2017. The recommendations will lead to changes in how the Board directs its efforts in classrooms, in hallways, during and after school hours to improve equity. It will also likely lead to changes in how the Board allocates resources.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? A summary of all public consultation feedback from the Ward Forums will be posted online in early July.

Draft recommendations from the Enhancing Equity Task Force (based on this feedback) will be shared publicly in the early Fall, with the second round of public consultations immediately following,

**WHAT'S EQUITY?** It is the provision of opportunities for equality for all by responding to the needs of individuals. This means removing biases that exist depending on a person's race, colour, creed, culture, ethnicity, linguistic origin, disability, socio-economic class, age, ancestry, nationality, place of origin, religion, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family status, and marital status. Similar biases have also impacted on Canada's First Nation's and Metis and Inuit population.

**One advisor to the Task Force put it this way: Equality means every child has a pair of shoes. Equity means every child has a pair of shoes that fits.**

