



Weekly Update – June 7, 2015

Items of Interest

For up to date information on Labour Negotiations click on

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Labournegotiations.aspx>

http://www.opsba.org/index.php?q=advocacy_and_action/labour_relations

City-School Boards Strategy Workgroup

The TDSB established a working group of trustees to advise our members (Jennifer Story and Pam Gough) on the City of Toronto's City- School Board Advisory Committee chaired by Councillor Josh Matlow. The City's committee met on May 29th. This Tuesday our Strategy Workgroup meets again to discuss the next steps. To read the minutes from the first City Committee Meeting, please click on [City-School Boards Advisory Committee - Meeting 1 - May 29, 2015](#).

Ad Hoc Working Group on Enrolment in the TDSB

On 17 December 2014 the Board appointed members to serve on the Ad Hoc Workgroup on Enrolment with the following mandate –to research and make recommendations on ways to increase enrolment and present a report to the Budget Committee in June 2014. The group has met and I thought you would be interested to read the Executive Summary of the initial presentation.

Enrolment Trends:

- Our elementary enrolment is stabilizing and our secondary enrolment is declining.
- The TCDSB secondary enrolment has declined less than our secondary enrolment.
- We have experienced a net loss of students to the TCDSB but it is not significant.
- Our system-wide enrolment is most affected by demographic factors such as births, fertility rate, immigration and out-migration.
- There is less space available in our elementary schools because of the introduction of full day kindergarten; more space is becoming available in our secondary panel due to the declines in enrolment.
- We offer program choices and many students are exercising choice (choosing to attend other schools besides their local regular program school).
- But most students are not travelling huge distances - on average they are travelling distances close to those in our Transportation Policy.
- We are maintaining our system-wide share of the school-age population.
- However, we are experiencing a wide range in local participation rates in schools.

Relationships we tested with participation rate:

- There is no relationship with the number of TCDSB schools in a TDSB attendance area.
- There is no relationship with French Programs and Specialized Programs at a school except for School Support Programs (strong relationship).
- There is a relationship with LOI:
 - Moderate for elementary schools; Strong for secondary schools.
- There is a relationship with achievement:
 - Moderate for elementary schools; Strong for secondary schools.
- There is a relationship with local Catholic population:
 - Strong for elementary schools; Strong for secondary schools.

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin



From the literature review:

- Inconclusive on impact of increased school choice on school enrolment;
- No consensus on strategies to address declining enrolment.

Planning & Priorities Wednesday (For the full agenda, click on [Agenda](#))

There are a number of items on the Agenda – below please find some of the Reports that you may be interested in.

Integrity Commissioner – Timed Item at 8:15

- Feedback on the New Complaint Protocol and Revisions to the Board Code of Conduct and Board Bylaws re Establishment of an Office of Integrity Commissioner

Revisions to P066, Reporting of Suspected Wrongdoing (Whistleblowing) Policy

- The Reporting of Suspected Wrongdoing (Whistleblowing) Policy provides a mechanism to enable all individuals to voice concerns in a responsible and effective manner when they discover information which they believe, in good faith, shows serious wrongdoing. The Reporting of Suspected Wrongdoing (Whistleblowing) Policy supports an accountable and ethical work environment.

Pupil Accommodation Review Committee be established for Forest Hill Collegiate Institute, George Harvey Collegiate Institute, John Polanyi Collegiate Institute, Oakwood Collegiate Institute, Vaughan Road Academy and York Memorial Collegiate Institute

- Due to the continued decline in enrolment at Vaughan Road Academy, the underutilization of the facility and program viability of the regular program, International Baccalaureate program and INTERACT program at the school, a Local Feasibility Team (LFT) was established to explore a review of Vaughan Road Academy and the adjacent secondary schools of Forest Hill CI, George Harvey CI, John Polanyi CI, Oakwood CI and York Memorial CI.
- The LFT explored closure scenarios for single and multi-school consolidations, attendance area (boundary) changes, program relocations, and dual secondary school campus model.
- The LFT recommends that the Board establish a Pupil Accommodation Review Committee (PARC) to consider exploring:
 - Closing Vaughan Road Academy and its impacted attendance area boundaries;
 - Closing IB Program at Vaughan Road Academy and opening the IB Program at John Polanyi; and
 - Relocating INTERACT program at Vaughan Road Academy and sending program to Oakwood CI.

Partnership with City of Toronto re: Infrastructure Funding for School Grounds

- Staff are reporting on the steps that have been taken to move this issue forward including :
 - In response to the Minister's Directive #9, in February 2015, the Board approved that staff undertake community consultations on 21 decommissioned school sites currently held in the Toronto Lands Corporation inventory. These community consultations will commence in Fall 2015.
 - The Chair extended an invitation to the Mayor and the Minister of Education to a Roundtable discussion about our capital funding challenge and school site dispositions.
 - The Minister's Directive #9 operates at cross-purposes to the City's proposed new "Institutional School" zoning by-law regime. Both the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) have appealed the City's proposed zoning by-law to the Ontario Municipal Board



(OMB). In an attempt to resolve the appeals outside of the adversarial OMB process, TDSB staff (together with TCDSB) have requested that the City agree to provincial facilitation and/or mediation of the competing provincial and City policies directed at the public school system. Staff await responses from the province and City.

- TDSB Planning staff and City Planning staff have initiated a series of meetings. The main objective of these meetings is to collaborate, discuss, exchange, and explore interest in closed school sites as well as school sites included in upcoming Pupil Accommodation Reviews. At the first meeting, staff shared with the 16 city planners in attendance, the Board's annual review process, the Program and Accommodation drivers, types of studies, etc.

Schools within Mixed Use Buildings – Commercial and Condominiums (Full Report-[Condos and Schools](#))

- In November 2014, the Board of Trustees requested that the Director present a report outlining how the Board can respond to the possibility of schools being located in commercial and condominium buildings. Consideration will be given to high-rise and integrated mixed settings comprised of commercial, employment and residential uses. This report will highlight mixed use opportunities and the benefits and challenges of school space being integrated into mixed-use projects.
- The opportunity of locating satellite schools or micro-schools within residential developments may be a viable option in areas where relief from increased accommodation pressures are on the rise and land values are too costly to secure large conventional sites.

Review of Learning Opportunities Index (LOI) Policy (PO67) (Full Report -[LOI Policy Review](#))

- The Board reviews this policy every three years –there are three components to the review:
 - 1) an examination of the methodology and variables of the LOI;
 - 2) an examination of how the LOI is being used in the TDSB; and
 - 3) consultations with TDSB stakeholders.
- The review will commence Fall 2015 and the findings will be presented to Board Fall 2016, and if necessary, the Operational Procedure PR526.
- For the purpose of the PR526 review, establish a Learning Opportunities Review Workgroup comprising representatives from key departments involved in the development and implementation of the LOI and LOI Policy as well as the main stakeholders, including Trustees, Superintendents, Principals and Vice-Principals, members of the TDSB's Community Advisory Committee and Community Liaison Groups. As part of the review, the workgroup will examine the effectiveness of the LOI and its application, and develop recommendations for any required revisions to the Operational Procedure PR526 taking into consideration information and suggestions gathered during the consultation sessions.

Program Area Review Team Report - First Nations School of Toronto (FNST) (Full Report - [FNST](#))

- In 2012, a feasibility study was undertaken to examine “options for a re-envisioned FNST to better serve the needs of the city's growing Indigenous population, including establishing a K-12 Aboriginal-themed school within TDSB.” Based on the results of that study, in January 2013, the Board Central Accommodation Team (CAT) approved a formal PART process, with a mandate to study and make recommendations on long-term pupil accommodation options for FNST, taking into consideration the needs of Aboriginal students across the system.
- There are recommendations



1. That the Board recognize and acknowledge the work of the Aboriginal communities that have contributed to this report.
2. That the First Nations School of Toronto be expanded to serve students from JK to Grade 12; and
3. That the First Nations School of Toronto be relocated to the site of Eastern Commerce Collegiate Institute at 16 Phin Avenue, Toronto, as early as September 2016, pending securing of funding sources to “Indigenize” and refurbish.

Changes to Operational Procedure 582(b) – Trustee Expenditure Guidelines

- The following motion was made at the Board meeting of 4 February 2015: “the Director present a report at the next meeting on a protocol for trustees presenting at conferences and using board resources”
- Recommendations are to amend Operational Procedure 582(b) to add an additional guideline “Application to Attend Conference as Presenter”. The form must be completed one month in advance of the deadline to submit proposals to conference organizers. The proposal must be discussed with the Director of Education and the Chair of the Board who would sign the form as acknowledgment of support of the content of the presentation.
- Additionally, the procedure has been updated to reflect the posting monthly of the details of trustee expense claims and supporting documentation.

In the News

[Teens distressed over loss of cherished mental-health counsellors](#)

Toronto Star (June 6)

Summary: Delisle Youth Services has made the decision to reallocate its internal resources to the programs requiring the most intensive services within TDSB — the Section 23 programs. This is in line with Ministry funding directions to service the most challenging youth. We hope to continue our good working relationship with this agency.

[Supporting Student Choice – The Story on Class Size](#)

June 5, 2015 - What are school boards really saying about class size? The school board proposal to OSSTF ensures that secondary school students have access to the classes required to graduate, protects class sizes and is respectful of teacher working conditions. OPSBA's proposal uses locally established class sizes and, in accommodating student choice, would never exceed 3 additional students in a class, and only where this is needed. There is no intent to use this to reduce the number of teachers at any school.

[Teachers need to be educated about residential schools before students, says TDSB official](#)

Toronto Star (June 4)

Summary: Before schools can teach Canadian children the grim story of residential schools, teachers must learn this disturbing chapter of national history themselves, says the school superintendent overseeing the training of some 1,600 Toronto principals and teachers this year. “A large percentage of teachers aren’t equipped to teach it at all — we didn’t learn this as kids; it was all cowboys and Indians, so we need to take a few steps back ourselves and learn,” said Jim Spyropoulos, executive superintendent of equity and inclusive schools for the Toronto District School Board. The board this year launched mandatory staff workshops on the issue, which included dramatizations of First Nations mothers having their children taken from their arms to be sent to residential schools.



[Class size the lightning rod behind school labour turmoil](#)

Toronto Star (June 1)

Summary: From picket slogans to union bulletins, class size in Ontario has become the lightning rod for the worst school labour turmoil in years — and fuelled fears of full strikes this fall for the province's 2 million public school students. Includes reference to TDSB and class size targets/caps.

Upcoming Events

- **E-Summer School** provides flexibility by being available 24/7 to fit students' schedules. Get the details at: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/eLearning> and check out this video on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ftk7oRjdbI>
- **For other information on Summer Schools, click on** <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Innovation/SummerPrograms.aspx>
- **Free 'Connected Parenting' Speaker Event - Speaker: Jennifer Kolari**
Wednesday June 17th - 7 - 8 pm - Hillcrest Community School, Gym (44 Hilton Ave, M5R 3E5)
Please join us for a 1-hour seminar with child and family therapist, Jennifer Kolari, one of the nation's leading parenting experts and the founder of Connected Parenting. Please visit www.connectedparenting.com for more information. RSVP to Christine Paterson youwewee@hotmail.com
- **Legislative Page Program – Apply before June 15** The program is open to students who are in Grade 7 or 8, have very good grades (80% or higher), are involved with their school or in their community, have an interest in current events and get along well with other students and adults E-mail: page_program@ontla.ola.org.
- **Spirit of Mandela Freedom Walk — June 20, 2015**
- Mandela Legacy Canada is inviting all students, staff and communities of school districts to participate in the spirit of Mandela Freedom Walk which will be held in Toronto on Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Walk will take place on University Avenue, from Armoury Street to Queen's Park, which was recently designated by the City of Toronto as Nelson Mandela Boulevard. **Click here** for the Spirit of Mandela Freedom Walk poster. **Click here** for information about Mandela Legacy Canada

Upcoming Ward 11 School/Community Events

June 9, 2015	Forest Hill CI Vocal Chamber Night	7:00 PM
June 10, 2015	Forest Hill CI Grade 8 Welcome Reception	4:30 PM
June 11, 2015	McMurrich Jr. PS Fun Fair	4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
	JR Wilcox CS Fun Fair	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
	West Preparatory Fun Fair	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
June 13, 2015	Davisville Fun Fair	10:30 AM - 3:30 PM
June 18, 2015	Hodgson Sr. PS Community BBQ	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

TDSB Board and Committee Meetings

Jun 9	City-School Strategy Workgroup	3:15pm Cte Rm B
	Inner City Advisory Committee	6pm Cte Rm A
Jun 10	Finance & Accountability	5pm Cte Rm A
	Planning & Priorities	7pm Cte Rm A

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin



Jun 11 Equity Policy Advisory Committee	5pm Cte Rm A
PIAC	6:30pm Boardroom
Jun 15 Audit Committee	4:30pm Cte Rm A
Jun 16 FSLAC	7pm Cte Rm A
Jun 17 Regular Board Meeting	7pm Boardroom
Jun 18 Community Use of Schools	91m 5 th Floor Meeting Room
Aug 26 Regular Board Meeting	7pm Boardroom

2014-2015 School Year Calendar

TDSB's school year calendars are on Google Calendar (add to yours!).

Elementary: <http://t.co/SRsxJzPYgL> + Secondary: <http://t.co/s1sWVP0naB>

Secondary School PA Day June 24*, 25, 2015

Board-wide PA Day June 26, 2015

* High School Semester Change: The first day of second semester is 30 January 2015. The seven days noted for secondary school include a PA day only for semestered schools on 29 January 2015 and a PA Day for full-year schools only on 24 June 2015.

For Next Year's Planning...

Days of Significance 2015-16

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Calendar/SchoolYearCalendar20152016.aspx>

School Year 2015-2016 Dates to Remember - School Year Holidays (as per Ministry of Education)

Labour Day: September 7, 2015

First Day of School: September 8, 2015

Thanksgiving: October 12, 2015

Christmas Break: December 21, 2015 – January 1, 2016

Family Day: February 15, 2016

Mid-Winter Break: March 14-18, 2016

Good Friday: March 25, 2016

Easter Monday: March 28, 2016

Victoria Day: May 23, 2016

Last Day: June 29, 2016 (Elementary) June 27, 2016 (Secondary)

If you no longer wish to receive these weekly e-mails, please let me know at shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca