



Weekly Update – March 23, 2015

Items of Interest

E-Learning Registration opens on March 23rd at 7:30am

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/elearning/e-summerschool.aspx>

Special Ward Forum Follow-Up

I have received a number of e-mails from parents and community members who were able to attend the Special Ward Forum – I am glad that the overview provided by staff was useful and that you have a better understanding of the issues facing the board and why the status quo in dealing with maintenance and capital is a no go – we need to ensure this valuable civic infrastructure – our public schools – are supported and maintained. For those of you not able to attend, I urge you to read the materials provided at the meeting that are now posted on my website. I was very glad that Councillor Matlow and Councillor Mihevc's staff were in attendance as well as many of the ratepayer associations I invited. I was also glad that Krista Wylie was there on behalf of Fix Our Schools – a grassroots parents organization aimed at bringing awareness to these issues. Please visit their website and visit their blog at www.fixourschools.ca/blog/. I really feel the momentum is building...

Materials from the March 9, 2015 Special Ward Forum on Capital and Planning in Ward 11

[Planning For Ward 11-v5](#)

[Ward 11 Forum Hand Out - Enrolments And Development](#)

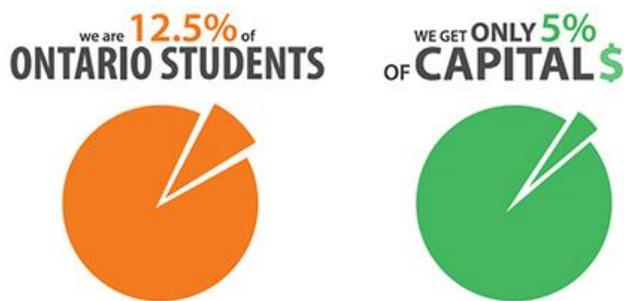
[TDSB Projection Methodology - System And School Based - With Baragar Data Sources](#)

[Capacity And Utilization Rate - Questions And Answers - With Appendices](#)

In order to ensure the general public becomes more aware of TDSB issues, the Board launched a new website - **The Future of our Schools** <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ourschools/Home.aspx>

Twitter @OurSchoolsTDSB

To give you an example – this is from the site –



“Deciding the future of one of our schools is not an easy decision or a simple conversation, but it is an important one. The 10 year strategy is our plan for talking with school communities about the future of our buildings, our programs and how all students can have access to high-quality learning spaces. Do we recognize that some schools may need to close...yes.

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin



But, we also know that once a school is sold, we can never get it back. We have asked for a roundtable with provincial and municipal leaders in Toronto to start a collaborative process for planning school spaces in our communities and to bring the parties responsible for green space and childcare to the table. This site will provide you with the information you need to join us in this conversation.”

Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy Update

At the Special Ward Forum, all the projects scheduled for Ward 11 in the current Plan that was approved at the Board last year were discussed. It's now time to review each of the projects as part of the process to update the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy. Staff met with each of the Trustees individually over the past two months to review program and accommodation needs and staff are now refreshing the details of all the studies to be undertaken. During the week of 23 March 2015, Trustees will be emailed an updated list of studies for their ward and are asked to review and provide feedback and confirmation. The proposed timeline for approval of updates to the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy is as follows:

- Planning and Priorities Committee – 6 May 2015; and
- Board Meeting – 13 May 2015.

Community Engagement as Part of the Local Review Processes

I also noted at the Special Ward Forum that Trustees information on Community Engagement in the local review process was held recently. It proved a great summary of the level of community engagement within each of the studies. The materials shared at the session are posted on our public website under the Long term Program and Accommodation Strategy section:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/StrategyPlanning/LongTermProgramandAccommodationStrategy/CommunityInvolvement.aspx>. To make it easy for you, the direct links to both the presentation and the comparison chart are noted below. Learn more about our [process for community engagement](#) and how you can [become involved in each type of study](#).

Ministry of Education Announcing 2015-16 Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) and revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines (PARG) to be released Thursday, March 26, 2015

The Chair has informed us that the Minister has written that a video announcing the grants (funding the school boards will receive) on Thursday via video on their website at 2pm. We will keep you posted on how this announcement will affect our board's approved operating budget. In addition, they also told us that the revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines will also be released Thursday and that boards will be expected to update their own policies as a result. Again, will keep you posted on how parents and community can be engaged in the process.

Other Ministry Announcements Last Week – Special Advisor on Community Hubs and Province to Appoint Panel to Consult With Public on Improved Governance at the TDSB

First the good news... this is positive for all those who support community hubs

http://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2015/03/premier-wynne-appoints-special-advisor-on-community-hubs.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p

From the ministry website



“Premier Kathleen Wynne has appointed Karen Pitre as Special Advisor on Community Hubs. Pitre will chair the new Premier's Community Hub Framework Advisory Group. The members of the advisory group will be announced in the coming weeks. A community hub can be a school, a neighbourhood centre or another public space that offers coordinated services such as education, health care and social services. The advisory group will review provincial policies and develop a framework for adapting existing public assets to become community hubs. The Community Hub Framework Advisory Group will:

- Gather input from Ontarians
- Foster partnerships among community organizations and other groups to ensure that the framework addresses local needs
- Examine best practices in Ontario and other jurisdictions.”

And the second Ministry Announcement –

<http://news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2015/03/ontario-working-to-restore-public-confidence-at-tdsb.html>

Province to Appoint Panel to Consult With Public on Improved Governance

“Ontario is seeking public input on possible ways to improve the Toronto District School Board, restore public confidence and ensure student achievement and well-being. The province has appointed a seven member advisory panel to lead public consultations about how to improve the governance structure at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). The panel will look for ways to improve the day to day function as well as enhance efficiency on Canada's largest school board. Consultations will take place between March and May 2015. This panel was established to support one of the recommendations in Margaret Wilson's review of the TDSB, to examine possible structural and procedural changes at the board.

The province has appointed:

- Barbara Hall (Chair)
- Dr. Vicki Bismilla
- Patrick Case
- Briony Glassco
- Shirley Hoy
- Richard Powers
- Jennifer Williams

The consultation process will involve public meetings and online submissions with individuals and organizations, including parents, trustees, senior staff and union representatives across the TDSB community. Once available, further details will be online. The panel will report back to the Minister of Education with their recommendations based on the consultations by Summer 2015.”

There have been little details on how you can be involved – I will update as soon as I have more information... I am still soaking this one in.

Ophea's Provincial Healthy Schools Initiative – March 2015 Update (from OPSBA)

What is Ophea doing?

Ophea is developing a Provincial Healthy Schools Certification (HS Certification) to support school communities in planning and engaging in a wide range of health-related activities based on the Six-Step Healthy Schools process. As well, it will celebrate and formally recognize an individual school's achievements relating to Ontario's **Foundations for a Healthy School** resource.

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What's new?

In early January, Ophea launched the school pilot phase of the initiative, piloting the materials developed through contributor and stakeholder meetings in nearly 30 schools from across the province. Pilot sites include urban and rural, francophone and English, Public and Catholic, elementary and secondary, and large and small schools from multiple geographic regions across the province to ensure diverse representation. Schools are participating in a condensed version of the HS Certification in order to validate the materials, identify areas of support needed, and test the certification point system. The pilot is scheduled to wrap up in April 2015.

What's next?

After completion of the school pilot phase in April, Ophea will look to incorporate any necessary revisions to the materials and the certification point system. A website to host the HS Certification will be developed to facilitate school participation, planning, and reporting. The HS Certification will then be rolled out to a larger number of schools for September 2015. These schools will have the full 2015/2016 school year to complete the process.

Councillor Josh Matlow invites you to discuss improvements to the Sharon, Lois & Bram Playground at June Rowlands Park!

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00pm at Greenwood College School, 443 Mount Pleasant Road

Please ensure your voices are heard.

Empowering Families through Knowledge and Networking

Special Education Conference – Saturday, March 28, 2015 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Earl Haig Secondary School (100 Princess Avenue) Register at www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference

The Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) and Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) are collaborating with the TDSB in delivering a conference for parents/guardians on Special Education topics. Learn about Individual Education Plans (IEPs) – the Identification Placement and Review Committee process (IPRC) – transition planning for elementary, secondary and post-secondary environments – use of technology – psycho-educational assessment – advocacy and more... Connect with agencies and personnel specializing in the support of children with special needs/gifts and their families. Connect with other parents of children with similar special needs/gifts, the specific agencies that support them and with TDSB staff in discussion sessions. Learn about specific resources and opportunities. Share challenges, problem solving strategies and success stories.

Worth Repeating

- **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.
- **Humewood – Supporting Your Child Series - 15 Cherrywood Ave**
The Humewood community has invited parents in WR08 to join them for a series of info meetings:
 - Kids Have Stress Too! March 26, 6:00PM, The Psychology Foundation of Canada Presented by Toronto Public Health, Register: <http://goo.gl/forms/7XNOZkELLy>



- Talking With Your Teen, April 23, 6:00pm, presented by Toronto Public Health, Register: <http://goo.gl/forms/nV26n95oc5>

Child minding available upon request. Please email Barbara.Sandler@tdsb.on.ca to register for child minding.

- **Parent and Community Engagement Office Workshops**
Workshops on “Running an Effective School Council and Secondary Transitions”. For workshop dates and locations visit: [Workshops](#).
- **The OTIP Teaching Awards**
Deadline for submitting nominations is March 31, 2015. <http://en.teachingawards.ca/>

Hold the Dates for Future Ward Forums

- **May 21 – Topic TBC**

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>

Good Friday	April 3, 2015
Easter Monday	April 6, 2015
Victoria Day	May 18, 2015
Elementary School PA Day	June 5, 2015
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.

Before scheduling events, please check the TDSB Days of Significance Calendar [2014 - 2015 Days of Significance](#)

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

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin