



Weekly Update – March 29, 2015

Items of Interest

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

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

Ministry of Education Announcing 2015-16 Grants for Student Needs (GSNs)

The Ministry of Education released information on the 2015-16 GSN funding on Thursday. Although final variances will not be known until the Ministry of Education releases the electronic file for boards to do their detailed grant calculations (EFIS) in late April, based on primary analysis of the GSN announcement, staff is currently projecting a further change in operating grants of between \$5M to \$10M over and above the \$16.5M estimated in the approved budget of 11 March 2015. We expect an update at the 1 April 2015 Budget Committee meeting at 7pm – Committee Room A at 5050 Yonge St. We will continue to try and manage these changes with as little impact on the classroom as possible.

We did learn that School Condition Improvement Funding is going from \$29 million in 2014/15 to \$112 million in 2015/16 and that funding is applied to the renewal needs backlog. The \$112 million is in addition to the ~ \$45 million we get for renewal. And although it is a significant increase from last year, it leaves an insurmountable gap to our almost \$3 billion renewal backlog. And a major challenge with the backlog is that in the next 2 years the backlog is expected to grow by another ~25%. It is not rocket science – aging infrastructure is the main reason for our renewal needs backlog. And although we continue to work through pupil accommodation reviews to right size the system, some of our schools that are most in need of improvements are the same schools that are over capacity and closing them is not an option.

Revise Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines (PARG)

The Ministry of Education issued its revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline last Thursday with the GSNs. The guideline must be followed when the outcome of the review may impact more than 50% of a school's population or result in a school closure. It sets out a framework of minimum standards schools boards must follow in developing their own policies.

Highlights of the changes:

- Requirements for school boards to consult with municipal governments and other community partners about underutilized space;
- Changes to School Information Profile prepared by staff prior to the review process;
- Changes to the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee structure (both its role and membership);
- Changes to timelines for the Pupil Accommodation Review process (two public meetings over a minimum five month period for a standard process; one public meeting over a minimum three month period for an optional modified process);
- Changes to school board staff reporting requirements (including an initial staff report to the Board with at least one initial staff option; staff report to the Board with a new Community Consultation section);
- Introduction of a transition plan requirement;
- Introduction of an optional modified Pupil Accommodation Review process;



- Introduction of additional exceptions when a Pupil Accommodation Review process is not required (e.g. replacement school on existing school site or in an existing school attendance area; when there are no students enrolled at the school); and
- The revisions to the Ministry guideline will require revisions to our Accommodation and Program Review Policy (P068) and Pupil Accommodation Review Procedure (PR598).

As these are guidelines, we will need to review our current policy and consult with our communities should we determine changes are required. Please note the TDSB's existing Pupil Accommodation Review Policy remains in place until a revised policy can be approved by the Board of Trustees. **For more information on Pupil Accommodation Reviews and capital planning information, click on [Our Schools](#) and follow us on twitter [@OurSchoolsTDSB](#). Please also check out <http://fixourschools.ca/> - a grassroots parents' advocacy group.**

Ministry of Education also announced a revision to its Facility Partnerships Guideline (now known as the Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline – CPPG)

Highlights of the changes:

- The Facility Partnerships Guideline has been renamed the Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline (CPPG);
- All levels of municipal government, District Social Services Administration Boards, public health boards, Local Health Integration Networks (LINHs) and children's mental health centres **must** be on school boards' notification list when key information regarding facility partnerships or planning is changed;
- Sharing of planning information between school boards and community partners **must** take place at a public meeting annually;
- In addition to the annual meeting, ongoing discussions must continue with affected municipalities and community organizations. These discussions may inform proposals that could be presented to the Board of Trustees; and
- The changes to the Facility Partnerships Guideline will necessitate changes to our Facility Partnerships Policy (P076).

Updates on Mental Wellness

The latest newsletter is out – please click on [Mental Health and Well-Being Belongs to Us - March 2015 - Resilience](#).

Please also note the following events –

- “Change the View” Video Contest – contest opens February 19, 2015 and closes April 9, 2015. For more information please visit: http://www.kidsmentalhealth.ca/news_and_events/ctv2015-about-the-contest.php
- Hincks-Dellcrest Parent Seminar - Strengthened by the Storm: March 25, 2015 at Young People's Theatre – 165 Front Street East
- Making the Connections: Toronto Public Health Open House – April 28, 2015 at Novotel North York – 3 Park Home Avenue
- Children's Mental Health Week: May 3 – 9, 2015
- Mental Health and Well-Being Awareness Parent Symposium: May 9, 2015 at Earl Haig Secondary School



Highlights of the Program & School Services Committee March 25

- **Cohort Analysis** – The Ministry of Education is releasing its graduation rates in Spring 2015 for the Grade 9 Cohort whose participants entered secondary school in 2009-10. In advance of this release, staff presented to the Committee, differences in the methodologies employed by both the Ministry of Education and the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). Differences in methodology may result in slight variances of outcomes. The TDSB uses a traditional cohort tracking process that looks at the five-year outcomes of students when they begin Grade 9 using available information from Trillium. The methodology implemented at the TDSB was established in the 1960s and was the agreed process of a 1990s provincial task force. Currently, students who started Grade 9 as of October 31, 2009 are followed for five years, until October 31, 2014. Students who transferred to other educational systems and did not return are removed from the graduation rate (graduation and dropout rates both including and excluding transfers are presented). The Ministry rate is a composite rate based on available submissions from OnSIS. It looks at any student who entered Grade 9 between October 31, 2009 and June 30, 2010. To read the complete report, click on [Cohort Comparison](#)
- **Primary Inclusion – Phase One Update** In accordance with the ‘Years of Action’ goal to decrease by 50% the numbers of students with Special Education needs placed in congregated classes by 2017 and support greater student achievement and well-being, the Special Education department has initiated a strategy for moving to greater Inclusion of students with Special Education needs beginning in the school year of 2015-2016. It is important to note that an inclusionary model does not ignore the fact that some students have complex needs that may require special consideration for more intensive support. Placements in special education classes or schools must be considered when it is determined that a student’s needs can be best met in a congregated learning environment. The Inclusion Strategy advocates consideration of changing conditions of learning for our youngest students in Grades 1-3 through an inclusionary delivery of special education services. Through this process, parents’ decision is key and central to the actual, rather than the targeted, number of students that will be placed in an inclusionary learning environment. To read the complete report, click on [Primary Inclusion](#)
- **Aboriginal Education Update** – Research confirms that institutions of formal schooling are failing to provide Aboriginal students with the educational environment and experiences they require to achieve success. In response, governments at all levels are beginning to demonstrate a commitment to improving Aboriginal education and closing the achievement, opportunity and participation gaps that exist between Aboriginal students and all students. The Toronto District School Board has charted an ambitious course intended to make the District an exemplar of Urban Aboriginal Education. Beginning with the Opportunity Gap Action Plan of 2011, the Board charted a course to visibly demonstrate that Aboriginal education is a priority. The Toronto District School Board: Years of Action 2013-2017 clearly states that the Board will “Champion Aboriginal Education and Advance Achievement.” Specific actions are in place to achieve these goals including providing professional development on advancing Aboriginal education to 100% of school and central leadership teams in 2014-2015. To read the complete report, click on [Aboriginal](#)

Evergreen Canada's Tips on Taking Active Transportation to School and Beyond

Students who walk, roll, or take other forms of active transportation to and from school experience many benefits. According to the [Active & Safe Routes to School guide for parents](#), an active school commute helps students meet the recommended guidelines for physical activity, improves their health, happiness and



well-being, and contributes to their academic performance by making them “more alert and ready to learn”. Just looking for the tips? [Click Here](#). For the complete article, click <http://www.evergreen.ca/blog/entry/tips-on-taking-active-transportation-to-school-and-beyond>

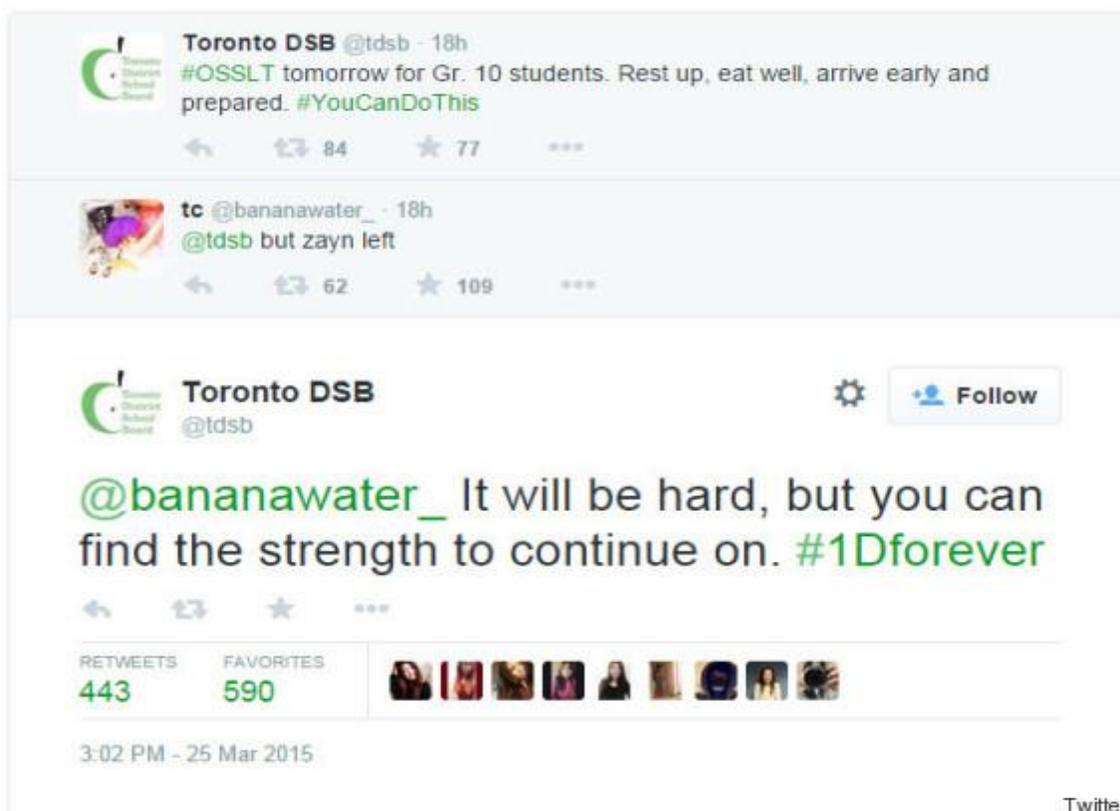
A Great Media Story

[Toronto District School Board Understands Your Zayn Malik Pain](#)

Huffington Post (March 25)

Summary: The internet imploded yesterday when One Direction member Zayn Mailk announced he was leaving the quintet. Millions of tweets about Malik and One Direction flooded Twitter, including this hilarious interaction between the Toronto District School Board and a student (we're assuming):

The internet imploded yesterday when [One Direction](#) member [Zayn Mailk](#) announced [he was leaving the quintet](#). [Millions of tweets about Malik](#) and One Direction flooded Twitter, including this hilarious interaction between the Toronto District School Board and a student (we're assuming):



It's great to see that educational institutions in this country have a sense of humour, at least.

Congratulations to our media folks!



Celebrate World Autism Awareness Day – April 2, 2015

On 2 April 2015, we join together with Autism Ontario to *Raise the Flag* in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day. We celebrate with over 355 municipalities and 300 schools across Ontario as they *Raise the Flag*. At our three central offices, 5050 Yonge Street, 140 Borough Drive and 1 Civic Centre, and many of our schools, we will raise the Autism Ontario Awareness flag to promote awareness and understanding. This campaign has a simple yet powerful way of helping students, teachers and communities discuss Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Let's join together to support the 3,000 TDSB students who have ASD every day, and help promote an increase in awareness and understanding of this disorder.

Clean Toronto Together – Friday, April 17th at 2pm

On Friday, April 17th at 2 pm, students from across Toronto are encouraged to help rejuvenate our city's green spaces by picking up litter in their school yard or neighbourhood park. To increase participation at the TDSB we're challenging each Family of Schools (FOS) to have as many schools register and participate as possible. Fortunately, we are off to a good start – as of March 25th, 78 schools have already registered for the Clean Toronto Together campaign. The first 200 schools to register before April 7th will receive a Clean-Up Kit that includes: free student-size garbage bags, and recycling bags and 100 gloves. Schools can register by filling out the [School Clean-Up Day form](#). For registration details, resources, and campaign updates visit the [TDSB's Clean Toronto Together campaign webpage](#). You'll be amazed at what we can accomplish in as little as 20 minutes!

An Evening with Cheryl Pounder, Gold Medal Champion – Breaking Down Barriers to Mental Health for Kindergarten – Grade 8 Parents and Grade 7-8 Students

Wednesday April 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., Forest Hill Jr. & Sr. Public School, 78 Dunloe Road (North Building – Auditorium)

Cedarvale Marketplace at Cedarvale Public School, 145 Ava Road

Friday, April 17, 4-8pm and Saturday, April 18, 10am-4pm

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:
 - 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**

Board & Committee Meetings

- Audit Committee, March 31, 2015, 4:30 p.m.
- Finance and Accountability Committee, April 1, 2015, 5 p.m.
- Budget Committee, April 1, 2015, 7 p.m.
- Planning & Priorities Committee, April 8, 2015, 7 p.m.
- Inner City Advisory Committee, April 9, 2015, 6 p.m.
- SEAC, April 13, 2015, 7 p.m.
- PIAC, April 14, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting, April 15, 7 p.m.
- Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee, April 16, 2015, 7 p.m.
- FSLAC, April 21, 2015, 7 p.m.
- Human Resources & Professional Learning Committee, April 22, 2015, 5 p.m.
- Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee, April 23, 2015, 9 a.m.
- Equity Policy Advisory Committee, April 23, 2015, 6 p.m.
- Program & School Services Committee, April 29, 2015, 5 p.m.

2014-2015 School Year Calendar

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

Elementary: <http://t.co/SRxsJzPYgL> + 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

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin



Trustee
Shelley Laskin

Ward 11, St. Paul's

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

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