



Weekly Update – May 10, 2015
Items of Interest

PLEASE NOTE – Due to a number of conflicts, Ward Forum Scheduled for May 21 postponed.

Labour Negotiations (from the TDSB website)

Please read the following [letter shared with parents and guardians on Friday May 8, 2015](#) regarding job action (work-to-rule) by elementary teachers beginning Monday, May 11, 2015.

Background

In 2014, the Government of Ontario passed legislation to create a new two-tier process of central and local collective bargaining for employees at Ontario school boards. Central bargaining includes significant monetary and policy issues (e.g., compensation, benefits and paid leaves), while local negotiations involve non-monetary issues or matters that are specific to the local board. At central negotiations, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) represents all English public school boards in Ontario (including the TDSB). The Government of Ontario, as the funder of education in Ontario, also participates in central bargaining. For local negotiations, the TDSB will work with its nine local bargaining units. This includes groups represented from the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO), the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the Maintenance and Skilled Trades Council (MCSTC).

Where We're At

Centrally, ETFO has given notice that its members will begin province-wide strike action (work-to-rule) starting May 11, 2015. ETFO has directed its members to not participate in EQAO (standardized testing) and in other Ministry of Education initiatives. Right now extracurricular activities will continue as usual. It is important to note that **all TDSB elementary and junior high schools remain open**. OSSTF is still in negotiations with OPSBA and the Government of Ontario and have not yet announced any plans for job action. Please note that TDSB high schools are not affected by labour disruptions that are currently impacting other school boards in Ontario (e.g., Durham, Rainbow and Peel district school boards). Locally, negotiations between the TDSB and its ETFO and OSSTF bargaining units are scheduled to commence shortly.

Board Meeting May 13, 2015 –Agenda Items to Note – for the complete agenda, click below

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx>

▪ **Approval of the work plan for retaining an Integrity Commissioner**

At its meeting on 4 February 2015,"the Board decided:

- 1) That a former Integrity Commissioner be hired on a consultancy basis and;
- 2) That a request for proposals for an Integrity Commissioner to provide services on a per hour, per diem or per file basis." On 1 May 2015 the former Integrity Commissioner for the City of Toronto was retained to fulfill the first part of the Board's direction. This report is a proposed work plan to carry out the second part of the resolution and is presented to the Board for its consideration and approval.

▪ **Trustee Vacancy (Ward 19 Scarborough Centre)**

There is a recommendation that the Board either provide notice to the City for a by-election or appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy. Given the cost of a by-election is \$230K and that David Smith was actually disqualified, I support going to the second person on the ballot and appointing Scott Harrison.



▪ **Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands**

Whereas, respectfully acknowledging the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples provides a reminder that Indigenous peoples are the first peoples of Canada and remain a valued and vital part of the TDSB community, there is a recommendation that the Board begin each meeting with a customary acknowledgement.

▪ **Concussions Policy**

There is a motion to ensure the proposed operational procedure will outline actions related to the Board's commitments as stated in the Concussions Policy with respect to de-elooping awareness, training, community engagement, supporting student achievement and well-being and supporting schools with the implementation of the Return to Learn and Return to Physical Activity procedures

▪ **Destreaming in Grade 9**

There is a recommendation that the Director present a report to the Program and School Services Committee in the October 2015 cycle of meetings on destreaming at the Grade 9 level, including, but not limited to, information on: (i) the advantages and disadvantages of destreaming; (ii) current research on the effects of streaming in Grade 9; (iii) its impact on marginalized and non-marginalized communities; and (iv) practices by other school boards.

▪ **Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy**

Approval of the long-term program and accommodation strategy 2015-2024 and the annual planning document 2015-16, as presented in the report, be approved (see last week's update for details on the plan <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward11/Laskin%20Update%20-%20May%203,%202015.pdf>)

Bike to School Week May 25-29 2015

With TDSB's EcoSchools office installing hundreds of school bike racks this spring, more and more students are choosing bicycling for short commutes. May 25 to 29 is **Bike to School Week** in the TDSB so let's get rolling! Register your school to support EcoSchools and Healthy Schools programming, and win prizes. Resources, posters, prizes and incentives as well as the registration portal are [here](#). Teachers, register for Bike to Work Week at the same link for a chance to win a bike! Looking for ideas to start a bike club or hold an event? Check out Cycle Toronto's Bike to School Project [here](#).

Help Build Toronto's Cycling Network - Take the Survey

Toronto residents and businesses are being asked to complete a survey to help the City's Transportation Services division create a plan for expanding and improving Toronto's 856-kilometre cycling network over the next 10 years. For more information on this initiative and to complete the survey before May 29th, please [click here](#).

Active Transportation

Trustee Pam Gough recently had a Ward Forum on Active Transportation – the minutes of her April 22 Forum include many details on how to get schools started on the path of more active transportation. Presentations include Metrolinx's School Travel Advisor, TDSB EcoSchools, and Toronto Public Health. Please have a look – there may be some ideas here to bring back to your schools – click on [Ward 3 Council Minutes April 2015](#)



Budget balanced at second quarter

The TDSB's [second quarter financial report](#), presented to Finance and Accountability Committee on May 6, shows that the TDSB is on track for a balanced budget and potentially a small surplus in the current academic year. Next year's budget has been set already, and is on track to be balanced again.

Community Hubs Consultation

As you may know, the Premier of Ontario recently appointed Karen Pitre as Special Advisor on Community Hubs and members to the Premier's Community Hub Framework Advisory Group. The Special Advisor and the Advisory Group are reviewing provincial policies and developing a framework for adapting existing public assets to become community hubs. More information can be found on the new community hubs website: <http://www.ontario.ca/communityhubs>. If you have an interest in providing input and feedback to help guide the Special Advisor and Advisory Group's work, please:

1. Provide a written submission by e-mail to community.hubs@ontario.ca; and/or
2. Answer questions using the online consultation form on the new website, located at <http://www.ontario.ca/communityhubs>. The form includes space for any additional feedback.

Community Hubs Discussion Questions

1. Are there examples we should know about?
2. What makes these work and why?
3. What are the barriers?
4. What additional advice would you offer to the Province to encourage and strengthen Community Hubs?
5. What do you see as potential guiding principles with regards to the implementation of community hubs?

14th Annual Super Council Elections Conference –

Congratulations to the TDSB Super Council Executive and area representatives for the 2015-16 school year. In all, there were 24 positions filled by students from diverse backgrounds and from every corner of the city. This new team of student leaders will serve the TDSB well next year as they endeavour to bring a voice to over 125,000 students, grades 7-12.

Incoming 2015-2016 Super Council Executives

Student Trustee: Hamima Fattah (Winston Churchill CI W.19) and Student Trustee: Sammy Al Rubaie (York Mills CI W.13)

President: Tahir Akhtar (Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS W.22)

Vice-President: Shams Mehdi (Leaside HS W.13)

Secretary/Treasurer: Anoja Vigneswaren (Cedarbrae CI W.19)

Conference Chair: Cassidy Bereskin (North Toronto CI W.11)

Communications Officer: Sariena Luy (Earl Haig SS W.12) Alternative Rep: (None)

Ward 11 schools are part of Area B – Congratulations to Co-Chair: Fay Asimakopoulos (North Toronto CI W. 11) and Secretary: Neil Jonatan (Northern SS W. 11)

My understanding is that we are still looking for a Grade 7/8 Representative for our Ward – please let your children/students know of this opportunity!

Busting the myths around Ontario's new sex-ed curriculum

Please click on this article by Louise Brown that was in the Toronto Star GTA on May 05 2015. The Star asked OPHEA, the ministry of education's advisory group on physical and health curriculum, to respond to



the most common complaints parents have expressed on the protest lines and on social media. The answers to these questions try and promote the truth in the revised curriculum as opposed to the misinformation that is perpetuated. <http://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/education/2015/05/05/busting-the-myths-around-ontarios-new-sex-ed-curriculum.html>

Please note parent resources are now available in Arabic, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Farsi, Polish, Punjabi and Urdu. These resources are may be accessed using the following links: [Arabic](#), [Chinese Simplified](#), [Chinese Traditional](#), [Farsi](#), [Polish](#), [Punjabi](#) and [Urdu](#). They may also be accessed from the ministry's Health and Physical Education curriculum page in the *Parent Resources in Additional Languages* section at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html.

New Invitation

Councillor Josh Matlow's Community Environment Day, June 4th

On Thursday, June 4 from 4pm to 8pm, I will be hosting my annual Community Environment Day. The event will take place in the parking lot of North Toronto Memorial Arena (174 Orchard View Blvd). Please drop off any unwanted art supplies, books, toys, and used sports equipment. Facilities will be available to dispose of computers and other hazardous household waste, or even replace your damaged green bin.

Don't Forget...

Jewish Heritage Month

Students are encouraged to participate in a [short biography contest](#) by writing about a significant Jewish person who they feel has contributed to Ontario or has inspired them to contribute to others in some way. <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/jewishHeritageMonthPoster.pdf>

TDSB Launches Board-Wide Fundraising Appeal for Nepal

You can still contribute to the Toronto District School Board launched tdsbCARES: Nepal Region Earthquake Relief — a board-wide fundraising appeal to help with the relief effort in Nepal following last weekend's powerful earthquake. Eligible donations will be matched by the Government of Canada up until May 25th. For those wishing to donate, please visit the TDSB website at www.tdsb.on.ca

PRO Grants

A reminder that applications for the 2015-2016 Parents Reaching Out Grants program are now open. **The last date to apply is Tuesday May 19, 2015.** Please read the program guidelines and terms and conditions prior to submitting your application. Apply online for a [School Council grant](#)

Consultations on the Toronto District School Board

“We want to hear your ideas and input on ways to improve the governance structure at the Toronto District School Board (TDSB)”... as so it begins... again. Individuals can attend public sessions or share their thoughts online. For more information, please click <http://consultationsontdsb.ca/consultations-on-tdsb.necessary>. Check the website www.tdsb.on.ca



Upcoming Events

- **Registration is now open for the 2015 TDSB Healthy Schools 5k Run/Walk Saturday May 23, 2015, Downsview Park** –Register at www.tdsb.on.ca/5k
- **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>
- **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.

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>

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