



Weekly Update – May 17, 2015

Items of Interest

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

From the People for Education Website –

Ontario's new education labour negotiation process – updated May 14, 2015

<http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/pfe-news/ontarios-new-education-labour-negotiation-process/>

Contracts for all teaching and support staff expired in August 2014.

[Note – terms and conditions of all contracts are in effect until they are changed.]

Since then, the province, school boards and teachers' federations have been in negotiations. They are working under a new [formalized process for bargaining](#), which divides negotiations between issues to be bargained provincially and issues to be bargained locally.

Two-tiered bargaining model

The new process is somewhat similar to the process that hospitals use. In both cases, there is an employer – the school boards or the hospitals – but the employer does not have ultimate control over the money. The province holds the purse strings. In both cases, the employers and the province sit at the central table with the employee groups to negotiate overall issues – things like salaries and benefits. Local issues are left to local hospitals or local school boards to negotiate with their local employees. Under the new School Boards Collective Bargaining Act:

- **at the provincial bargaining table**, government (the crown), provincial union representatives and school trustee associations negotiate overall issues. Before bargaining begins, the representatives at this central table agree on which issues will be bargained centrally and which issues will be bargained at the local level.
- **at the local level**, individual school boards and their local union representatives negotiate all issues that are not bargained centrally.

Current issues

In December, all parties at the central tables agreed on what was to be bargained centrally and what would be bargained locally.

On strike in three boards

Over the last few weeks, members of the **Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)** went on strike in the Rainbow, Peel and Durham District School Boards. The union says these strikes are focused on local issues. The school boards disagree. The boards say the strikes are about issues being bargained at the central table. Under the law, unions are allowed to strike over local issues, even if central issues have not been settled, but they are not allowed to strike locally over central issues. It appears that the line between central and local issues may not be totally clear.

Ontario Labour Relations Board to make two rulings

The **school boards** have asked the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) to intervene and declare the local strikes illegal. On Friday, May 15th, the Minister of Education went to the Ontario [Education Relations Commission](#) (an arms-length body appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, that works under the auspices of the OLRB) to seek its advice. The Education Relations Commission will decide whether the current strikes are placing students' year in jeopardy. If Commission advises the government



that students in Peel, Rainbow and Durham DSBs may not be able to complete their year, or graduate, then the government may order teachers back to work.

Other labour action

In the meantime, OSSTF locals in Halton and Ottawa-Carleton DSBs will begin work-to-rule action in the week of May 18th.

Members of the **Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)** are also in central bargaining. Those talks have broken down a number of times. ETFO has now embarked on what they are describing as "phase 1" in their job action – refusing to participate in EQAO testing, provide written comments on report cards or participate in any ministry initiatives or activities.

The **Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)** has held a province-wide strike vote and would be allowed to take job action provincially as long as they give five days' notice.

The **Association des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)** will be holding a strike vote soon.

What Next?

The issues are complex, but are partly ruled by money. The province has cut funding to many aspects of education this year, in an effort to balance the budget. There also appear to be issues of control – over things like class size, hiring, assessments and professional development.

Board Meeting May 13, 2015 – Summary of Decisions - Highlights

- **Work Plan for Retaining an Integrity Commissioner and Development of Necessary Ethics Policies and Procedures [2573]** The Board decided that the work plan for retaining an Integrity Commissioner, as presented in the report, be approved.
- **Parent Involvement Advisory Committee: Procedure re Concussions** The Board confirmed that the proposed operational procedures to implement the Concussions policy clearly state the types of support to be provided to concussed students, including; the types of support to be provided to department and program staff who will lead the return to school/learning, for example, Special Education; That staff responsible for communicating with families and all other professionals ensure that all relevant information is collected, including when, how and why an individual education plan is developed to support a concussed student; That effective and coordinated elementary and secondary transitions supports be included; and That the procedure also include a mechanism for tracking, monitoring and reporting of all con-cussed students, including the number of students reporting a concussion, both at the start and throughout each school year, with final numbers being reported at the end of the school year.
- **Health and Physical Education Curriculum Communication Plan** The Board decided that the Director present a report at the next meeting of the Program and School Services Committee on an implementation and communication plan for the Ministry's revised Health and Physical Education curriculum, including a plan for communicating with those who speak languages other than English and French.
- **Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands** The Board decided respectfully acknowledging the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples at the start of each board meeting.
- **Destreaming in Grade 9** The Board decided 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.



- **Renewal Needs Backlog [2562]** The Board decided that the Chair send a letter to the chairs of all Ontario school boards, the Minister of Education and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association requesting a report on the current renewal needs backlog at each board in the province.
- **Integrity Commissioner\Ombudsman\Lobbyist Registry\Whistle-Blower Policy Review** The Board decided that the Director present a report including, but not limited to, background, prior considerations, status updates, recommended improvements and comparisons with the city of Toronto and other school boards of comparable size, on the following: Integrity Commissioner; Ombudsman Oversight; Lobbyist Registry and Whistle-Blower Policy.
- **Long-term Program and Accommodation Strategy [2554]** The Board decided that the long-term program and accommodation strategy 2015-2024 and the annual planning document 2015-16, as presented in the report, be approved. To read the strategy, click on [Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy](#). This Strategy is a work plan for ensuring all students have equal access to inspiring programs across the city. By identifying a series of studies that we will do each year, the strategy will give us a better understanding of program and space needs across the system. Most importantly, it is a 10 year vision for education in Toronto that includes a process for engaging the community and bringing annual plans to the Board each year that reflect the evolving needs of our city. Learn more about [community involvement](#) in the Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy. To read the entire plan, click on [Long-Term Program Accommodation Strategy 2015-2024](#)
- **Learning Opportunities Index Ranking** The Board decided that the Director present a report at the next meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee on: (a) the Learning Opportunities Index ranking of schools involved in accommodation review commitments or potential sale; and the average size of elementary schools in the top and bottom 25 percent of the Learning Opportunities Index.
- **Development of a Recycling\Organics Model at 5050 Yonge Street** The Board decided that the Director establish a Recycling\Organics team at the 5050 Yonge Street.

City-School Boards Strategy Workgroup

The City of Toronto established the City-School Boards Advisory Committee (CSBAC) as a City Council Advisory Body for the 2014 to 2018 Council term. The purpose of the CSBAC is to provide advice to City Council on the best ways to share information and plan collaboratively on matters of mutual interest between the City of Toronto and School Boards that serve Toronto. In February 2015, the City of Toronto requested that the TDSB appoint members to the CSBAC. In March 2015, the Board appointed two trustees to serve as representatives on the CSBAC and established a City-School Boards Strategy Workgroup. The Ad-Hoc committee will meet for the first time Tuesday with a mandate **“To develop strategy around issues of mutual interest to the Province, the city, and other school boards.”**

In delivering this mandate, the City-School Boards Strategy Workgroup will identify key issues, priorities and opportunities which can be advanced through the CSBAC to support the development of a new approach to school lands use and disposition including:

1. addressing the multi-billion dollar school capital infrastructure deficit, which threatens to undermine safety and public confidence in the strength of our public school system;
2. reconsidering the “Institutional School” zoning policy regime imposed by the City of Toronto;
3. recognizing the Board’s duty to keep the public school system strong in Toronto and to ensure the underlying real estate value of the Board lands;



4. taking into consideration the full value of schools as community assets, in addition to their value as educational institutions;
5. providing a viable framework for retaining public ownership of former school properties;
6. identifying alternative funding sources beyond municipal and provincial funding to keep schools as community assets;
7. recommending changes to the “pupil accommodation” formula and Regulation 444/98 of the Education Act to address issues of common concern related to utilization of school space for education and community use; and
8. developing a new model for more coordinated capital and land-use planning.

I look forward to serving on this committee and in supporting Trustee Jennifer Story and Trustee Pam Gough who are our TDSB representatives.

Should you wish to understand, please read **Unlocking Value of TDSB Schools – TDSB’s Positions on Schools as Community Assets**. It can be found on the Agenda by clicking [Unlocking the Value of TDSB's Schools](#).

New Invitation

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. Author of *Connected Parenting: How To Raise A Great kid* (Penguin Group USA and Penguin Canada, 2009) and *You’re Ruining My Life! (But Not Really) Surviving the Teenage Years with Connected Parenting* (Penguin Canada, 2011), Jennifer Kolari is the Parenting expert on CBC’s Steven and Chris show, and has appeared frequently on Canada AM and Breakfast Television. Her advice can be found in many Canadian and U.S. magazines, such as Today’s Parent, Redbook, Parent Magazine and Canadian Family. She is also on the health advisory board for Chatelaine Magazine. Using anecdotes, humor, and sample dialogue, the audience will be introduced to the Connected Parenting model. Jennifer is an engaging speaker who shares her strategies through personal and professional experience leaving people armed with and inspired to try new strategies. Both theory and practice will be explained step-by-step. Participants will leave inspired with practical and useful strategies to try as soon as they get home. Please visit www.connectedparenting.com for more information.

Please RSVP to patermor@homail.com.

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**

Bike to School Week May 25-29 2015

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](#).

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>
- **Councillor Josh Matlow's Community Environment Day, June 4th from 4pm to 8pm**
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. 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/SRsxJzPYgI> + 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.

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