



Weekly Update – May 31, 2015

Items of Interest

For up to date information on Labour Negotiations click on
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Labournegotiations.aspx>

June is Italian Heritage Month

In 2010, the Province proclaimed the month of June as *Italian Heritage Month*, recognizing, “the important contributions immigrants have made in building Ontario's communities and the economic, political, social and cultural achievements of Italian Canadians throughout the province.” Throughout June, schools and workplaces across TDSB will be celebrating Italian Heritage Month with a variety of activities and events. Visit www.tdsb.on.ca/equity for links to events celebrating Italian Heritage Month throughout the city.

June is Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month

People of Portuguese-speaking heritage represent a mosaic of histories, geographies and cultures around the globe, from Rio de Janeiro to Lisbon, from East Timor and Angola. With some 250 million speakers worldwide, Portuguese is the world's fifth-most spoken language, and the mother tongue of nearly 60,000 Torontonians. All month long, across the system, staff and students will have opportunities celebrate and learn more about the histories, experiences and contributions of the Portuguese-speaking diaspora. For the 1400 Portuguese-speaking students in our schools, it will be an opportunity to share their vibrant culture and traditions with their friends, classmates and teachers.

Consultations on the Toronto District School Board - Positive Change That's Working *TDSB Trustees Respond to Governance Advisory Panel (Media Release)*

[Last Wednesday], Trustees with the Toronto District School Board released their submission, entitled *Positive Change That's Working*, to the Governance Advisory Panel now looking at the future of the TDSB. Signed by [21 of 22] Trustees, the submission lists a number of Board improvements to accountability and governance and proposes new and fresh solutions to age-old problems relating to school consolidation, community use of schools and what's to be done with schools that have already been closed. The submission also warns against breaking up the TDSB — a move most Trustees say would be costly and could leave whole communities behind. The concept of appointing public school trustees in Toronto was also addressed in the submission. Trustees say this would disenfranchise public school parents and taxpayers from a democratic say in the governance of the school system. To read the full [submission](#), visit the TDSB website. **PLEASE NOTE - The on-line submission process will end at 9AM Monday, June 1st.** <http://consultationsontdsb.ca/consultations-on-tdsb>. The Panel is set to respond the end of June.

Capital Budget

School boards are required to submit a balanced budget plan to the Ministry of Education at the end of each school year for both their operating and capital budgets. In early March, the TDSB approved its Operating Budget for 2015-16. This year because of the Ministry Directives, in early February the TDSB Board of Trustees approved a Three-Year Capital Plan that included priority projects and priority expenditures to address urgent capital needs. The Three-Year Capital Budget that was developed in support of the 10 Year Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy 2014-2023 was approved in June 2014 in private session

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of the Board. Due to the real estate information contained in this report, the document is confidential. Last month, the TDSB approved our Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy 2015-2024 (click on [LTPAS 2015-2024](#)) – as a result we will be asked to approve a revised Three-Year Capital Budget at our June meeting, also in private session. Following the meeting I will share whatever information that can be made public. Please click on <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward11/Laskin%20Update%20-%20May%203,%202015.pdf> to remind yourself of the studies in Ward 11 included in the LTPAS.

Request for 2015 Capital Priorities Business Cases

The Ministry of Education tells us that since the Capital Priorities program began in 2010, the Ministry has allocated over \$2 billion in capital funding. However, the capital funding for growth that the TDSB has received from the Ministry since 2008-2009 is \$107.3 M – not at all adequate for our growth needs. There is an expectation from the provincial government that the TDSB should be self-financing all its capital projects. In other words, close and sell schools and use the proceeds of disposition of the sales to fund new schools and additions. How is that fair? Will this year be any different? Boards now have until July 15 to submit business cases for “their major accommodation needs they feel they need to address over the next three years.”

TDSB's Renewal Needs Backlog

As we speak about Capital Needs, I want to remind you of the Report that went to Planning & Priorities Committee on May 9th that spoke to TDSB Renewal needs and the need for significant additional fiscal resources to address the serious roofing and heating plant replacement backlogs. The renewal needs backlog for the TDSB is presently \$3.31 billion (based on the latest validation conducted by the Ministry and a 4% increase for inflation as directed by the EDU). EDU Renewal funding has increased to \$156 million for 2015/16, but is still relatively inadequate to maintain TDSB's portfolio of roofs, boilers and other infrastructure components in a state of good repair. As we noted in our report to the Hall Panel, “Between 2008 and 2013, the TDSB accounted for 12% of all pupil places in Ontario but received only 5% of the Ministry of Education's annual funding allocation for school repairs.” The report also includes Appendices with the TDSB Renewal Needs Backlog 2014-17 and the 2011 Roof Audit Findings as well as TDSB Roofing Expenditures 2006-2014. For the full Report, click on [TDSB's Renewal Needs Backlog](#).

Private and Public

What is private and what is public is a persistent source of concern of many constituents. From our legal staff, we received the following... please note “the Education Act, section 207(c) permits the Board, in closed Committee of the Whole, to consider in private the “acquisition or disposal of a school site”. Whenever the Board is being asked to consider options as to which sites might be disposed of, or whenever potential income from the sale or lease of such properties is being considered, this is normally done in private so as to avoid property speculation and to enable satisfactory negotiations with third parties. Of course, not all property-related discussions are in private. For example, the potential closure of a school involves a public discussion. But the details leading up to the sale of a closed school would be in private.” In addition, section 207(2) of the Education Act also says that – a meeting of the Board and of a committee of trustees may be closed to the public when the subject matter under consideration involves:

- the security of the property of the board;



- the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
- decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; or
- litigation or any potential litigation affecting the Board.

I hope this explanation is helpful.

Technology Funding Allocation Model

One of the items coming to this week's Budget Committee is a Report on decentralizing school hardware purchasing – adding an additional allocation of \$3M for classroom technology directly to the schools on an annual basis. A number of allocation models were considered and the recommendation is a multi-allocation model using base amounts as well as funding allocated on weighted enrolment. It is a model I endorse. I will keep you updated after the committee discussions. To see the deck, click on

[http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20150604\(1\)&Filename=150604+Technology+Funding.pdf](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20150604(1)&Filename=150604+Technology+Funding.pdf)

Attendance Boundary Changes for Secondary School Gifted Boundaries

Students that have been identified with a gifted exceptionality should have received a letter to invite parents to a community consultation meeting(s) to participate in a review that is underway of the secondary Gifted Intensive Support Programs (ISPs) that could result in changes to the placement of students for the September 2016 school year. As a result of increased numbers of students placed in Gifted ISP programs at the elementary level and the accommodation pressures at a number of our gifted secondary program sites, a review of the attendance boundaries for all Gifted ISP secondary programs based on student home address is on-going. The review process will look at revising the program boundaries for the secondary Gifted ISP programs in order to:

- address equity of access to this program across the TDSB
- introduce programs in regions of the City where no program previously existed within a more reasonable proximity to student home addresses; and
- address accommodation pressures at Don Mills Collegiate Institute and Northern Secondary School.

Please find below the dates, times and locations for the upcoming community consultation meetings.

Monday, 8 June 2015	7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	AY Jackson SS
Tuesday, 9 June 2015	7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Martingrove CI
Thursday, 11 June 2015	7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Woburn CI
Tuesday, 16 June 2015	7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Western Tech CS

TDSB Helps Raise \$180,000 for Nepal (Media Release)

Thanks to the generosity of students, staff and school communities, and donation matching by the Government of Canada, the Toronto District School Board has helped raise approximately \$180,000 as part of *tdsbCARES: Nepal Region Earthquake Relief*. Launched on May 1, the *tdsbCARES* campaign saw schools across the city taking part in a number of local fundraising initiatives, administrative sites collecting cash and cheque donations and a web portal created for people to make online donations. The money raised is being donated to the Red Cross and their ongoing relief efforts in Nepal following the earthquake that has left more than 8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. While the board-wide campaign has now



concluded, the relief effort continues. For those that still wish to donate, visit the [Canadian Red Cross](#) website for more information.

New Invitation – Toronto Parent STEM Conference

Parents are critical partners in the education of their children. This conference, sponsored by TDSB, is about empowering parents so that they can inspire the next generation of STEM professionals. With workshops, exhibits and much more, it's an opportunity for parents learn about STEM education and discover exciting STEM career pathways. Registration is **free**. Lunch and refreshments are included. **Free** child-minding and **free** transportation are also available (with pre-registration). There's even a Kidz Zone!

Time: Saturday, 6 June 2015, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Location: Richview CI, 1738 Islington Avenue, Etobicoke

Spaces are limited, so register early. Visit stemparentconference.eventbrite.ca to register online.

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>**
- **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.**
- **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 youmewee@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 2, 2015 Northern SS Grade 8 Welcome Reception 5:00 PM

June 3, 2015 Forest Hill Jr. & Sr. PS Spring Fair 3:30 PM - 7:30 PM

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June 3, 2015	Forest Hill CI Athletic Banquet	
	Northern SS Dance Show (Rm 225)	7:00 PM
June 4, 2015	Cedarvale CS Spring Fair	5:00 PM
	Forest Hill CI Coffee House	7:00 PM
June 6, 2015	Cottingham Jr. PS Fun Fair	11:30 AM - 3:30 PM
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	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
June 18, 2015	Hodgson Sr. PS Community BBQ	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

TDSB Board and Committee Meetings

Jun 1	Governance Review Workgroup	4pm Cte Rm A
	SEAC	7pm Boardroom
Jun 4	Policy Review Workgroup	3:30pm Cte Rm A
	Budget Committee	4:30pm Cte Rm A
Jun 9	Inner City Advisory Committee	6pm Cte Rm A
Jun 10	Finance & Accountability	5pm Cte Rm A
	Planning & Priorities	7pm Cte Rm A
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

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>

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.

For Next Year's Planning...

Days of Significance 2015-16

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



Trustee
Shelley Laskin

Ward 11, St. Paul's

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

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