

November 30, 2014

Items of Interest from Trustee Shelley Laskin, Ward 11

Website click on [Trustee Shelley Laskin](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/laskin)

[www.tdsb.on.ca/laskin](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/laskin)

Twitter @shelleylaskin

### December Days of Significance

1 World AIDS Day (UN)

2 International Day of the Abolition of Slavery (UN)

3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (UN)

8 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (UN)

10 Human Rights Day (UN)

17-24 Hanukkah\* (Judaism)

18 International Migrants Day (UN)

21 Solstice – Yule/Litha\* (Wicca/Pagan)

25 Christmas (Christianity) (Public Holiday)

26 Kwanzaa (African Canadian/African American)

\* Holy days usually begin at sundown the day before this date

**HOLD THE DATE – January 15, 2014 Ward Forum – Subject – Social Media and a Hands-On Tutorial on Twitter! More information to come next week.**

### Summary of Decisions from Board Meeting Nov 27, 2014 (Last of the Term for 2010-2014)

#### ▪ **Toronto Lands Corporation Review: Proposed Future Directions –**

That the definition of properties in the Shareholder's Direction, as presented in the report, be expanded to include operating and non-operating school sites as assigned to the Toronto Lands Corporation by the Toronto District School Board; That Section 4.10 of the Shareholder's Direction, as presented in the report, be expanded to include a requirement that the Toronto Lands Corporation present a report to the Toronto District School Board on a quarterly basis with updates on the status of the leasing portfolio, site dispositions and redevelopment projects; That Section 5.4 of the Shareholder's Direction, as presented in the report, be amended to align the Toronto Lands Corporation's strategic plan with the Toronto District School Board's capital plan...

#### ▪ **Central Technical School Championship Field License Agreement With Raizenne Inc. –**

The Board decided that the Director be authorized to sign a license agreement with Raizenne Inc. that contains the terms and conditions as presented in the report.

#### ▪ **Exploration of Redevelopment Projects: School Space in Commercial and Condominium Buildings –**

The Board decided that the Director present a report to the Planning and Priorities Committee by no later than the March 2015 cycle of meetings outlining how the Board can respond to the possibility of schools being located in commercial and condominium buildings.

#### ▪ **Posting of Trustee Expenses on the Board's Web Site –**

The Board decided that Option 3, as presented in the report, that original receipts and any additional information and supporting details be

#### ▪ **Establishment of a Centralized Help Line –**

The Board decided that a system-wide, centralized help line in the form of a TDSB 311 hotline, similar to the city of Toronto's 311 hotline be established, to assist parents, students and community members.

If you have questions about these or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### Organizational Board Meeting Monday, December 1, 2014 (First of Term 2014-2018)

Monday is the first official meeting of the Board for the term 2014-2018. On Monday we elect our Chair and Vice-Chair for the first year of our term in addition to electing members of the Standing Committees, Statutory Committees and representatives for our Advisory Committees, Special and Ad Hoc Committees as well as Organizations External to the Board. The first business meeting of the new term is on December 17.

## **Province Launches Review of the TDSB – Margaret Wilson to Examine Governance Issues at Ontario’s Largest School Board**

It is said ineffective models change only when a crisis in governance comes to a head... we're there. I am hopeful the Minister's actions will lead to improvements so the Board can refocus on effective actions and ethical decision-making in the best interest of students and their families. This is an opportunity to repair relationships – staff and trustees working together with role clarity – strong, workable and respectful relationships will be key to the new board's success and cannot be underestimated. We have an obligation to our students and staff to rebuild good governance.

Below is an excerpt from the Ministry's Media Release. To read the complete information, please click on <http://news.ontario.ca/edu/en/2014/11/province-launches-review-of-the-tdsb.html>

### **November 25, 2014 1:30 P.M. Ministry of Education**

The province has asked Margaret Wilson to conduct a review of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) amid growing concerns about the governance of Ontario's largest school board. The review will include an examination of the current operational issues at the school board, and a focus on the board's governance structure. The final report, which will be submitted to the Minister of Education before the end of the year, will include recommendations on how to address current operational and relationship issues, as well as recommendations on how the government should conduct a consultation about possible improvements to the governance structure at the TDSB. The purpose of the operational review is to ensure the school board - with 11 new trustees to be sworn in on Dec. 1, 2014 - has the tools it needs to succeed and ensure the board is focused on student achievement and well-being.

## **Collective Bargaining Update**

On Tuesday, the Ontario Student Trustees Associated (OSTA) issued a position paper on Collective Bargaining – They stated their Rationale as ”The collective agreements between the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO), and The Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF) teacher’s unions and the Boards of Education directly impact students across Ontario. Students are not adequately represented in the current collective agreements. To ensure that student achievement and wellbeing is protected, it is appropriate that student needs are included in the terms of these collective agreements...

Therefore be it resolved that the parties involved in the negotiations shall include in the terms of the collective agreement language that will promote student achievement and wellbeing.”

I am very proud of President Jesse Waugh, one of the Student Trustees on the TDSB.

To read their complete position, please click on

<http://static.squarespace.com/static/5455b649e4b05f3304e68577/t/547690b0e4b09e927443ba47/1417056432289/Collective+Agreement+Position+Paper.pdf>

Following the passing of *Bill 122, School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014*, the Ontario Public School Boards Association became part of the new collective bargaining process. OPSBA “believes that teachers and support staff deeply influence a positive and productive learning environment for students and are supported in this role through the peace and stability engendered by successfully negotiated collective agreements. It is OPSBA's goal to negotiate fair and equitable collective agreements through this new process. Our priority continues to be the improvement of student achievement and well-being. That will remain the focus of our bargaining as we move forward. OPSBA's representatives, together with the Crown, are currently meeting with representatives from numerous education unions to establish what issues will be bargained centrally.” (From OPSBA's Website)

## **Let's Draw the Lines Together (from Councillor Matlow's Newsletter)**

The Toronto Ward Boundary Review is currently being conducted to ensure that each resident in Toronto is being represented at Toronto City Council. The review is led by an independent team of consultants who will make recommendations to City Council about the size and shape of Toronto's Wards. In order to give feedback, residents can attend a public meeting or complete a survey online. **For Toronto and East York areas, the meeting will take place Saturday, January 10 from 9 am to 12 pm at the Trinity St. Paul's Church (427 Bloor Street West).** Learn more about the Toronto Ward Boundary Review project at

[www.drawthelines.ca](http://www.drawthelines.ca)

### **Update on Long-Term Accommodation Plan**

In my May 18, 2014 Weekly Update I reported that on May 14, Trustees approved the Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy – 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.

As a reminder, below is a list of **Proposed Projects or Studies** that directly affect schools in our ward. Please remember, this is the beginning of the process... I will ensure you are informed and involved as the process unfolds. With the new board being sworn in tomorrow, I expect some of these projects to move quickly.

### **Ward 11 Description of Proposed Project or Study 2014-15**

#### **Emerging Capital Priority**

- Explore the construction of a new 668 pupil place JK-6 elementary school on the Davisville site, including the Grade 7-8 Spectrum program, to address overcrowding within the Yonge-Davisville community, to support the growth of the French Immersion program introduced at the site to relieve other programs in the area, and to address the inadequate learning environments within the existing building.

#### **Boundary Change Study**

- Explore a boundary change review to address overutilization at Brown Jr. PS, which is situated on a constrained school site. This review will examine a boundary change with Cottingham Jr. PS.
- Explore a boundary change review involving Deer Park Jr. & Sr. PS and Jesse Ketchum Jr. & Sr. PS to establish an appropriate middle school pathway for Cottingham Jr. PS. Note that this review will coincide with the boundary change study of Brown Jr. PS and Cottingham Jr. PS.
- Explore a review of the shared attendance area that is currently directed to either Northlea E & MS or Eglinton Jr. PS to assign a single home school. This review will coincide with a larger study of accommodation pressures in the Yonge-Eglinton community.

#### **Program Relocation Study**

- Implement the relocation of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing program from Davisville Jr. PS into Faywood Arts Based Curriculum School. The relocation of this program will address accommodation pressures at Davisville Jr. PS. (COMPLETED)
- Explore the relocation of the Extended French program (Grades 4-6) from Eglinton Jr. PS into another site. Eglinton Jr. PS is situated on a highly constrained urban site and continued enrolment growth requires space within the school for the regular program. This review will coincide with a larger study of accommodation pressures in the Yonge-Eglinton community.

To re-read my Weekly Update from May 18, 2014, click on [Laskin Update - Week of May 18, 2014](#)

For the complete board report from May 2014, please click on

[http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/AboutUs/Budget/140514\\_Summ\[1\].pdf](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/AboutUs/Budget/140514_Summ[1].pdf)

### **Advocating for Mandatory Curriculum components in First Nations, Métis and Inuit history**

At the September OPSBA Board of Directors meeting, a motion was approved for the development of a position paper to advocate for mandatory elementary and secondary curriculum components in First Nations, Métis and Inuit history that includes treaty education, the history and legacy of residential schools and the impact of the Indian Act. With support from OPSBA staff, members of First Nation Trustees Council have drafted an action plan for the development of the paper. Steps include research, seeking input from our partners in both First Nation and education organizations and from OPSBA member boards, and developing a first draft that can then be distributed for further input. The goal is to have a final draft to take to the OPSBA board by April, 2015. Note – Trustee Gerri Gershon plans to move a motion at Board in December to ensure TDSB begins to teach the effects of Residential Schools on Aboriginal communities

### **Financial Literacy Resources for School and Home (from the Teaching/Learning e-Newsletter)**

The **Talk with our Kids about Money** website by the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education offers a wide range of financial literacy resources, tips and links for teachers and parents of children between the ages of 5 and 18+. Parents and teachers can access the resources for free and all content is Canadian.

Teachers can search math specific ideas and other resources after logging in.

Click on <http://talkwithourkidsaboutmoney.com/>

### **Student Nutrition Update – Proposed Increase**

The Student Nutrition Programs operating in our schools are currently funded in part by a municipal grant delivered through the Board of Health. On 17 November 2014, the Board of Health endorsed a request for an increase in the Toronto Public Health 2015 Operating Budget to:

- Cover the increased cost of food for existing programs
- Provide a stronger funding base for existing programs by increasing the City's investment rate to 16% for total program costs, from the 14% provided in 2014
- Extend municipal funding for 27 new Student Nutrition Programs to open in publicly funded schools in higher needs communities.

The total investment brought forward for consideration to the City Budget process, if approved, will see an additional \$1.9 million available in year.

### **Resources from “Tweets” you may find interesting**

@PostCity Annie Peng of @planningtoronto & @shelleylaskin debate: should @tdsb pool fundraising dollars? postcity.com/Eat-Shop-Do/Do... <http://t.co/W5ReEX4Ern>

@goldsbie Seems like TDSB scandals always get leaked as retribution against people who threaten to expose even worse: [bit.ly/1FDyufC](http://bit.ly/1FDyufC)

@edutopia: 7 HUGE Benefits of Teaching Kindness. <https://t.co/1PVI8tLgmF>

@globetoronto: Ontario government launches an investigation of the Toronto school board. #education <http://t.co/Gu5gEenUYH> <http://t.co/UTsFa88Euq>

@opheacanada Opeha partnership with @ActiveAtSchool builds on the @ONgov commitment to the health and well-being of every student [bit.ly/1zzi7wy](http://bit.ly/1zzi7wy)

@OPSBA\_Official School board sector comments (in full) on #Bill 8 avail. @ [ow.ly/EWR5r](http://ow.ly/EWR5r)

@MBarrett1959 @jm\_mcgrath @btaplatt #onpoli

### **In the News**

#### [Education minister appreciates hearing TDSB board chair's “perspective”](#)

Toronto Star (November 26)

**Summary:** Education minister Liz Sandals said she appreciated meeting with Toronto District School Board chair Mari Rutka Wednesday morning “to get her perspective on the operational and governance issues currently facing the board.” The two met from 9 a.m. Wednesday morning for 30 minutes in Sandals' Queen's Park office, a day after Sandals appointed veteran educator Margaret Wilson to review the current turmoil between trustees and staff at Canada's largest school board, and recommend solutions by the end of December.

#### [‘Near misses’ show surviving school violence is pure luck](#)

Toronto Star (November 27)

**Summary:** Two former classmates at a northwest Toronto high school confronted each other in a stairwell. One was stabbed in the stomach. The other one walked away. A student in a Junction-area high school brought his handgun to class for the day, a discovery police made after arriving with a warrant for his arrest. Masked intruders ran into a west Toronto school library where they punched and kicked a student before outrunning teachers. These are a few of the serious incidents that rocked Toronto high schools last year. Taken from a report compiled for the Toronto Star by the Toronto District School Board, the 1,100 incidents over a four year-period provide a snapshot (these are not all of the cases) of the hidden side of high school

life. The incidents are reported by school staff to the board head office. A Star analysis found that one in five incidents involved knives, stabbings, guns and shots fired in and around schools.

**Note** - Through a formal media request, the Toronto Star asked for specific information related to Caring and Safe Schools incidents in TDSB schools. This information may be difficult for people to read and hear, but making progress means confronting challenging issues. The decline in the number of reports year-over-year reflects a change in the way we do internal reporting. It does not reflect an increase or decrease in incidents. The TDSB will be moving forward with a 4-month plan to align procedures on incident reporting and ensure greater consistency with respect to reporting.

## Worth Repeating

### High School Information Nights

Parents are encouraged to attend their home school's Grade 8 Information Evening as well as the Information Evening at other schools you are interested in. The information evenings are listed on the TDSB website. Click on [Open Houses and Information Nights](#).

### Early French Immersion (SK entry)

Deadline for applications for this program is December 5th, 2014. Click

[https://secure.tdsb.on.ca/pars/\(S\(xvaj3t45nwodmm55vkb0ct45\)\)/public/welcome.aspx](https://secure.tdsb.on.ca/pars/(S(xvaj3t45nwodmm55vkb0ct45))/public/welcome.aspx)

For a complete list of Information Evenings, please click on:

<http://tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SchoolChoices/FrenchPrograms/InformationEvenings.aspx>

**Note** - The application period for Junior Extended French or Middle Immersion (Grade 4 Entry) is between January 5th and January 29th, 2015.

### TDSB Board and Committee Meetings

Mon, Dec 1	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Organizational Meeting (First of New Term 2014-2018)
Mon, Dec 8	4:30pm	5050 Yonge St	Audit Committee
	7pm	5050 Yonge St	SEAC
Wed, Dec 10	6:30	5050 Yonge St	PIAC
Thu, Dec 11	9am	5050 Yonge St	Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee
	6pm	5050 Yonge St	Equity Policy Advisory Committee
Tue, Dec 16	9:30am	5050 Yonge St	Inner City Advisory Committee
Wed, Dec 17	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Regular Meeting

### Dates to Remember

#### 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>

Board-wide PA Day	December 5, 2014
Christmas Break	December 22, 2014 to January 2, 2015 (inclusive)
Last day of school	December 19, 2014
School resumes	January 5, 2015
Elementary PA Day	January 23, 2015
Secondary PA Day	(Semestered Schools only) January 29, 2015
Board-wide PA Day	February 13, 2015
Family Day	February 16, 2015
March Break	March 16 to 20, 2015
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](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these weekly e-mails, please let me know at [shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca)