

September 14, 2014

Items of Interest from Trustee Shelley Laskin, Ward 11

Website click on [Trustee Shelley Laskin](#)

www.tdsb.on.ca/laskin

Twitter @shelleylaskin

Managing Class Size – Why your child may be asked to change classes

Each year, our TDSB planning department works with schools to develop enrolment projections with drive the staffing allocation of each school. Although it may not seem like it in your child's class, as a system, we are very accurate to within less than one percent of the overall projections. And as you may have noticed, we have fluctuations in enrolment registrations within each school. For example, in elementary schools where there is a primary class size cap of 20 students in Grades 1-3, (90% of all classes must be no more than 20 with an exemption of up to 10% of all classes up to 23 students system wide) changes in registration of just a few students can have an effect on how the school may need to realign and can result in many students having to change classes.

In terms of changes each September, elementary school Principals review the enrolment on a daily basis during the first two weeks and report the enrolment centrally at the end of the first week and again each day leading up to the official count date (September 12) with regard to potential piercing of Primary Class Size caps or having large grade 4-8 classes and Full Day Kindergarten classes (FDK). Principals consult with Parent Councils and School Staffing Committees with regard to student attendance and any possibilities that may require realignment and work with central staffing to make adjustments to the loading of classes so that they are compliant with the ministry requirements. In secondary, there may also be addition or reductions of new sections of subject classes.

System-wide, in comparison to projections for September 30, 2014, we are currently 1,545 head count below projection in the elementary panel (-0.89%), and 481 head count below projection in the secondary panel (-0.62%). In Ward 11, St Paul's, in the 17 elementary (JK-8) schools in our Ward, we are down 11 elementary students (projected 7203 and have 71924) and in our 3 secondary schools, we are up 109 students (projected 2900; actual 3009).

On September 12 (count day), should realignment be necessary, Principals make any necessary final changes to meet parameters in consultation with their staff and Council and Superintendent. Classes are then realigned during the next weeks and students start working with their new teachers. It is important to note that realignment for some schools may mean significant change while for others; the changes may be minor or not required. Everyone works to minimize disruption to the extent possible.

Nominate an Outstanding Principal

The Learning Partnership is seeking outstanding principals who are doing something truly remarkable. According to the Learning Partnership, "Canada's Outstanding Principals" demonstrate innovation, have an entrepreneurial spirit and are creative in finding solutions and opportunities. Nominations are invited from school boards, colleagues, parents, teachers, students and all community members. Please consider nominating one of our outstanding leaders. Peggy Aitchison, Principal of FHCI received this honour two years ago. Get Started – click on <http://cop.thelearningpartnership.ca/> - Deadline is November 3, 2014. For more information about the Canada's Outstanding Principals Program, please contact: Jon Powell, Canada's Outstanding Principals Program Manager, 416 440 5112 jpowell@thelearningpartnership.ca

Education at a Glance 2014: Highlights

"Education at a Glance 2014: Highlights summarises the OECD's flagship compendium of education statistics, Education at a Glance. It provides easily accessible data on key topics in education today, including:

- Education levels and student numbers: How far have adults studied, and how does early childhood education affect student performance later on?

- Higher education and work: How many young people graduate from tertiary education, and how easily do they enter the world of work?
- Economic and social benefits of education: How does education affect people's job prospects, and what is its impact on incomes?
- Paying for education: What share of public spending goes on education, and what is the role of private spending?
- The school environment: How many hours do teachers work, and how does class size vary?

Each indicator is presented on a two-page spread. The left-hand page explains the significance of the indicator, discusses the main findings, examines key trends and provides readers with a roadmap for finding out more in the OECD education databases and in other OECD education publications. The right-hand page contains clearly presented charts and tables, accompanied by dynamic hyperlinks (StatLinks) that direct readers to the corresponding data in Excel™ format." Click on the following link to read the Report http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/education-at-a-glance-2014_eag_highlights-2014-en

Learn4Life

The TDSB's Community Programs for adults have a rich history in Toronto. Reaching back more than 160 years, we now serve nearly 30,000 learners annually through our Learn4Life General Interest and Seniors' Daytime classes. Opening our schools and adult learning centres for more than 1,700 classes during the day, the evening and on weekends, Learn4Life is your partner in lifelong learning. **Register today!**
<https://econnect.tdsb.on.ca/econnect/Start/start.asp>

Central Tech Field

Should you have any questions about the Central Tech field, please note than my new colleague Briony Glassco, representing Ward 10 has put a number of documents on her website. Please click on:
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward10/Ward10/CentralTechChampionshipField.aspx>.

FOI Request on Audit Report

The Ernst and Young report conducted last year identified possible irregularities among trustee expenses and suggested the Board may wish to further review the matter. TDSB staff conducted a full internal audit of expenses to determine which areas needed to be improved. We now know both CTV and the Toronto Star requested the working drafts for each trustee that identified potential findings from the Audit Report. Every trustee was provided with a list of expenses that had been submitted, approved and reimbursed that the auditor felt may be questioned and we were asked to provide explanations. Using that information, new Trustee expense guidelines were developed and were passed by the Board in May. Trustee expenses are posted on our website. Should you have any questions at any time, do not hesitate to ask.

Resources from "Tweets" you may find interesting

@pasi_sahlberg: Education at a Glance 2014: OECD Indicators released today <http://t.co/0sHLYjkAEy> #HGSEa317

@DAVIDSsTEA Know a teacher? RT this post! On Sept. 16th, we're offering a free tea of the day to all teachers and daycare workers. #TeaForTeachers

@nparnessCTV Do you know who's running for #school #trustee in ur area? Find out why you should toronto.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=4... #onted #TDSB #TCDSB #PDSB #YRDSB

@mattgallowaycbc This is how you counter racism. @Raptors GM Masai Ujiri on comments a Sudanese player "has a little African in him." <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/sports/basketball/masai-ujiri-weighs-in-on-the-danny-ferry-controversy/article20558085/> ...

@GerriGershon Need to support parents in other languages? @OntarioEDU has translations on key education issues #onted #esl <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/multiLanguages.html> ...

@TLPCanada EQAO tests to move online in 2015-16: <http://bit.ly/1CW3ffb> #EdTech #OntEd
pic.twitter.com/OwAFtSYAMB

In the News

[Strong fallout from school trustee's tweet about 'believing' in transgenderism](#)

Global (September 9)

Summary: Imagine going to school and getting thrown through doors and into trash cans, just for being yourself. That is the reality 16-year-old Adam McMaster faced a couple of years ago when he started high school, determined the rest of the world would see him the way he did. McMaster was born with the appearance of a girl, but knew early on he was a boy. McMaster wants people to understand what growing up transgender is like in the wake of a controversial tweet by TDSB Trustee Sam Sotiropoulos, which reads: "Until I see scientific proof that transgenderism exists and is not simply a mental illness, I reserve the right not to believe in it."

Please Note – I would hope that you already know that I completely support the TDSB's policies of equity and inclusion...although everyone is entitled to their personal opinion, it is critical to distance ourselves from statements that may make people feel unsafe and that are against board and human rights policy.

Dates to Remember

- **Humewood is turning 100 years - and need your help to celebrate** Contact them at Humewoodcentenary@gmail.com **Save the Date – Saturday, October 18, 2014!**

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>

Thanksgiving	October 13, 2014
Board-wide PA Day	November 14, 2014
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
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/AboutUs/docs/Days%20of%20Significance%202014-15%20V6.pdf>

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