



Weekly Update – February 22, 2015

Items of Interest

Ward Forum on March 3rd at Northern Secondary School from 7-9

Presentation and Hands-On Learning Opportunity – Social Media 101: A Twitter Primer

With the support of OPSBA, TDSB, Ward 11 Principals, Teachers, Parents and hopefully a few students! If you are not already on Twitter, come and learn how... and why you need to be! After a presentation, we will organize breakout sessions with an assigned "expert" for each table to support interactive learning. For more details click on [Ward 11 Forum Notice March 3, 2015](#) – hoping for a great turnout... please share widely with your communities.

And save the date for a Special Ward Forum on Capital Issues at the TDSB with Associate Director Carla Kisko. March 9th at Davisville Public School – details on that session next week.

TDSB Excellence Awards (from the TDSB website)

Every day, exceptional work is happening across the TDSB. The Excellence Awards give parents, staff, students and the community the opportunity to reward individuals and groups who are going above and beyond to support students across the system. They also demonstrate how staff are contributing to one or more of our Years of Action and five strategic directions:

- Make every school an effective school;
- Build leadership within a culture of adaptability, openness, and resilience;
- Form strong and effective relationships and partnerships;
- Build environmentally sustainable schools that inspire teaching and learning;
- Identify disadvantage and intervene effectively.

Any individual or group who has supported or contributed to supporting the Board's five strategic priorities or the Years of Action is eligible can be nominated by anyone! You will need to complete the online nomination form, available at www.tdsb.on.ca/excellence. **The deadline for applications is Friday, 20 March 2015 at 4 p.m. Let's honour the excellence of staff in our Ward!**

Revised Health & Physical Education Curriculum, Grades 1-12

We learned Friday that the revised curriculum will be released by the Ministry tomorrow! We understand it will be on-line at 10am. We also understand that parent resources are being developed to respond to questions. As soon as information is available, it will be shared. Please take a minute to remind ourselves of the value of revising the curriculum – please read below. There was also a good article in today's Star <http://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2015/02/21/revealed-update-ontario-badly-needs-cohn.html>

Worth Repeating... Ontario students need enhanced health and physical education

Guelph Mercury Jul 26, 2014 By Heather Sears and Chris Markham OPHEA

...The state of health of Ontario's children and youth has reached a critical point. If current levels of child and youth obesity continue, today's kids are looking at a shorter life expectancy than their parents, for the first time in generations.



They face significant health risks related to mental health, substance use and sexual health. Even physical activity as a fun part of childhood is on the decline, with only five per cent of Canadian children and youth getting the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-vigorous activity a day. Our kids need the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. Why is it, then, that we have a 15-year-old health curriculum in Ontario's schools that leaves students to fill many important gaps on their own?

For the last four years, our organization, OPHEA, has been calling on the government to finalize, release and support a revised health and physical education curriculum for Grades 1 to 12.

The health and physical education curriculum is one of nine elementary and 18 secondary provincial curricula that provide direction to educators around the skills and knowledge students are expected to "know and be able to do" in each subject area. The revised health and physical education curriculum focuses on teaching students how to be physically and emotionally healthy, be better able to make informed choices, build relationships based on respect, and develop communities of inclusion.

Parents are the first educators of their children and they share this responsibility with schools. **A revised health and physical education curriculum isn't just about sexual health education. It addresses a comprehensive range of concepts and areas of learning including: physical activity; safety and injury prevention; healthy eating; substance use, addictions and related behaviours; mental health, and human development.**

It is the only curriculum that integrates the learning of important living skills such as critical thinking, personal skills and interpersonal skills. Ontario kids have a right to a current, research-based curriculum. Not only is the curriculum out of date, but it is the oldest in Canada. Once released and fully implemented, this curriculum stands to be the single largest health promotion intervention the province has ever seen, having an impact on 2.1 million students and their families...

Update on Ministry Directives – Wilson Report

After submitting responses to the 13 [Ministry Directives arising out of the Wilson Report](#), we received a response from the Minister that identified concerns with 3 of the Directives. The official TDSB response to the letter was "We thank the Minister for acknowledging the progress and collaboration of trustees and staff in responding to the directives. We welcome the Minister's support on the items outlined and look forward to working with the Ministry to best meet the needs of the students and communities of Toronto."

However, I am concerned that if the Ministry's reason for dealing with the Wilson Report quickly was to restore confidence in public education I don't see how any of this is helping. Instead, it remains distracting and continues diverting the board's focus. The Minister identified she still had concerns with Trustees involved in the approvals of Principals and Supervisory Officers. We revised the policy to remove individual trustees but left the collective board responsibility in. I do not support removing Trustees further. The second criticism was that the Director still had too much control over the revised Director Performance Review Process – I am hoping the Committee meets quickly to suggest a revision. Lastly, if the information provided re renewal is not detailed enough, then staff should work on a more detailed response. I am really hoping the Board deals with these quickly and directly.



For your information, you can click on the new and/or revised policies and procedures referenced in the responses to the Ministry Directives below:

P086 [Governance Policy](#)

To delineate the governance roles of Trustees, the Chair and Committees, and the operational role of staff in order to ensure the effective delivery of public education in our schools

P014 [Staff Changes](#)

To establish the approval levels for staff changes

PR705 [Selection, Promotion and Placement Process for School Principals and Vice-principals](#)

To provide procedures for the Selection, Promotion and Placement Process for School Principals and Vice-Principals

PR516 [Academic Supervisory Officer Selection and Transfer of Superintendents](#)

To provide a process for the selection of academic supervisory officers and transfer of superintendents

P055 [Supervisory Officer Selection](#)

To establish the Board's commitment to the provision of exemplary leadership through the selection of its supervisory officers

PR582b [Trustee Expenditure Guidelines](#)

To provide the guidelines under which trustees of the TDSB will be reimbursed for legitimate expenses while performing Board business in the course of carrying out their responsibilities, representing the interests of students, the Board or the public.

P049 [Performance Management: Director of Education](#)

To provide a framework for the annual evaluation of the Director's work

Aspiring Leaders in WR08

Last week I had the privilege of speaking to our “Aspiring Leaders” – perspective VP's and P's and teachers or support staff looking to make a difference in their schools demonstrating a level of leadership in a variety of areas. The theme was parent and community engagement – a topic I am completely passionate about having been an involved parent and active community member. There was an excellent presentation by board staff and information on accessing external agencies that support students and their families. If a picture is worth 1000 words, then a video is even better! I chose to explain the role of the trustee by showing the video prepared by the Ontario School Boards Association – **Ontario's Public School Trustees - Kids Come First**. Unfortunately there were technical glitches, but it was shared with all in attendance – to see it, please click [here](#). Please share it with others.

Kindergarten Web Chat

Do you have a new Kinder starting school in September? Join us on **February 25 from 8-9pm** for a live web chat about Kindergarten at the TDSB. You'll hear from our staff experts and have the chance to ask your own questions. See you then! www.tdsb.on.ca

St Paul's Summit on Women's Equality – Sunday, March 8 from 2-4pm

Skills for Change 791 St. Clair Avenue West (at Greensides Ave)

March 8th is International Women's Day. Join representatives from all three levels of government to talk about women's equality in Canada today.



Panelists: The Hon. Carolyn Bennett, MD, MP; Dr. Eric Hoskins, MPP; Josh Colle, City Councillor, Ward 15; Josh Matlow, City Councillor, Ward 22; Joe Mihevc, City Councillor, Ward 21; Shelley Laskin, TDSB School Trustee; and Jo-Ann Davis, TCDSB School Trustee.

Budget 2015-16

The TDSB's [Budget Committee](#) has been meeting regularly since December 2014 to discuss the upcoming budget for the 2015-16 school year. For more information, click on [Budget 2015-16 Ward Forum Presentation](#). Staff are currently finalizing numbers and looking at potential options to balance next year's budget. This information will be compiled in the coming weeks and will be presented at upcoming Budget Committee meetings. The next Budget Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7 p.m. in Committee Room A.**

Special Education Information Sessions for Parents/Guardians/Care-givers of TDSB Students

You are invited to presentations on the Individual Education Plan (IEP) & the Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) on Tue, Feb 24, 2015, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. For your convenience there are two locations: 140 Borough Drive Council Chambers OR Bloor Collegiate Institute 1141 Bloor Street W.

Ontario Government's Child Care Public Awareness Campaign

The Ontario government launched an advertising campaign to raise public awareness about childcare options in this province. The campaign's objective is to support and empower parents, so they can choose child care that suits their family's needs. Please see <http://www.ontario.ca/children-and-youth/find-and-pay-child-care> for information.

Resources from "Tweets" you may find interesting

@HowardGoodman: UK+France+Belg 2WeekScholarships Students15-17 DEADLINE March1 #VIMY2017 <http://t.co/UQ0epTWP7M> <http://t.co/wgmVAPno19>

@Ms_Paradis: How do you raise self-esteem in kids? Interesting podcast I found! <http://thepsychfiles.com/2007/03/episod...> #selfesteem #mentalhealth <http://pic.twitter.com/dkx50m7eC>

@BethHouf: One of my fav growth mindset graphics! #satchatwc <http://pic.twitter.com/UrHf9EZMmj>

@OntarioEDU: Students gr 7-12, interested in advising the Education Minister? Join #MSAC. Only 1 week left! <http://ontario.ca/bihi> #OntEd @MSAC_ON

@JayeRobinson: Registration for the city's community recreation programs begins for North York on March 10! For more info, visit <http://t.co/kpxtwMNR8V>.

@globetoronto: How do you decide which schools to close? The answer is complicated <http://bit.ly/1uRzfjH> #Toronto #TO

In the News

[TDSB reforms fail to meet minister's demands regarding schools, Quan](#)

The Globe and Mail – 02/19/15 22:04 –

[Toronto public school board still in hot water: Sandals](#)

Toronto Sun – 02/19/15 18:43 –

[TDSB reforms don't go far enough, Sandals says](#)

Thestar.com – 02/19/15 12:53 –

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin



[Education Minister won't rule out asking investigator to probe TDSB](#)

Global News – 02/19/15 11:31 –

[Inside the nasty, bizarre, contemptible, gobsmackingly screwed-up soap opera that is the TDSB](#)

Toronto Life - March 2015

Worth Repeating

- **E-Learning** Registration opens on March 23rd at 7:30am
<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/elearning/e-summerschool.aspx>
- **Focus On Youth Toronto - Summer 2015**
To apply, interested students should complete the on-line application at www.tdsb.on.ca/focusonyouth.
The application deadline for students is March 22, 2015.
- **Humewood – Supporting Your Child Series - 15 Cherrywood Ave**
The Humewood community has invited parents in WR08 to join them for a series of information Meetings:
 - Youth & Digital Citizenship, February 26, 7:00pm presented by Crime Stoppers (No registration required)
 - Kids Have Stress Too! March 26, 6:00PM, The Psychology Foundation of Canada Presented by Toronto Public Health, Register: <http://goo.gl/forms/7XNOZkELLv>
 - Talking With Your Teen, April 23, 6:00pm, presented by Toronto Public Health, Register: <http://goo.gl/forms/nV26n95oc5>Child minding available upon request. Please email Barbara.Sandler@tdsb.on.ca to register for child minding.
- **Councillor Josh Matlow's Community Town Hall on the 2015 City of Toronto Budget**
Tuesday, March 3rd at 7pm, North Toronto Memorial Community Centre (200 Eglinton Avenue West).
- **Parent and Community Engagement Office Workshops**
Workshops on “Running an Effective School Council and Secondary Transitions”. For workshop dates and locations visit: [Workshops](#).
- **School Council Appreciation & Information Evening – February 26, 6pm**
Event Details: **Montecassino Hotel**, 3710 Chesswood Drive, Toronto, ON M3J 2W4
Shuttle bus is available from Downsview Subway Station, every 20 minutes from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm.
Registration will be closed on Friday, February 13, 2015.
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/HowtoGetInvolved/Conferences.aspx>
- **Parent Seminars on Children's Mental Health Topics**
Three upcoming parent seminars on children's mental health topics being offered in Toronto by the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre (at the Young People's Theatre) on February 11th and March 25th. For more information, click on <http://www.hincksdellcrest.org/Home/Our-Institute/ParentSeminarSeries.aspx>
- **2015-2016 Minister's Student Advisory Council Applications are open for students in grades 7-12.** Deadline is February 28, 2015 by 5 p.m. EST
- **The OTIP Teaching Awards**
Deadline for submitting nominations is March 31, 2015. <http://en.teachingawards.ca/>

Hold the Dates for Future Ward Forums

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin



- **March 3 – Social Media and a Hands-On Tutorial on Twitter! – Northern SS at 7pm**
- **March 9 – Special Ward Forum on Capital Issues – Davisville Jr PS at 7pm**
- **May 21 – Topic TBC**

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>

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](#)

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