



Weekly Update – February 8, 2015
Items of Interest

Ontario's Public School Trustees - Kids Come First (from the OPSBA website)



We're proud to present a new video, *Ontario's Public School Trustees - Kids Come First*, in partnership with ACÉPO.

(If you are having difficulty, the direct link is https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOb9_1mM2OA)

This five-minute video is narrated by Michael Barrett, President of OPSBA and Chair of the Durham District School Board and Claire Francoeur, Directrice des communications et du marketing, of the Conseil scolaire Viamonde. A PDF of the script is available at <http://ow.ly/ImagI>. We encourage you to check it out to discover the amazing advocacy Ontario's hundreds of public school trustees are doing each and every day on behalf of our students.

Vaccination/Measles

Toronto Public Health (TPH) asked the TDSB to send home a letter Friday about measles and the importance of vaccination. The TDSB takes its lead from TPH with regards to vaccinations. While the board helps facilitate the exchange of information between parents and TPH, public health officials hold onto all records. FYI, since there has been a lot in the news about a potential measles outbreak due to lack of herd immunity (vaccinations), this link is a report from two years ago from the Toronto Board of Health <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-57638.pdf>

Community Use of Schools

<http://catapultschools.ca/perspectives/community-use-of-schools/>

Hollis Hopkins - Publisher, Catapult Schools writes... "Our schools are a public asset that some feel serve as a hub for the community. Currently, many schools are available for public use through permitting of spaces like the fields for local sports or classrooms for ESL classes. The Ministry of Education supports the Community Use of Schools (CUS) program as a means of enhancing school and public services and engaging the public at large. Catapult Schools reached out to Facilities and Trustee leadership for their perspective of the CUS program and some of Ontario's top school architects reveal how planning and good design can support this 'open door' policy." I was proud to be a part of the article...and I note "Expanding our definition of schools is what has to happen in order to use these buildings effectively and efficiently and serve the public. We have to shift people's thinking away from the perception of schools as owned by exclusively by education. Rather we need to say, "these are key delivery sites for a multitude of services." ...
To read the whole article, click on the link above.

Summary of Decisions made by the Board on February 4, 2015 – Highlights

- **Establishment of an Office of Integrity Commissioner**
The Board decided that a request for proposals be issued for an Integrity Commissioner to provide services on a per hour basis, per diem or per file
- **Breakdown of Budget Reductions**



The Board decided that the Board vote on the budget be held when staff can provide a school-by-school staffing breakdown, beginning with the budget vote in 2016.

▪ **Exit Interviews**

The Board decided to retain a firm to conduct exit interviews of all willing senior staff who retire or other-wise leave the Board's employment, or go on long-term secondment

▪ **Financial Facts: Revenue and Expenditure Trends**

- The Board decided that a strategy for lobbying the province on the matter be developed with the intention of effecting regulatory change to allow the Toronto District School Board to access funding through education development charges and to allow use of the funds for the Board's capital program to be applied to infrastructure renewal.

▪ **Response to the Minister's Directions Following the Wilson Report, Review of the Toronto District School Board, January 15, 2015**

The Board decided:

- (a) That the Audit Committee terms of reference, as presented in the report, be approved;
- (b) That the Audit Committee meeting agenda for February 23, 2015 include for discussion relevant documents to review outstanding issues;
- (c) That the package of materials be forwarded to the Audit Committee members for review by February 13, 2015;
- (d) That revised policy P.049, Performance Management: Director of Education, as presented in the report, be approved;
- (e) That the staff notice template letter, as presented in the report, be received;
- (f) That the Board's bylaws be revised to enable the following changes:
 - (i) That the Administration, Finance and Accountability Committee be changed to Finance and Accountability Committee;
 - (ii) That the Program and School Services Committee and its mandate remain unchanged;
 - (iii) That the Operations and Facilities Management Committee be discharged;
 - (iv) That the Planning and Priorities Committee be re-established as a standing committee.
 - (v) That the Human Resources and Professional Learning Committee and its mandate remain un-changed;
- (g) That shared space, Option 1, as presented in the report, be approved;
- (h) That the analysis of trustee budgets and space among large urban school boards and termination letters issued to constituency assistants, as presented in the report, be received;
- (i) That Option 2, an operating budget for trustees in the amount of \$11,780, as presented in the re-port, be approved;
- (j) That chart A1, the entire ten-year Long-term Program and Accommodation Strategy, 2014-23, as presented in the report, be shared as a public document;
- (k) That the following be referred to the next Board meeting on February 10, 2015:
 - (a) That the Governance Policy, Version 2, as presented in the report, be approved
 - (b) That revised policy, P:014, Staff Changes, as presented in the report, be approved,
 - (c) That revised policy, P055, Supervisory Officer Selection, as presented in the report, be approved;
 - (d) That policy, P052, Selection, Promotion and Placement of School Principals and Vice-principals, as presented in the report, be received;



- (e) That the full package in response to the Minister Direction, No. 9 be approved;
 - (f) That community consultation be held to address the disposition of the four sites as identified in the Board's approved three-year capital budget of June 2014;
 - (g) That the Director accelerate the community consultations of seven sites in order to confirm additional sites for disposition, be approved;
 - (h) That the Director accelerate the review processes of nine sites in order to confirm additional sites for disposition, be approved;
 - (i) That the Toronto Lands Corporation be directed to pursue redevelopment projects and opportunities to create community hubs in operating schools, be approved.
- **Free Toronto Transit Corporation Rides**
The Board decided that the Chair and the Director send a letter to the City of Toronto to request that the City consider extending the privilege of free TTC ridership to all elementary school children in Toronto and reducing the fare for secondary school students.
 - **Establishment of a Policy Review Workgroup**
The Board decided that a Policy Review Workgroup be established.

Update re: Minister Directives

As noted above, only 3 Directives remain to be approved at a Special Board Meeting on February 10, 2015. Trustees and staff have worked non-stop to ensure there is a vote prior to the deadline of February 13. Although the most controversial seems to be Directive 9 on the potential school closures, I believe Trustees realize we need to find balance in our system and that some schools will need to close when it approved the 10-year Long-Term Program and Accommodation Plan. To read more about the plan, please click on [Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy](#).

Board Policy regarding Changes (Operational Procedure PR598)

When the board considers changes in the location or configuration of programs and schools, we ensure those most affected have an opportunity to comment on proposed changes – public notice is given – and depending on the nature of the study, there are different levels of consultation. According to our Policy Program relocations or grade relocations less than 50% of the school tends to be determined by staff... but an Accommodation Review Committee is set up whenever there is consideration of consolidation or closure or relocation of a grade or programs that affect more than 50% of the population of a school – that group includes parents, school council members, staff and residents within the attendance boundaries in the affected schools – the board established the ARC and the ARC is provided the information that is used to develop options and recommendations. The Current Policies and Procedures can be found by clicking [Policies and Procedures](#). However, the Ministry is working on changes in their guidelines where options are actually provided to the ARC as a starting point. To read the proposed Ministry changes, click on [EDU PARG Review Consultation Nov17-14](#).

TDSB is already engaged in 79 area reviews – the 10 year plan includes 199 studies – 23 emerging capital projects; 17 pupil accommodation reviews; 65 boundary changes; 29 Grade changes; 12 redirections of residential development; 29 program reallocation; 21 new program & 3 non-operating school studies.



The City Reaching Out...

Although we are all pleased Mayor Tory and Councillors want to meet with the TDSB, Chair Chen's roundtable is important as it has to be broader than the current city motion with just the boards and the city... the province is our funder and has to be at the table. The Province establishes the rules and formula around the cost of school property for other public organizations under regulation 444, including the City. We are all concerned about the impact on Childcares in schools (to check on programs in Ward 11, click on [Early Years Programs in Ward 11](#)) or on green space that is used by community as sports fields and park space or on our current tenants. We would love schools to be repurposed as Community Hubs – but that requires funding... The TDSB is also very concerned when development applications are approved at this point without any regard to if there is space at the local public school... and that is why accessing Education Development Charges must also be on the table... we all need to be at the table to find a way to maximize community use of community assets. One of the reasons that I wanted to make public the work of the Board and the Toronto Land Corporation is that the conversations have to be public. I am hoping the Board approves the Director to accelerate the community consultations and the review processes of additional sites – we need to involve the City and the province along with the public in these conversations. And I am especially supportive of the Toronto Lands Corporation pursuing redevelopment projects and opportunities to create community hubs in operating schools.

Our Students Are Succeeding

In spite of governance issues above, the Director has reported on some successes that continue to happen within our classrooms thanks to the leadership in our schools and the excellence of our teaching and support staff who keep focussed on students success and well-being... yes, there is more to do... and we will keep striving –

- Over the past five years, the percentage of all students in Grade 3 who performed at or above the provincial standard, increased 11% in Reading and 10% in Writing, and the percentage of all Grade 6 students who performed at or above the provincial standard, increased 8% in Reading and 9% in Writing.
- During that same period, the percentage of all Grade 9 students who performed at or above the provincial standard, increased 1% in Academic Mathematics and increased 8% in Applied Mathematics;
- We also sustained a high level of achievement in literacy at the Grade 10 level with 82% of students achieving successful results. And we made considerable gains in increasing the achievement levels for students with Special Education Needs (excluding Gifted) and English Language Learners;
- Cohort graduation rates increased steadily over time: 83% of the Fall 2008 Grade 9 students graduated in five years, which is 7% higher than the Fall 2004 Grade 9 cohort, or 14% higher than the Fall 2000 Grade 9 cohort;
- More than 80% of our graduates were accepted to university or college.

And on the world stage... Learning from the World's High Performance Education System – yes, Canada!

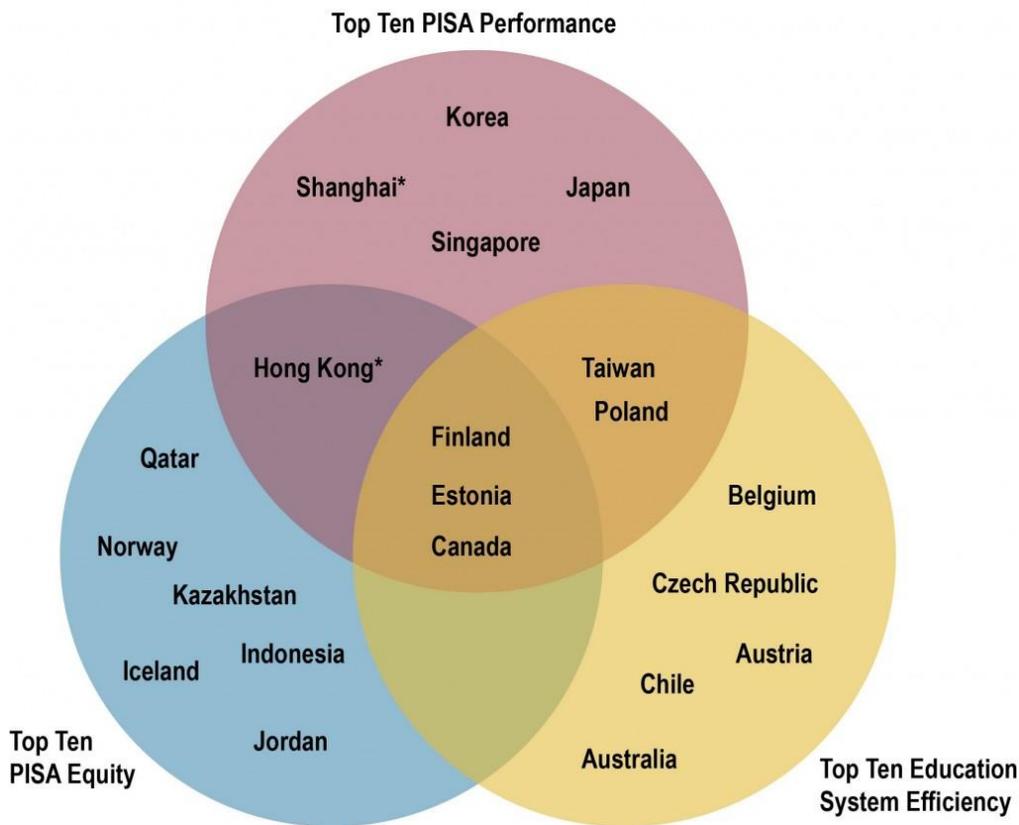
Statistic of the Month: Education Performance, Equity and Efficiency

January 30, 2015 by Centre on International Education Benchmarking (CIEB) by Jennifer Crow

The top performing education systems in the world have not only excellent student performance, but also a high level of equity in student achievement and an efficient model for educational spending. There are

many ways to achieve all three goals and there are lessons to be learned from the various ways in which top performing education systems manage to do so. This month we look at the top performing education systems in each of these areas... *You can read the entire article by clicking the link above – as you can see, Canada, along with Finland and Estonia leads with Performance, Equity and Efficiency*

Performance, Equity and Efficiency



Wilson Report Update (with information from the TDSB Website)

Minister's Directive on Capital Planning

On 15 January 2015 the Minister of Education provided a list of 13 directives to the Toronto District School Board, including a directive on capital planning (Directive #9). At the Planning and Priorities Committee meeting on 28 January 2015, staff provided the Board of Trustees with the following information in response to the Minister's Directive.

Elementary, Secondary and Model Schools for Inner City 2015 Summer School Programs

Continuing and International Education and Model Schools for Inner Cities are pleased to announce the list of sites for summer 2015 programs. This year, we are opening nearly 60 (13 of which are MSIC) schools in



communities across the city to support student achievement and well-being over the summer months. Specific program information will be posted online soon at www.tdsb.on.ca/summer.

Special Education – Empowering Families Through Knowledge and Networking

The Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) and Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) are collaborating with the TDSB in delivering a conference for parents/guardians on Special Education topics. **The conference is entitled Special Education: Empowering Families through Knowledge and Networking and is being held on Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm at Earl Haig Secondary School (100 Princess Avenue, Toronto, Ontario). To register go to www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference**

Confucius Institute Update – Director Confirms Return of Funds

The Director confirmed that as per the Board decision on October 29, 2014, Termination of Agreement with the Confucius Institute, *The Board decided that the Director take the action required to terminate the agreements between the Toronto District School Board, Hanban and the Hunan Provincial Department of Education with respect to Confucius Institute.* Accordingly, the Toronto District School Board has returned to Hanban and the Hunan Provincial Department of Education the amount of \$215,000 USD (\$225,277.83 CAD) on 8 December 2014.

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/7XNOZkELLy>
 - 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).
- **Optional Attendance Application for Elementary School Program**
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Policies.ProceduresForms/Detail.aspx?docId=177>
Applications must be received by Friday, 13 February 2015.
- **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>
- **2014-15 Premier's Awards for Accepting Schools Nominations are now open!**
Download a [nomination form](#) and start your submission today. Deadline: February 20, 2015 by 5 p.m.
- **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

- **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/SRsxJzPYgL> + Secondary: <http://t.co/s1sWVP0naB>

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

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