

October 26, 2014

Items of Interest from Trustee Shelley Laskin, Ward 11

Website click on [Trustee Shelley Laskin](#)

www.tdsb.on.ca/laskin

Twitter @shelleylaskin

Regular Board Meeting Wednesday – Selected Items on the Agenda

Confucius Institute

There will be a vote to terminate the agreement even though we have received a letter from the Hunan Provincial Department of Education informing us they consider the contract cancelled.

Toronto Lands Corporation

There are a series of recommendations that amend the Shareholder's Direction – of note is the recommendation the TLC's mandate be expanded to look at lease potential in operating as well as non-operating school sites.

Model Schools for Inner Cities Assessments

There is a recommendation for the purchase of the Canadian Achievement Test and the Resiliency Survey to continue to get data on student performance

Exploration of Redevelopment Projects

I completely support the motion that asks Staff to bring recommendations to the Planning and Priorities Committee no later than March, 2015 on a policy and plan that will provide parameters for exploring potential redevelopment projects

Coordination of System Surveys: Census and School Climate

The recommendation is that the Student Census and the Parent Survey be implemented every 4 years (now 5) and that it be extended to students in Grades 4-6 – I completely support this – next survey is in 2016-17.

Improving Student Success In Mathematics

I noted this report and Action Plan from the Committee in the last update. The full report is on the website.

Enrolment in French Immersion/Extended French Programs 2014-15

Numbers of students interested and enrolled in French programming continues to expand.

Posting of Trustee Expenses on Board's Website

I support posting of expenses with supporting details.

Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on International Partnerships

This recommendation is to ensure there is a mandate to further define policy that sets out parameters and processes for entering into partnerships.

For the complete agenda, please click on

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx>

You can watch the board meeting from the comfort of your own home!

At 7pm Wednesday, log-in

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/LiveWebcastofMeetings.aspx>

Information from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

This past week, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario resumed and there were two bills that OPSBA was following that made it to the order papers:

- Bill 20, *Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) 2014* was given Second Reading and referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy. Ryan's Law would ensure that all students with asthma are permitted to carry their relief inhalers at all times and that school boards to adhere to a provincial standard when designing asthma policies. No public hearing dates have been announced at this time. We have made a past submission regarding this legislation and will re-submit it to this new committee.
- Bill 10, *Child Care Modernization Act, 2014* continued Second Reading debate. This bill includes amendments to the *Education Act* to ensure school boards offer before- and after-school programs for 6 to 12 year olds where there is sufficient demand. Programs could be delivered directly by boards, by third-party child care providers, or by authorized recreation providers. The majority of the bill is the repealing of the *Day Nurseries Act* and replaces it with the *Child Care and Early Years Act*.

On Wednesday October 22nd, Ontario Ombudsman André Marin released his [report](#) on unlicensed daycare. On Thursday, a book of condolences for Corporal Nathan Cirillo was placed in the foyer of the Ontario Legislative Building for the public to sign.

Hallowe'en Safety Tips (from the TDSB Website)

I know Halloween is a time for creating costumes, carving pumpkins, planning trick or treat activities and attending parties. It also provides opportunities for creative activities, art programs and impromptu history lessons at school. With all the excitement of the holiday, students, parents, and schools must take extra care to ensure safety and security. Remember these helpful safety tips for Halloween and trick or treating: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/News/ArticleDetails/TabId/116/ArtMID/474/default.aspx?ArticleID=424>

Resources from “Tweets” you may find interesting

@jen_keesmaat: This brochure, on Section 37, is new. It outlines how we secure community benefits through new development <http://t.co/Ny2mTJ0IMs> #TOpoli

@edutopia Are anti-bullying skills a part of your school's curriculum? #BullyingPreventionMonth pic.twitter.com/E5BcEE1FoF

@edutopia: We've got a Giant feeling your class will give these the Royal treatment: <http://t.co/TwXm1Pv7Rq>. #WorldSeries <http://t.co/F0ca1Rg9LZ>

@jianghomeshi My audio essay today re the #OttawaShooting, unity, and the strength of the collective. Thx for all of your feedback. cbc.ca/q/blog/2014/10...

@edutopia 8 Play-Based Strategies to Engage Youth in Learning: edut.to/1rGf0ym. #gbl pic.twitter.com/edTQysCyMs

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](#).

French Immersion – SK – Information from FSLAC

In the past, TDSB Senior Kindergarten (SK) French Immersion information nights and the application process took place after the Christmas break. This year the TDSB decided to move the process to November-December to allow parents more time to sort out their family logistics and to allow more time to get staff in place for the following September. SK French Immersion information nights are taking place from October 29-November 27, 2014. Details [here](#).

Applications to start SK French Immersion in September 2015 will be accepted on-line from November 3-December 5, 2014 [here](#). This is NOT a first come, first served process. **However, parents must apply by December 5, 2014 to be guaranteed a spot in September 2015.** Siblings of those already in the program also have to do the on-line application. Late applicants are given a spot only if there is extra space. Parents who are not on-line can ask for assistance at their home school office or from the FSL department.

Very Important: the first step is for the parent to apply on-line. There is an immediate response from the TDSB saying the application has been received. In the weeks following the December 5 deadline, parents receive another email from the TDSB with details about the placement. In the second step, parents must respond to the placement email to secure the spot. Parents should check their email inboxes, including junk email, frequently during this time. Please share this information with friends, neighbours and family. It is also available at www.tdsb.on.ca/french. If you have received this email from a friend and would like to join our

email list, please let us know at fslactoronto@gmail.com, give us your first and last name and the name of your child's school (if applicable).

Information Nights are scheduled as follows:

- Brown PS 454 Avenue Rd 416-393-1560 November 19, 2014 7:00 pm
- Davisville PS 43 Millwood Rd 416-393-0570 November 4, 2014 7:00 pm
- Humewood PS 15 Cherrywood Ave 416-394-2383 November 18, 2014 6:30 pm
- John Fisher PS 40 Erskine Ave 416-393-9325 November 18, 2014 7:00 pm
- Rawlinson CS 231 Glenholme Ave 416-394-3080 November 17, 2014 6:30 pm

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

Events of Interest

Holocaust Education Week 2014 - 2-9 November

For more information, click on <http://www.holocaustcentre.com/HEW>

Holocaust Education Week Event at Northern: Monday, November 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library.

“In conversation with Dr. Carson Phillips, educator-in-residence Martin Hagmayr delves into the history and the legacy of Harthiem Castle as one of the six Nazi killing centres of the T4 “Euthanasia” program. Particular attention is paid to its role today as an educational forum for students, teachers and the general public. This program will be spoken, with American Sign Language interpretation provided.

People For Education’s 18th Annual Conference

Saturday, November 8, 2014, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

This year’s Making Connections conference features keynote speaker Paul Tough, the author of *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character*, as well as a range of panels and workshops covering financial literacy, education funding changes, entrepreneurship, community schools, sex ed, and more. Register <http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/events-workshops/come-to-our-conference/>

If you are an interested parent but can’t afford registration fees, please let me know.

PIAC Presents: The 8th Annual Parent Involvement Makes a Difference Conference

Saturday November 15, 2014, 8:30 am at Earl Haig Secondary School

For information visit: www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference

TDSB Board and Committee Meetings

Wed, Oct 29	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Regular Board Meeting
Mon, Nov 3	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Tue, Nov 4	7pm	5050 Yonge St	French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC)
Wed, Nov 5	4:30pm	5050 Yonge St	Human Resources & Professional Learning Committee
	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Operations & Facilities Management Committee
Thu, Nov 6	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Alternative School Advisory Committee
Wed, Nov 12	5pm	5050 Yonge St	Program & School Services Committee
	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Planning & Priorities Committee
Thu, Nov 13	9am	5050 Yonge St	Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee
Tue, Nov 18	5pm	Brockton	Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee
	6:30pm	5050 Yonge St	Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)
Wed, Nov 19	4:30pm	5050 Yonge St	Administration, Finance & Accountability Committee
Thu, Nov 20	6pm	5050 Yonge St	Equity Policy Advisory Committee
	6pm	5050 Yonge St	Inner City Advisory Committee
Fri, Nov 21	10:15am	5050 Yonge St	Early Years Advisory Committee

Mon, Nov 24	4pm	5050 Yonge St	Student Nutrition Advisory Committee
Tue, Nov 25	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee AGM
Wed, Nov 26	7pm	5050 Yonge St	Regular Board Meeting (Last of Current Term 2010-2014)
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/SRsxJzPYgL>
 + Secondary: <http://t.co/s1sWVP0naB>

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
[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