



Items of Interest Week of December 7, 2014

**HOLD THE DATE – January 15, 2014 Ward Forum –
Subject – Social Media and a Hands-On Tutorial on Twitter!**

News Release from Organizational Board Meeting December 1, 2014 TDSB Trustees Begin New Term with Election of Chair

Shaun Chen elected Chair, Sheila Cary-Meagher elected Vice-Chair

During this evening's Organizational Board meeting — the first meeting of the new Board of Trustees — Shaun Chen Trustee for Ward 21 (Scarborough-Rouge River), was elected Chair and Sheila Cary-Meagher, Trustee for Ward 16 (Beaches-East York), was elected Vice-Chair.

Shaun Chen, who has previously held the position of Vice Chair of the Toronto District School Board, has been a lifelong advocate for children and youth. He has served as director of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and member of the City of Toronto Children's Services Advisory Committee, where he worked to support a multi-year strategy to expand Toronto's child care system.

A resident of her ward for more than 40 years, Sheila Cary-Meagher is a vocal advocate for public education and has worked diligently for years to ensure children's and parent's concerns are heard in the classroom, in schools and in the Boardroom.

For detailed results of tonight's Chair, Vice-Chair and committee elections, as well as the schedule and agendas for Board and Standing Committees, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/boardroom.

Mental Health Matters

I have posted the November Edition of the system's newsletter on my website. You might be interested in the article "The Importance of Integrating Mindfulness into the Elementary Classroom". Click on the following link:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/ward11/MH%20Newsletter%20Nov%202014.pdf>

Information from OPSBA

Please find below a summary of recent and upcoming legislative activities. Take note that the House will rise for Winter Recess after next Thursday December 11th and return on Tuesday February 17, 2015.

Current Bills:

Bill 10, *Child Care Modernization Act, 2014*

OPSBA sent a written submission that focused on the two proposed amendments aimed at the Education Act. The first would require school boards to ensure before and/or after school programs are available to students 6-12 years of age. This could be provided by boards directly or by a third party provider. The second proposed change would allow the ministry to regulate accommodation fees charged by boards to third party providers located in schools. Earlier this week, the bill received Third Reading and received Royal Assent. [Click here](#) the ministry's new release.

Bill 8, *Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act, 2014*

The omnibus legislation includes changes to 11 Acts. Our submission (joint with other 3 school board/trustee associations) focused on two schedules that will directly affect our membership, Schedule 1 – Broader Public Sector Executive Compensation Act, 2014 and Schedule 9 – Amendments to the Ombudsman Act and Related Amendments. On November 26, OPSBA President Michael Barrett



presented to the Standing Committee on General Government. Our submission was based on input from OPSBA's PDWT and Executive Council, our legal counsel and discussions with other stakeholders including the other school board associations. The bill has been ordered for Third Reading and should pass next week.

Bill 20, *Ryan's Law (Ensuring Asthma Friendly Schools) 2014.*

This bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy on October 23, 2014. No public hearing dates have been announced and it is most likely that there will be no movement on this bill until OPHEA completes its needs assessment on the management of various medical conditions (i.e. anaphylaxis, asthma, type 1 diabetes, seizure disorders) across Ontario school boards. The report is due to the Ministry of Education in January 2015.

Recent Filed Regulations:

On Tuesday November 25, 2014, Education Minister Liz Sandals announced that the province has asked Margaret Wilson to conduct a review of the Toronto District School Board amid growing concerns about its governance. Wilson previously served as the registrar at the Ontario College of Teachers and as the secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Teachers' Federation. Sandals said the review will include an examination of the current operational issues at the school board, and a focus on the board's governance structure. Wilson must submit her report to the ministry before the end of the year. [Ontario Regulation 222/14](#) was filed amending OR 43/10 Provincial Interest in Education to specifically identify the TDSB as part of an urgent review and to include a revocation date of December 31, 2015.

Recent announcements:

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services announced \$7 million in support over two years to the Preschool Speech and Language Program to give 10,000 more children with speech and language difficulties access to more services. Funding will reduce wait times for services, including communication skills assessments, parent workshops and group therapy, and transition planning for children eligible to start school. [Click here](#) for the news release.

The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs will travel throughout the province in January to hold public hearings for 2015 Pre-Budget Consultations. Identified locations include: Fort Frances, Sudbury, Ottawa, Cornwall, Fort Erie, London and Toronto. Those interested in presenting in person are to contact the clerk by December 19, 2014. Written submission can be sent to the clerk by January 30, 2015. OPSBA will be submitting our GSN document to both the Ministry of Education and committee. [Click here](#) for more information.

The Sustainability and Education Policy Network (SEPN) Survey

The Sustainability and Education Policy Network (SEPN) is researching how education policy and practice on sustainability might be better developed and implemented to support the transition to more environmentally sustainable societies. This survey will feed into their research on early childhood education to grade 12 and post-secondary education systems in Canada. Results will be distributed to policy-makers, educators, educational institutions, environmental organizations and the general public. The survey can be accessed here: [Take the Survey](#). The deadline is December 19, 2014.



French as a Second Language Advisory Committee - Information from Kristina Laperle, Parent Co-chair

FSLAC was established as an advisory committee to the Board in 2005 building on trustee-parent-staff committees at the legacy boards reaching back 40 years. About 120 000 students take Core French and about 25 000 are in Extended and Immersion French. We have more than 100 schools across the system with Extended and Immersion programs. The mission, adopted by the Board in 2007, is "To consult with and advise the Board on French as a Second Language matters. As a Board community advisory committee, the FSLAC will contribute to the work of trustees and staff. This partnership of trustees, staff and parents will foster excellence and growth in FSL programs at the Board." Info is found here: www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac.

(Please click on the following link for a great presentation of the work of FSLAC

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/FSLACIntroductionPresentation_20141027.pptx)

Newsletters are posted on the FSLAC webpage under 'FSLAC [Newsletters](#) and Reports'. The content comes from a variety of sources and is intended to provide support and information to parents who have their children in French at the TDSB.

Please note that the Grade 4 Entry: Junior Extended and Middle Immersion application process & Grade 7 Entry: Extended application process opens – January 5, 2015 and closes – January 29, 2015.

Note: Registration is for entry in September 2015. Applications are done on [PARS](#) (on-line) – except for Grade 7 Extended which is a paper process as in the past. Information night and information is posted on the TDSB French Programs [page](#).

"Supporting your Child's Success in French Immersion and Extended French, Kindergarten to Grade 8" is now available for downloading from the Ministry of Education website

www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/tips.

The new [curriculum](#) for secondary Core, Extended and Immersion French has just been released by the Ministry of Education. Teacher training sessions are taking place in the coming weeks and full implementation will begin in September 2015. The previous curriculum from 1999 was 107 pages and the new one is 388 pages! The new vision is: "Students will communicate and interact with growing confidence in French, one of Canada's official languages, while developing the knowledge, skills, and perspectives they need to participate fully as citizens in Canada and in the world."

Parents, students, trustees, teachers and staff are invited to attend and participate in FSLAC meetings.

Meetings start at 7 pm at the TDSB offices at 5050 Yonge St., ground floor. FSLAC information is posted on the TDSB website: tdsb.on.ca/fslac. **Upcoming meetings are:** Jan 27, Feb 24 and April 21, 2015.

EatRight Ontario Annual Kids Recipe Challenge

EatRight Ontario and Dietitians of Canada are working together to get kids excited about healthy eating and creating kid-friendly healthy recipes. The EatRight Ontario Kids Recipe Challenge is open to Ontario students in grades 1 to 8. They are invited to submit their favourite breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack or dessert recipes for a chance to win some great prizes. **The deadline for submissions is Monday, December 15, 2014.** This is a great activity to bring alive the healthy eating messages learned in the classroom. For more information contact 1-877-510-5102. **Entry form** For more contest details: [EatRight Ontario website](#)

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, 5 pm EST

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin



What are the awards criteria?

Recipients of the Premier's Awards for Accepting Schools will be safe and accepting schools teams who:

1. Demonstrate initiative, creativity, and leadership in at least 3 of the following areas related to school climate, as identified in the ministry's [Promoting a Positive School Climate](#) resource (PDF, 80 KB):
 - a) Student Voice
 - b) Parent Engagement
 - c) Community Partnerships
 - d) Learning Environment
 - e) Social – Emotional Environment
 - f) Physical Environment
 2. Identify the specific challenges faced by the team and how they were addressed.
 3. Provide evidence that activities have made a significant difference in the school/school community.
- Anyone in the school community can nominate a safe and accepting schools team for a Premier's Award for Accepting Schools, and a team can also nominate itself.

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

What is the Minister's Student Advisory Council?

The Minister's Student Advisory Council is a group of approximately sixty students from all parts of the publicly funded education system and regions of the province. These students share their ideas and provide advice to the minister on a variety of topics regarding Ontario's publicly-funded education system. MSAC is a place where students have a voice and where they will be heard. The first council made an important contribution to Student Voice by identifying [Nine Student Voice Indicators](#). These indicators reflect the ideas of students from across Ontario about what helps strengthen student engagement in learning. [Start your application](#) today!

Resources from “Tweets” you may find interesting

@gcouros: To create meaningful change, you have to make a connection to the heart before you make a connection to the mind.

@annebrown77: Such an interesting read for parents and educators about students with learning disabilities. Take the time to read! <http://t.co/tVoocQwEdv>

@fatim_to: How do we raise critical thinkers? <http://t.co/1RogzRUyHT>
https://twitter.com/fatim_to/status/541339220762431488

@norm: PARENTS: Tomorrow at 7AM registration for the City's winter skating and swimming programs + March Break camps begins: <http://t.co/WQfbezDxTS>

@Anniekidder: Should parents help their kids with homework? Read the New York Times debate: <http://t.co/x0xpDxNi3S> #p4ed #onted

@OntarioEDU: Want to nominate your Safe and Accepting Schools Team? Learn how @ <http://t.co/TQAqL8ddHG> #OntEd #onpoli

@michelelocke: Students in Grades 7 to 12 are invited to have their say and join the Minister's Student Advisory Council for... <http://t.co/OX71wAsuHh>

@RemindHQ: Learning is messy. Send this reminder to parents and colleagues: <http://t.co/HYxEtM9IwG>
#ptchat #kinderchat #elemchat <http://t.co/6MGgyXpnVJ>



@GerriGershon: Useful Fact sheet - share w parents RT "@cea_ace: The Facts on Education: Is Inquiry-Based Learning Effective? <http://t.co/GdJ9b5kGh0>"

In the News

[Secret life of a trustee: Behind the scenes, school board reps are busy putting out fires](#)

Toronto Star - Fri Dec 05 2014

Though some question their very existence, board representatives form a vital bridge between the public and the bureaucracy... It's 6:30 A.M. and **TDSB Trustee Shelley Laskin** is responding to emails before going to her day job. A parent has asked about the impact of a neighborhood development, so she seeks clarification from board planners. A principal has concerns about construction for full-day kindergarten; she flips a query to the board's facilities people. Someone has complained about dog poo in a schoolyard. Another asks if the lack of toilet paper in a school washroom is a sign of cutbacks...

Skating Party at Hodgson – 12-2pm on Dec 12th

Councillor Matlow has invited us to a Skating Party to official launch the new refurbished rink at Hodgson Sr PS – Sunday, December 12 from 12-2pm. Everyone is welcome!

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](#).

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

TDSB Board and Committee Meetings

Mon, Dec 8	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
Mon, Dec 15	4:30	5050 Yonge St Audit 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>

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