



Weekly Update – January 11, 2015

Items of Interest

Ward Forum – January 22, 2014 at Davisville Jr Public School from 6:30-8:30

Special Presentation – Balancing the 2015-16 Budget – Carla Kisko, Associate Deputy Director of Finance and Operation @7:30

The budget process for the 2015-16 school year is underway at the TDSB. In past years, this annual process has been extremely difficult because of the many reductions the TDSB has had to make in order to comply with the provincial requirement of balancing the annual budget. Although past years of difficult decisions has made balancing the budget easier in recent years, the Board continues to experience declining enrolment in secondary schools which results in a loss of grants – many of which already do not meet Toronto students' needs. On January 22nd, TDSB staff will share information about the 2015-16 Budget and the expenditure reduction decisions that Trustees will need to make. Please see attached flyer.

Hold the Dates for Future Ward Forums

- **March 3 – Social Media and a Hands-On Tutorial on Twitter!**
- **May 21 – Topic TBC**
- **How are we Funded?**
- The Ministry of Education has provided us with the presentation used during the financial orientation for trustees hosted by the Financial Policy and Business Division. It is now available on the Ministry of Education website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/trustees.html>. The presentation also includes the transcript of the online sessions. As well, answers are provided to questions that we received from trustees during and after the sessions. Along with the Board's Financial Facts and Capital Facts (<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs.aspx>), these documents provide a good context to our Budget conversations at the upcoming Ward Forum.

Severe Weather Operational Procedure 519 <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/Community/docs/242.pdf>

I received a few e-mails this past week from parents curious about what the temperature needs to be to cancel recess

- Cold weather: When temperature and/or wind-chill factor indicates **-28C or lower** children will remain indoors due to risk of frost nip and frostbite.
- When temperature and/or wind-chill factor indicates **-20 to -28C**, recesses may be shortened to 10 minutes and lunch recess may be 20 minutes depending on local conditions. Children should be monitored closely for signs of frost nip, frostbite or difficulty breathing.

Schools and Engaged Communities Forum (from the TDSB Website)

In October 2014, a steering team was established to conduct an independent review into the circumstances surrounding the death of a student inside North Albion CI. In addition, the team is also reviewing how the TDSB can be responsive and current to best support safety and care for all students and staff, both before and after critical incidents. As a part of this review, parents/guardians, students and community members are invited to participate in a Safe Schools and Engaged Communities Forum to discuss how to improve school and community safety.



Community Forums are from 6:30-8:30:

- **13 January 2015 - David and Mary Thomson CI 2740 Lawrence Ave E, Scarborough, ON**
- **15 January 2015 - Thistletown CI 20 Fordwich Cres, Etobicoke, ON**

Please contact 416-395-8155 if you require an interpreter or childcare at the meeting.

The feedback received at these Community Forums will be used by the team as they prepare a report and provide recommendations on how the TDSB can continue moving the gains made in creating safe and caring school environments out to our school communities. If you are unable to attend one of the above meetings, you can email your input to tdsb@executekinternational.com.

Mandatory Training - Dealing with Abuse & Neglect of Students Training

As a result of the Inquest into the tragic death of Jeffrey Baldwin, on 14 February 2014, the Coroner's Jury passed 103 recommendations to 13 institutions. Of the 103 recommendations, 12 recommendations (#69 to #80) are specifically directed to the Toronto District School Board. The coordination and facilitation of the work on implementation of the recommendations began in February 2014 with the establishment of the Abuse & Neglect Steering Committee. Of note is recommendation #71 that states: The Toronto District School Board shall, as part of its ongoing and comprehensive review of policies and procedures and prior to the start of the 2014-2015 academic year, implement annual training on the duty to report child abuse and neglect. . . The training shall be mandatory for all staff, including teachers, early childhood educators, administrators, lunchroom supervisors, trustees, caretakers and office staff, with proof of attendance retained and recorded by Toronto District School Board. I will be participating in training in early February.

Home Support – Information about EQAO for Parents and Guardians

<http://www.eqao.com/Parents/parents.aspx?Lang=E>

The EQAO website offers information and resources regarding the Grade 9 Mathematics Assessments, including a guide available in 21 different languages. Students, parents and guardians can download past assessments, view a sample of Individual Student Reports and read about the upcoming layout changes. Formula sheets, a French glossary and list of key words can be accessed on the site as well.

Math @ Home

Figure This! at www.figurethis.org provides interesting math challenges that middle-school students can do at home with their families. The site offers a Teacher Corner with support materials to boost family involvement. The site includes a "Tips for Families" handout and other support materials. Challenge topics include: Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, Number, Data Management and Probability.

Summary of Decisions – Regular Meeting of December 17, 2014

- The Board decided that the Chair of the Audit Committee and the Director of Education write a follow-up letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that they give release to Ernst & Young to authorize them to meet with members of the Toronto District School Board Audit Committee regarding the Toronto District School Board forensic audit.
- Effects of Residential Schools on Aboriginal Communities
The Board decided:



Whereas, as an educational institution the Board has an obligation to teach about the failed Canadian vision of education called Residential Schools, as for over 120 years families were separated – parents from children and siblings from each other, as well as the trauma of separation, many residential students suffered abuse; and Whereas, as students graduate and become contributing citizens, they have an obligation as fellow Canadians to work with the First Nations communities to help mitigate the wrongs of the past;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Director convene a committee of curriculum experts to determine a way for students to graduate with a significant knowledge of the effects of residential schools on Aboriginal communities;
- (b) That the Director present a report on an implementation plan by the end of June 2015.

▪ **Trustee Retreat**

The Board decided:

Whereas, trustees need to set goals for the next four years and guidelines for a healthy working relationship among trustees and between trustees and staff;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That a retreat be held for trustees and senior staff, after February 4, 2015 and before the March Break 2015, at a cost-efficient location;
- (b) That a Trustee Retreat Workgroup be established with the following mandate.

Mandate

- (i) To establish goals for the Board for the next four years
- (ii) To determine guidelines for a healthy working relationship among trustees
- (iii) To determine guidelines for a healthy working relationship between trustees and staff

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 January 29th, February 11th and March 25th. These would be extremely beneficial educational seminars for parents who are raising children with mental health challenges - and the February 11th presentation on dealing with disrespectful teenagers would be helpful for all parents! These are being presented by an incredible group of presenters/authors who are renowned in their field and will offer a wealth of information to families. For more information, click on <http://www.hincksdellcrest.org/Home/Our-Institute/ParentSeminarSeries.aspx>

Spectrum Alternative School Open House 2015

Invitation to Grade 6 students, parents, guardians – Spectrum is a TDSB Alternative Senior school for grades 7 and 8. Spectrum is a school that utilizes a dual thrust approach to integrate the arts with academics. Students who are most successful here need to be capable of handling a rigorous academic programme alongside the challenges and time commitments of intensive art projects and group work.

When: **Wednesday, January 28th, 2015.**

Times: There will be 3 sessions: 6:00, 6:45 and 7:30

Where: Davisville Public School/ Spectrum Alternative School

Applications will be available online after the open house. Visit our school website for more information:

<http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/spectrum>



Kids Have Stress Too!

For parents who have children 4-9 years old – a three-hour interactive session program that helps parents to better understand stress in children. There are many reasons why children experience stress. This program will help you learn effective ways to support your children deal with stress. It is facilitated by a Toronto Public Health Nurse. There is no charge to attend this group; however you need to register. We are limited to 20 participants per session.

Dates: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 or Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Place: Cottingham Public School- 85 Birch Avenue

To register for either date, please email me at: josie.lombardi@tdsb.on.ca

Toronto Public Health is committed to making the workshop accessible and accommodating disability-related needs. If you require accommodation, please contact Sandra Davies at 416-338-3696 by Monday November 10, 2014.

Resources from “Tweets” you may find interesting

@GoogleForEdu: Students can create music videos & tell unique stories through code with these lesson plans <http://t.co/GVpoojne4R> <http://t.co/cq2zUg7Okr>

@calphonso A report on the #TDSB is expected to focus on the board's highest-ranking staffer, via @kahowlett fw.to/MeAGjZX #onted

Media

[A report on Toronto's school board will explore tensions at the top](#)

Globe & Mail (January 9)

Summary: Margaret Wilson, a consultant appointed by the Ontario government, will weigh in on the toxic relations between Ms. Quan and several trustees in a report set for release this coming week. There is no easy fix. Ms. Wilson's probe caps a string of reports chronicling governance problems at the board. Instead of mutual respect, say education experts and sources close to the board, relations between trustees and senior staff have been characterized by a lack of trust and stonewalling, with both Ms. Quan and Mr. Bolton not sharing information with trustees... Ms. Sandals signalled on Friday that she won't let the latest report into the school board gather dust. "There continue to be ongoing operational and governance issues which demand greater attention," spokeswoman Nilani Logeswaran said in an e-mail. "The Minister intends to work closely with the board to restore public confidence in the TDSB."

[New website lets parents track school bus delays](#)

CTV (January 7)

Summary: Piece looks at the bus delay application that is available on the transportation consortium website at www.torontoschoolbus.org. Also highlights future plans to incorporate email/text notification to parents.

[What would change for you if school started at 10?](#) (click on interview in list)

CBC Ontario Today (January 7)

Summary: Show discusses the concept of students starting school at a later time in the morning. Features interview with Richview CI Principal Sam Miceli who was principal at Eastern Commerce CI when Late Start was implemented in 2009.

Twitter: @shelleylaskin

Webpage: www.tdsb.on.ca/Laskin



Worth Repeating

Optional Attendance (from the TDSB Website)

Students who reside within the City of Toronto have the right to attend a school which is designated to serve their residential address. The ["Find Your School"](#) section of the website identifies the designated schools for each residential address. Students also have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their residential address by applying on optional attendance. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability. The procedures, conditions and timelines relating to optional attendance are described in the [Optional Attendance Policy](#) and the [Optional Attendance Operational Procedure](#).

Each year in January, schools are classified as **limited** or **closed** to optional attendance based on the space they have available for the upcoming school year. A school classified as **limited** can accept students on optional attendance. A limited school is not obliged to accept all students who apply on optional attendance. Acceptance is conditional upon space being available in the appropriate grade and program. A school classified as **closed** cannot accept any students on optional attendance. Only students residing within the school's attendance area will be accepted. **Please note that the optional attendance status is updated every January for admission in September. Please confirm if a limited school has space available by calling the school directly.**

Application for Secondary School Program

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Policies,ProceduresForms/Detail.aspx?docId=177>

Applications must be received by Friday, 30 January 2015.

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.

Note:

- It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to deliver this application to the school or schools of choice.
- Priority of placement in the requested school will be based on a lottery if applications exceed the space available at the requested school.
- If admitted, a student is expected to continue at the requested school until graduation.

Grade 4 and Grade 7 Extended French Programs

Applications to the Junior Extended French program are made the year your child is in Grade 3 for entry in September of Grade 4. It is an entirely online process. **The 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](#).

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](#) (FHCI and Vaughn Rd held earlier)



- North Toronto Collegiate Institute Jan 13 7:00 PM
- Northern Secondary School Jan 15 6:00 PM

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. EST

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

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. In order to give feedback, residents can attend a public meeting or complete a survey online. Learn more about the Toronto Ward Boundary Review project at www.drawthelines.ca

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>

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