



Weekly Update – January 25, 2015

Items of Interest

Wilson Report and Minister's Directions to the Toronto District School Board

At a Special Board Meeting last Monday, the Board decided:

- (a) That the directions issued by the Minister of Education on January 15, 2015, in response to the Wilson Report: Review of the Toronto District School Board be received;
- (b) That the necessary steps to ensure compliance within the specified timeline be taken, including:
 - (i) That the January 21, 2015 meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee be moved to January 28, 2015 in order to receive an update from the Director of Education;
 - (ii) That at the regular meeting on February 4, 2015, the Board consider the action plans in response to the Minister's directions;
 - (iii) That a special meeting be scheduled for February 10, 2015 to finalize and approve a response and associated action plans to the Minister of Education;
 - (iv) That a special meeting be held to hear from the public on the issues arising from the Minister's directions, to be chaired by the Chair of the Board, that all delegation rules apply, and that it be the opportunity for delegations on the issue.

[Read Margaret Wilson's Review of the Toronto District School Board](#)

[Read the Ministry of Education news release](#)

According to staff, 79 people registered to speak to the Board regarding the Wilson Report and Ministry Directives – the deputations are being held tomorrow, Monday beginning at 4:30pm. Staff and trustees have been working towards understanding the work effort involved in meeting the Ministry deadline. Updates will be provided and discussed this week at a series of meetings. I was pleased to be asked to appear on TVO's The Agenda last Thursday to be part of a panel responding to The Wilson Report. Should you wish to watch, click on <http://tvo.org/video/210366/troubled-tdsb>.

Board & Committee Meetings This Week

- Special Meeting (Committee of the Whole), January 26, 2015, 7 p.m.
- House Committee, January 27, 2015, 4:30 p.m.
- Governance Review Workgroup, January 28, 2015, 3:30 p.m.
- Administration, Finance and Accountability Committee, January 28, 2015, 5 p.m.
- Planning and Priorities Committee, January 28, 2015, 7 p.m.

Ward Forum Report

We had a great turnout last Thursday at Davisville – we confirmed our FSLAC (Bethany Matheu) and PIAC representatives (Rania Saleh and Ali York) and began the meeting with an update from Superintendent Sandra Tondat who spoke to TDSB Years of Action plan and school improvement plans. She noted improvement achieved through “Learning Walks” with expanded focus from Literacy to Mathematics (beyond mechanics to inquiry) and described the District Process (formerly District Review Process) that continues with the focused review of individual schools over a 5-year cycle. I spoke to the Wilson Report and Ministry Directives and facilitated Qs and As from a very engaged audience. Associate Director Carla

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Kisko presented information on the Board's 2015-16 Operating Budget which also generated a great discussion on funding and advocacy – we promised a follow-up session on the Capital Budget before March Break. The presentation and minutes will be posted shortly on www.tdsb.on.ca/laskin. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Culling School Library Books (information from staff)

Why we do we cull library books:

- Resources in school libraries need to meet the criteria for selection outlined in PR531 and summarized in guide: *Developing School Library Collections* (found in the Developing School Library Collections: A Community Guide Revised Edition (March 2013).
- Students are more encouraged to read when the library collection contains the best and the most up-to-date materials available. Therefore, the collection should be visibly attractive and in good condition. All materials should be accurate, current, and relevant to the curricular and recreational needs of the students and staff.
- These standards are applied to collection development during both the selection of new materials and the identification of materials for de-selection. In de-selection, further criteria are applied, such as condition, equity, circulation history, and currency.
- Collection development is the professional mandate of qualified teacher-librarians, supported by the Instructional Leaders, who assist teacher-librarians in schools with selection and de-selection procedures. School communities also have expressed an interest in assisting with de-selection, recycling, and reusing the resources.”
- The TDSB wants students to have quality learning resources for success. For staff and students, resources need to be accurate, appropriate, and up-to-date. They need to match student interests, curricular needs, and skill levels. Materials are deselected when they are in poor or unhealthy condition, contain inaccurate information, display unacceptable bias, remain uncirculated, or are replaceable with newer”.

Process with the school: “Procedures” Whether de-selecting each month, or in a large-scale library staff follow a sequence of steps

Step 1

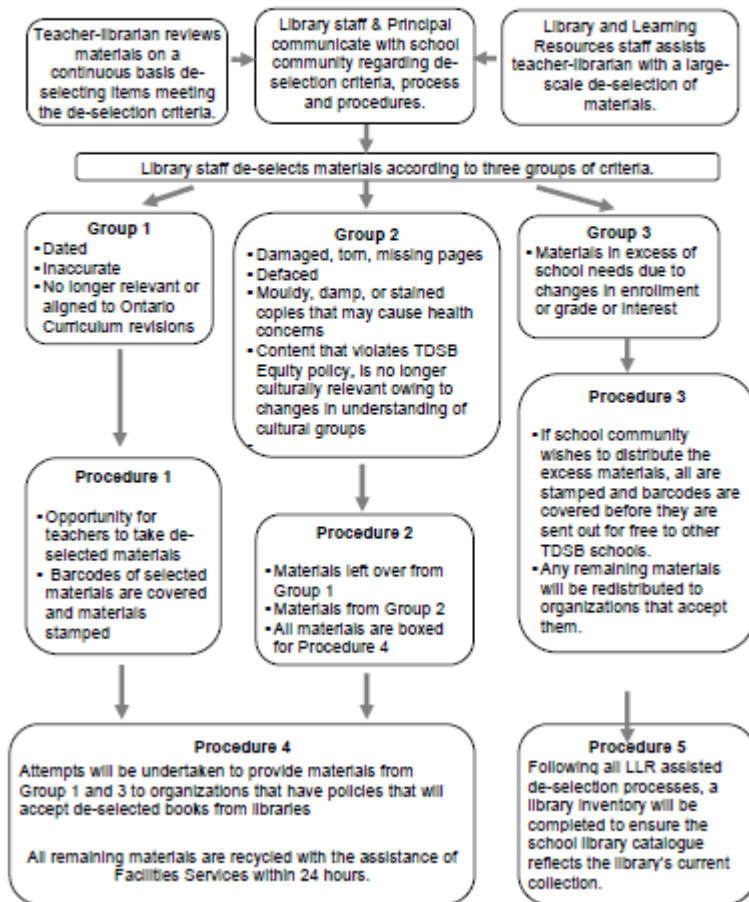
The teacher-librarian, Library Program Coordinator or Instructional Leader communicates the plan and process with the school principal, who informs the school community regarding the collection updating and deselection process and procedures. Teachers and parents/guardians/caregivers receive this booklet and/or a communiqué/newsletter with relevant sections prior to the process.

Step 2

The library staff then deselected the material into three groups as outlined in Figure 1 (below). This chart shows the path for de-selection and for identifying which resources can be: used in the school, used in other schools; or because of condition or content that does not meet TDSB equity policies are sent for recycling.

Figure 1 outlines the process in the sequence followed by library staff, in conjunction with the school community.

**Figure 1 Building School Library Collections:
Updating Collections through the De-Selection Process**



News from People for Education info@peopleforeducation.ca

95% of Canadian kids—rich or poor—go to public schools. Not so in U.S.

In Canada, the vast majority (95%) of Canadian students—no matter what their socio-economic status—attend publicly funded schools. This is not the case in the United States.

According to a [new report](#), for the first time in decades the majority of students in American public schools come from low-income families. As a result, American public schools no longer reflect the general population. Luckily for us, that is not true in Canada.

To read the article in the Washington Post, [click here](#).



Parents support full-day kindergarten

According to a new study from the Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development, most parents whose children attended full-day kindergarten (FDK) believe their children benefited socially and academically.

- 85% of parents agree that FDK helped prepare their child socially and academically for school
- Parents were evenly divided as to whether their involvement with their child's learning increased or decreased as a result of FDK
- 75% of parents receiving child care subsidies said that FDK facilitates their ability to work. They also reported that FDK helped to reduce family stress

To read the full report, [click here.](#)

UNESCO consulting on global education goals

UNESCO wants to hear from you!

The organization is working with international groups such as the World Bank, UNICEF and the Education for All Movement to develop a new set of goals for education. [The post-2015 education indicators project](#) is setting seven new global education targets for children and youth for 2030. The targets cover a range—from literacy and numeracy, to global citizenship, education for sustainable development, and preparation for decent work.

To read more about the targets and the initiative, [click here.](#)

The consultation is open until January 30, 2015. To respond, [click here.](#)

TDSB in the Media

[Parents On TDSB Report](#)

CBC Metro Morning (January 21)

Summary: The trustees of the Toronto District School Board have been warned, play nice, or face the consequences. But where do parents fit into a system that is being overhauled? Matt Galloway spoke with Kate Wallis and Rachel Hepburn.

[Ontario is rolling back school board democracy](#)

Toronto Star (January 21) *Editorial*

[Don't throw the children out ...](#)

National Post (January 22) *Letter to the Editor at bottom of page*

[The view from inside a reeling TDSB](#)

Toronto Star (January 21) *Editorial by Trustee Chris Glover*

[Toronto school board's future hinges on trustees, Donna Quan working together](#)

Toronto Star (January 19)

Summary: Donna Quan's future may hang on whether the very trustees with whom she has battled can pull together a fix for the Toronto District School Board and convince Queen's Park they can erase a culture of fear — in just four weeks.

[Is free really free when it comes to letting kids ride the TTC? It depends](#)

Global (January 20)

Summary: It was the headline message of his Monday news conference meant to tout impending improvements to the city's transit service should his proposed budget get council approval. Tory told reporters that zeroing the TTC's child fare "will provide real financial relief for families who use the TTC to

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get their kids to school, to daycare, to sports.” The TDSB provides students who meet certain criteria with TTC tickets. The TDSB estimates they would save about \$200,000 on tickets for students grade 7 and younger but higher fares for older students would now cost them \$160,000.

Community Events/Meetings

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 Joe Mihevc's Community Meeting on the City of Toronto's 2015 Budget

Councillor Mihevc is invited everyone to hear about the City's Budget – he will be joined by John Livey, Deputy City Manager and staff from the Finance Department. Their presentations will be followed by a question and answer period. **Monday, February 2nd, 2015, 6:30pm - 8:30pm at Artscape Wychwood Barns, Covered Barns, 601 Christie Street.**

Councillor Josh Matlow's Community Town Hall on the 2015 City of Toronto Budget

On **Tuesday, March 3rd at 7pm**, Councillor Matlow is hosting his 2015 Budget Town Hall for Ward 22 residents. The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room at the **North Toronto Memorial Community Centre (200 Eglinton Avenue West)**. If you would like more information on the proposed 2015 City of Toronto budget in advance of the Town Hall meeting, please visit the [City of Toronto website](#).

Key Dates Worth Repeating

- **Optional Attendance 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**.
- **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**.
- **Spectrum Alternative School Open House 2015**
Wednesday, January 28th, 2015 – 3 sessions: 6:00, 6:45 and 7:30 at 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>
- **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 January 29th, February 11th and March 25th.

For more information, click on <http://www.hincksdellcrest.org/Home/Our-Institute/ParentSeminarSeries.aspx>

▪ **Grade 4 and Grade 7 Extended French Programs**

The extended application process opens – January 5, 2015 and closes – January 29, 2015. Note: Registration is for entry in September 2015. Information night and information is posted on the TDSB French Programs [page](#).

▪ **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!**
- **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/SRxsjzPYgL> + 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

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Trustee
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[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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