

Ward 8 Ward Forum DRAFT Notes

December 10, 2018

Introductions – Trustee Laskin, Superintendents Howard, Garner and Campbell, School Council and Ward representatives, parents, Principals, Vice-Principals and teachers in attendance.

Items of Interest Discussed by Trustee Laskin

Multi- Year Strategic Plan

This plan – and its action plans – lays the ground work for how we will transform student learning, create a culture of well-being, provide access to learning opportunities, allocate resources strategically and build strong partnerships. Measuring our success is critical to know we are making a difference for students. Our expectation – and our goal – is that everyone improves. We expect to:

- **Close the achievement and well-being gaps** while keeping expectations high for all students because we are providing access to the programs, resources and learning opportunities that students require, while removing systemic barriers that may exist for them.
- **Transform student learning** to ensure students improve in literacy and math and strengthen essential skills including critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, citizenship and character (known as global competencies).
- **Increase engagement of students, staff, parents and communities** because we are honouring voice, experience, identity and expertise, and we are willing to adjust our directions and plans because of this engagement.

Real change happens in the classroom and with this coordinated and strategic approach, we are confident that each and every student will be successful.

We are asking each school to engage in a process to determine a learning focus in three areas: achievement, well-being, and equity. This process will include identifying these three focus areas, engaging in the learning that will allow each school to support student improvement in these areas, determining the evidence/data the school will collect, monitoring progress, and reflecting on what is happening in an ongoing way to support next steps. In this shared leadership model, the voices of students, parents and staff will be included. For more details, please click [here](#).

- Aim for shorter more attainable goals
- People buy in and feel accountable
- Celebrate successes
- Move from 'nice to have' to expectation
- If goal not working – need to shift/interrupt/re-visit
- Make it real....no lingo – involve parent and student voice.

Policy Consultations - Dress Code, Alcohol and Cannabis and Prescription Drugs

- Revisiting this subject
- Student Dress Code Policy will be board-wide policy not school by school
- Avoiding gender bias/stereo-typing
- Consultation open on Board website through February 2019 to allow time for school council cycle for discussion and input

Education Consultation

Trustee Laskin shared her draft submission and encouraged others to use the opportunity to share their ideas with the Ministry – closes December 15.

- Ministry goal is to revise K-8 elementary curriculum Health and Phys Ed – ready for April – PD in May/June – implement Sept 2019

- Secondary stays the same
- Opinions are great but need curriculum experts
- E&Y – recommendations for 'voucher' – Minister Thompson told the Ontario Public School Board Association that the gov't has no intention of bringing in vouchers
- Parent Reaching Out Grants – money to engage parents/community – nutrition/speakers/resources – Minister implied "pause" may be lifted
- French Review – making recommendations in April 2019 – could be changes
- Budget Process this year – may be difficult as consultation for Grants for Student Needs (GSN – education funding) was all about efficiencies – TDSB response will be discussed at Board meeting on December 12
- Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS) - Consolidated 2018-2019 of both wards now on website
- Program Area Review – (McKenzie/Polanyi) John Polanyi/Ledbury currently on-going
- Yonge/Eglinton Phase II – will begin in February – Eglinton beyond capacity using 5 areas that are non-classroom for teaching
- Secondary in next year review –
 - FHCI/NTCI/NSS – optional attendance
 - LPCI – closed to optional attendance
 - Leaside – open

Qs and As

Development

- Development meetings need to have the Board at the table – staff confirmed this is happening
- Portables are temporary
- Confirmed that schools are not funded by Infrastructure Ontario – not as infrastructure like Police/Fire etc. – huge disconnect
- Yes – schools are now multiple stories to maximize green space (additions at Hodgson and new Davisville/Spectrum)

Teacher Leaves of Absence (LOA)

- Parent concern re takes 3 weeks to replace teacher – why?
- Superintendents discussed there are union restrictions
- this happens across the grades
- New Disability Mgt. Office is empowered to manage
- 34k teachers
- Suggested talking to school union rep. and MPP as contracts are coming up for renegotiation

Increasing Parent Engagement

- To engage parents try holding school council meeting in the morning at drop off one month and then an evening meeting the next
- Try to engage with website
- Talked about a graffiti wall where parents could write what they were looking for – then hung in staff room for staff to consider when planning
- Parents need to feel they have power for change