

Ward 8 Forum: Eglinton - Lawrence and Toronto-St. Paul's

Tuesday January 22, 2019

Meeting Notes

Trustee Shelley Laskin welcomed everyone to the second forum for the newly created Ward 8 for Eglinton - Lawrence and Toronto-St. Paul's. This is a new ward – double in size.

Introductions of all parents and staff in attendance including: Superintendent Marguerite Campbell and Superintendent Diana Panagiotopoulos.

Regrets Superintendent Andrew Howard.

CURRENT ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

TDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)

Shelley provided a handout of the board approved TDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This plan has been featured at previous ward forums and in Shelley's weekly newsletter. Its implementation is under the direction of Director John Malloy. This comprehensive plan has 5 overarching Goals, to be achieved through work on many sub-goals. In the MYSP each are examined with a view to: What Is Our Goal? | How will we achieve it? | How will we know we are successful?.

You can learn more about the plan at www.tdsb.on.ca/mysp

BUDGET

Shelley will be chairing this year's TDSB Finance, Enrolment and Budget Committee (FEBEC). The Committee begins meeting this week.

In past years at this time the TDSB, through discussions with the provincial government, had a strong idea of its budget outlook for the next academic year. That is not the case this year. There has been little information and the province has already cut funding for several key EPO programs. The media is reporting that more are being considered.

Nevertheless, the FBEC is beginning its work. The Committee is not looking at a list of cuts but are looking at building a budget to best meet the needs of students and staff in order to support student achievement and well-being.

Early meetings will focus on understanding the TDSB's current financial position and the issues we face going forward. There will be opportunities for the public to attend or view meetings online, as well as to make submissions – both oral and written. Information will also be available on the TDSB website. Shelley will include links to the information in her upcoming newsletters. Local Ward Forums dedicated to the budget will occur throughout the city (for our Ward a joint meeting with Don Valley West Rachel Chernos Lin is planned for Tuesday March 7, 2019 at Hodgson M.S).

Shelley distributed the proposed meeting schedule for the Budget Committee. These take place over the next several months. Note: TDSB Budget for 2019-2020 to be passed approximately mid-June.

Learn more at www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/2019-20-Budget

DISCUSSION POINT: Parents asked about other ways to learn more and to 'weigh in'. Shelley indicated that there will be online budget surveys that can be used. And that the information made available to Trustees will be available to the public.

POLICY CONSULTATIONS

Shelley distributed a list of current policy consultations. While all are important of note to parents, students and community are likely to be:

- Fundraising Policy
- Optional Attendance Policy
- Student Dress Code Policy

Current consultations can be found at: www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations

DISCUSSION POINT: Under fundraising parents raised the idea of networking with each other for ideas, contacts and sharing resources. There was also discussion of partnering with sister schools either directly or anonymously. Shelley offered her support of the networking idea. It was also thought that such a networking idea should be opened up to more than just 'school council chairs' – there may be other parents who want to take this on.

PIAC AND FSLAC ELECTION FOR WARD 8 REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES

An election was held for the position of PIAC rep. Each of the two candidates gave a short introduction

Parents in attendance voted via secret ballot. For the remaining positions there was only one candidate and no election required. All candidates were warmly thanked for putting their names forward and encouraged to continue to their involvement.

RESULTS

PIAC Rep: Kaydeen Bankasingh

PIAC – Alternate: John Bakous

FSLAC Rep: Lynn LeBlanc

FSLAC – Alternate: Nadya Phelan

FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday March 7, 2019 at Hodgson Middle School – 7 PM

(this will be a joint Budget Meeting with Don Valley West Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin)

DISCUSSION POINT: Alternate options for ward meetings were discussed in an effort to allow more parents to attend. There was little interest from parents in meeting on weekends. Daytime meetings was suggested – possibly as a Coffee Hour in an out of school location. Mornings were favoured with an idea of scheduling the first one towards the end of March to early April. A small group of parents offered to help work on the idea: Heidi – Rachel – Kaydeen. Shelley will connect with them to discuss further.

NOTE: Evening Ward Meetings will continue to be held.