

Ward 9 Forum - Playground Revitalization
Thursday May 23rd 6:30-8:30pm
Rawlinson Community School
231 Glenholme Ave.

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by Chair Alexis Dawson, parent at Rawlinson Community School and a member of the Ward 9 Steering Committee. Land Acknowledgement was given. Introductions were made around the room.
2. **Community Updates:** ***Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Tanya Principe*** - SEAC is asking the Trustees to put funding towards teacher education in spec ed. SEAC is also looking at the Refusal to Admit Policy and trying to get rules and policies put in place. ***French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC), Matt Forrest*** - FSLAC is concerned with the amount of funding being cut from French Immersion programs through bussing and supplementary teachers. ***Black Student Achievement Advisory Committee (BSAAC), Alexis Dawson*** - BSAAC has put forward a deputation to the Board to see continued funding to black student success, access, racism education and early years which is seen as the pipeline to success. ***Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC), D. Williams*** (absent) - PIAC is looking into a way to provide School Advisory Councils with parent emails through the school. The Trustees support this, and are figuring out how it would look and work. The issue is complicated by the Canadian Anti Spam Laws, CASL.
3. **Trustee's Update:** Ward 9 Trustee, Stephanie Donaldson. This year's budget has a 67 million dollar shortfall. The Board must pass a balanced budget by June 30th. A draft budget was proposed on Monday which included changes to bussing for french immersion and gifted programs. These changes raised concern about access to programs. Revisions were made by staff based on the concerns. In the revised draft budget, transportation for some french immersion and gifted programs has been put back in for one year until the French Program Review is completed. The trade off to reinstate bussing is the following: 31 full time staff positions and some Professional Development being cut. Some additional learning coach positions, as well as Social Workers and Speech and Language being cut, this is just some. More information can be found here: <https://tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/2019-20-Budget> Equity is a driving factor in budget consultations. There are lots of vocal parents, some asking the Board not to pass a balanced budget. The results of a not balanced budget would be the Ontario Government sending in a Supervisor to make the necessary cuts. West End Parents for Public Education <https://weppe.org/> is the place to go for advocacy. Deputations can be made to Trustees in writing or in person and three upcoming dates: Monday May 27th, Monday June 3rd and Tuesday June 11th at 4:30pm at 5050 Yonge Street. The Ford Government is proposing a School Board Governance Review, we do not know what this looks like or involves. Central Bargaining is starting with CUPE, OSSTF and Catholic Teachers. There is concern in the community about a potential strike in September, hard to say if it will

happen. Bloor CI Update: the existing Bloor CI will be moving to Central Technical School in September 2020 temporarily. There will be 2 separate schools operating out of one space. For more information please check the trustee website. In line with today's forum theme, have a look at this: <https://www.ophea.net/node/7240>

4. **Playground Revitalization, Fundraising and Communication: Alexis Dawson and Christella Morris.**

4.1. **Alexis Dawson- Parent Involvement and Fundraising:** The first step is to engage the school community, parents, students, teachers, staff, community stakeholders and caretakers (Rawlinson did a series of surveys). Survey the grounds in different seasons and weather. Gain and understanding of the TDSB/Ministry policies; what are the timelines? Who is involved and when? How does the tender process work? Fundraising guidelines, who can fund what? Donor acknowledgement. Grants. Involve students in the process! Create a fundraising plan. Give incentives for large donations (plaques on trees or walls etc...). Create ways for everyone to contribute. Look for multiple sources for growth; traditional fundraisers, community support, engagement beyond the school, grants, cash donations, local businesses, City Councilors, developers. Create a brand/marketing plan. Have a big fundraising launch and go after more than you need.

4.2. **Christella Morris - Communications Plans (Branded Marketing in School Fundraisers):** Create a familiar connection. Rawlinson's brand is ROAR! Rawlinson Outdoor Area Restoration. Create a home base, landing page/website <https://rawlinsonroar.com/> use social media marketing. Create micro fundraisers, think small. Work together as a team.

5. **Playground Revitalization - Richard Christie, Senior Manager, Sustainability, TDSB:** The first step in a school taking on playground revitalization is a Viability Review. Viability Reviews assist schools looking to begin playground revitalization, it is a way to sift through the complicated process and give structure and guidance to the school community. Viability Reviews Have a four step process:

- 5.1. The Principal requests a viability review and a site visit is scheduled.
- 5.2. Terms of reference are obtained, vetted and reviewed.
- 5.3. Homework. Complete and submit a participatory design
- 5.4. Design Development and construction. simple project: design in-house, obtain estimates for in-house construction, secure funding, scheduling the project construction. Complex Projects: Design Coordinator assigned, external landscape architect hired, schematic design (master plan) define high-level scope and costing. - secure funding for first phase; detailed design, tendering report to Board, award the contract, pre-construction meeting.

TDSB Funding - TDSB will fix the broken stuff and parents fundraise for the enhancements. You will be stuck at the planning stage until you secure funding.

Tips: *Planning Stage* - don't wait to request viability review. help to manage expectations about timelines. Try to minimize complexity if you can; complex projects can go very slowly and can stall. *Design Stage:* try to resist putting in too much into the design. be realistic about what the TDSB can maintain over time. Aim for very

good, yet simple designs that are well constructed using durable materials. Please try to trust the judgement of the design team.

6. Superintendent Updates - Superintendents Mike Gallagher, Jane Philips Long & Tracy

Hayhurst: Mike Gallagher - thank you to Richard Christie for his work. Good News, TDSB Excellence Awards presented today to 12 staff members https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Excellence?utm_source=TDSB&utm_medium=homepage-banner&utm_campaign=TDSB%20Service%20Excellence. Black Student Recognition Awards also happened today. Staffing being completed right now. School improvement plans being completed for this year and goals being set for next year. Anti-black racism training being conducted with school administrators, first of three sessions will not be impacted by budget. Suicide prevention protocol training is ongoing. Principal and Vice Principal Placements are being looked at at this time. Tracy Hayhurst- Tracy is the Superintendent for Rawlinson Community School and wanted to express how proud she is of the community.

7. The next Ward 9 Forum is June 20th at Oakwood CI. We will be looking at School Improvement Planning for the year ahead. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm