

Trustee Update for PIAC – June 21, 2016
Submitted by Shelley Laskin

PIAC Annual Planning Session

I was pleased to have the opportunity to join you for part of your annual planning session on June 18 – thank you for dedicating your time, energy and passion into improving parent engagement and parent voice at the Board. I look forward to continuing to liaise and support however I can.

Mitzie Hunter Named New Minister of Education

As a result of a cabinet shuffle in Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne’s government this week, there is a new provincial Minister of Education. Liberal MPP for Scarborough – Guildwood Mitzie Hunter is now Minister of Education. We are looking forward to working with her in support of the success of all our students. To follow our new Minister on Twitter follow [@MitzieHunter](#). She became an MPP in August 2013 and has been a Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services and most recently was the Associate Minister of Finance, responsible for the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan. Later that day, other changes to public service executive appointments were announced. George Zegarac becomes the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Nancy Matthews has been appointed Deputy Minister of Education on an interim basis. Former Education Minister Liz Sandals has been named President of the Treasury Board. There was a recent article on the new dynamic you might be interested in. Please click [here](#). MPPs rose for summer recess after June 9, 2016. They will return to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on September 12, 2016. There will be one by-election for the vacant seat of Scarborough-Rouge River held by former MPP Bas Balkissoon who resigned on March 22. The government has six months to call this by-election. (Note- Neethan Shan is the NDP Candidate for this by-election).

Happy National Aboriginal Day – June 21, 2016

On **June 21** each year, people across Canada mark National Aboriginal Day in recognition of the rights, histories, contributions and achievements of Aboriginal peoples. The unique cultures, languages and spiritual practices of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities are celebrated nationally and in our city. National Aboriginal Day is held around the time of the summer solstice – the longest day of the year – which has spiritual significance for Indigenous people. In schools across Toronto, we honour this day through cultural activities to build knowledge about the histories and current contexts of Aboriginal peoples in Canada. A growing number of Indigenous students and families are joining us at the TDSB. Through the [Aboriginal Education Centre](#), we are dedicated to developing programs that meet the needs of Indigenous students and families and that enable all students and staff to learn from Indigenous perspectives.

Media Release – June 8, 2016 – Toronto District School Board Supports Curriculum Recommendations from Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Toronto District School Board Trustees and staff are showing their support for the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* with a focus on the recommendations around curriculum. In letters addressed to Education Minister Sandals, Trustees, staff, community members and Elders urge the province to develop and implement a mandatory K-12 curriculum that covers residential schools, treaties and the historical and contemporary experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada as soon as possible. “In our field of public education, we want to emphasize the importance of honouring these actions for TDSB schools, students and families,” says TDSB Chair Robin Pilkey. Members of the TDSB’s Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee state in their letter, “It goes without saying that, at the TDSB, we believe education is critical in the path towards reconciliation and creating possible places for transformation and justice.” These letters are accompanied by a petition signed unanimously by Trustees in support of implementing the curriculum.

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Quick Facts

- The TDSB [Aboriginal Education Centre](#) has been developing and implementing Aboriginal programs in TDSB schools since 2006.
- The [Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee](#) is one of the TDSB's community committees. It is comprised of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Elders and community members, as well as non-indigenous allies.
- In June 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released its final report and calls to action. This included a recommendation to implement a K-12 curriculum on "residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada," (*Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*, Section 62.i).

Come Join the TDSB PRIDE Float July 3rd

All members of the TDSB community are invited to join me and the TDSB PRIDE Parade contingent on **Sunday, July 3, 2016**. Everyone who wishes to march with or ride on the TDSB float should gather at **Asquith Green Park at 12:45 p.m.** We will then travel as a group to our mustering location (please note that we will not be advised of the exact TDSB mustering location until just before parade day). If you are unable to make it to the Asquith Green gathering location, but would like to join us en route, please watch for details and updates on Twitter (#PrideTDSB).

Learning Centres – Next Steps

We are still in the process of determining specifics about the learning centres. We will continue to update staff, students, parents/guardians and the community as we move forward with this new strategy. For more information on the learning centres, please see [Improving School Effectiveness and Student Achievement & Well-being](#).

Air Conditioning Concerns

I thought you might be interested in our communication spokesperson response to media questions regarding air conditioning in schools – we understand how unpleasant it can be for both students and staff – "Many schools were designed and built without the capability for air conditioning and prior to the widespread availability of centralized cooling systems... There are several different types of cooling systems in use, including central chiller plants that service an entire school or sections of a school, localized roof top units that service a specific area, split systems that may service one or two rooms, window units that service individual classrooms and finally, some classrooms instructional spaces have large ceiling fans to provide air movement. The decision as to when the air conditioning is turned on is a local school decision that takes into account the availability of other means of ventilation, operable windows, internal temperatures and external temperatures... The cost to install complete building air conditioning at all schools that don't currently have it would reach into the hundreds of millions of dollars, perhaps even closing in on \$1 Billion depending on a number of factors including type of AC chosen, school wide electrical upgrades, asbestos abatement, etc. – not to mention the added maintenance, replacement and operational costs associated with the installation of AC in all schools. As the TDSB is currently facing a \$3.5 Billion maintenance/renewal backlog, air conditioning of all buildings is not being considered as it is cost prohibitive. Our staff do their very best to make students and staff as comfortable as possible, although we realize it can be unpleasant at times. During warmer days, staff use fans, turn off lights, open windows to create a cross breeze and in some cases, where possible, can move classes to cooler portions of the building such as the library. With regards to students or staff that have a particular susceptibility to heat or have medical concerns, we'd want them to come forward so that we can look to see if an accommodation can be made during warmer days."

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TDSB Launches SmartSAVER

The Toronto District School Board is the first school board in Canada to partner with [SmartSAVER](#) on a board-wide campaign to help eligible families' access free money for their children's future education. Research shows that even a small amount of education savings can improve student achievement, well-being, equity of opportunity and outcomes. Through this campaign, the TDSB can help an estimated 50,000 students access as much as \$100 million in free education money through the federal government's [Canada Learning Bond](#). Eligible families are encouraged to apply for the Canada Learning Bond and open a no-fee, no contribution required Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) through SmartSAVER's safe and secure online application available at www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER.

Board Meeting Agenda – June 22, 2016

Program and School Services Committee recommends

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20160622&Filename=160608_54+pss.pdf

1. New Representative for the Brain Injury Society of Toronto on SEAC
2. Acknowledgement of Ancestral Lands/Territories by Schools
3. Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Training
4. Enrolment in French Immersion/Extended French Programs 2016-17
5. Update on the Implementation of the Schools First: Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy
6. Re-establishment of the Inner City Task Force
7. Pathways in the Alternative School System
8. Student Discipline
9. Safe Environments for Active School Transportation

Finance and Accountability Committee recommends

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20160622&Filename=160615_12+fa.pdf

1. Contract Awards, Operations
2. Contract Awards, Facilities
3. Contract Awards, Summer Approval Process 2016
4. Receipt of Section 37 Funds From City of Toronto to Fund Improvements at James S Bell Junior Middle School
5. York Memorial Collegiate Institute: Tieback Agreement to Accommodate Eglinton Crosstown Light Rail Transit
6. Replacement of Avondale Public School and Avondale Elementary Alternative School Incorporating Child Care Facility: Tender Award including that the Chair request meeting with the Mayor's Office to find a solution to the issues the TDSB is experiencing with regard to school site plan approvals
7. Replacement of George Webster Elementary School: Tender Award
8. Peckham Centre/Pleasant Public School: Easement

Planning and Priorities Committee recommends

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20160622&Filename=160622_57+ppc.pdf

1. Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy
2. Declarations of Surplus Properties: Buttonwood Hill, McNicoll, Silver Creek, Sir Robert L. Borden BTI and Thistletown
3. Closure of Nelson A. Boylen Collegiate Institute and Surplus Declaration

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4. Request to Proceed with a Pupil Accommodation Review for Forest Hill Collegiate Institute, John Polanyi Collegiate Institute, Oakwood Collegiate Institute, Vaughan Road Academy and York Memorial Collegiate Institute
5. Pupil Accommodation Review for Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute, East York Alternative Secondary School, East York Collegiate Institute, Eastdale Collegiate Institute, Eastern Commerce Collegiate Institute, Greenwood Secondary School, Monarch Park Collegiate Institute, Riverdale Collegiate Institute, School of Life Experience and Subway Academy 1 – Response to Recommendations of Pupil Accommodation Review Committee
6. Program Area Review, Alexander Muir/Gladstone Ave Junior and Senior Public School, Givins/Shaw Junior Public School, Queen Victoria Public School and The Grove Community School
7. Galloway Road Public School: Surplus Declaration of Property
8. Trustee Interaction Management System: Update
9. Boardroom Audio-Visual Equipment
10. Revisions to Policy P066, Reporting of Suspected Wrongdoing (Whistleblowing)
11. Plain Language Template
12. Policy Development Process

New Motions

Motions to designate June as LGBTQ Pride Month, October as Somali Heritage Month and October as Islamic Heritage Month.

Other Items of Interest

Highlights from the 2016 ParticipACTION Report Card

"The ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth is the most comprehensive assessment of child and youth physical activity in Canada. The Report Card synthesizes data from multiple sources, including the best available peer-reviewed research, to assign evidence-informed grades across 12 indicators. Over the years, the Report Card has been replicated in numerous cities, provinces and countries, where it has served as a blueprint for collecting and sharing knowledge about the physical activity of young people around the world. This Report Card includes new Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for Children and Youth: An Integration of Physical Activity, Sedentary Behaviour, and Sleep – the first of their kind in the world – and, for the first time, assigns a Sleep grade."

To download the full 76-page report, please visit www.participACTION.com/reportcard.

Support for Bill C-241, An Act to Amend the Excise Tax Act (School Authorities)

On May 11, 2016 the Canadian School Boards Association sent a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau in support of *Bill C-241, An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities)*. This is a Private Member's bill introduced by PC Kevin Waugh that seeks to allow school boards to receive the full 100 percent GST rebate. The Ontario Public School Boards' Association joined as a signatory in the Canadian School Boards Association letter. It states: ***The Canadian School Boards Association unanimously supports BILL C-241, An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities). This proposed bill would amend the Excise Tax Act so as to increase the goods and services tax rebate rate for school authorities from 68% to 100%.*** The Toronto District School Board voted unanimously to also support the Bill and ask the Chair to write a letter of support.

E-Petition for Federal Government to Provide School Boards with a Full Rebate on GST

There is now a petition... please consider signing as we need at least 500 signatures on the E-Petition in support of C-241. Click on the link [here](#) and thanks.

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Whereas:

- School authorities are funded through taxpayer dollars;
- The Government of Canada collects GST on goods and services purchased by school authorities, then refunds 68 percent; and
- The remaining 32 percent is a tax on tax.

We, the undersigned, residents of Canada, call upon the House of Commons to support Bill C-241 which seeks to have the full 100 percent of GST collected by the Canada Revenue Agency refunded to Canadian school authorities.

Jerry Chadwick, Trustee Ward 22, Scarborough East elected First Vice-President of OPSBA

At the Annual General Meeting this past weekend in Ottawa, Jerry Chadwick was elected First Vice-President of OPSBA receiving the support of boards across the province. The "*Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) represents 31 public district school boards and 10 public school authorities across Ontario, which together serve more than 1.2 million public elementary and secondary students. The Association advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario.*" Jerry joins the Executive Officers which include President - Laurie French, Limestone DSB ; Past President - Michael Barrett, Durham DSB and Second Vice-President - Cathy Abraham, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB. I am also honoured to be part of the Executive as Vice-President, Enrolment, representing the TDSB.

Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) Priorities for 2016-2017 www.opsba.org

The OPSBA priorities were reaffirmed through a process which invited input from all trustee members, from boards, from regional councils and from First Nation trustees this past spring. With the addition of a new priority, Advancing Reconciliation: First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education, and new areas of emphasis, these were approved by Board of Directors at their April meeting and forwarded to the AGM for confirmation by OPSBA's membership. The six priority areas are:

- The Whole Child and Student Well-Being
- New Generation Education
- Advocating for the Role of Trustees as Members of the Board and Building Leadership Capacity
- Labour Relations
- Education Funding
- Advancing Reconciliation: First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education

Changes to Leasing as a Result of Amendments to Regulation 444/98 in May 2016

School boards that lease to another board cannot charge more than the operating cost of the leased space. In other words, boards cannot make profit on another board. There's a maximum lease rate calculation backed on Ministry benchmarks of school operating costs.

Boards could only lease to commercial operators or private sector after the property has been circulated in accordance with Reg 444/98 and no other public entity with priority ranking expresses interest in the property. We are not required to terminate existing leases with private sector entities, but at the time of lease renewal the board would have to circulate per the regulation.

Changes to Ontario's Accessible Customer Service Standard

Changes to the customer service standard under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* are coming July 1, 2016.

As a result of these changes:

- Organizations must train all employees on accessible customer service.

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- Organizations can only require a support person to accompany someone with a disability for the purposes of health or safety, and in consultation with the person.
- More types of regulated health professionals can certify the need for a service animal.
- The customer service standard is part of the **Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation**, making it easier for organizations to understand their requirements.

All organizations in Ontario with one or more employees must comply with the changes from July 1, 2016. All public sector organizations, and businesses and non-profits with 20 or more employees must submit their 2017 accessibility compliance report by December 31, 2017.

Learn more at ontario.ca/accessibility.

TDSB e-Summer School

TDSB e-Summer School is available to all Ontario residents, age 14-20. This FREE* high school credit program is for Ontario secondary school students who wish to pursue secondary school courses online! TDSB e-Summer School offers dozens of online courses available in July and August sessions. We look forward to having you during the summer sessions of 2016. Registration for July eLearning has now closed, but the **last day for August eLearning registration is July 18 (midnight)**. For more information, please click [here](#).

First Day of School – Tuesday, September 6

The **2016-2017 Days of Significance** document is available for your reference at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/calendar/schoolyearcalendar20162017.aspx>.

New Invitation

Share your voice at a community education forum on **Saturday, June 25th, 2016 presented in collaboration by the Educators Knowledge Exchange Steering Committee, the York University Centre for Education and Community (YCEC), the Canadian Alliance of Black Educators (CABE), the Latin American Education Network (LAEN), and the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and Its Diaspora**. The forum, titled “Community as the Classroom: Unveiling the Impact of SROs in Schools through Collective Voice,” will create a space for open dialogue on the topic of School Resource Officers working in Toronto schools, student well-being and purposeful advocacy. The afternoon will begin with an introduction to new research regarding SROs in schools, move into a panel discussion and be followed by smaller facilitated group dialogues in order to unpack the different points of rationale provided for this police presence and see researchers, concerned parents, youth, teachers, community educators and other stakeholders share their perspectives with the aim of creating a Purposeful Advocacy Plan that will be presented to the School Boards.

Date: Saturday June 25th, 2016

Time: 2-6pm

Location: Driftwood Community Centre

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/community-as-the-classroom-unveiling-the-impact-of-sros-in-schools-through-collective-voice-tickets-26025880108>

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!