

Ward 7 Council and Community Meeting

Thursday November 28, 2024 6:00-8:00 pm. Hybrid @Howard JPS

❖ Meeting Slide Show

In Attendance

- STAFF: Superintendent Altosaar, Superintendent Currie, Superintendent Tracey
- STAFF PRESENTER: Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Tanya Senk
- SCHOOL COUNCIL & WARD REPS: Storm (Fern), Midori (Howard PS), Alice (Howard PS), Christina (Humberside), Christine (King George PS), Sholeh (Parkdale PS), Hazel (PCI), Carla (RCI), Luis (Warren Park), Tanya (WTCS) Pilar (UFA)
- Additional parents and community members joined in person and online

Land Acknowledgement

- Land Acknowledgement
 - Storm, Ward Rep from Fern PS played an audio recording of her son, age six in grade 1, reciting the TDSB Land Acknowledgment
 - Contact [Trustee King](#) if you are interested in providing the acknowledgment at the next council meeting
- Community agreement and meeting norms were reviewed:
 - Treat everyone with respect.
 - No harassment or hateful speech at any time
 - Make space, take space
 - Superintendent Altosaar identified as anti-harassment contact for any support needed
- The meeting agenda was reviewed:
 - 1. Land Acknowledgement & Welcome
 - 2. Housekeeping and Introductions
 - 3. Indigenous Education Presentation
 - 4. Break
 - 5. PIAC Election Preparation
 - 6. Trustee Update
 - 7. Discussion: ward priorities

Introductions

- Trustee King introduced herself and acknowledged staff, ward reps, and families in person and online

Indigenous Education Presentation:

- Superintendent Tanya Senk led a presentation and responded to questions
- The [TDSB's Urban Indigenous Education Centre](#) is a valuable resource for school councils and families, as well as schools.

PIAC Election Preparation

- **Ward 7 [Parent Involvement Advisory Committee \(PIAC\)](#)** Representative Alice Monroe.
 - There is an opening for one Co-Representative for Ward 7 on PIAC
 - An election will be held at the January 23, 2025 meeting
 - Nominations will open Jan 6, 2025 and close Jan 13, 2025
 - Attendees wishing to vote must register in advance
 - Information will be circulated beginning in December
 - All submissions are made online

Trustee Update

1. National School Food Program Announcement

- Ontario has reached an agreement with the federal government to help fund a [school food program in the province](#).
- We are the third province to finalize a deal within the \$1B, five-year federal investment
- \$108.5 million roll out over the next three years
- Positive news given increasing rate of poverty and years of advocacy
- Program details and impact for TDSB to be determined
- The City of Toronto is also exploring expansion of a [school nutrition program](#).

2. Education Funding Consultation & 2025/26 Budget Development

- [OPSBA](#) and [TDSB](#) submitting input into 2025-26 education funding via the Ministry's Education Funding Consultation and through presentation to the Province's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
- Summary of [TDSB response](#):
 - existing funding gaps are having an impact on student achievement, mental health, and overall well-being
 - transparency in funding
 - special education
 - community use of schools
 - student safety and well-being
 - safe and accepting schools
 - mental health supports (staff and student)

- increased support caring and safe school
- curriculum supports and professional development
- absenteeism and well-being
- unfunded stat benefits
- student 1 to 1 device technology
- cybersecurity
- inflation
- ventilation
- 2025-26 [budget](#) development schedule in development
- Anticipating public meetings in April (TBC) and more information to support understanding, feedback, and advocacy
- Parent-led organizing facilitated by <https://www.fundourschools.ca/>

3. Math Achievement News

- New [Math Achievement Action Plan](#) launched last year
- Reports on early indicators of success and challenges related to Ministry of Education's Math Learning Partners initiative.
- Trustee King motion for consideration of additional communication and advocacy passed unanimously
- Chair issued [letter to Ministry](#) seeking additional funding in current school year
- See [Ward 7 November Newsletter](#) or [TDSB website](#) for more details

4. Organizational Board Meeting

- Annual [organizational board meeting was held November 13](#)
- [Neethan Shan \(Scarborough Centre\) acclaimed as Chair](#)
- Zakir Patel (Scarborough – Guildwood) elected Vice-Chair
- My 2024-25 [committee roles](#):
 - Vice-Chair: Programs and School Services Committee (PSSC)
 - Member: Director Search Committee
 - Member: Director Performance Appraisal Committee
 - Member: Negotiations Steering Committee
 - Member: 2SLGBTQ+ Community Advisory Committee
 - Member: Black Student Success Advisory Committee
 - Vice Chair: OPSBA Education Program Working Group
 - Member: OPSBA Black Trustees' Caucus

5. Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Strategy Update

- [Staff are developing plans in six areas](#)
- Includes creation of community working groups to inform work
- Update on [Islamophobia plan\(pg 29\)](#) will be presented at [Planning and Priorities on December 4](#)

6. Humberside CI Boundary Change Review

- Review flows out of [TDSB Long Term Program and Accommodation Planning](#) to address capacity issues at schools
- Boundary review of small area with shared and split boundaries between Humberside Collegiate and Runnymede Collegiate (impacts approx.. 20 families)
- Public meeting was held November 25
- [Information available on website](#)
- Feedback can be submitted through the [online survey](#)
- Scheduled for report to trustees at [February Planning and Priorities Committee meeting](#) where community members can [delegate](#)
- If passed, implemented in 2026/27 (current grade 7s)

7. International Baccalaureate (IB) Fee Implementation

- [IB is an enriched academic program](#) offered at 5 TDSB schools including [Parkdale Collegiate](#)
- In August 2024, Board approved reinstatement of collection of fees
- [Staff have communicated new \\$3,300 fee over 4 years with financial assistance available for families under \\$50K household income](#)
- Staff are considering community feedback and suggestions
- See [November Newsletter](#) and contact [Trustee King](#) to discuss

8. Ward 7 Facility Projects Update

- List of construction projects planned and in progress per school as of November 2024 will be provided to council reps from Trustee King

Discussion: Ward Priorities

- Trustee King reviewed key themes and topics identified at October meeting
- A list of upcoming policy reviews and reports was shared and other ideas solicited, to support further discussion on topics of broad interest
- Key themes and topics for ward forums and meetings included:
 - Belonging: caring and safe schools, classroom/community culture and inclusion, resources and supports
 - Achievement: math and literacy in our schools, success stories
 - System Issues: staffing challenges

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 23 online