

PIAC Trustee Report: January 24, 2023

Trustee Debbie King

Happy New Year!

BOARD-WIDE CULTURAL CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS

1. **Tamil Heritage Month** is being celebrated throughout the month of January with the theme of “Community Belonging Joy”. Many school-based activities are happening as well as reception event at the TDSB Education Centre on January 24th.
2. On **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** (January 27) TDSB is hosting a virtual interview with Holocaust survivor Pinchas Gutter from 10:15 am - 11 am. This is a live webcast to all TDSB classes grades 6 and up who are interested. Grade 8 students from Fern PS in Ward 7 have been invited to join in person and participate in a live Q&A. [International Holocaust Remembrance Day Live Webcast](#).
3. The **National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia** (January 29) will be commemorated with a virtual session: **In My Mosque: Love and Belonging in Community Spaces** (January 24). The author and illustrator of the book, *In My Mosque*, will host an interactive storytelling session focused on love and belonging in community spaces for students and community.

KEY BOARD DISCUSSIONS & DECISIONS

1. Governance and Policy Committee (Jan 11): Policy Review Schedule

Staff presented a summary of [13 policy reviews and 14 operational procedures completed](#) from September 2021 – September 2022.2022. Staff also presented a [policy review schedule for 2022/23 through 2025/26](#).

[The Learning Opportunity Index \(LOI\) policy](#) (P067) was highlighted as being last reviewed in 2015 and the measurement overdue for review since 2020. An updated schedule for review will be provided. A review of [Fundraising Policy](#) (P021) is also in progress.

2. Governance and Policy Committee (Jan 11): Threats to School Safety

Staff presented updates to mandatory training for school-based staff and noted the importance of parent voice in Caring and Safe School Committees as well as School Council voice on safety plans. Staff will update on the establishment of local safety tables at PPC on January 26, 2023.

3. Programs and School Services Committee (Jan 18): ICCAC Recommendation

Trustees heard and moved an Inner City Community Advisory Committee (ICCAC) recommendation to advocate for national school food program as follows:

a) The Chair write to the appropriate Ministries within the provincial and federal governments to highlight the immediate need for support for student nutrition and request increased funding, and reiterate calls for a fully funded, national school food program and programs that address food insecurity;

(b) The letter in Part (a) be shared with MPs, MPPs, and other relevant organizations, including the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the Ontario Student Trustees' Association.

4. Finance Budget and Enrollment Committee (Jan 23): Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) System

Trustees heard a report outlining the decision made by staff to not proceed with converting the Extended Day Program to a Licensed Child Care Program (a requirement to become eligible for the CWELCC system). Key points:

- Federal government has committed \$13.2 billion over 6yrs beginning 2021/22
- To be eligible for funding, must be licensed child care provider and in agreement with City of Toronto
- TDSB has 22 Extended Day programs serving K-6 students
- Decision not to convert at this time based on costs, ages served, etc.
- Delegates asked that more time be taken to assess other models

- Trustees suggested that subsequent spring reports go through EYCAC or **PIAC for consultation**
- No change for families currently in TDSB Extended Day Programs

5. Finance Budget and Enrollment Committee (Jan 23): A Collaborative Approach to School and Community Safety Report 1 Budget Allocations

Staff presented a recommendation for allocation of staffing positions as part of action plan. This included among other resources, additional system investments for CYCs, SWs, CYW, School based safety monitors and audit consultants. Trustees moved to increase additional allocation of school safety monitors from 12 to 32.

6. Finance Budget and Enrollment Committee (Jan 23): Contract Awards

Staff presented recommended suppliers and contract terms including: Lexia Reading Programs, Wilson Reading Intervention, Community and System-based tutoring, Online tutoring services. Trustee questions may arise at the Priorities and Planning Committee meeting on January 26.

OTHER ITEMS

7. City, Provincial and Federal Budget Consultations

Currently all levels of government are at some stage of budget planning and development. There is [notice of motion on the January 26 Planning and Priorities Committee agenda](#) to advocate for critical investments that support child and youth well-being.

Additionally, there are opportunities for the public to add input as follows:

Toronto Budget

Review the [proposed budget](#) released in January and send feedback to buc@toronto.ca cc mayer_tory@toronto.ca and your City Councillor.

Note: It will require the Mayor or a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote to change.

Ontario Budget Consultation

Complete the pre-budget consultation survey or send your submission to submissions@ontario.ca by Feb 10th.

For more info: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2023-budget-consultations>

Note: In the survey, you can add education and children's services wherever "other" is indicated.

Canada Budget Consultation

Take a 5 minute [online questionnaire](#) until Feb 10th

For more info:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/consultations/2022/pre-budget-consultations-2023.html>

8. Response to TDSB In The News / Islamophobia

January 9th CTV news coverage of a school incident has drawn attention to how occurrences of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate are addressed by the TDSB. In addition to a school-based response to address the impacts of Islamophobia and anti-Black racism within the community harmed, the Director and members of leadership are engaged in conversation with members of the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) to listen and learn more about how the Board can better provide identity-affirming practices, spaces and education for Muslim and Somali staff and students in all their intersecting identities.