



TRUSTEE REPORT, OCTOBER 2017

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Summary and Recommendations of the Enhancing Equity Task Force Draft Report

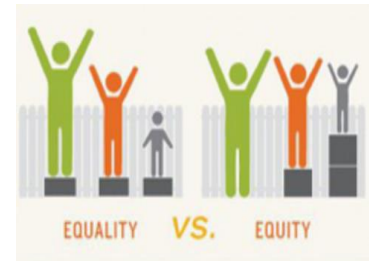
We need to hear from you!

Through the creation of the Enhancing Equity Task Force, the Board is committed to finding solutions in partnership with the community to support all our students, especially the most marginalized. The draft report with recommendations is now out. Read [The full draft report](#) and [Summary with Recommendations](#) here.

From the input, one clear vision emerged:

Equitable access to specialized programs in strong neighbourhood schools including:

- Equitable learning opportunities, free of barriers, for all students to reach their full potential;
- Programming and staffing that is reflective, relevant and responsive to the cultures, identities and needs of the students and the community served;
- A school culture that is safe, welcoming, caring and actively stands against bias and discrimination including racism and hate; and
- Active engagement with parents/caregivers and the community as authentic partners in promoting students' learning and well-being.



Share your voice and let us know what you think about the draft recommendations. What resonates with you? What's missing? Please respond to the [Survey](#) by the end of October.

Facility Condition Index (FCI) and Renewal Needs Backlog (RNB)

Last year, TDSB became the first school board in Ontario to post each school's Facility Condition Index (FCI) and Renewal Needs Backlog (RNB). For the 2017-2018 school year, the information will be posted later this month. Each school's individual web page located on the TDSB public website will display that school's FCI rating along with the repair list.

Our schools are underfunded and have been for many years. Our 2017-2018 system-wide repairs backlog is estimated to be \$3.7 billion. Even with higher funding levels from the Ministry the backlog keeps growing.

Unlike most other Ontario school boards, the TDSB does not qualify for **Educational Development Charges** (EDCs) because there is surplus space across the system, which puts the TDSB at a disadvantage. The TDSB keeps advocating for an amendment to the Education Development Charges (EDCs) regulation to allow the TDSB to collect EDCs to help support urgent school infrastructure needs and reduce overcrowding in high-growth areas of the city.

My colleague, Trustee Alexander Brown, Ward 12 and the parent council at McKee PS has invited our parents to join with his schools at a **meeting with Education Minister Mitzi Hunter on October 30th, 7:00 pm at Earl Haig Secondary School**. Although the topic is Overcrowding in Willowdale schools - it is, by extension, the same issue we are dealing with in some areas of our Ward. I urge all interested parents and community members to attend. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Alexander.Brown@tdsb.on.ca and please copy me at Manna.Wong@tdsb.on.ca so that we can sit together. Thank you in advance.

Motion items on [agenda](#) that may be of interest at the October 18, 2017 Board Meeting

Extreme Heat in Schools

Therefore be it resolved that the Director:

- (i) Engage the Ministry of Education to devise a severe weather strategy for school boards that includes high temperatures and protocols for extreme heat days that defines the severe weather conditions in which schools may be closed, as done in the states of New York and New Jersey, for example;
- (ii) Continue to implore the province to commit to providing predictable and sustainable funding for school repairs so that the Toronto District School Board can continue to implement its long-term plan for renewal, lower its current \$3.2 billion repair backlog and modernize its schools, including acceleration of the addition of cooling centres in all schools; and
- (iii) Request the province to immediately review the provincial benchmark costs for major capital projects, to include the true costs of building in Toronto, in determining the provincial averages for school boards across Ontario.

Keeping Marijuana Away From Schools

Therefore be it resolved:

- (a) That the Chair write a letter to the Mayor of Toronto and Premier of Ontario requesting that Toronto District School Board staff or trustees be consulted in all discussions regarding the regulation and locations of retail or other dispensaries of medicinal marijuana dispensaries;
- (b) That the Director: (i) work to keep marijuana dispensaries as far away from schools as possible; (ii) present a report to the Health and Mental Well-being Committee on the impact of the legalization of marijuana and its regulation on the Toronto District School Board; (iii) develop recommendations to address the impacts at (b) (ii) above.



Secondary Success Indicators

The Secondary Success Indicators have examined annual Toronto District School Board (TDSB) student achievement patterns since the 2000-01 school year. The most current Fact Sheets are for the completed 2015-16 school year.

[Fact Sheet 1](#) looks at annual subject completion of four mandatory Grade 9 subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, and Geography.

In [Fact Sheet 2](#), credit accumulation of students in Grades 9-12 is analyzed.

[Fact Sheet 3](#) focuses on achievement outcomes of students in Grade 12, including graduation, Ontario Scholarships, and returning students.

[Fact Sheet 4](#) incorporates post-secondary applications of TDSB students to Ontario's colleges and universities.

The Fact Sheets document increases in TDSB achievement, but also outline achievement gaps and challenges according to such key variables as gender, Grade 9 Program of Study, neighbourhood income, and Special Education Needs. Read here for a [summary of key findings](#).

New School Traffic Management Program to Improve Safety in School Zones

The TDSB and the City of Toronto are working together to improve traffic management, and make school zones safer, to encourage more students and families to walk and bike to school. Compared to previous generations, fewer students are walking and cycling to school. With more children being driven, there are rising environmental concerns, due to pollution from cars, and health and safety concerns, as children have less physical activity in their daily lives.

Learn more about how the [TDSB's traffic management](#) program and the City's [Vision Zero Road Safety Plan](#) are supporting active and safe routes to school.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

High School Information Nights

Learn [everything](#) you'll need to know about our variety of schools, programs and courses:

<i>Secondary School</i>	<i>Date and Time</i>	<i>Specialized Program</i>
Dr. Norman Bethune CI	Nov. 15, 6:45 pm	Advanced Placement; Specialist High Skills Major
L'Amoreaux CI	Nov. 23, 6:30 pm	Extended French; Specialist High Skills Major Media Arts
Stephen Leacock CI	Nov. 29, 7:00 pm	LEAP; Advanced Placement; Media Arts; Specialist High Skills Major; Centre of Innovation
Sir John A MacDonald CI	Dec. 07, 7:00 pm	Advanced Placement; Specialist High Skills Major

French Immersion Information Evenings

A series of public information evenings will be held across the TDSB to provide parents the opportunity to learn further [information about the French Immersion program](#) and the application process, and to ask questions of TDSB staff. You can also join us online at a Virtual Information Evening to learn the information about the program and application process and to ask questions via web chat.

The closest location in our area for the information evening is at Albert Campbell CI on Tuesday, November 21, 7 pm. **Virtual Information Evening:** www.tdsb.on.ca, **Wednesday, November 22, 7 pm.**

Application deadlines are: **Early French Immersion (SK entry)** Thursday November 30, 2017; **Junior Extended French (Grade 4 entry)** Thursday February 8, 2018; **Intermediate Extended French (Grade 7 Entry)** TBD February 2018

11th Annual Parent Involvement Makes A Difference Conference

Saturday, November 25, 2017

Earl Haig Secondary School

This year's theme is **Nurturing Family Engagement** and parents are invited to this free conference to learn more about how to be an active part of their child's education. Workshops cover a wide range of topics related to parenting, student learning and school councils.

[Registration](#) opens soon! Bussing, child minding and translations are available through registration only.

"Parents have the greatest influence on the achievement of pupils through supporting their learning in the home rather than supporting activities in the school. It is their support of learning within the *home environment that makes the maximum difference to achievement.*"

'Do Parents Know they Matter?'
Prof. Alma Harris & Dr J. Goodall 2008

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Arts Education Workgroup receives PRO Regional Grant approval!

I am happy to report that our 'Arts Intersection' grant application has been approved for the amount of \$7,500. Working together with parents, students and principals, we will be actively engaged on brainstorming arts activities in our schools, with the bold and long-term vision that arts education will be adequately funded and embedded in the everyday teaching and learning of our children in every school. Get involved and be a part of the vision.

**AS PARENTS, YOUR PARTICIPATION IS CRUCIAL TO STUDENTS SUCCESS.
BECOME A WARD REP ON THE FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
FELLOW PARENTS AND PIAC REPS, CHRIS LEVIEN AND LAURIE POIRIER INVITE YOU
TO JOIN AND VISIT THEIR NEWLY CREATED FACEBOOK PAGE:**



TDSB WARD 20 MEMBERS

NEXT WARD COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm