

Meeting Notes

Liban's Updates

- Budgets come every year, budgets cut might be happening.
- Emails regarding cellphone policy
 - o Distraction for students, bullying and social media
 - o Other side, it is a school safety issue for communication with parents
 - o Cellphone policy will be handled differently dependent on school
- Somali Community Centre
 - o City of Toronto open community centre around culture and arts open to the public
 - o York southwest might be an option for location

David – Accommodation Planning

- Equity of Access – students' needs are first and foremost and building new schools or over-subscribed schools are functioning effectively
 - o Tracking residential development around city
 - o A lot of building around the city but not much in ward 6
 - Only 3.5% is in Ward 6
 - Long-term planning accommodation strategy is a document with capital plans and accommodation reviews for the next couple of years
 - Ward 6 has excess capacity
 - Embarking upon some consolidations for the future

Maya – Facility Services and Planning

3 projects

1. George Syme Community School
 - a. 55% through construction
 - b. Completion - Summer 2024
2. Dennis Avenue Community School
 - a. 35% through construction
 - b. Completion – Fall 2025
3. York Memorial Collegiate Institute
 - a. Auditorium and Historical Aspects were preserved
 - b. Increased capacity of York memorial
 - c. Completion – Fall 2026

Jim – Superintendent

- Latest data, 9/10 feel safe in/around school
 - Almost 8,000 kids don't feel safe
- Issues find their way into schools
 - 2022-2023 was the most violent year (incidents) ever
 - Only 35% students said they enjoy school last year
 - 1/3 of students said they feel like crying every day
 - ½ students said they feel like they don't have a caring adult in school to talk to
- What's changed according to TPS?
 - Response time
 - Easier Access to weapons
- What do we do?
 - Increase staff
 - Teachers
 - Child and youth care workers
 - Hall monitors
 - All staff in school has to go through mandatory training
 - After-school programs for students
 - Work as a collective

Daniel

- Financial Constraint in the TDSB
 - Lack of staff
 - Lack of assistance
 - Lack of resources
- To get information:
 - Rely on staff to bring challenges to trustee
 - parent council meetings are where problems are brought up
- Prioritize Email, call, bug local representatives and voice experiences

George Brown College

- Pathways and bridges
 - o Students can get a 2-3 diploma and pathway into a degree at the same college
 - o Colleges offer co-op education for hands-on work experience
- Apprenticeship (students get paid while they work)
 - o Several Construction and technology apprenticeships
 - o Apprenticeship program is required for trades and to work independently

Possible Programs

1. Training in culinary
 - a. Can do a diploma program and use hours towards apprenticeship and can work
 2. 1-year certificate in trades, construction, plumbing, etc
 - a. All hours go through their apprenticeship
 - b. They have access to all George Brown fairs, service offers, etc.
 3. Home renovation-related
 - a. 2-3 year diploma and can do apprenticeship portion afterwards
- Offers accessible learning services
 - o Students must self-identify so they can receive supports

TCBN (Toronto Community Benefits Network)

- Work with community, promote construction jobs as there are certain barriers to get in
- Pre-apprenticeship program
 - o For those who want to get into construction
 - No age-limit
 - o Program is free
 - 8-weeks online
 - Introduce people to the field with professionals in construction and provide them the basic certifications for any trade
 - o Steps after apprenticeship?
 - After 8-week program, encourage students to apply to trade union, complete an exam and become a member of that union
 - Mentors will be there to support (one-on-one)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER PERIOD

1. Why was the tech shop added the York memorial site?

York memorial was built for 900 students. With rebuilding it, we wanted to consolidate George Harvey students and York memorial students to have a larger capacity at York memorial for 1300 students. The tech spaces will be modernized such as teachings about vehicles in the auto shop. Additionally, the science rooms and the academic program spaces will be there, and the library will be newly renovated. The school will be a neighbourhood school with several offerings for students with access to the community centre next door with a pool, art spaces, and a gymnasium.

2. Concerned about the enforcement of the cell-phone policy, teachers say that enforcement is difficult. How will this be managed?

The motion of the policy was brought forward. The TDSB will review it and come through with a unanimous policy. After doing the research, the policy will be put into place. This will be implemented effectively as it requires a culture change.

3. In terms of safety, the new school is 1300 people. How do we ensure safety at a bigger school?

In terms of design, the school is 180,000 square feet and will be barrier-free, camera systems, all systems and program spaces will meet teaching requirements. From security POV, the design of the school will have more views through the building (no hiding spaces), entrances will be open and clear in and out of the building. Also, safety consultant has reviewed the design and provided ideas to improve the sightlines and address any other safety concerns. Leadership and number of adults in school will also have to be managed accordingly.

4. Dennis Avenue Community school, why has the school's opening been push backed? Will there be investment in before and after care?

It takes several years to receive funding for the school. The architect design will take 3-4 years for sight plan approval. Contractors and labour challenges also take a while. This has contributed to the extension. It is 35% along the way, hopefully 2025. Parents must indicate interest in before and after care and the process can happen. Emails have been sent out in regard to this.

5. Board is making an informed evidence-based decision about cell-phone policy. What does evidence look like, who are we asking and what are we asking?

Staff do the research. Research department at the TDSB investigates intense research. With a report, they bring it to a board meeting 6 months from now, and the trustees vote on the final decision.

6. What resources can parents reach out to for them to help have difficult conversations when they ask tough questions to their children?

When you have an issue with your child, speak to the teacher first. If your child's needs are not being met, go to your principal. If it is still an issue, go to your superintendent. If not, call the trustee directly.