



Committee of the Whole (Special)

Report No. 17

CW:18A
Tuesday, June 2, 2020.
Electronic Meeting

Members Present Robin Pilkey (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Alexander Brown, Rachel Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Trixie Doyle, Harpreet Gill, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Alexandra Lulka, Dan MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Yalini Rajakulasingam, David Smith, Anu Sriskandarajah, Jennifer Story, Manna Wong and Student Trustee Ivy Deng.

Trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#)

Regrets Regrets were received from Trustee Chris Tonks.

Part A: Committee Recommendations

No matters to report

Part B: Information Only

1. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

An electronic meeting of the Committee of the Whole was convened on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 from 6:31 to 8:50 p.m., including a twenty-five-minute recess, with Robin Pilkey presiding.

2. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

3. Delegations

No matters report.

4. Report From the Director of Education

The Committee heard an oral update from the Director of Education that included the following:

Preparation for the Fall

- i. In preparation for the fall, staff currently have two separate committees looking at return to work/school, one focused on instruction and one focused on operations. We have realized that we need to take a more holistic approach to working together and we are implementing a new return to school/work committee structure. Steering Committee.
- ii. There will be several sub-committees to work on the focused areas.
- iii. The chairs of the sub-committees will be part of the steering committee.
- iv. The chairs of the sub-committees will bring all the information to the steering committee to ensure we have coherence.
- v. We also have other members on the steering committee - TSAA, TSTN, Executive Supervisory Officers, Communications and Employee Services.
- vi. Will share the structure with Trustees when available and post on our website so the public can see all the preparation work taking place for returning to school.

End of Year School Celebrations

- i. Many of the milestones that would have taken place at the end of the school year have been postponed until it is safe to gather. Over the last few weeks we have had many creative ideas to celebrate students. Schools are able to work in creative ways to create safe celebrations. Staff have developed guidelines for celebrations to support principals We will share this in a memo. Principals are welcome to work with their school council and parent communities to consider unique and creative ways to acknowledge these important milestones and occasions in a safe and remote way.

We are asking principals to keep the following guidelines in mind:

- i. TDSB schools and buildings remain closed to all staff and individuals with the exception of school-based staff, students and parents clearing out classrooms, conducting end-of-year business and retrieving their belongings.
- ii. In support of physical distancing, the Ontario government's
- iii. emergency orders
- iv. In support of physical distancing, the Ontario government's gatherings remain restricted to no more than five people. During these unprecedented times, when celebrations are happening we must not gather with others in person to celebrate.
- v. Mandated physical distancing of at least two metres or six feet away from each other remains a critical aspect of reducing the spread of COVID-19.
- vi. Temporary closure of places of non-essential business (e.g. banquet halls) is still in place in Ontario to help protect the health and safety of the people of Ontario in response to the declared emergency

Should an idea fall within the guidelines, it can proceed. We do recognize that Trustees have a lot of commitments, however, principals have been asked to include Trustees in the celebrations.

Anti-Asian Racism, Pride, School Discipline

- i. Regarding discipline matters in a remote space, all of our policies and procedures still apply to discipline in a virtual way. Principals and vice-principals are reporting discipline matters through their school structures as they normally do. We have suspensions, although they are significantly reduced.
- ii. Pride month has always taken a significant place in the operations of TDSB. This year, thus far, it has been different. However, we have updated all of our landing pages and websites to communicate our commitment to Pride. Information has been shared through Direct Line, System Leaders. New and updated resources were shared. Separate note was sent encouraging schools to raise their flags. Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) awards - working on collecting information for this. The GSA awards take place every June. As we gather information, we know the celebration will need to be

postponed. We won't be having the Pride parade as in past, Pride Toronto is working on a virtual parade and we have shared information with them. Pride will be recognized at our June Board meeting.

5. Report From the Chair of the Board

The Committee heard an oral update from the Chair of the Board that included the following:

- i. Minister has started a weekly call with Chairs of boards. If Trustees have questions you would like asked – please send them to the Chair by Thursday.
- ii. The Minister has indicated that September school re-opening parameters will be shared with boards by the end of June.

6. Report From Representative on the City's Board of Health

The Committee heard an oral update from the representative on the City's Board of Health::

- i. Letter from the Chair of the Board of Health to Minister Elliott was shared with Trustees today.
- ii. The next regular meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for June 8, 2020.

7. Report From the Directors on the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

The Committee heard an oral update from the directors on the Ontario Public School Boards' Association:

- i. OPSBA is working on a submission for the government regarding a consultation framework for school reopening in September.
- ii. As of the end of last week – 500 staff members from 38 school boards across the province have volunteered for redeployment to support COVID-19 efforts.

8. Report From the Chairs of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Program and School Services Committee, the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

No matters to report

9. Report From Representatives on the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee

No matters to report

10. Reports From Student Trustees

No matters to report

11. Emergency Motions

Supporting Non-Profit Community Program Partners

At the Committee meeting, the following matter, introduced by Trustees Aarts and MacLean, was not deemed as emergency business.

It was decided that the matter was notice of motion for consideration at the next special meeting of the Committee of the Whole on June 9, 2020:

Whereas, the TDSB supports and encourages community programming, including low-cost and free programming, in our facilities through the Community Use of Schools subsidy (3760 permits in 2018/19) and the Local Neighbourhood Support Program (241 permits this year); and

Whereas, this programming is important for school-community connections and for supporting well-being for youth, seniors, and families; and

Whereas, low cost or free programs, such as after-school programs, March-break, and summer camps, are especially important supports for our highest needs communities and much of this programming depends on not-for-profit businesses who run and subsidize the programs; and

Whereas, the current, Covid-19 school closures, and foreseeable changes to building access and social distancing, are having negative impacts on the ability of community agencies and program partners to maintain their businesses; and

Whereas, many not-for-profits do not qualify for Provincial and Federal Covid-related loans or grants as they are neither incorporated businesses or registered charities and are also experiencing a significant reduction in donations; and

Whereas, the TDSB and other school boards stand to lose significant community supports from not-for-profit partners and programs if their not-for-profit partners disappear, which will negatively impact our school communities;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the Chair write to the Ministry of Education, and other appropriate Provincial and Federal Ministries, to advocate for financial support for not-for-profit businesses that run community programming in our schools to bridge the current school closures and mitigate foreseeable increased program costs that will be needed to accommodate social distancing once schools reopen;

The Director review what changes will be needed to support programming by existing not-for-profit permit holders through recovery from Covid-19 and present an update to the Board at the earliest possible convenience on the new permit conditions/expectations for permit holders that might impact permit holder cost or operating conditions (e.g. limits on program size, PPE, fees, etc), and on the impacts of Covid-19 on the status or numbers of the TDSB's existing fee-subsidy programs and program partners (e.g. change in number or types of programs, loss of partners).

12. Other Questions, Insights and Advice From Trustees to Staff

The Committee heard the following additional questions, insights and advice from trustees to staff:

Trustee Sriskandarajah

Can staff speak to the degree and availability of online support for students of French immersion students? Can staff provide direction to resources what resources are available?

In response staff indicated that these resources will be shared with all trustees via Trustee Weekly.

13. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Doyle, seconded by Trustee Li, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Robin Pilkey, Chair

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