



## Planning and Priorities Committee

### Report No. 09

PPC:009A  
Tuesday, April 6, 2021  
Electronic Meeting

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

**Regrets** Trustee Alexandra Lulka

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

### **PART A: Committee Recommendations**

#### **1. Stop the Plans for Radical Changes to Remote Learning in Ontario**

The Committee heard an update from the OPSBA Directors presenting an update on the activities of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

**Moved by:** Trustee Donaldson

**Seconded by:** Trustee Aarts

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

**Whereas, the Toronto District School Board gathers much data on student achievement, well-being and preferences and regularly surveys students, parents and staff; and**

**Whereas, February 2021 data collected by the TDSB indicates that 84% of its students surveyed said they learn better in-person compared to virtual learning; and**

**Whereas, recent surveys have also shown a marked increase in mental health concerns and feelings of isolationism among students learning remotely during the pandemic; and**

**Whereas, the proposal put forward by the Ministry of Education as reported in the Globe & Mail is not supported by any data and recent studies from the US show increasing poor outcomes, high attrition and digital inequality in online programs delivered outside of district school boards; and**

**Whereas, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) has already made a statement that the government's plan is not in the best interests of students and that there are significant negative implications including impacts on reduced funding levels, students' ability to attend small, rural and remote schools, and diminished local influence on education; and**

**Whereas, the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) also expressed concerns that the proposed plan to make remote learning a permanent option would present many negative impacts for the student body and does not prioritize the success and well-being of students strongly encourages the government to proactively seek students' perspectives as the primary stakeholder in education;**

**Therefore, be it resolved:**

- (a) That the Chair of the Toronto District School Board write to the Minister of Education to express this board's vehement objection to the rushed and radical changes to remote learning that we understand the government is proposing and that the letter include the following:**
- i. There is no evidence to support that this policy change will improve student achievement or well-being;**
  - ii. TDSB data shows that students and families prefer local in-person learning – which is the opposite of this proposal;**
  - iii. Rushing through these radical changes to remote learning after a year of isolation and instability created by the COVID-19 pandemic risks causing real harm to our students; and**
  - iv. The government must immediately stop its consideration of this proposal until the full impacts of remote learning on students during this pandemic are known;**

- (b) That the letter be shared with all Toronto-area Members of Provincial Parliament, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the Ontario Student Trustees' Association;**

**Carried**

**2. Program Area Review for Armour Heights Public School, Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School and St Andrew's Middle School [4068]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PPC:009A, page 1) presenting information on a program area review for Armour Heights Public School, Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School and St Andrew's Middle School.

**Moved by:** Trustee Laskin

**Seconded by:** Trustee Chernos Lin

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

- (a) That Armour Heights Public School be converted from a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 school to a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 school, retaining Grade 7 effective September 1, 2021, and Grade 8 effective September 1, 2022;**
- (b) That the junior to intermediate pathway from Armour Heights Public School to St. Andrew's Middle School be grandparented for the 2021-22 school year;**
- (c) That the shared junior attendance boundary between Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School and Armour Heights Public School be directed entirely to Ledbury Park Elementary and Middle School effective September 1, 2021.**

**Carried**

**3. WE Charity/ME to WE Social Enterprises Inc. Report on Educational Programming Partnerships [4067]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PPC:009A, page 17) presenting information on the scope, process, considerations, financial activity and formal and informal connections between WE Charity, ME to WE and the TDSB.

**Moved by:** Trustee Chernos Lin

**Seconded by:** Trustee Mammoliti

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

- a) That the report be received;**
- b) That the Director present a report to the Program and School Services Committee in the spring 2022 on:**
  - i. rethinking the strategic priorities of transforming student learning using Global Competencies (GCs) and evolving towards a focus on Critical Global Citizenship Education (CGCE);**
  - ii. revising the criteria for working with NGO partners to include CGCE driven pedagogies as a core aspect of the partnership framework.**

**Carried**

At the Committee meeting, Part (b) was added on amendment of Trustee Kandavel seconded by Trustee Story.

#### **4. School Year Calendar 2021-2022 [4069]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PPC:009A, page 33) presenting information on the school year calendar.

**Moved by:** Trustee Kandavel

**Seconded by:** Trustee Smith

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS that the matter be referred back to staff for further review.**

**Carried**

#### **5. Provincial Capital Priorities Program 2021-22 [4070]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PPC:009A, page 43) presenting a list of business cases for submission to the Ministry as capital priority projects.

**Moved by:** Trustee Doyle

**Seconded by:** Trustee Moise

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS that the list of ten Capital Priority projects, as presented in the report be submitted to the Ministry of Education for funding consideration.**

**Carried**

**6. Community Access Agreement: Dublin Heights School, 100 Bainbridge Avenue Report**

The Committee considered a report from the Toronto Lands Corporation (see PPC:009A, page 73) presenting information on a community access agreement.

**Moved by:** Trustee MacLean

**Seconded by:** Trustee Kandavel

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

- (a) That funding in the amount of \$110,000 from the City of Toronto to fund costs associated with site improvements at Dublin Heights Elementary and Middle School, as presented in the report, be accepted;**
- (b) That the Toronto Lands Corporation be authorized to execute a community access agreement with the City of Toronto for a term of five years commencing on or about January 1, 2022 with key business terms and conditions as presented in the report;**
- (c) That the community access agreement at Part (b) be in a form and content satisfactory to Toronto Lands Corporation's Legal Counsel.**

**Carried**

**7. Community Access Agreement: Huron Street Junior Public School, 541 Huron Street**

The Committee considered a report from the Toronto Lands Corporation (see PPC:009A, page 83) presenting information on a community access agreement.

**Moved by:** Trustee MacLean

**Seconded by:** Trustee Kandavel

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

- (a) That funding in the amount of \$647,000 from the City of Toronto to fund costs associated with site improvements at Huron Street Junior Public School, as presented in the report, be accepted;**
- (b) That the Toronto Lands Corporation be authorized to execute a community access agreement with the City of Toronto for a term of**

**20 years commencing on or about January 1, 2023 with key business terms and conditions as presented in the report;**

**(c) That the community access agreement at Part (b) be in a form and content satisfactory to Toronto Lands Corporation's Legal Counsel.**

**Carried**

**8. Community Access Agreement: King Edward Junior and Senior Public School, 112 Lippincott Street**

The Committee considered a report from the Toronto Lands Corporation (see PPC:009A, page 91) presenting information on a community access agreement.

**Moved by:** Trustee MacLean

**Seconded by:** Trustee Kandavel

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

**(a) That funding in the amount of \$150,000 from the City of Toronto to fund costs associated with site improvements at King Edward Junior and Senior Public School, as presented in the report, be accepted;**

**(b) That the Toronto Lands Corporation be authorized to execute a community access agreement with the City of Toronto for a term of five years commencing on or about January 1, 2022 with key business terms and conditions as presented in the report;**

**(c) the community access agreement at Part (b) be in a form and content satisfactory to Toronto Lands Corporation's Legal Counsel.**

**Carried**

**9. Community Access Agreement: Rawlinson Community School, 231 Glenholme Avenue**

The Committee considered a report from the Toronto Lands Corporation (see PPC:009A, page 99) presenting information on a community access agreement.

**Moved by:** Trustee MacLean

**Seconded by:** Trustee Kandavel

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

**(a) That funding in the amount of \$155,000 from the City of Toronto to fund costs associated with site improvements at Rawlinson Community School, as presented in the report, be accepted;**

- (b) That the Toronto Lands Corporation be authorized to execute a community access agreement with the City of Toronto for a term of five years commencing on or about January 1, 2022 with key business terms and conditions as presented in the report;**
- (c) That the community access agreement at Part (b) be in a form and content satisfactory to Toronto Lands Corporation's Legal Counsel.**

**Carried**

#### **10. George Harvey Collegiate Institute, 1700 Keele Street Temporary License Agreement With City of Toronto for Fairbank Silverthorn Storm Trunk Sewer Project**

The Committee considered a report from the Toronto Lands Corporation (see PPC:009A, page 107) presenting information on a temporary license agreement with the City.

**Moved by:** Trustee MacLean

**Seconded by:** Trustee Kandavel

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

- (a) That the Toronto Lands Corporation be authorized to enter into a temporary license agreement with the City of Toronto for the City use of a portion of the George Harvey Collegiate Institute school parking lot in exchange for the TDSB use of a portion of a City parking lot of similar size located at 15 Rotherham Avenue, as presented in the report, for a term not to exceed 24 months with key business terms and conditions as presented in the report;**
- (b) That the agreement at Part (a) be in a form and content satisfactory to the Toronto Lands Corporation's Legal Counsel.**

**Carried**

#### **11. Toronto Lands Corporation First and Second Quarters Business Reports**

The Committee considered a report from the Toronto Lands Corporation (see PPC:009A, page 113) presenting information on the activities and challenges in each area of the TLC's business for the first and second quarters.

**Moved by:** Trustee MacLean

**Seconded by:** Trustee Kandavel

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

**Carried**

## **12. Midtown Toronto Storm Sewer Relief Project: Strategic Partnership to Advance City Building With the TDSB**

The Committee considered a report from the Toronto Lands Corporation (see PPC:009A, page 127) presenting information on a partnership agreement.

**Moved by:** Trustee MacLean

**Seconded by:** Trustee Kandavel

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

- (a) That the Toronto Lands Corporation be authorized to negotiate a term sheet between the City of Toronto and the Toronto District School Board that permits TDSB lands at North Preparatory Jr. School also known as Memorial Park to form a part of the City's Midtown Toronto Storm Sewer Relief Project;**
- (b) That approval for the Toronto Lands Corporation to execute the partnership agreement be conditional upon:**
  - i. receiving confirmation of a City Council motion approving a satisfactory CreateTO report and recommendations by April 30, 2021;**
  - ii. a joint City/TDSB public meeting being held to inform the residents of the Forest Hill area and school communities of Forest Hill Collegiate Institute and North Preparatory Jr. Elementary School of the Midtown Toronto Storm Sewer Relief Project, its impact and timelines along with the partnership opportunities between the City and the TDSB;**
  - iii. a project timeline and layout that mitigates student and community disruption while also ensuring City access to all required funding for the project;**
  - iv. TDSB providing to the City its analysis of the operational impact on both North Preparatory Jr. Elementary School and Forest Hill Collegiate Institute schools which are to form a part of the Midtown Toronto Storm Sewer Relief Project implementation plan;**
  - v. North Preparatory Jr. Elementary School students remaining on site through to project completion, supported by a TDSB-approved on-site student safety plan;**



- vi. ensuring that the Midtown Toronto Storm Sewer Relief Project will provide for continued access by Forest Hill Collegiate Institute and North Preparatory Jr. Elementary School students to recreational space and that the City's on-site construction plan and timeline will be coordinated with TDSB staff;
  - vii. site remedies as required by the TDSB to address student and programming needs be at no cost to the TDSB and that the City will provide written confirmation to keep the TDSB financially whole through to project completion;
  - viii. the pupil accommodation opportunities from the Midtown Toronto Storm Sewer Relief Project within Ward 8 being guided by the Long-Term Pupil Accommodation Plan as approved by the TDSB.
  - ix. all existing TDSB site amenities impacted by the Midtown Toronto Storm Sewer Relief Project be replaced to a standard satisfactory to the TDSB;
  - x. facilitating TDSB student access or programming access to the City's lands or encumbered lands as required following the completion of the Midtown Toronto Storm Sewer Relief Project;
- (c) That the Toronto Lands Corporation and CreateTO collaborate to jointly pursue and secure where possible, additional City/TDSB building or hub opportunities and to bring forward other partnership opportunities that can provide services and benefits for students and community, at no cost to TDSB;
- (d) That all property transaction be in a form satisfactory to the Toronto Lands Corporation's legal counsel, Ontario Regulation 444/98 and where required, the Ministry of Education;
- (e) That the Toronto Lands Corporation provide a status report to the TDSB Board prior to December 31, 2021.

**Carried**

### **13. Infrastructure: Metrolinx Finch West LRT: Former Humbergrove Secondary School, 1760 Martin Grove Road**

The Committee considered a report from the Toronto Lands Corporation (see PPC:009A, page 149) presenting information on declaring a portion of property surplus for sale.

**Moved by:** Trustee MacLean

**Seconded by:** Trustee Kandavel

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

- (a) That, in accordance with Section 194 subsection (3) of the *Education Act*, approximately 50.5 square metres (543.6 square feet) of the former Humbergrove Secondary School located at 1760 Martin Grove Road (the “Subject Lands”), be declared surplus for sale for the purpose of transferring it to Metrolinx, as presented in the report;**
- (b) That, upon satisfactory completion of Ont. Regulation 444/98, the Toronto Lands Corporation be authorized to execute all agreements and documentation as required to give effect thereto in a form and content satisfactory to its legal counsel.**

**Carried**

#### **14. COVID-19 Recovery Plan (Trustees Rajakulasingam and Sriskandarajah)**

**Moved by:** Trustee Rajakulasingam

**Seconded by:** Trustee Sriskandarajah

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

**Whereas, since March 2020, students have been experiencing COVID-19 related school closures and remote learning, and there have been concerns raised over the long-term impacts on mental health and well-being, and learning across Kindergarten to Grade 12; and**

**Whereas, there is evidence that the COVID-19 schooling experience has significantly impacted students from lower socio-economic households. The degrees to which COVID-19 has impacted Indigenous, Black, racialized, 2SLGBTQI+ students are of critical concern to the TDSB moving forward; and**

**Whereas, there is significantly higher proportion of students from low SES backgrounds who have chosen Virtual School over in-person schools throughout the pandemic and these families are more likely to be challenged in relation to access to digital resources and infrastructure required for virtual learning; and**

**Whereas, many students face other barriers like family financial stress, job insecurity, food insecurity, diverse housing needs, domestic abuse and increased levels of mental health concerns, which may have prevented them from being able to attend school; and**

**Whereas, school closures mean that supervision of underserved children/youth is reduced, as well as access to a caring and safe adult;**

**Whereas, due to school closures and remote learning, access to a caring and safe adult for underserved students has been further reduced;**

**Therefore, be it resolved:**

**That the Director present a report by June 2021 on the implementation of a three-phase COVID-19 recovery plan, including financial implications, to identify which groups were most impacted, where interventions will be placed, and initial outcomes that resulted from interventions:**

**(a) As phase one of the plan:**

- i. outline current learning outcomes and student/parent/staff feedback information that describes the school experience for both Virtual and In Person school environments. The report will look at demographic data of students and the degrees to which students from different socioeconomic backgrounds may have had different learning experiences and outcomes, including;**
  - students with Special Education needs**
  - English as Second Language Learners**
  - students in various TDSB programs (i.e. Extended French and French Immersion, Alternative Learning programs, Caring and Safe Schools programs);**
- ii. evaluate whether and to what degree students have left the system to pursue work or dropped out of school;**
- iii. use current student surveys from January 2021 and climate surveys in the spring to gauge the perception of TDSB students concerning critical areas of mental health, well-being, school belonging, and learning experiences;**
- iv. use parent survey from January 2021, as well as concerns raised by the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee, the Special Education Advisory Committee and the Board's community advisory committees to gauge key concerns regarding post pandemic return to school;**

**(b) as phase two of the plan, implement targeted interventions after identifying which groups were most impacted in terms of learning loss;**

**(c) report back twice a school year, in the spring and fall, to the Planning and Priorities Committee, beginning in fall 2021;**

**(d) as phase three of the plan, complete the reporting back to the Board by spring 2023 and identify outcomes resulting from the recovery plan.**

**Carried**

**15. Access to Free Menstrual Products for Students in Ontario Schools (Trustee Donaldson, on behalf of Student Trustees Abusaifan, Shafqat and Shallo, and Trustee Mammoliti)**

**Moved by:** Trustee Donaldson

**Seconded by:** Trustee Mammoliti

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

**Whereas, lack of access due to economic factors - often referred to as “period poverty” - impacts people who menstruate around the world and can be especially damaging at puberty, when school interactions are crucial to a student’s development; and**

**Whereas, one-third of people who menstruate under the age of 25 in Canada struggle to afford menstrual products, and 70 per cent of people who menstruate say they have missed work or school due to their period; and**

**Whereas, menstrual hygiene products are not a luxury product, and are necessary and essential to menstrual health, comfort and participation in work, school and society; and**

**Whereas, on August 28, 2019 the Board authorized the Director to enter into a partnership with the charitable organization Brands Canada to secure access to menstrual products at no cost to the Board, and decided that free menstrual products be provided in all elementary and secondary schools beginning in the 2019-20 school year; and**

**Whereas, in some cases, free menstrual products are provided to students only at a student’s request, which invades student privacy; and**

**Whereas, the products currently provided in TDSB schools are funded by charitable organizations, and not guaranteed as a right to students; and**

**Whereas, the Toronto Youth Cabinet has issued a Joint Statement on Promoting Menstrual Equity in Ontario Schools and has invited all 72 Ontario school boards to advocate for access to free menstrual products;**

**Therefore, be it resolved:**

- (a) That the Chair write to the provincial Minister of Education requesting that the Government of Ontario provide funding for free menstrual products in schools;**
- (b) That the Ontario School Boards' Association be copied on the correspondence noted in Part (a);**
- (c) That the Director work with schools to ensure students have equitable access to menstrual products in a way that protects student privacy.**

**Carried**

**PART B: Information Only**

**16. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands**

A meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee was convened electronically on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 from 4:30 p.m. to Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 12:10 a.m. with Alexander Brown presiding.

**17. Approval of the Agenda**

On motion of Trustee Chernos Lin, seconded by Trustee Doyle, the agenda was amended to include an Update From the Director of Education on School Closures, and approved.

**18. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest**

No matters to report

**19. Delegations**

re TDSB Service Excellence and Director of Education Search

1. Caroline Wai

re School Year Calendar 2021-2022 [4069]

2. Andrew Waters, Parent and member of PIAC

**20. Report From Trustees Appointed to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association**

The Committee heard an update from the members (see attached) on the Ontario Public School Boards' Association on the activities of OPSBA.

**21. Update From the Director on School Closures**

The Committee heard an oral update from the Director on the announcement from Toronto Public Health regarding the closing of schools to in-person learning.

**22. Extension of the Meeting**

At appropriate times during the meeting, the Ending Time procedure was applied and the meeting was extended.

**23. Adjournment**

On motion of Trustee Patel, seconded by Trustee Moise, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

**PART C: Ongoing Matters**

No matters to report

Submitted by: Alexander Brown, Committee Chair