

**Joint Budget Ward Forum
Wards 7 & 9
Thursday March 21st, 2019 7:00 pm
Fern Ave JMS
Minutes**

Present: Trustee Robin Pilkey (Ward 7), Trustee Stephanie Donaldson (Ward 9), Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst, Superintendent Mike Gallagher, Superintendent Jane Philips-Long, Sabrina Wong (TDSB), Marissa Chu (TDSB), Jessica Chesten, Rosanna Sadella, Tricia McGovern, Caty Brown, Michelle McBride, Joeddi Marshall, Lisa Francis, Sanja Sokaric, Kathleen Hyatt, Dona Cass Janet Solberg, Kirstyn Motliwki, James Rothny, Heather Johnston, Hazel Rumajai, Susanna Redlkep, David Milner, Katherine Ball, Gail Klein, Marcela Sautue, Mireya Arrochea, Marcie Pinto, Sonia Neves, Sophia Ruddua, Lucy Coyle, Barbara Pascaluta, Jennifer Wills, Fred Omura,

1. Introduction of Trustees Robin Pilkey, Ward 7 and Stephanie Donaldson, Ward 9.

Community Announcements and Information:

- a. Reminder of the Parents as Partners Conference on Saturday March 30th at the Beanfield Centre, Exhibition Place. <https://www.parentsaspartners.ca/>
- b. The results of the French Program Review are available:
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/Public-Consultations/French-Review>

c. Recent Provincial Government announcements

March 21, 2019 - TDSB WARD FORUM : Wards 7 + 9

Trustees Robin Pilkey and Stephanie Donaldson

A) Cuts announced to-date across the province:

- * \$250M in EPO (Education Program-Other) Grants
- * \$1B removed through class size increases in elementary and secondary, removal of special funding for secondary programming and local priorities
- * New mandatory e-learning for every secondary student who must take a minimum of 4 (of 30) credits via e-learning. (through a provincial model)

B) Consultations Underway:

Ministry of Education

- * Phase 2 Class Size and Hiring Regulation consultations – open to the public
- o New questions included in phase 2 consultation:
 - * The new vision for e-learning is intended to provide more programming options for students. What comments and advice do you have?
 - * Class size caps exist in many local collective agreements. Do these caps pose a barrier to implementing the new class size requirements? (source: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/class-size-consultation.html>)

Toronto District School Board

- * Consultation on Draft Strategic Drivers for TDSB to create 2019-20 Budget.

* Note: About 94% of the TDSB's funding comes from the Ministry of Education. The other 6% represents such things as visa students, bank interest, cafeteria sales, leasing revenue and permits.

* Any funding reductions from the Ministry will make our budget decisions more challenging.

* We may not be able to afford everything we are currently doing and we may choose to not provide funding to some current programs and services in order to fund others.

* Therefore the Board of Trustees needs to give staff direction that will guide the building of the Budget. Your input will help the Board develop this direction.

* We recognize that it is too early to predict what the provincial funding will look like for the 2019-20 Budget. However we are committed to providing greater and more equitable access to school programs and learning opportunities.

* We remain committed to providing great schools and programs in the TDSB. (Please note that the TDSB has a \$3.9 billion backlog of school repairs. While making those repairs is a key priority for the TDSB, the repairs are part of our Capital Budget, not the Operating Budget.)

link to TDSB survey:

https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/2019-20-Budget/Your-Opinion-Counts?utm_source=Budget%20Page&utm_medium=budgetpagepromo&utm_campaign=Your-opinion-counts

Future announcements + potential cuts:

* April 11 Provincial Budget – we expect further changes/cuts to come in the upcoming provincial budget announcements

* Collective agreements for teachers and education workers expired in August 2019 across the province. Bargaining should officially begin spring/summer.

Opportunities to provide input:

* Attend public meetings with MPPs

* Write letters to MPPs

* Petitions

* Local parent action networks

* Deputations at future TDSB budget meetings

Parent Action Networks:

Fix Our Schools (Facebook, Twitter)

Ontario Parents for Public Education (Facebook)

West End Parents for Public Education (WEPPEToronto@gmail.com)

GTA Parent Action Network for Public Education (Facebook)

Etobicoke Parent Network (Facebook)

Bhutila Karpoche MPP Parkdale High Park was present and introduced Land Acknowledgement given by Trustee Robin Pilkey

2. TDSB Budget Presentation - Sabrina Wong and Marissa Chu

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/aboutus/docs/Ward-Forum-Presentation.pdf>

EPO Grants Status:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/AboutUs/docs/Appendix%20A%20-%20EPO%20as%20at%20Jan%2017.pdf>

Ontario Government Class Size Changes: Grades 4-8 class size average will increase from 23 to 24.5. Grades 9-12 class size average will increase from 22 -28 affecting 800 teachers province wide (72 in the TDSB) starting in 2019/20 school year.

Staff allocations are being done across the province right now, then at board level and then at school level.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/2019-20-Budget/School-Based-Staff-Allocation>

Financial Facts: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/Financial%20Facts.pdf>

Fixed vs. Flexible Costs:

[https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/aboutus/docs/FINAL-Revised%20App%20A%20-%20B%20-%20Fixed%20vs%20Flexible%20Costs%20\(no%20formula\).pdf](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/aboutus/docs/FINAL-Revised%20App%20A%20-%20B%20-%20Fixed%20vs%20Flexible%20Costs%20(no%20formula).pdf)

Budget Timelines:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/aboutus/docs/Updated-Budget-Schedule.docx>

TDSB Multi Year Strategic Plan:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Multi-Year-Strategic-Plan>

Multi Year Strategic Plan Action Plan:

https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/leadership/board_room/Multi-Year_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Proposed Budget Drivers:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/aboutus/docs/Ward-Forum-Presentation.pdf>

Budget Community Survey:


https://www.tdsb.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/2019-20-Budget/Your-Opinion-Counts?utm_source=Budget%20Page&utm_medium=budgetpagepromo&utm_campaign=Your-opinion-counts The survey is to help the Trustees prioritize spending for the budget due June 11th.

- TDSB Revenue comes from International Students and Fundraising. There has been some increase.

★ What can we do now?

- Join a Parent Action Group, follow advocacy groups on social media:
 - Fix Our Schools (Facebook, Twitter)
 - Ontario Parents for Public Education (Facebook)
 - West End Parents for Public Education (WEPPEToronto@gmail.com)
 - GTA Parent Action Network for Public Education (Facebook)
 - Etobicoke Parent Network (Facebook)
- Participate in Surveys:

- <https://surveys.tdsb.on.ca/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=647773&lang=en>
- <https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/parent-consultation-education-in-ontario/>
- Contact your MPP:
 - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/aboutus/docs/Chair-Letter-to-Toronto-MPP-EPO.pdf>
 - <https://www.ola.org/en/members/current>

A sunburst graphic with yellow rays emanating from a central point, set against a black background.

A MESSAGE
FROM WEST END
PARENTS FOR PUBLIC
EDUCATION (WEPPE)

NO CUTS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION! BUILD THE SCHOOLS ALL KIDS DESERVE

**THE ONTARIO CONSERVATIVE
GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED ITS
PLAN FOR DESTRUCTIVE CHANGES AND
MASSIVE CUTS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION
OF \$1.4 BILLION, DISHONESTLY
CLAIMING THAT FUNDING CUTS ARE
GOOD FOR OUR KIDS.**

WHY DO OUR KIDS BEAR THE IMPACTS OF
GOVERNMENT CUTS, WHILE CORPORATE
FRIENDS GET TAX BREAKS AND
HANDOUTS? ARE GOVERNMENTS
REPRESENTING US, OR THE BUSINESS
ELITE?

**CHANNEL YOUR CONCERN BY CONNECTING
WITH OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY:**

**Join a leaflet blitz
at Dufferin Station
with other parents
& teachers!
Mar 29/19
4 pm**

**Come to the next
WEPPE meeting!
Wed, Apr 3rd/19
6-8pm @
Location TBD**

**Join our group & get
latest updates by
emailing us at:
WEPPEToronto
@gmail.com**

WHAT IS CHANGING?

- **Cuts of 1000s of teachers & support staff**
- **Crowded classes where kids receive far less 1-on-1 attention**
- **Cancellation of supports for the most vulnerable students**
 - **Fewer resources for students with special needs**
- **Threats to remove the certified teacher from Kindergarten**
- **Mandatory e-Learning courses for high school students**

These changes are a disaster for our public education system, and that, along with funding tax breaks for the wealthy, is the intent: The chronic underfunding of the public education system leads to discontent. This discontent opens the door to proposing a privatized, for-profit education model through the introduction of private charter school and voucher system. These systems implemented in the U.S. and elsewhere have drastically increased inequity and further disadvantaged poor and racialized communities.

Join us in fighting for the high-quality, fully-funded and equitable public education our kids deserve. We demand:

- A fully-funded public education system that includes low class caps for all grades, excellent needs-support, no mandatory e-Learning, and well-maintained buildings.
- Funding that provides equitable enrichment opportunities across the system and reduces the burden on school-based fundraising.
 - Respect for the diversity of our students and an inclusive curriculum.

West End Parents for Public Education is a network of parents in Toronto's west end organizing to oppose education cuts and fight for fully-funded equitable public education. To get involved email WEPPEToronto@gmail.com

