



Message from Trustee and Chair Robin Pilkey

I am pleased to announce that at our December 1, 2016 Organizational Meeting, I was once again acclaimed Chair of the Board of Trustees of the TDSB, for another one year term ending December 3, 2017. I feel very honored to take on this role and believe it gives me the opportunity to ensure the Board is able to move forward with some of the important initiatives that began in the last year, including the roll out of the *Learning Centre Strategy*, the *Vision for Learning & Service*, the *Integrated Equity Framework* and the *Enhancing Equity Task Group*, that over time, will change how our Board operates, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to achieve success. In the coming months, you will see references to these four initiatives from the Director and through the Learning Centres.

At the same time I was elected as the TDSB representative to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success, the organization that delivers our nutrition programs and again, as the Trustee representative to the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee for a third term. As Chair, I also lead the Director's Appraisal Committee.

As we move into March, I want to wish everyone a safe and happy March break and hope you take time to be outside and take advantage of the many activities the city has to offer.

As always, I want to hear from you and I can be reached by sending me an email at Robin.Pilkey@tdsb.on.ca or tweet [@RobinPilkey](https://twitter.com/RobinPilkey)

For more updates, please join the TDSB Ward 7 Council [Facebook](#)

or sign up for my [Newsletter](#)

A Vision for Learning in TDSB - Our Commitment is Equity of Access and Outcome for All Students

TDSB is committed to creating an equitable school system where the achievement and well-being of every student is fostered through rich, culturally authentic learning experiences in diverse, accepting environments where all are included, every voice is heard, and every experience is honoured.

Each school will determine a learning focus in three areas: equity, well-being and achievement. In addition to identifying the three focus areas, this process will include engaging in the learning to support student improvement in these areas, determining the evidence and data to be collected and monitoring progress.

Learn more in the [A Vision for Learning in TDSB](#) document.

Landmark Development Planned for TDSB's Bloor-Dufferin Lands

A landmark redevelopment plan – created by the TDSB, the Toronto Lands Corporation, the Ontario Ministry of Education and the City of Toronto – will bring unique community and educational benefits to the sale of surplus school space. The plan includes:

- the sale of 7.3 acres of surplus school lands at the corner of Bloor and Dufferin;
- a proposed 30,000 square foot community hub that will include licensed childcare spaces;
- a replacement high school to be constructed on the retained portion of TDSB lands; and,
- a mixed-use development.

[Learn more.](#)



Bloor/Dufferin Lands

Two TDSB Educators Recognized as Canada's Outstanding Principals

Two Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Principals have been recognized by The Learning Partnership as being among [Canada's Outstanding Principals of 2017](#).

The winning TDSB Principals are:

- Monday Gala, [C. W. Jefferys Collegiate Institute](#)
- Craig Howe, [École John English Junior Middle School](#)

Now celebrating its 13th year, The Learning Partnership's [Outstanding Principals program](#) recognizes the unique and vital contribution of Principals in publicly funded schools. Nominated by parents, colleagues and community members, and chosen by a national selection committee, 40 Principals from across Canada are being celebrated for demonstrating innovation, having an entrepreneurial spirit and for employing creativity in finding solutions and opportunities.

The 2017 winners will join the prestigious ranks of the National Academy of Canada's Outstanding Principals, which now boasts over 400 members.

The Learning Partnership is a national charity dedicated to building stakeholder partnerships to support, promote and advance publicly funded education in Canada. The Principals will be awarded for their accomplishments at the annual Canada's Outstanding Principals gala on February 28th, 2017.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands and Territories

At the TDSB, it is customary to acknowledge the Traditional and Ancestral lands of Aboriginal peoples at the beginning of events, gatherings and meetings. All schools also begin their day with an acknowledgement of the territories. For more information you can [read the Board decision \(on page 2\)](#) and [read the AEC's report](#).

Optional Attendance Policy

The deadline to accept an optional attendance offer with an elementary or junior high school is Friday, March 24, 2017. Please contact the school directly to accept the offer.

Students who reside within the City of Toronto have the right to attend a school which is designated to serve their residential address. The "[Find Your School](#)" section of the website identifies the designated schools for each residential address.

Students also have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their residential address by applying on optional attendance. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability. The procedures, conditions and timelines relating to optional attendance are described in the [Optional Attendance Policy](#) and the [Optional Attendance Operational Procedure](#).

Each year in December, schools are classified as **limited** or **closed** to optional attendance based on the space they have available for the upcoming school year.

A school classified as **limited** can accept students on optional attendance. A limited school is not obliged to accept all students who apply on optional attendance. Acceptance is conditional upon space being available in the appropriate grade and program.

A school classified as **closed** cannot accept any students on optional attendance. Only students residing within the school's attendance area will be accepted.

If a school is classified as limited, and you are interested in applying to that school, please contact the school's principal.

To find a particular school's optional attendance status, click on the first letter in a school's name below to go to the appropriate table. (For example, click the S link in the Elementary section for the table containing Sir Adam Beck Public School).

Please note that the optional attendance status is updated every December for admission in September of coming school year. Many schools that are limited have their available spaces filled in the spring. Please confirm if a limited school has space available by calling the school directly.

Pupil Accommodation Review Committee ("PARC")

In January the TDSB began a PARC for the following schools in Ward 6, just north of Ward 7: Cordella Junior Public School, Dennis Avenue Community School, George Syme Community School, Harwood Public School, Lambton Park Community School, Rockcliffe Middle School, and Roselands Junior Public School.

This process that school boards must follow when there is a chance that a school may close because of low enrolment. The process is set by the Ministry of Education.

No final decisions have been made at this time. As one of the schools involved is George Syme Community School, the designated French Immersion school for many schools in Ward 7, you can participate in the process and give your feedback on staff's initial recommendations by coming to public meeting that is being held

Thursday, April 6, 2017 @ Rockcliffe Middle School, Gymnasium, 400 Rockcliffe Blvd., Toronto, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

In addition to attending the public meeting you can stay informed by visiting the TDSB's website at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/StrategyPlanning/CommunityInvolvement.aspx> -- from the drop-down menu, select: Pupil Accommodation Reviews -> 2016 – Ward 6 South PARC.

Review of Alternative School System.

Following a Board motion last June regarding concerns about the pathways in the Alternative School System, a review of that system is currently ongoing. [Read the motion here](#) (page 25).

As part of the that review, [public consultation meetings are being held](#), including one (in the Library) at Western Tech on March 28, 6:30-8:00pm.

Heritage months

At the TDSB, certain months have been designated to celebrate various cultures. These celebrations include many educational events and celebrations. This month we are celebrating African Heritage Month and Chinese Heritage month.



Dotting the eye at Chinese New Year Celebrations

Kindergarten Registration

Starting school is an exciting time for your child. Our schools provide a rich learning environment for all children to learn and grow.

In the Kindergarten program, your child will develop their skills and abilities through inquiry and intentional play-based learning. Teachers and early childhood educators plan learning experiences where children are actively engaged in learning and thinking creatively.

Children can attend Junior Kindergarten in the calendar year that they turn four and Senior Kindergarten in the year that they turn five. [Registration](#) begins in February. For specific registration dates and times, please contact your [local school](#).

To learn more about the TDSB's kindergarten program, including home tips on preparing your child for school, visit the [Kindergarten Links and Resources](#) page.



Brands for Canada

In December, I had the opportunity to represent the Board at the Launch of Brands for Canada's United Hearts Program

Throughout the month of January, more than 4,000 care packages were delivered to TDSB schools as part of Brands for Canada's [United Hearts Program](#). The care packages, containing personal care products and household supplies, have been purposefully created to alleviate the stress that many students and their families live with on a daily

basis so they can focus on prospering intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically.

In total, more than 4,000 care packages were delivered to TDSB schools in January as part of Phase 1 of the program. Over the next few weeks, Brands for Canada will deliver an additional 6,000 care packages. Thank you to [Brands for Canada](#), and the program donors and volunteers for supporting the United Hearts Program!

Budget Presentation

On January 9, 2017, on behalf of the Board, I presented the Board's recommendations for the 2017 Ontario Budget

As part of the provincial government's budget consultations, I was invited to share information about the TDSB's critical funding issues with Ontario Minister of Finance Charles Sousa and Member of Provincial Parliament Yvan Baker, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance.

The deputation focused on:

- Community hubs
- Transportation
- Education Development Charges

[Read the full deputation](#)



Pool Funding

The City is continuing to cut back on funding for school pools. Though the TDSB has been able to continue to fund the pools that have been cut from the city contract, there is no guarantee that this can continue into the future, as permit revenue does not cover operating costs and provides no funding for capital improvements. The Board wishes the opportunity to discuss with both the City and the Province a more stable funding method for these important community assets

To read more, please see [my opinion piece published by The Toronto Star \(February 15\)](#).

FSLAC (French as a Second Language)

In December, I was again elected as the trustee representative to the [French as a Second Language Advisory Committee](#).

You can read the latest [FSLAC Newsletter here](#).

If you would like to learn more, visit the [FSLAC webpage](#), or sign up for the newsletter by emailing fsllactonro@gmail.com.

Ward 7

School council visits

During January and February I have had the opportunity to visit several school council meetings, including those at Warren Park, Fern and Swansea. These are valuable opportunities to hear what is going at the school level, and hear about questions and concerns parents have about the Board.

Ward Council – January 24, 2017

My last Ward Council meeting took place on January 24th, and for the first time, it was held at Garden Public School. The school showcased how the students learned about the background of the daily Acknowledgment of Traditional Territories through art. The main topic for the meeting was childcare, which was very timely given the City of Toronto's initial plan to cut back on the Childcare Occupancy Grant to School Boards. Thank you Garden, for hosting!



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