

Message from Trustee and Chair Robin Pilkey

Dear Neighbours, Friends and Community Members

Hard to believe that we are already at the end of December! Before we move into 2018, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on some of the things going on around the TDSB.

At the December 4th Organizational Board meeting I was very honoured to be acclaimed for the fourth time as Chair of Board of Trustees. It is a great privilege to be leading our board as we take hard looks at the important issues affecting our students and plan for the future with the goal that every school is a great school and every student has the supports they need to achieve.

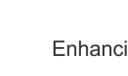
As well, I continue to be a member of; Planning and Priorities Committee (as Chair), the Audit Committee and the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee. I also represent the TDSB on the Board of the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) <http://tfss.ca>

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 information and updates, please join the TDSB Ward 7 Council [Facebook](#) or Sign up for my [Newsletter](#)

And finally, I would like to wish each and everyone of you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Regards,



TDSB – Board Wide News

Enhancing Equity Task Force Report and Recommendations

The [Enhancing Equity Task Force Report and Recommendations](#) is now available online.

Following more than a year of consultation with our communities, the Enhancing Equity Task Force has completed their in-depth report focused on improving the learning and well-being of each and every student by understanding and mitigating – or removing – the barriers of social and economic inequity.

We are grateful for the thousands of people in our community – students, staff and families – who shared their voices, experiences and insights to help shape these recommendations. Over the past year, more than 7,000 people shared their voices and while the issues and feedback varied, the overriding theme was consistent: students need access to opportunities to succeed.

At the December 13 Board meeting, Trustees voted to have TDSB senior staff conduct a full review of the recommendations of the Enhancing Equity Task Force.

Following a closer examination of the recommendations, the Director of Education will present high level, proposed next steps to the Planning and Priorities Committee on January 31, 2018. This information will be available on the TDSB website on January 26, 2018, in advance of the meeting.

It's important to note that no final decisions will be made on January 31, 2018. Community members will have the opportunity to share their thoughts as part of the committee process. Following approval of the high level next steps as early as February, more specific action plans will be created and community members will have additional opportunities to share their voice. Please visit the [TDSB website](#) for updates on the process and how you can get involved.

Equity is not about taking things away from students who are thriving, but rather enhancing supports for those who are falling behind. The work of the Task Force brought to the surface the systemic barriers that many students are facing in the TDSB and highlighting – in many cases reinforcing – what areas we need to focus on.

The TDSB wants our students to achieve success and this report identifies a number of ways we can make changes that are necessary for some, but beneficial to everyone. We are committed to supporting each and every student in the TDSB and together we will make a difference in the schools, classrooms and in the lives of students where it matters most.

Trustees Vote to End School Resource Officer Program

The Board decided to discontinue the School Resource Officer program that existed in 45 of 113 TDSB high schools. The decision, made by Trustees at the November Board meeting, followed consultations with thousands of students, staff, parents and community members. These consultations culminated in a [recently released summary report](#) that found while many students had a positive impression of the program, a number of students said the presence of an SRO made them feel uncomfortable, intimidated, and/or watched or targeted.

We strive to create an environment where each and every student can reach their full potential and we understand students cannot be expected to reach their full potential in an environment where they feel insecure or intimidated.

Please take the opportunity to read the summary report and my op-ed in the [Toronto Star](#). The TDSB will continue to work in partnership with Toronto Police Services to maintain positive working relationships that will ensure a safe, welcoming and inclusive culture in every school.

We also continue to be guided by the [Police-School Board Protocol](#) (PR698) which encourages a positive relationship between school communities and police officers and establishes guidelines for these relationships. As always, TPS will continue to respond to any incident that threatens the safety of our school, students and staff and school communities.

Educational Development Charges (EDCs) for TDSB

This continues to be a concern at the Board, and one that if changed, given the amount of development in Ward 7, could benefit us locally.

The TDSB has developed a comprehensive strategy to advocate for the Ontario Government to amend Ontario Reg. 20/98 as well as the definition(s) of Education Land Costs in the Education Act to include capital cost. These amendments would allow the TDSB to access EDCs while increasing flexibility regarding its use.

This strategy includes leveraging relationships with stakeholders, including the co-terminus boards and the City of Toronto, and organizations like Fix our Schools, to engage them in discussions with the Province as well as initiating legal proceedings. The proposed amendments to the Education Act would also benefit other school board currently accessing EDCs.

Our students are our number one priority and we want to ensure we have the ability to address the accommodation of students generated from new developments. Although the TDSB has excess space when considered on a system-wide basis, many of our schools are over capacity as a result of significant residential intensification in certain areas within the system. While other school boards, including the TCDSB, are allowed to collect EDCs, the TDSB does not qualify because it has excess space in some areas, which puts the TDSB at a disadvantage. EDCs are a critical funding tool that would help the TDSB meet growth-related infrastructure needs.

Initiating legal proceedings is one of the routes the TDSB can pursue to gain access to EDCs. At the same time, the TDSB will continue advocating for these amendments through different channels, including direct discussions with the Ontario Government.

Junior Extended French Information Nights

As with the French Immersion Parent Information Nights, it was decided that this year the Junior Extended French Parent Information evenings will not be held at each individual Junior Extended French school site. Rather, the information evenings will be held at specific area secondary schools across the system, hosted by the French as a Second Language Department.

A variety of staff representatives will be invited to be on hand to answer parent questions about the program, placement, transportation, child care, special education etc. For more information, click [here](#).

The location in our area is at Etobicoke Collegiate Institute (85 Montgomery Road) on January 15, 2018 at 7 p.m.

You can also take part in a Virtual Information Evening on January 22nd by going to www.tdsb.on.ca from 7-8p.m. to hear information about the program, application process or to ask questions via web chat.

Opioid Overdose Prevention

Toronto Public Health has developed a [Toronto Overdose Action Plan](#) and is encouraging school boards to consider providing schools with Naloxone kits to allow for a response to an Opioid overdose.

In order to support our secondary schools with management of Opioid drug overdose, each TDSB Secondary School will be provided Intranasal Naloxone kits along with the necessary training on the use of the kits.

Further information will be provided to parents in the new year.

On Line Web Chat

Please join the Director of Education, John Malloy on January 22, 2018 for a Virtual Information Evening from 7:00pm – 8:00pm www.tdsb.on.ca

Winter Weather and Student Transportation

From time to time, it may be necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs due to severe weather. [Read more](#) about how the TDSB makes snow day decisions and how you can stay informed.

Kindergarten Registration 2018

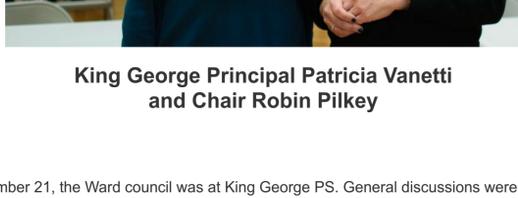
Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. Although parents/guardians still have the option to register their child in person at their school, for the first time this year, they will have the option to access the TDSB's new Online Registration System to begin the process, before visiting their school in person to finalize the registration.

Around Ward 7

This fall we had two Ward 7 Council meetings. Through the school council, each school elects a representative to represent the voices of parents across Ward 7 schools. Meetings are held regularly at Ward 7 schools and address matters of interest of the Ward and TDSB wide initiatives.

On October 23, 2017 Student Trustees, Shams Mehdi and Rakeeb Hossain came to Fern PS and spoke about their work representing TDSB students and Student Senate (formerly SuperCouncil) See link attached for more information on [Student Senate](#) or [@tdsbsentate](#).

Ward 7 representatives were elected to both the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee ([PIAC](#)) and French as a Second Language Advisory Committee ([FSLAC](#))



King George Principal Patricia Vanetti and Chair Robin Pilkey

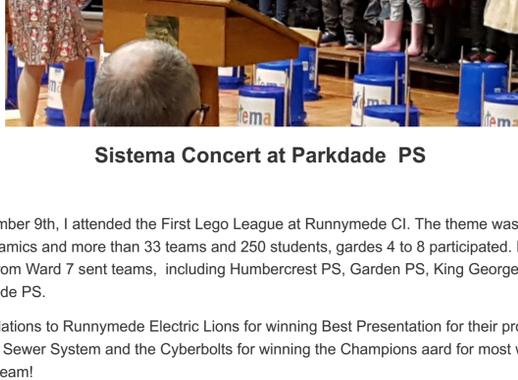
On November 21, the Ward council was at King George PS. General discussions were held on several issues before the Board, including the SRO program and the Enhancing Equity Task Force. Minutes of these meetings can be found on the Ward 7 [Facebook](#)

Upcoming

The next meeting of the Ward Council is January 30, 2018 at Garden PS and we will be discussing the staff recommendations related to the Enhancing Equity Task Force.

Currently, I am working with Trustee Marit Stiles (Ward 9, Davenport) to find a date in the new year for a joint meeting. Special guest would be the Director of Education, John Malloy, and the topic would be **'Ask me Anything'** session. This meeting will be open to all. Fingers crossed!

School News



Sistema Concert at Parkdale PS

On December 9th, I attended the First Lego League at Runnymede CI. The theme was hydrodynamics and more than 33 teams and 250 students, grades 4 to 8 participated. Many schools from Ward 7 sent teams, including Humbercrest PS, Garden PS, King George PS and Runnymede PS.

Congratulations to Runnymede Electric Lions for winning Best Presentation for their project on Toronto's Sewer System and the Cyberbolts for winning the Champions award for most well rounded team!



Runnymede CI Robotics Team