



### Message from Trustee and Chair Robin Pilkey

#### Happy Spring!

I would like to update you on some exciting news and activities that have been keeping me busy since my last newsletter.

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

For more updates, please join the TDSB Ward 7 Council [Facebook](#) or sign up for my [Newsletter](#)

#### New Ward 21 Trustee

At our April 19th Board meeting, we approved our newest Board Member Trustee Abdul Hef Patel (Ward 21 Scarborough-Rouge River). With the help of a committee of 8 Trustees, Abdul was selected through an appointment process. The vacancy received an overwhelming response with 91 applications from all across the city. It is heartening to see an outpouring of interest in the role Trustees play in supporting students, parents, and the community at large. It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to Trustee Patel.



#### Graduation Rates

The numbers are in and the Toronto District School Board's graduation rate remains at an all-time high of 85%.

TDSB students continue to graduate at this high rate thanks to a focus on connecting students with the right programs, providing targeted supports for at-risk students, re-engaging early school leavers, and expanding partnership opportunities with colleges, university, government and community agencies. Since the TDSB began tracking graduation rates in 2000, there has been a 16% increase (69% to 85%).

This most recent graduation rate is for the 2011-2016 cohort of students. To study graduation rates, the TDSB follows a group of Grade 9 students over five years – the time it takes most Ontario students to complete high school.

#### Enhancing Equity Framework

The TDSB's Enhancing Equity Task Force is 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.

This collaborative effort between the TDSB and the communities it works with is an opportunity to bring people together, learn from each other and explore what's working, what isn't and how to improve it. The Task Force seeks to understand and respond to new insights, challenges and opportunities that will impact the entire Board.

The four primary responsibilities of the Task Force are:

- Assessing the TDSB's efforts over the last 10 years to address the impact of poverty, race and class;
- Examining TDSB and partner programs related to student achievement and well-being;
- Exploring and assessing best practices in similar organizations; and,
- Developing focused recommendations for next steps to improve equity and engagement.

One way we're doing that is by hosting ward forums that bring together school communities to talk about school-specific strategies that will improve equity for all. These sessions will explore equity, consider what work has already happened in the school to improve equity, and help address the question: what's keeping us from doing more?

Please read more [Enhancing Equity Ward Forum](#)



International Women's Day at Pierre Laporte Middle School

Pierre Laporte, Principal Paolo Peko, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Doadesweel and Chair Pilkey

#### Asian Heritage Month - May 2017

Over the past 10 years, many Asian communities in Canada have participated in this celebration, organizing local events during May. In the Toronto District School Board, the theme for Asian Heritage Month 2017 is 'Asian Canadian Heritage. Celebrating 150 years and we celebrate this special month with a vast array of resources, information and events, in our schools and communities.

Throughout this month, we invite all members of the TDSB to celebrate the many contributions and cultural richness of the Asian Diaspora and all its diverse communities in Canada.

#### Jewish Heritage Month - May 2017

This International Exhibit from the Anne Frank House in The Netherlands has 37 panels and tells the story of Anne Frank set against the background of the Holocaust.

The exhibit makes use of images from the Frank family and quotations from Anne Frank's diary. Each of the panels displays information about the most important developments of the time such as the rise of National Socialism. Thanks to a partnership with Veterans Affairs Canada that recognized the 70th anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands by the Canadian Army, the exhibit is fully bilingual and has additional panels on the Canadian contribution to the Second World War. There will also be additional artifacts present that are usually reserved for museum viewing only. During May, 86 TDSB schools have already confirmed their attendance which means that thousands of students will be experiencing and learning about the exhibit.

Given the importance of this piece of history, we are excited that the TDSB is not only able to offer this to school groups, but to the general public as well. The exhibit will be open to the public for two days only: Sunday, May 7 and Sunday, May 28 from 9AM to 5PM at John Polanyi C.I. 660 Lawrence Avenue West (school library). Admission is free.



#### TDSB 2017-2018 Operating Budget

As a result of enrolment stability over the past three years, the TDSB is currently in a financially stable operating position and cuts were not required to balance the budget. All school and department budgets will remain status quo for next year. However, there may be some internal realignment in order to address department priorities.

In 2016, the Board approved an extensive budget review and priority setting exercise through the work of the Enhancing Equity Task Force. The recommendations from this work, expected in fall 2017, will reshape the Board's budget in future years, starting with the 2018-19 budget. As part of the 2018-19 budget process, the Board will revisit past resource allocation decisions and consider new funding directions.

The TDSB's operating budget is approximately \$3.2 billion and is divided into the following categories: instruction (79.2%), school operations (15.5%), administration (2.6%), transportation (1.9%) and other operating costs (0.8%). The budget for 2017-18 includes a savings target of \$8M. This is typically achieved through budget controls.

When it comes to making budget decisions, we do everything we can to ensure that the decisions have as little impact on the classroom as possible. For more detailed information, take a look at [Financial Facts 2017](#). This document available on our website represents the TDSB's financial information from 2012-13 to 2016-17. It focuses on the Board's key expenditures areas and identifies major operating costs as well as the gaps between provincial funding and the money needed to support students.

#### TDSB Update

TDSB Update is published approximately 10 times a year, following a meeting of the Board of Trustees. It carries the latest news across the TDSB, and summarizes the decisions of Board meetings. To sign up [Subscribe by email](#).

To read the latest edition of TDSB Update click [here](#).

#### French as a Second Language Advisory Committee

FSLAC newsletters offer lots of news and information regarding nurturing French as a second language and the March 2017 edition can be found [here](#).

If you would like to learn more, visit the [FSLAC webpage](#) or sign up for the newsletter by emailing [fslac@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:fslac@tdsb.on.ca)

#### Around Ward 7

##### School Yard Improvements

As a result of an increase in provincial funding for repairs last year, many school yards in Ward 7 are being upgraded.

This summer Queen Victoria PS, Keele PS and Humbercrest PS will be getting artificial turf as well as playground upgrades. While much is being paid directly, many thanks go out to our school councils who have also fundraised for improvements.

Parkdale PS, Warren Park PS and Fern Avenue PS have started a school yard improvement process for next year and the following year.

A major revitalization project is in process for Parkdale C.I. This project, initiated by parents, started with the development of a master plan that included consultation with students, staff, parents and the community.



Master Plan Parkdale Collegiate Institute

The vision for Parkdale's grounds enhancement project is that the grounds will be:

- Welcoming and attractive,
- Safe, and
- Multi-functional for both school and community.

The school recognizes that Parkdale serves as a 'meeting place' in the community. They are excited to see their vision reflected in the master plan, and are looking forward to sharing their revitalized grounds with the community in the near future! Work will be starting this summer on the Jameson Street side of the property.

#### Ward Council – Updates - March 7 & April 25

##### Ward Council – March 7

The March 7 Ward Council meeting took place at Parkdale Junior & Senior Public School, the main topic for the meeting was Equity at the TDSB. Several schools have set up Equity committees and this is great news. A special thanks to Jim Synopoulos (Executive Superintendent - Health & Well-Being) and Ken Jeffers (Co-ordinator Gender Based Violence Prevention).

##### Ward Council – April 25

The April 25 Ward Council meeting took place at Indian Road Crescent Junior Public School, the main topic was around student nutrition. Angela Dazzo of TDSB Nutrition Services gave a presentation on setting up student nutrition programs and Pat Rocco, Executive Superintendent Employee Services, spoke about lunch room supervision.

Thank you to both schools for hosting.

#### Important Dates

**School Year Calendar:** The first day of school for the 2017-18 school year is Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Take a look at next year's [School Year Calendar](#) for all of the important dates and holidays.

**Summer Programs:** Learn more about [Summer Programs](#) available at the TDSB for children, youth and adults.

**Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Survey:** If you are a parent/guardian of a current or former TDSB student with special needs, SEAC would like to hear about your experiences and ideas as they make recommendations on how to improve Special Education at the TDSB. Complete the [SEAC Survey here](#).



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