

PIAC Trustee Report: October 3, 2023

Trustee Debbie [King](#)

Happy Islamic History Month! Happy Somali Heritage! Happy Women's History Month!

1. Ministry of Education Announcements

Since June 2023, the Ministry of Education has shared communications and remarks regarding legislation, curriculum, and priorities. For example:

- [Bill 98, The Better Schools and Outcomes Act, 2023](#): The Ministry of Education is moving ahead on regulations and next steps. Some areas that may impact the work of Trustees include Director of Education Performance Appraisals, Sale of School Properties, and Setting of Strategic Priorities.
- [Policy and Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 151](#): Beginning this school year, boards of education are now required to publicly share detailed information about PA Days, as outlined in [Policy and Program Memorandum \(PPM\) 151](#). As per the Ministry of Education, 2023-24 PA Days will focus on the priority areas of Literacy and Mathematics, Curriculum Implementation, and Student Well-being, School Safety and Violence Prevention.
- **Minister's Back to School Letter**: All school boards were asked to share the letter which TDSB issued on September 7, 2023. The letter leads with "a renewed 'back to basics' focus, emphasizing foundational skills like reading, writing and math."
- **Superintendents of Mathematics**: The TDSB received funding for two Superintendents of Education to support student success in Mathematics for the 2023-24 school year through a Priorities and Partnership Fund as part of the Ministry's four-year implementation of the provincial Math Strategy. Two Superintendents were selected to oversee this initiative. They will support educator teams and administrators by facilitating professional learning opportunities
- Concern was raised by the Minister's comments regarding the disclosure of student names and pronouns to parents.

2. Trustee Advocacy

Despite provincial investments described by the Ministry of Education, the TDSB continues to experience underfunding and need for greater resources to support student achievement and well-being.

The voice of parent and caregiver community, and decisions by Trustees resulted in the following advocacy letters and statements:

- [Funding Request to Help Address Mental Health and Psychoeducational Assessment Backlog](#) (Sep 20, 2023)
- [Reducing Respiratory Viruses in Schools](#) (Sep 20, 2023)
- [Statement Ahead of Planned Demonstrations](#) (Sep 19, 2023)

In addition, the following motions were recently considered and carried:

- Intentional Enhanced Efforts to Create Improved Levels of Kindness and Respect (Trustees MacLean and Ehrhardt)
- Student Nutrition (Trustees Sriskandarajah and Rajakulasingam)
- Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement: Endorsement (Trustees Dawson and King)
- Business Arising: Status of Child Care Services (Trustees Chernos-Lin and Patel)

Motions coming forward include:

- Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation (Trustees Hassan and Dawson)
- Ontario Human Rights Commission's Request for a Provincial Anti-Hate Strategy (Trustees Laskin and Chernos Lin)

And finally, Trustee members of the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA) Black Trustee's Caucus recently participated in consultations with the Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding anti-Black racism in education.

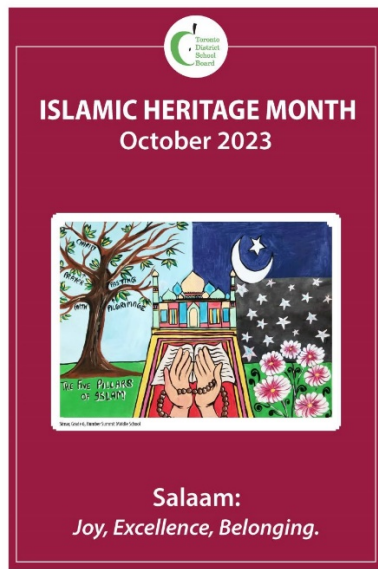
3. On the Horizon

- [Policy Review Schedules for the 2023-2024 through 2027-2028 school years \(October 4, 2023 GPC\)](#)
- [Human Rights Policy: Annual Review \(October 4, 2023\)](#)
- [Approved 2024-2025 Budget Development Schedule](#)

4. Reminders

- [Fundraising Policy Review](#) (October 10 deadline)
- [Multi-Year Strategic Plan Consultation](#)
- Next board meeting date is Wednesday, November 1, 2023

5. Islamic Heritage Month



6. Somali Heritage Month



7. Various School/Community Funding and Certification Opportunities

- [MusicCounts Grant](#)
- [City of Toronto PollinateTO Grants](#)
- [PHE Healthy Schools Empowerment Grants](#)
- [PHE Healthy Schools Certification](#)
- [EcoSchools Canada Certification](#)