

2019-2020 Trustee Ward Budget Forum – Notes (March 27, 2019)

Presentation: Trustee Ward Forum Presentation of Proposed Budget Drivers 2019-2020 Budget Information (<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/aboutus/docs/Ward-Forum-Presentation.pdf>)

Presenter: Craig Snider, Associate Director (Acting), Business Operations and Service Excellence

Toronto District School Board's 2019-20 Budget Community Survey deadline April 2nd

- Survey:
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/2019-20-Budget/Your-Opinion-Counts>
- Open to parents/caregivers, students, staff and community members. Feedback will assist the Board of Trustees to develop this year's Operating Budget in alignment with TDSB's [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). Complete the survey online or complete manually and submit to Principal in person
 - 47 action plans that support the multi-year strategic plan (what we are going to do, how we will do it, how we evaluate success)
- May 1: Operating Budget to the board (stop-start-continue exercise)
- 2nd phase of public consultation May/June (includes online written comments)

All budget meeting videos are available online:

www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/2019-20-Budget

Grants for Student Needs (GSN)

- Detailed info available April 11
- GNS is 94% of school board budget, which comes from property taxes and provincial funding
- \$9.6M funding reduction (change of 23.24 ave class size to 24.5), but we have a collective agreement with union to not go above 23.24. Impact for students = fewer options via elimination of courses (those with lower enrollment cannot be supported). Collective agreements end Aug 31, 2019
- Only class-size teachers are protected from layoffs, not those unrelated to class-size (e.g. librarians)
- 72 teachers released plus 800 over next 4 years
- ECE for class size 16 or over, but losing \$7.9M in funding (1.14 FTE to 1.0 FTE)
- Secondary school only: eLearning requirement (1 of 4 courses; one credit per year). Impact to students = less adult connection, reduced course selection.

19/20 School Budget

- Trustees work with school staff to build budget drivers (target general areas of focus)
 - Website has detailed description (full narrative) of each driver. Less detailed in survey, very high level in this presentation.

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- Trustee approve how to allocation resources, teaching staff determine how allocated resources are used
- Enrollment predicted to increase 4.4% for elementary and less for secondary
- Other revenues (permit revenues, cafeteria sales, international student visa tuition etc.)
 - Not a significant amount of revenue generated from solar panels; difficult to create new revenue streams
- Parent feedback: cut EQAO testing to save \$30M. Little improvement in scores since its inception, and it has negative sociological effects on neighbourhoods, like low-scoring schools being seen as less desirable and the impact that a high-scoring school can have on housing prices
- Parent feedback: Cut inflated salaries of non-teaching TDSB staff (Associate Directors, Directors, Superintendents, etc. making ~\$200-\$300k/yr)
- Parent feedback: Add mental health to Professional Development (teachers need to understand and how to teach and manage children with behavioural issues, like ADHD and autism)
 - Are preparations being made to accommodate autistic children who will enter the TDSB because of reduced funding for parents?

Parent Engagement:

- Protest March: Saturday, April 6th at Queens Park
- Scarborough Parent Network (website)
- Ontario Families for Education (Facebook group)
- Parent feedback for TDSB communication team: Superintendents should notify Principals of these consultations in advance so that Principals can notify parents
- Parent feedback: Trustee should email every SAC chair and co-chair, but cannot email parents directly (trustee cannot use database for political activities)
- Parent feedback: Provide slides in advance on website so parents can read ahead of time and come with questions (create discussion instead of just info session)
- Parent feedback: Market these meetings in laymen's terms to interest parents (e.g., of how their input on budget can impact student learning and well-being)
- Parent feedback: Have live online meeting with online mediator to take parent questions
- SAC and parents share online survey link over social media
- Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (FBEC) meetings are public and recorded and posted online
- Bring MPP and staff to trustee meetings
- Call Premier's office
- Parent feedback: Each trustee write a petition and get parents to sign (22 trustees = 22 petitions to MPP)
- Petition is being developed that will be distributed around the city
- Tap networks across Ontario (friends and family that live in other parts of Ontario)