

February 5th, 2015

Ward Forum

Organizational Meeting

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Ward Forum and Community Meeting

**Trustee Alexander Brown Ward Forum  
February 5 2015**

**Educating Students: How to keep Student Focused at the TDSB**

7:00 Welcome and Introductions Trustee Alexander Brown

7:10 TDSB Update - Alexander Brown, TDSB Trustee ,  
- Shaun Chen, Chair of the Board  
- Donna Quan, Director of Education  
- Katie McGovern, CUPE 4400

7:20 Q and A. People asked a few questions and made comments. One of the questions that is relevant to most people is what should be doing about the directives and to support the role of trustee? The answer is really up to you but the best thing that you can do is inform yourself of the details and then take some kind of positive action either to write a letter to the local MPP / Minister of Education / Premier, make a phone call to the same people or seek advice from the Trustee. Alexander feels strongly that parent and community voices can be powerful in affecting change and is willing to offer assistance and coordinate activities that amplify local voices to have a bigger impact. Funding for education is going to be cut province wide by approximately 500 million again this year and school boards are being told ( by directives ) to get rid of surplus properties - often with very short-sighted views of changing demographics - that may in some cases make sense but may also leave communities without public assets that will become essential in a few years time. Willowdale has examples -both positive and negative - of this situation.

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8: 00 Presentation Claude Watson Student, Frank Hong, a student from Claude Watson School for the Arts gave a presentation about this school with his classmate . The presentation was about five minutes a long and they had prepared a video to show but there was no screen available. Everyone enjoyed the presentation.

8:10 Break. Refreshments were available for attendees. The food and desserts were prepared by the Earl Haig Culinary Arts Program students. It was fantastic!

- 8:30 Next Steps - Forming a Steering Ctte,  
- PIAC Rep,  
- FSLAC Rep,  
- Future Forum Topics

STEERING COMMITTEE has been formed. The committee can decide the number of members involved in the steering committee but is open to all school council representatives who wish to be involved. Currently the members involved are:

Lucia Stanizzo [Lucia.p@sympatico.ca](mailto:Lucia.p@sympatico.ca). (Pleasant PS)

Ann Blanchette [ann\\_blanchette@yahoo.com](mailto:ann_blanchette@yahoo.com) (Churchill PS)

Meredith Laird. [meredith.laird@yahoo.ca](mailto:meredith.laird@yahoo.ca) (Churchill PS)

Eva Rosenstock. [rsoenstock@sympatico.ca](mailto:rsoenstock@sympatico.ca) (Ward 12 PIAC Rep)

The steering committee will create and guide the Ward forum agendas;

Consult with parents about specific topics that are of interest and may also be of interest to the wider community as well;

Work with the Trustee - Alexander - to ensure that meeting locations are booked, appropriate speakers are invited, food/beverages are provided, all equipment needed is arranged in advance, child care services and translators are available; notice of meetings is well advertised, other needs are addressed as they arise.

An agenda will be prepared and provided in advance. Changes/additions to the agenda can be made in advance and new business can also be added at the meeting.

Minutes will be taken for all Ward Forum meetings and made available through School

Council representatives, the Trustee website, and through direct mail-out by email.

## How Often...?

It was suggested that Ward Forum meetings follow the report card cycle and be held 4 or 5 times a year. The exact dates need to be decided in advance and can always be altered.

The suggested time is [7-8pm](#) to encourage greater participation. The time can be extended if there is a will to do so.

## Ward Forum Format

~The Ward Forum should be parent/student/community focused and provide a real opportunity for the exchange of ideas, opinions and action.

~It will include a Trustee Update. From one meeting to the next, parents can request certain topics or issues be included in the trustee update. The trustee will endeavour to provide as much detail as possible and offer guidance & advocacy for parents and students.

~Guest speakers can be invited. Depending on the topic/issue of interest, an expert from the TDSB may attend, or an outside speaker may be invited to give a presentation and answer questions from the meeting participants.

## Ward Forum Topics -suggested

~Summer Enrichment Programs - board staff, city staff, settlement workers, etc can lead the presentations and offer advice and information specific to Ward 12 residents.

~Special Education / Gifted programs

~Sex Education Curriculum

## Communications

~Website will be up and running by the end of February 2015. [www.trusteebrownward12.com](http://www.trusteebrownward12.com)

~This website is a trustee website separate from the TDSB trustee portal. All schools will have a separate page on the website - there will be specific information about schools, school councils, student projects, events and local community initiatives. There will also be a BLOG that can be used by parents, students and community members.

~A Ward Council page will also be added and act as an up-to-date information source on pSt and future meetings - including all agenda and meeting minutes.

~Email will be used extensively to communicate with parents and community members who have provided consent to the trustee and added their names to the list; the email lists of school councils and principals will also be used at the discretion of the people who administer those lists.

[8:55](#) Future Meeting Dates

[9:00](#) Good Night!