

## Speaking Notes – Trustee Gerri Gershon

### John Fisher Public School Meeting between the Developer 18-30 Erskine and Parents – November 15, 2016

We are pleased you can be with us.

I called this meeting to provide the developer the opportunity to talk directly with the community without the TDSB acting as an intermediary. The purpose of this meeting *is not to convince you that a licensing agreement with the developer is important in terms of safety. Rather.* The TDSB continues to welcome your input on two very important matters.

One, should we be making part of the school property available to the developer? Two, what are the kinds of parameters you would like to see in place should the TDSB consider making the land available for staging?

We have had 5 meetings thus far – 3 this year and we have now posted information on the school's website. I apologise if there was not clear written information except for the minutes until last week. Last week we posted recent updates for parents as well as all the meeting presentations on the school's website.

**To date the TDSB has not made a decision on any agreement with the developer.** We have had discussions about health and safety concerns, noise, truck staging areas that could be part of an understanding between the developer and the school and the TDSB. Tonight you will have a chance to comment on these matters and anything else you would like to say both to the developer or the TDSB. We are here to listen.

To date I have heard a number of different points of view.

- Some have said that the TDSB can prevent the development by refusing to allow a staging area.
- Some had indicated to me that we should not be making our property available even if they think that the development will go ahead.
- Others have said a licensing agreement should depend on what provisions and assurances the developer is prepared to make to parents, the school and the TDSB regarding health and safety.
- Some have said that the TDSB should not make a decision on any agreement on November 23<sup>rd</sup>- that more information is needed.
- Others feel that if the TDSB does not plan to make the land available, then the sooner this matter is dealt with the better.

I have received this information in calls with parents, emails, and a petition and so on.

Based on our committee meeting last week where some parents and the developer made presentation to the Board and based on decisions that the Board has already made, the following has been heard.

1. The playground will be moved away from the construction area with or without any agreement with the developer. It will be improved along with the field with or without any agreement.
2. The developer told the Board that the project will precede with the use of a portion of the school property for a staging area or not.
3. The TDSB will look into any complaints about air quality, noise, and other health and safety issues with or without an agreement. All concerns we identify will be shared with the school community, the Councillor and municipal bodies that enforce bylaws and standards in these areas such as the City and Toronto Public Health.
4. The TDSB does not have the power or the personnel to enforce any health and safety standards except on its own construction sites, such as when the TDSB renovates or builds a new school.
5. Therefore any disruptions or health and safety issues that arise from the construction that have an impact on the school community will be reported to the Councillor, the City and Toronto Public Health depending on the nature of the concern.

I understand that parent representatives have a presentation to make and I understand the developer would also like to make a presentation. I think we should start these now and then go into questions and next steps.

May I suggest that the parents to make their presentation first.