

UPDATE ON THE CAMPAIGN TO SOLVE THE OVERCROWDING IN OUR WILLOWDALE SCHOOLS

Forum with the Minister of Education

On October 30, 2017, thanks to months of effort by the McKee SAC, a very successful Forum was held with the Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter, together with MPP David Zimmer, Councillor John Filion and Trustee Alexander Brown. The singular goal: get serious about solving the overcrowding in our Willowdale schools.



First Step Achieved

Thankfully, the Minister of Education agreed to examine the solution everyone is calling for, which is to change a simple rule so as to allow Education Development Charges to be collected to help build new school space. The response following the Forum has been overwhelming.

Willowdale Parents: This is a 2018 Election Issue

With a provincial election coming in June 2018, this issue is certain to be on the agenda and parents should pay close attention to make sure a solution is put in place.

To help you stay informed on this matter, here are some links to recent press coverage and the latest update on the issue by Trustee Brown in his February Newsletter:

- **Update on Overcrowding in Willowdale Schools – Trustee Alexander Brown’s February 2018 Newsletter (excerpt):**

UPDATE

OVERCROWDING in Willowdale Schools

Cabinet shuffle, Minister of Education changes. . .

In an attempt to put a fresh face on the government, a recent cabinet shuffle saw Minister of Education, Mitzie Hunter, who met with us at a public meeting last October to discuss Education Development Charges (**EDCs**), replaced by Indira Naidoo-Harris.

I have already **requested a meeting with the new Minister** in an effort to get her up-to-speed on our strongly supported recommendation to change the current regulations in the Education Act that prevents the TDSB from collecting EDCs.

At the February 7th Board meeting, Chair Robin Pilkey represented a written *progress report* on the *EDCs motion* I brought to the board in 2017. Part of the motion directed the TDSB to engage with other school boards and levels of government and work collectively on lobbying for change. The motion also provided for a communication plan aimed at engaging and educating parents and public school board supporters on the issue of much needed addition capital funding through Education Development Charges.



Indira Naidoo-Harris

[Chair Robin Pilkey - Update Report: Education Development Charges](#)

[EDCs Motion, Nov. 2017](#)

The TDSB legal department is also undertaking legal action on the issue of *Ontario Regulation 20/98* of the Education Act that prevents the TDSB from collecting EDCs due to the condition that we are not bursting at the seams with kids at every school in our system (for five years) - if we have excess capacity overall, we don't qualify at all. I've attached the full *TDSB Staff Report* here for you to review.

Education Development Charges (EDCs)

The TDSB is advocating for the Ontario Government to **amend the Education Development Charges regulation (Ontario Reg. 20/98)** under the Education Act to allow the TDSB to collect Education Development Charges to help support urgent school infrastructure needs and reduce overcrowding in high-growth areas of the City.

Based on the total number of units under construction, proposed or planned across the city, the TDSB could generate revenue of approximately **\$350 million over the next 15 years** to help fund growth-related infrastructure needs, which would benefit thousands of students and many communities across Toronto.

- **CBC News Coverage:**

Parents push Ontario to solve overcrowding in schools

Willowdale area parents say province isn't doing enough to address the population boom

By Natalie Nanowski, CBC | Posted: Oct 31, 2017 7:00 AM ET | Last Updated: Oct 31, 2017 7:00 AM ET

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/school-willowdale-overcrowding-education-tdsb-1.4379612>

- **CBC Interview with Trustee Brown:**



07:20

Overcrowded schools want developers to pitch in

Oct 31, 2017

We talk to a TDSB trustee about overcrowding in Toronto schools, and why parents in one north-end neighbourhood want developers to pay up when they build up.

<http://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/metro-morning/segment/14604326>

- **Toronto Star Coverage, November 7, 2017:**



News · GTA

Developers should help pay to expand overcrowded schools, councillor says

Mike Layton wants council to ask province for a rule change that would allow TDSB to collect levies from builders.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/11/07/developers-should-help-pay-to-expand-overcrowded-schools-councillor-says.html>

- **Toronto Star Coverage, October 29, 2017:**



Your Toronto · Schools

Parents want developers to kick in and help expand overcrowded Toronto schools

Current rules restrict school boards' ability to collect levies from builders and what they can spend it on

<https://www.thestar.com/yourtoronto/education/2017/10/29/parents-want-developers-to-kick-in-and-help-expand-overcrowded-toronto-schools.html>

About the McKee SAC The Student Advisory Council (SAC) is the provincially-mandated parent council of McKee Public School, Willowdale. It has long enjoyed a record of active participation by parents in the school as well as the local community in North York. Its current Co-Chairs are: Ali Youssefi and Stacey Savitsky.

