



TO: Kathleen Wynne, Liz Sandals, George Zegarac

CC: Donna Quan, Angelos Bacopoulos;

CC: Irene Atkinson, Amelia Dennis, Carla Kisko, Jane Phillips-Long, Cheri DiNovo

SUBJECT: TDSB Outstanding Repairs & Maintenance; Accessing EDCs

September 2, 2014

On behalf of Runnymede Public School Council and the broader “Fix Our Schools Campaign”, thank you for your letter dated June 12, 2014 in response to our letters regarding EDCs (April 30, 2014 with follow-up letter sent May 27, 2014) and regarding the backlog of repairs and maintenance in TDSB schools (May 6, 2014).

Your letter of response provided much historical data and did answer some of our questions. However, it left many unanswered questions about how the Ministry intends to work with the TDSB going forward to ensure that TDSB children attend school in safe, well-maintained buildings. Thus, we wish to continue our dialogue on both topics:

Outstanding Repairs & Maintenance

TDSB schools are in a massive state of disrepair with a \$3.5 Billion backlog of outstanding repairs and maintenance. We have been corresponding with the TDSB about this issue since May 2014 and have been copying you on this correspondence. We have heard from the TDSB that it is working to prioritize the TDSB’s \$3.5 Billion backlog of outstanding repairs and maintenance against the \$45 million provided annually by the Ministry to the TDSB for capital renewal.

In your letter, you outline the additional money that the TDSB has received from the Ministry via the GPL renewal initiative (TDSB received approximately \$413.5 million since 2005) and via the SCI initiative (TDSB received approximately \$51.9 million since 2011). Could you please let us know:

- *In the coming years, what additional money beyond the \$45 million annual GSN do you expect the Ministry to provide the TDSB for school renewal?*
- *How does the current provincial funding formula take into account: building age, utilization rate and outstanding repair/maintenance costs in order to provide flexibility to assist schools such as Runnymede P.S. - which is 98 years old, operates at 120.4% utilization, and currently has \$3.8 Million in outstanding repairs/maintenance.*
- *What sources of internal funding for school renewal does the Ministry expect the*



TDSB to be able to provide? Specifically, if you could kindly let us know:

- *How the Ministry expects the TDSB to assess schools to determine which schools/properties ought to be sold?*
 - *Based on these criteria, which TDSB schools/properties would the Ministry expect the TDSB to sell to fund school renewal?*
 - *What is the estimated dollar amount to be realized by the TDSB for the sale of each of these identified TDSB schools/properties?*
- *What support will the Ministry provide the TDSB in implementing the excellent recommendations outlined in the PwC's Resource Allocation Report of November 2012 and the SAT's report of July 2013?*

Accessing Education Development Charges

New developments abound in Toronto. Articles such as "A great downtown condo, but where does little Johnny go to school?" featured in the Globe and Mail on Thursday, August 21, 2014 <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/home-and-garden/real-estate/a-great-downtown-condo-but-where-does-little-johnny-go-to-school/article20150157/> highlight that schools near these new developments often do not have room to accommodate new students. To accommodate these new students living in new developments, the TDSB must either bus these students to schools where spaces are available or must accommodate these new students in the closer schools that are already overcapacity. At overcapacity schools, additional students create further need for repairs and maintenance. For these reasons, the TDSB requires access to money for repairs, maintenance and busing.

Developers target desirable neighbourhoods. Neighbourhoods are often desirable because of the local public schools that, despite crumbling infrastructure, deliver excellent education as quantified by EQAO results. Currently, money that could be gleaned from new developments to fund TDSB school repairs and/or busing is being left on the table. Could you please let us know:

- *What is the Ontario government going to do to work together with the TDSB, Developers and the City of Toronto to ensure that Developers contribute in a tangible way to the betterment of our public schools?*

We trust that the Ministry shares our vision of providing all Ontario students a quality education delivered in **safe, well-maintained schools** and that the Ministry will help the TDSB as required to ensure that this vision is realized. We look forward to receiving answers to our questions promptly.

Kind regards -

Jennifer McLean & Krista Wylie, Ward 7 Reps

- on behalf of Runnymede Public School Council and the "Fix Our Schools" Campaign