



Parents Advocating for Safe, Well-Maintained Schools
in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB)

SUBJECT: Thank you for stepping up to join the conversation about public schools in Toronto

February 12, 2015

Dear Mayor Tory and City Councillors,

The Fix Our Schools campaign represents TDSB parents advocating for safe, well-maintained schools. Thank you Mayor Tory for urging the City, the School Boards and the Province to work together to take shared responsibility for public schools – an integral part of our public infrastructure that must be considered on par with roads and transit. Thanks also to City Council as a whole for stepping up to join the conversation about public schools in Toronto.

With the TDSB and the City now both at the table, we are waiting only on the Province to step up and join this conversation. Let's assume this will happen in the coming days and a real dialogue focused on finding real solutions for public schools in Toronto can begin.

All parties at the table will likely agree on the value of:

- Ensuring strong local public schools that are safe and well-maintained
- Using public schools as community hubs
- Preserving the green space provided by public schools

Where opinions may start to diverge is when the conversation turns to **funding** these benefits to citizens and communities.

Each party at the table will have different levels of power and tools at their disposal to address the challenge of funding. We see the City as being able to:

- Access and increase the tax base of Toronto
- Build and facilitate creative partnerships
- Access money from new development and influence how that money gets spent
- Influence the policies and behaviours of other parties at the table
- Embed local school space availability into the approval process for new developments

Fix Our Schools asks that you please come to the table with a willingness **to think creatively and to contribute in a tangible way to public schools in Toronto.**

Kind regards,

Krista Wylie – on behalf of Fix Our Schools