

April 7, 2014

To: Chair and Members, Government Management Committee

From: Councillor Sarah Doucette (Ward 13)

Re: Agreement between the TDSB (Swansea PS) and the City of Toronto

Dear Chair and Members,

I understand there is a report coming to the Government Management Committee meeting this morning. It was brought to my attention by the Chair which I very much appreciated. I have a long history with the project that is the subject of this staff report and I would like to share my comments with you.

It was back in 1999, while I was Chair of the Swansea Public School Parent Council that an extension to Swansea PS was deemed a priority by the Parent Council, the school administration and the local Trustee. Shortly after that, we were able to convince the TDSB and province to dedicate future capital funding to the project but then in 2012, the province withdrew that funding. When we heard that, we – the school administration, the current Parent Council, the local Trustee, and myself as the Councillor – fought to get the province to re-instate the funding and we succeeded.

It is the province that mandates both our growth targets as a municipality and yet closes schools that aren't at capacity. The impact of these two policies has made it impossible for the schools in Ward 13, in their current configurations, to absorb the influx of new families being brought into our communities as a result of the intensification from numerous local developments built, in the works, or on the horizon. In addition to that, all day learning will begin at Swansea Public School in September 2014.

Fifteen years after our first discussion about this, the expansion of Swansea Public School is critical. Not only will it remove the need for the portables currently in use but it will give the school the room to take in the many students moving into the catchment area. Swansea Public School also has a shared use agreement with the Swansea Recreation Centre. The two properties are attached and this has created a neighbourhood hub. The TDSB must move on this as quickly as possible, needing to begin construction in September, 2014.

Thank you for your attention to my comments.
Sincerely,

Sarah Doucette