

LEGAL SERVICES

Dawne Jubb
Senior Legal Counsel
Municipal / Land Use Planning
Direct Line: (416) 395-4932
Facsimile: (416) 393-8973
Email: dawne.jubb@tdsb.on.ca

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VIA EMAIL ONLY: pgmc@toronto.ca

Council Members of the Planning & Growth Management Committee
City of Toronto
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Nancy Martins
Secretariat

Dear Members of the Planning & Growth Management Committee:

Re: Port Lands Planning Initiatives
PG24.06 – Ward 30
TDSB Request for Consideration

Staff at the TDSB have reviewed the Final Report and the Port Lands Planning Initiatives. The TDSB does not currently own or operate any schools in the area but has worked collaboratively with the City of Toronto and other partners to identify future opportunities within the area. Opportunities for new TDSB elementary schools have been identified in both the Villiers Island and McCleary Precincts that will ultimately accommodate children residing in these respective communities.

The final location(s) of the TDSB elementary schools will be subject to ongoing dialogue with the City and other parties given the multiple 'possibilities' identified in the plan. With respect to both opportunities on Villiers Island, the anticipated blocks for the future elementary schools would not be sufficient to accommodate both the school building and necessary associated outdoor play areas. In either location the TDSB must emphasize that access to appropriate functional green space for student play must be considered.

In their current form, directions in the Portlands Planning Framework do not to allow the TDSB to acquire and/or secure adequate and appropriate outdoor play areas. The plan recognizes the deficiency in outdoor play space without providing a policy solution. At present, there are specific directions in the Portlands Planning Framework that inappropriately place the onus on the TDSB to accommodate the necessary outdoor play space, exemplified below (Page 199, Portlands Planning Framework).

- *Schools situated adjacent to public parks will provide their own outdoor play space. The play space will not be counted towards satisfying parkland dedication requirements. Some access for school use of adjacent parks may be accommodated.*

If the TDSB is to provide all necessary outdoor play space on the site(s) of the future elementary school(s), the block(s) must be sized in such a manner that can accommodate that requirement. At present, massing diagrams contained within the document for the potential school site adjacent to the park (east side) do not suggest this is a possibility. If larger sites cannot be accommodated, the TDSB requests that the policies provide for the shared use parks and open spaces to accommodate the needs of the schools.

Lastly, the TDSB previously communicated that existing secondary school facilities located elsewhere would be sufficient to accommodate students residing in the Portlands (pg. 191 of the Portlands Planning Framework). Since that time many changes have occurred that have impacted the Board's ability to use nearby secondary schools, meaning options that were once available no longer exist. Based on current enrolment forecasts the TDSB anticipates that a secondary school is likely to be required within the Portlands area. The TDSB requests that this be considered in the overall plan for the Portlands.

The TDSB requests notice of the decision of the Planning and Growth Management Committee, and any additional reports and consideration of this matter by the City Planning Division, Planning and Growth Management Committee, City Council and other Committees.

The TDSB looks forward to the City's recognition of the needs of TDSB as being critical to creation of a complete community and that these planning policies are amended to reflect these needs. The Board would welcome of the opportunity to work with City staff to achieve these results.

Yours truly,



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Cc: Andrew Gowdy, System Planning Officer, TDSB