



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Establishment of a City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards Task Force

Date:	June 14, 2013
To:	Executive Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	AFS #16167

SUMMARY

This report is an update on work towards the establishment of a City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards working group, as requested in Member Motion MM23.3. This report recommends establishment of a City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards Task Force composed of City of Toronto Councillors and Toronto-area School Boards Trustees.

The purpose of the Task Force will be to identify issues of concern to Toronto residents which could benefit from better coordination between the City and School Boards, and to provide recommendations to City Council and Toronto-area School Boards on how to achieve and maintain such coordination and cooperation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director of Social Development Finance & Administration recommends that:

- 1) City Council establish a City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards Task Force as an advisory committee reporting to Council through the Executive Committee for the remainder of the 2010-2014 term of Council.
- 2) City Council adopt the terms of reference for the Task Force as presented in Appendix A.
- 3) City Council request the City Clerk to canvass Members of Council for their interest in appointment to the Task Force and report the results to the Striking Committee for its consideration.

- 4) City Council request the City Clerk to invite the participation of Toronto-area School Boards in the City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards Task Force as described in the proposed terms of reference for the City of Toronto-Toronto School Boards Task Force.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of the recommendations included in this report. Staffing of meetings and associated costs such as agenda printing will be assumed by the City and absorbed within the existing operating budget of the City Clerk. The City's role in policy support will be absorbed within the existing operating budget of the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of May 8, 2012, City Council considered a member motion (MM23.3 - Working Together - Establishing a City of Toronto–Toronto School Boards Working Group, by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson) that sought to establish a Working Group comprised of City Councillors and School Board Trustees. The motion was referred to the City Manager's Office.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.MM23.3>

At Executive Committee's meeting on November 5, 2012, the Committee considered a follow up report and referred it back to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration for further consideration.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX24.10>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

From school lands to community service delivery, the relationship of Toronto's residents to their schools is strong. Schools are vital public assets and changes to the school system can have a significant effect on local neighbourhoods and city-wide service strategies.

Staff and political leaders from the City and Toronto-area School Boards often work together closely. However, to date this work has focused mostly on program-specific issues. A coordinated effort to share information and plan collaboratively at the political level may provide opportunities for the City and the School Boards to maximize resources, to minimize negative effects on local communities, and to form stronger strategic partnerships.

COMMENTS

City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards Task Force as an advisory body of City Council

A key issue in forming a committee that includes both City Councillors and Trustees is that while Council's meetings are governed by the City of Toronto Act, meetings of Boards of Education are governed by the Education Act. To avoid creating a situation in

which there is potential conflict or confusion as to which Act presides, the Task Force should be established as an advisory body reporting to City Council. This would ensure that meetings could be organized under the requirements of the City of Toronto Act, and that secretariat support could be provided by the City Clerk's Office. Staffing of meetings and associated costs such as agenda printing can be provided within existing resources.

Given that there are less than 18 months remaining in the current term of Council, it is important that the purpose of this advisory body be focused on what is realistically achievable in the time available. It is for this reason that this body is recommended to be formed with the specific goal of identifying key issues for collaboration and determining the best means to build information sharing and cooperation between the City and School Boards.

As the Task Force will operate under the City of Toronto Act, it would be beneficial for the chair of the Task Force to be a City Councillor. This can be balanced by appointing a vice-chair from each of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) and the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Trustees. Balance between Councillors and Trustees is also proposed for the membership of the Task Force, with 6 City Councillors and 6 Trustees from across the 4 School Boards.

A geographic balance of Councillors is represented by ensuring that at each of Toronto's four Community Councils has at least one representative on the Task Force. Consultations with staff and interested Councillors also produced the suggestion that representation from members of the Parks & Environment Committee, the Community Development and Recreation Committee, the Government Management Committee, and the Planning & Growth Committee is desirable for the Task Force.

Staff have consulted the City Clerk's Office, Legal Services, and Strategic & Corporate Policy in the preparation of this report and the Terms of Reference for the Task Force.

Consultations with Toronto Area School Boards

City staff have also consulted with Trustees and staff from both the TDSB and the TCDSB. Both English-language Boards have expressed an interest in a working group.

At its May 8, 2013 regular meeting, the TDSB's Board of Trustees passed a motion to express support for the creation of such a working group. A letter of support from Board Chair Chris Bolton is attached to this report as Appendix B. City staff have also consulted with TDSB staff, and they are amenable and supportive.

City staff and Councillor Josh Matlow met with Trustee Ann Andrachuk and staff from the TCDSB on June 7, 2013. Trustee Ann Andrachuk expressed her support and the interest of the TCDSB in participating in the Task Force.

Policy Support to the City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards Task Force

As suggested in the proposed Terms of Reference, policy-related and coordinating staff support would be provided through interagency staff coordination, involving one staff

member from the City, one from the TDSB, and one from the TCDSB. The Social Development, Finance & Administration division will provide staff support on behalf of the City, and can do so within existing staff resources.

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards Task Force Proposed Terms of Reference

Appendix B: Letter of support from the Chair of the Toronto District School Board

Appendix A

City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards Task Force Proposed Terms of Reference

A. Background:

The City of Toronto and its local School Boards are partners in serving a shared constituency. From school lands to community service delivery, schools are integral to neighbourhoods. Changes to these physical assets have a considerable effect on local neighbourhoods and city-wide service strategies.

Although staff and political leaders often work together closely, City of Toronto divisions usually work with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) and both French language boards, the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud and the Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, at the staff level and on program-specific issues. A coordinated effort to share information and plan collaboratively may provide opportunities for the City of Toronto and School Boards serving Toronto to maximize resources and to minimize negative effects on local communities.

B. Purpose:

The City of Toronto – Toronto School Boards Task Force (hereafter referred to as "the Task Force") will investigate means for the City of Toronto (hereafter "the City") and School Boards that serve Toronto (hereafter "the School Boards") to more effectively share information and to coordinate on strategic direction on matters of mutual interest. The Task Force will provide recommendations in 2014 at the end of its term for consideration by the 2015-2018 term of Toronto City Council as to the best means to ensure ongoing collaboration between the City and the School Boards. The Task Force will also make these recommendations available to the School Boards.

C. Standing Committee Alignment:

The Task Force will be constituted as a council advisory body of Toronto City Council and will provide its advice to Council through the Executive Committee.

D. Membership:

1. The Task Force will be composed of elected representatives from the City and the School Boards. The Task Force will be composed of up to twelve (12) members in total.
2. Six (6) Members of City Council appointed by City Council, with each of Toronto's four Community Councils represented by at least one Councillor.
3. Two (2) Trustees appointed by the Toronto District School Board
4. Two (2) Trustees appointed by the Toronto Catholic District School Board
5. One (1) Trustee from the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud
6. One (1) Trustee from the Conseil Scolaire Viamonde

7. The Chair of the Task Force will be a Member of Council appointed by City Council on the recommendation of the Striking Committee, and, at its first meeting or as soon as possible after, the Task Force will elect two (2) vice-chairs, one of which shall be a Trustee from the Toronto District School Board, and one of which shall be a Trustee from the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

E. Term of Office:

1. The Task Force is a time-limited council advisory body and will sunset at the end of the 2010-2014 term of Council.
2. Members are appointed for the balance of the 2010-2014 term of Council.

F. Role and Procedures:

1. The Task Force is an advisory body to City Council.
2. The Task Force is not a decision-making body.
3. Any advice or recommendations that require formal action or implementation by City of Toronto staff must be considered by the Executive Committee and approved by City Council.
4. The Task Force will investigate and propose means to coordinate strategic direction between the City and the School Boards, particularly on land-related issues regarding school properties, including:
 - a. Pupil Accommodation Reviews and Program Area Reviews
 - b. Surplus schools
 - c. School closures
 - d. School redevelopments

The Task Force will also consider how to address City infrastructural development of potential interest to the School Boards, including Section 37 community benefits funds applied to School Board properties.

5. The Task Force will meet twice per year at the call of the Chair.
6. The Task Force will operate under the rules for committees in Chapter 27 (Council Procedures) of the Municipal Code.
7. All meetings will be governed by the open and closed meeting provisions of the City of Toronto Act.
8. The Social Development, Finance and Administration Division of the City of Toronto will provide policy-related staff support to the Task Force, in collaboration with staff from the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board.
9. The City Clerk will provide meeting management and related support to the Task Force.