



Re: EX9.15
STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

**2015-2016 Draft Workplan for Interagency Staff Team
(City-School Boards Advisory Committee)**

Date:	September 9, 2015
To:	City-School Boards Advisory Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report proposes a 2015-2016 Staff Workplan and Timeline for the City-School Boards Advisory Committee, as requested by the Committee at its inaugural meeting in May 2015. In addition, the report summarizes how the City-School Boards Interagency Staff team prepared the plan. This report and workplan were prepared based on input from City staff and School Boards staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- 1) City Council approve the 2015-2016 Draft Staff Workplan, Attachment A to this report, for the City-School Boards Advisory Committee;
- 2) City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration, to work in coordination with the directors of the four Toronto school boards and an Interdivisional City Team, including Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Children’s Services and City Planning, and the City Manager, to execute the activities of the Workplan and to report on progress before the end of 2015; and
- 3) City Council forward this report to the four School Boards operating in Toronto, and if approved, to the Government of Ontario.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of the recommendations included in this report. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Equity Impact Statement

The research and analysis outlined in the attached staff workplan will adopt a neighbourhood/community equity lens, so that policy and procedural changes related to school lands utilization and disposition are assessed for their impact on sociocultural and linguistic communities and for neighbourhood-level service and infrastructure inequities within the City of Toronto. The Toronto Neighbourhood Improvement Area boundaries will be the tool utilized in the research to inform these equity analyses. It is recognized that for certain School Boards, including French language boards, the community can be much larger geographically than a typical neighbourhood.

DECISION HISTORY

On July 7, 8 and 9, 2015, City Council approved an amendment to the City-School Boards Advisory Committee Terms of Reference so that it now reads, "2. The Committee will operate in accordance with the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures, with the necessary modifications as they apply to the Committee."

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilMinutesReport&meetingId=9693>

On May 29, 2015, at its inaugural meeting, the City-School Boards Advisory Committee addressed both procedural and substantive issues. The Committee requested that City Council amend the Committee's Terms of Reference to allow for equitable privileges among Trustee and Councillor Members of the Committee and also approved a motion directing City staff and school boards staff to work together to provide policy-related support to the Committee. Then the Committee referred a number of motions to the interagency staff team, and requested the development of a workplan for consideration at the next Committee meeting. The workplan was to include: a request for municipal participation in reviewing O.Reg 444/98 of the Education Act; reporting on processes for municipal involvement in Pupil Accommodation Reviews; a request for the Province to include childcare in the school utilization formula, a review of capital financing tools.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getMinutesReport&meetingId=10388>

At its meeting on March 31, April 1, and April 2 2015, City Council established the City-School Boards Advisory Committee under §27-130 of the Toronto Municipal Code as an advisory body reporting to City Council through the Executive Committee. The mandate of the Committee is twofold: 1. To provide advice to City Council on the best ways to effectively share information and plan collaboratively to provide opportunities for the City of Toronto and School Boards serving Toronto to maximize resources and minimize negative effects on local communities; and 2. To foster coordination of the City and the

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School Boards' roles in developing a "Made in Toronto" solution to address the local needs of the City, the School Boards and the Province of Ontario as they relate to publicly funded schools and related infrastructure.

At the same meeting, City Council directed the City-School Boards Advisory Committee to prioritize in its 2015-2016 work plan the development of a new multilateral, consultative relationship for the City of Toronto, the School Boards and the Province of Ontario with respect to schools lands utilization and disposition that:

a. takes into consideration the full value of schools as community assets, in addition to their value as educational institutions; b. provides a viable framework for retaining public ownership of former school properties when there is agreement among the parties that the site should be retained; c. identifies alternative funding sources beyond municipal funding to keep schools as community assets; d. recommends changes to the “pupil accommodation” formula and Regulation 444/98 of the Education Act to address issues of common concern related to utilization of school space for education and community use; and e. develops a new model for more coordinated capital and land-use planning; and to report back to Executive Committee on these issues by the fourth quarter of 2015 and to also consider compliance with Access for Ontario with Disability Act (AODA).

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getCouncilMinutesReport&meetingId=9690>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

City Council has approved a set of policy priorities for the City-School Boards Advisory Committee to pursue during its inaugural year, focused on policy priorities related to school lands disposition. At the first meeting of the City-School Boards Advisory Committee, City staff presented a summary of these priorities and recommended actions for addressing or resolving them. In response to the staff presentation, the Committee requested the Interagency Staff Team to draft a workplan for consideration at the next meeting. The draft workplan is attached to this report as Appendix A; the draft timeline is attached as Appendix B.

COMMENTS

Interagency Staff Cooperation to Design the Workplan

The Interagency Staff Team includes executive staff from Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, the Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud and the Conseil Scolaire Viamonde, and the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance, and Administration. This Team has communicated regularly and met twice since May 2015 to: prepare a draft Staff workplan for Committee consideration; identify additional issues of import for the City and School Boards to address in relation to school lands utilization and disposition; and prepare a Terms of Reference document to guide the work of the Staff Team.

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If approved, the City of Toronto-led items on the workplan will be executed by an interdivisional City team, including City Planning, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Children's Services, Social Development, Finance and Administration, Real Estate, and the City Manager's Office.

Workplan and Timeline

The draft workplan is framed around four current policy barriers to achieving shared interests of the City and the school boards, with respect to schools as community assets in Toronto. Three of these policy barriers were presented to the Committee on May 20, 2015, in a staff presentation, entitled, "Schools as Community Assets: Setting the Context and Looking Forward." These are, respectively: the current method for measuring school utilization and identifying surplus schools; the current method for disposing of surplus schools; and a lack of alternate financing tools for school board capital development in Toronto. The fourth policy barrier, school properties and planning considerations, was identified by the Interagency Staff Team as an important additional issue for the Committee to address.

With respect to the proposed work to develop a community asset utilization rate ("CAUT), it should be noted that the development of a CAUT should not prevent a school from being circulated to other school boards. Its function would be to provide a standardized measure to compare the level/potential level of community use of different publicly-owned facilities, including schools. Currently, there is no standardized way for the City or other stakeholders to evaluate or compare the relative community value of different public properties that may be circulated for potential purchase.

The workplan includes: strategic objectives associated with the four core barriers; concrete activities to be undertaken to achieve the objectives, dates for reporting to the City-School Boards Advisory Committee, implementation steps, and the intended long-term outcome of the work. The timeline for the workplan is aggressive. The reporting timeline is based on a proposed quarterly meeting schedule for the City-School Boards Advisory Committee, and includes an initial update to Executive Committee that has been requested by City Council in Q4, 2015.

Lead Agencies and Ensuring a Strong Voice for School Boards

The City of Toronto has lead responsibility for the majority of actions on the proposed workplan, with the agreement to work in collaboration with school board staff in executing this work. Producing reports cooperatively will help foster a culture of interagency communication and information sharing among the school boards and the City. To ensure a strong school boards' perspective and voice, it will be important for the school boards to lead or co-lead the development of some core reports.

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Draft City-School Boards Interagency Staff Team Workplan, 2015-2016
Appendix B: Draft Timeline: Staff Team Reports to City-School Boards Advisory
Committee, 2015-2016
Appendix C: Interagency Staff Team Terms of Reference