

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM3.12	ACTION			Ward:All
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Request of the Province to amend its utilization assessments to consider Toronto District School Board schools as community hubs - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Ministry of Education to amend the formula for determining school utilization rates so that the formula takes into consideration the full community use of schools (adult education programs, child care facilities, Parenting and Family Literacy centres and other community uses of schools) and that the Province review its current approach to school closures to take into account demographic and long-term enrolment.

2. City Council request that, until the formula is amended, the Toronto District School Board and the Province of Ontario suspend the consideration of selling or closing any school properties that are:

- used in whole or in part for community uses including child care centres, non-credit adult ESL, Adult Literacy and basic skills, Adult High School Credit programs;
- located in neighbourhoods with potential for significant population growth; and
- located in neighbourhoods identified as parks deficient by the City of Toronto.

3. City Council request the City Manager, in consultation with the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, the General Manager, Children's Services, the Director, Affordable Housing Office and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, to appeal to the Government of Ontario, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to develop a comprehensive plan to protect publicly accessible green space, open spaces, and sports facilities on Toronto District School Board properties.

Summary

The Provincial Government has recently given a list of directives to the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), which have an impact on our residents and local communities. TDSB trustees have

until February 13, 2015 to respond to the Province.

The Ministry of Education has produced a list of over 130 “under-utilized” schools (attached to this Motion) that they recommend the TDSB consider for closure. This list includes many schools which provide vital community programming, including child care, Adult ESL, special needs programs and after school care. The schools are also located in park deficient areas where the TDSB property is currently providing much needed public space. Many of these schools are in neighbourhoods where the City is growing and new families are moving in.

The Province’s recommendations do not value or measure the community use provided by these schools to our residents. City Council and even the Premier have repeatedly called to make our schools community hubs, which in practice many of these schools are fulfilling, but now the Province is recommending that the schools and their lands be sold. The Province needs to take into consideration not only the number of students, but also the significance of the programming for students in need as well as the local community.

Ward Name	Total Number of Schools Considered for Closure		Ward Name	Total Number of Schools Considered for Closure
Etobicoke North	8		Willowdale	5
Etobicoke Centre	6		Don Valley West	2
Etobicoke Lakeshore	5		Toronto Centre	3
York West	5		Toronto Danforth	10
York Centre	6		Beaches-East York	3
York South-Weston	12		Don Valley East	10
Parkdale High-Park	3		Scarborough Southwest	4
Eglinton Lawrence	6		Scarborough Centre	4
Davenport	9		Scarborough Agincourt	8
Trinity-Spadina	9		Scarborough-Rouge River	3
St Paul's	1		Scarborough East	8

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM3.12

List of Schools to be considered for closure

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-75711.pdf>)