

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM3.13	ACTION			Ward:All
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Models of Municipal-School Board Program and Governance - by Councillor Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow

** 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 Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration to research and report to the September 21, 2015 meeting of the Executive Committee on alternative models of municipal-school program and governance, such as the "After School Matters" program in Chicago.

Summary

Schools are vital public assets that contribute to student achievement and local community well being. Significant changes to the school system, such as the closure and potential change in use of large numbers of school properties, can have a significant effect on local neighbourhoods and City wide service strategies.

On a number of occasions Council has requested that the Province review legislation, regulation and practice as it pertains to "surplus" school buildings. More recently, the Province has indicated it will review the Pupil Accommodation Review Process, Regulation 444/98 as well as the Provincial policy to support the development of hubs in school buildings.

The City of Toronto is committed to improving coordination and alignment between the City and School Boards to deliver high quality programs and services that are effective and efficient, and benefit Toronto residents. To this end, Council will consider a report recommending the establishment of a City School Advisory Committee on this meeting agenda. This Advisory Committee will build on the work of the former City School Board Task Force which reported to Council at the end of the last term.

In support of these efforts, a review of alternative models of municipal-school program and governance, such as the "After School Matters" program in Chicago, may provide new ideas and options for moving forward in this regard. This Motion requests that staff undertake initial research in this matter and report to the Executive Committee in September 2015.