City of Toronto

Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

February 18, 2015

TO: Chair and Members
Toronto and East York Community Council

FROM: Councillor Janet Davis
Councillor Paula Fletcher
Councillor Mary Fragedakis

RE: **Heritage Value of TDSB Schools being reviewed for Possible Closure**

On February 10, 2015, at the request of the Provincial government, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) approved reviewing 68 schools for potential closure and sale. The Board approved a Long Term Capital Plan that included conducting Pupil Accommodation Reviews (PARC) over the next 3 years, and consulting on disposing of schools already closed that are in the inventory of the Toronto Lands Corporation.

The Long-term Capital plan was approved in June 2015 in a private session of the Board. Many people in the community were unaware of those decisions, until released on February 10. The Board also, unexpectedly, added ten new school names to the list for review in 2014/15 in the Toronto and East York District.

Many of schools included on these lists are historically significant, both from a cultural and architectural perspective. Studies are needed to determine whether they should be listed or designated. In 2013 Heritage Preservation Services was requested to undertake heritage studies of TDSB schools. The studies were not completed because of inadequate resources within the division.

Several of these schools are at risk of closure and sale as a result of the PARCs. It is urgent that the City undertake heritage studies as soon as possible. It is also important that the TDSB take responsibility for its heritage properties. For these reasons we would like to move the following recommendation:

Toronto and East York Community Council request the Director of Urban Design report to the April 14, 2015 meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council on the following:

1. Schools on the TDSB list of schools being reviewed (Attachment 1), located in the Toronto and East York District, that have potential heritage value and merit further study;
2. The resources required to undertake such studies on these schools;
3. The obligations and current practices of the TDSB with respect to heritage preservation through the surplus and disposition process.

Sincerely,

Janet Davis
City Councillor
Ward 31

Paula Fletcher
City Councillor
Ward 30

Mary Fragedakis
City Councillor
Ward 29

Attachment 1
TDSB Decisions of February 10, 2015 Special Meeting
Re: Long Term Capital Plan for Submission to the Provincial Government

The TDSB approved the following:

1. Conduct the following Pupil Accommodation Review Committees (ARCs) over the next three years:

Cluster reviews in 2014-15 involving:
- Nelson Boylen CI, Downsview SS and Weston CI;
- Sir Robert Borden BTI, West Hill CI and Sir Wilfrid Laurier CI;
- Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute, East York Alternative Secondary School, East York CI, Eastdale CI, Eastern Commerce CI, Greenwood Secondary School, Monarch Park CI, Riverdale CI, School of Life Experience, and Subway Academy

Cluster reviews in 2015-16 involving:
- CH Best MS and Wilmington ES;
- Vaughan Road SS, York Memorial CI, Oakwood CI, John Polanyi CI, Forest Hill CI and George Harvey CI;
- John Buchan Sr. PS, Highland Heights Jr. PS, Tam O'Shanter Jr. PS, Inglewood Heights Jr. PS, Lynngate Jr. PS, Pauline Johnson Jr. PS and Timberbank Jr. PS;
- Kensington Jr. PS, Ryerson CS, King Edward Jr. & Sr. PS and Lord Lansdowne Jr. & Sr. PS.

Cluster reviews in 2016-17 involving:
- Gracefield PS and Amesbury MS;
- Galloway Road PS and St. Margaret's PS;
- Manhattan Park Jr. PS, Buchanan PS;
- Rockcliffe MS, Cordella Jr. PS, Harwood PS., George Syme CS, Roselands Jr. PS, Lambton Park CS, and Dennis Avenue CS.

It is anticipated that there will be recommendations to Board coming from these reviews that will see a number of school closings.

2. Pursue community consultations to address the 4 disposition of sites identified in the Board's approved three-year capital budget of June 2014. The sites are Bridgeport, Old Orchard, CB Parsons, and Whitfield.

3) Accelerate the community consultations of 7 sites in order to consider additional sites for disposition. The sites are Brookbanks, Burnett, Cartwright, Earlscourt, McCowan, McNichol, and Silver Creek.

4) Accelerate the review processes of 9 sites in order to consider additional sites for disposition. The sites Buttonwood Hill, Castlebar, Champlain, DB Hood, Glen Rush, Gooderham, Queen's Court, Sir Sandford Fleming, and Thistletown.