



Toronto & East York  
Community  
Preservation  
Panel

Marilyn Toft  
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

July 10, 2016

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee,

**RE: EX 16.21 Schools as Community Assets: Review and Prioritization of 23 Toronto District School Board Properties**

The Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel (TEYCPP) write to express their strong support for item 3(g) in the above noted report (AFS#23149), ***“built heritage resources will be evaluated prior to the disposition of a school site”*** as one of eight principles in the Community Asset Evaluation Framework for redeveloping school properties for strong communities, as well as the recommendation that City Council adopt these eight principles and request that the school boards operating in Toronto, the Toronto Lands Corporation, the Ministry of Education, the Community Hubs Secretariat of Ontario and other relevant entities do so as well.

The report clearly indicates that 20 of the 23 properties recently identified by Toronto District School Board for potential surplus declaration and disposition from 2016-2019 have heritage potential. This is also likely of the array properties owned by other school boards across the city and across the Province. As highlighted by the National Trust for Canada 6 years ago, in their HERITAGE magazine, “Canada’s schools today are under unprecedented pressure to perform as centres of educational excellence while meeting ever-shrinking budgets. Historic schools in inner cities, mature suburbs and rural areas across the country are not making the cut” and are at serious risk of becoming “our next endangered species.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationaltrustcanada.ca/sites/heritagecanada.org/files/magazines/2010/issue3-4/Heritage3%2B4.2010-Feature2E.pdf>

Currently, the heritage potential and value of these school buildings has yet to be fully explored and goes undocumented. Too often heritage conservationists are criticized for being reactionary and TEYCPP therefore support a more proactive mechanism for identifying and safeguarding these important community assets. TEYCPP therefore feel it also appropriate to expand the application of this specific principle beyond merely disposition, to be applied at any time during which a school property is being considered for redevelopment or expansion, including by the school board itself. The current situation with the Davisville Public School is a clear and pertinent example of where an expanded application of this principle from the outset could have been most useful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Sarah Hill**

*Vice-Chair Midtown*

Toronto & East York Community Preservation Panel

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*CC: Robin Pilkey, Chair Toronto District School Board; Angela Kennedy, Chair, Toronto Catholic School Board; Lourdes Bettencourt, Secretariat, Toronto Preservation Board; Yasmina Shamji, Support Assistant, Toronto Heritage Preservation Services; Susana Miranda, Secretariat, Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel;*