

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM19.14	ACTION			Ward: 9
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Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds to the Toronto District School Board for Schoolyard Improvements at Dewson Street Junior Public School - by Councillor Alejandra Bravo, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

** 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 Alejandra Bravo, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the 2024 Operating Budget for Non-Program by \$100,000.00 gross, \$0 net, (Cost Centre: NP2161) fully funded by Section 37 funds obtained in the development at 871 to 899 College Street, secured for park improvements (Source Account: XR3026-3701124), for the purpose of providing one-time capital funding to the Toronto District School Board for capital improvements to the schoolyard at Dewson Street Junior Public School, subject to the Toronto District School Board entering into an acceptable Community Access Agreement with the City.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to participate in the preparation of the Community Access Agreement, in consultation with the Ward Councillor and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, provided acceptable terms can be agreed upon.
3. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to execute on behalf of the City a Community Access Agreement with the Toronto District School Board for the capital improvements to the schoolyard at Dewson Street Junior Public School, for a term of 20 years and on such other terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
4. City Council direct that if a mutually acceptable Community Access Agreement cannot be agreed upon that the funds will not be transferred to the Toronto District School Board and shall be made available for other community facilities in the local community.

Summary

This Motion seeks to contribute \$100,000 of Section 37 funds towards the Dewson Street Junior Public School schoolyard revitalization project. The scope of the improvements includes a multi-use sports court, track and field, new playground, and outdoor learning spaces.

The Dewson Street Junior schoolyard is a valuable and heavily used green space. In the absence of a City playground nearby, the school grounds serve that purpose for the wider community. The Section 37 Implementation Guidelines (Section 5.7) approved by Council states:

"Cash contributions toward the capital improvement of school board playgrounds are eligible Section 37 community benefits where the playground serves as a local park, where the public will continue to have reasonable access for the foreseeable future, and where there is no local City-owned parkland performing a similar function in the same community that could otherwise benefit from the cash contribution."

Revitalizing the schoolyard will create a more usable, accessible, and vibrant green space that will benefit both the school's students and the Davenport community.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM19.14

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-246806.pdf>)