

Written Notice of Motion (Trustee Matlow)

From: David Tomczak, Senior Manager, Board Services

In accordance with Board Bylaw 10.4, the following motion was submitted in time to be included on the agenda of this meeting for consideration. The following Bylaws are applicable:

10.4 A member of the Board may include a matter in the agenda for a regular Board meeting by submitting the matter in writing to the Director at least seven days in advance of the meeting.

18.16 No decision of the Board shall be reconsidered for a period of 12 months following the decision, or for the remainder of the term of office of the Board, whichever period is shorter, unless decided otherwise by the Board.

18.17 A motion to reconsider a previous decision of the Board shall require a majority of the members of the Board to carry.

18.18 A decision of the Board made at a previous meeting shall not be reconsidered unless notice of the motion to reconsider the decision is included in the agenda.

School-based Swimming Pools

Whereas, on June 27, 2007, during consideration of the 2007-08 budget, the Board decided (in part):

Whereas the Board annually spends about \$16-million (net) on school pool operations, aquatic programming and pool capital repairs (\$13-million operating, \$3-million capital); and

Whereas there is no provision for pool operations, capital repairs or aquatic programming in the provincial funding formula; and

Whereas the Board funds its pools through money diverted through ESL, FSL and learning opportunities grants; and

Whereas learning to swim is a valuable skill in a country that boasts rivers and lakes and recreational and competitive swimming are positive pursuits for life-long healthy living; and

Whereas the Board is the only school board in Ontario that has an extensive aquatic program;

Therefore be it resolved that if, by February 1, 2008, the provincial government does not agree to fund Board unfunded pools either through operating or capital grants or through a specific education mill rate, that the process of decommissioning all school-based pools effective June 1, 2008 be implemented;

Therefore, be it resolved:

(a) That the Board reconsider its decision of June 27, 2007, as follows::

That if, by February 1, 2008, the provincial government does not agree to fund Board unfunded pools either through operating or capital grants or through a specific education mill rate, that the process of decommissioning all school-based pools effective June 1, 2008 be implemented;

(b) and if Part (a) is carried, I hereby move:

Whereas, the Board's school pools provide athletic, recreational, life-saving skills, programming and health promotion opportunities for students and residents, and

Whereas, students learn important water safety skills at an early age and drowning is the second leading cause of death among children under 14 years old in Canada [ISL World Drowning Report 2007]; and

Whereas, the Federal government issues tax credits to make sport accessible to more families in the hopes of realizing long-term health care savings by promoting healthy lifestyles, and the Provincial government is promoting the same goals through the Ministry of Education, Health and Education, amongst others; and

Whereas, many students who would otherwise not learn how to swim, as swimming lessons are not part of their experience or private lessons are too expensive, fully rely on the Board's aquatic programming; and

Whereas, the Board does not receive funding through the Ministry of Education's provincial education funding formula for aquatic programming or pool operating and capital costs; and

Whereas, some pools have recently undergone costly repairs and improvements; and

Whereas, if the Board does decommission its school pools, it should approve a plan for what will become of the space in schools where pools currently exist and what costs will be associated with the pool closures, and

Whereas, the public has not been effectively involved in the Board's decision making process regarding the future of school pools; and

Whereas, the Board must be transparent, proactive and innovative in its approach to continuing services that are a priority to students, parents, and residents; and

Whereas, on February 27, 2002, then-TDSB trustee Kathleen Wynne, who is now Ontario's Education Minister, moved an amendment adding the following to a Board decision: "That the Board and the City develop a protocol on how to deal with future funding issues, and to establish principles of working together for a better Toronto";

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (c) That staff present a report with complete and full information regarding the current operating costs of each school pool, any planned improvements, and the money spent on any improvements to school pools in the last several years;
- (d) That the Director present a full audit of the Board's finances to the May 21, 2008, regular meeting, including an independent engineering evaluation of decommissioning of each pool and a breakdown on the operating costs on a school-by-school basis;
- (e) That public consultation process be undertaken which includes parents, students, residents, and other stakeholders;
- (f) That staff immediately seek out partnerships with aquatic clubs, the Province, the private sector, and others to fund the Board's 78 operating pools;
- (g) That discussion and consultation be undertaken with current permit-holders, other levels of government, and other interested parties to gather suggestions:
 - (i) for improving and increasing usage of pools,
 - (ii) for increasing revenues to support the operation of the pools;
 - (iii) for improving physical activity opportunities for Toronto citizens through improved and increased use of the Board's pools;
- (h) That there be a discussion about the future of the Board's school pools at the May 21, 2008, regular meeting with an allowance for public delegations at the commencement of the meeting

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