

Parent Advisory: Neighborhood Schools are Bursting, but Ministry Freeze on Funds Prohibits Building

**Swansea PS, Runnymede PS, Keele St. PS, &
Indian Rd Crescent PS All Affected**

Tensions between the Ministry of Education and the Toronto District School Board have led the Ministry to freeze the funds intended for use in building two desperately needed additions to schools in our neighborhood.



Swansea PS and Runnymede PS are both currently operating at more than 25% over capacity. Keele St. and Indian Rd Crescent public schools are soon to feel the effects as well, as the implementation of full-day kindergarten in September 2014 puts additional strain on these schools, and reduces the classroom space available for students in grades 7 and 8 at Keele St. PS. Additions planned for Swansea PS and Keele St. PS were intended to alleviate overcrowding at all four of these schools. However, those funds are now frozen.

Examples of the problems caused by overcrowding at Swansea and Runnymede already include:

- Insufficient bathrooms
- Classes with over 40 students (There is no cap on the number of students in a class after grade 3.)
- Lunchrooms operating at twice their capacity with dangerous noise levels
- Reduced access to library, music, and physical education facilities. (Phys Ed taking place in hallways!)
- Increased safety issues
- Increasing use of portables with little or no room to accommodate more

A group of concerned parents at these four schools has joined together to communicate to those with influence the urgent need to release the funds, so that we can begin building and be ready for full-day kindergarten in September 2014. We need your help. Without these additions, conditions at our schools will only get worse.

If this issue concerns you, here are a few things you can do:

- ✓ Attend Parent Council meetings for ongoing updates and/or volunteer your time or talent.
- ✓ Call or write the Minister of Education, Laurel Broten at:
Tel: 416-325-2600
Email: laurel.brotен@ontario.ca
- ✓ Make sure all Liberal leadership candidates understand that their position on this issue could influence your vote in the next election. Write to them or attend candidates meetings coming soon.
 - Gerard Kennedy: gk@gerardkennedy.ca
 - Sandra Pupatello: Sandra@signup4sandra.ca
 - Eric Hoskins: ehoskins.mpp@liberal.ola.org
 - Glen Murray: gmurray.mpp@liberal.ola.org
 - Charles Sousa: csousa.mpp@liberal.ola.org
 - Harinder Takhar: htakhar.mpp@liberal.ola.org
 - Kathleen Wynne: kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Make your voice heard! Our children deserve a quality education!