The extra resources meant the school became a key to the community, she said.

"It was like "night and day," thanks to funds that went towards teacher training and helping children learn to read." Meagher said.

"There should be a total outcry from the public," she said. "Imagine what could happen if all of it was put where it's supposed to be."

Social Planning Toronto calls it a missed opportunity to ensure every child who is also chair of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations.

"Schools are the place where we as a society spend the most money on young people," said Todd Bennett, the TDSB's deputy director of education, who is also chair of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations. "We need to make sure that this money is going where it needs to go."

But Social Planning Toronto calls for the TDSB to start directing learning opportunities grants back to students, even if it takes a few years to make the full transition. The TDSB has a final report on the impact of poverty, race and class, what programs are effective and where additional resources are needed. A final report is expected in November.

"Our research shows that low-income families and students are the ones who benefit most from these programs," said Sharma Queiser, a researcher and policy analyst at Social Planning Toronto. "We recommend that the TDSB prioritize these programs and allocate additional resources to them."

"We think it's important that people now see the facts," said Sean Meagher, executive director of the Toronto Labour Board. "It's time people actually saw what's really happening out there. Where do their children go to school, how do they get there, why do they fail?"

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