

# Ward 10 Virtual Forum: Equity

Thursday January 21, 2021 6-8p.m.

Via Zoom

## Minutes

Outgoing Ward 10 Chair Nigel Lawson opened the meeting at 6:02pm

- [Land Acknowledgement](#)
- Introductions:
  - Ward 10 Trustee Chris Moise
  - Executive Superintendent [Sandy Spyropoulos](#)
  - System Superintendent Jackie Spence
  - Superintendent [Mary Linton](#)
  - Superintendent [Mike Gallagher](#)
- Equity Presentation Introductions:
  - Karen Murray
  - Rukiya Mohamed
  - David Chichton
  - Monike Hansen
  - Alan Malolos
  - Emma Nichols
  - **Anu Sharma**
- Some changes to the agenda:
  - PIAC Elections Process first
  - Trustee and Superintendent Updates
  - Equity Presentation
  - Change over of Ward 10 Chair from Nigel Lawson to D. Williams
- [Parent Involvement Advisory Committee \(PIAC\)](#) Ward 10 Elections:

- Two Ward 10 parents have put their names forward; Denese Gashco and Charlotte Schwartz.
- No nominations from the floor.
- Denes Gashco acclaimed to Ward 10 PIAC Representative
- Charlotte Schwartz acclaimed to Ward 10 PIAC Alternate
- **Trustee Chris Moise Update:**
  - Thank you to outgoing Ward 10 Chair Nigel Lawson for his two years of service to our Ward 10 Forums. He has really helped bring our 34 School Councils together through his outreach, ensuring they have a place here at our Ward 10 Forums and keeping them in the loop. He has done a phenomenal job and we are very, very grateful and I will miss your council.
  - I would like to thank D. Williams for putting her name forward as the Ward 10 Chair going forward. D. will start her leadership role as Chair of the next Ward 10 Forum.
  - [Slides 3, 6, 9, 14, 15 & 25:](#)
    - [Slide 3:](#) In August 2020 the TDSB along with Toronto Public Health (TPH) identified high risk COVID-19 neighbourhoods and high risk schools.
    - [Slide 6:](#) in November through December more high risk schools were identified; elementary schools in red and secondary schools in blue.
    - [Slide 9:](#) This shows the schools that were closed by TPH prior to lockdown. In Ward 10 it was Nelson Mandela Park PS.
    - [Slides 14 & 15:](#) Students with special needs are still being accommodated in in-person classes. In Ward 10 Beverly Public School is a congregated site and remains open for staff and students during lockdown. At next week's board meeting Ward 11 Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin will bring forward a motion to have all special education teachers and support staff vaccinated.
    - [Slide 25:](#) TPH has asked the Board to consider one of these two options for the February switch date between in-person school and virtual school. Option 1, a one way switch from in-person to virtual is preferred. By having more kids in virtual school, it would decrease class sizes in bricks and mortar classrooms, bringing the risk of infection down.

- **Superintendent Update: Executive Superintendent [Sandy Spyropoulos](#):**
  - [Slides 10-13](#):
    - Update on what we have from TPH in regards to Provincial Testing.
    - TDSB is part of the pilot project doing school wide testing
    - [Slide 11](#): shows TDSB Schools that participated in school wide testing
    - TDSB is working with TPH and the Ministry of Education to streamline the testing process.
    - When we return to in-class learning we will be more prepared to swiftly test our students within the schools.
    - [Slide 13](#): Positivity rates in the schools are well below the positivity rates of the city. We are using all the safety measures provided and we are keeping our students safe.
  - As for the current closure; it is currently slated to go through February 10th. We are waiting and working alongside our public health partners to be ready for reopening when the time comes.
  - As for the February switch between bricks and mortar and virtual school. As was mentioned in Trustee Moise's presentation on [Slide 25](#); TPH has asked us if offering a switch to consider one of these two options for elementary schools; only allowing a switch to virtual school from brick and mortar or delaying a two way switch until after March Break.
    - We have not decided on this yet as the February 16th switch date is so close to the February 10th return to class date.
    - As for Secondary School. Quad 2 is coming to an end and Quad 3 will start up on February 8th which does not even coincide with the Ministry's back to class date. Secondary students and families are in the process of selecting their Quad 3 courses and indicating whether or not they want to be in person or virtual.
    - Note: LC4 has the largest number of students registered in brick and mortar and therefore, the lowest number of students in virtual school in the Board. So, the impact of switching between options is going affect us less critically then the other TDSB Learning Centres
    - In our secondary schools, we have created a Secondary School Hub where principals have gotten together and are offering secondary students the opportunity to take courses outside their home school to

increase the offerings. We are hoping to continue these offerings through Quad 3.

- Equity Presentation

- Karen Murray, Centrally assigned Principal for Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression
- Rukaiya Mohamed, TDSB Equity Coach
- Alan Malolos, Vice Principal Lord Dufferin Jr and Sr Public School
- Emma Nichols, Principal Lord Dufferin Jr and Sr Public School
- Monike Hansen, Vice Principal Rose Ave Public School
- David Crieghton, Principal Rose Ave Public School

- Question and Answer:

- Q: What positive changes have you seen in children who are not of black heritage? Have you seen less bullying etc..? Are they adopting strategies that affect and impact their own culture?
  - A: Karen Murray: One of the things that is happening is it's bringing a bigger awareness to issues that the kids know are happening but don't have the opportunity to see, now they are seeing it. Some of the kids who bring forward questions about anti-racism don't self identify as black, they are able to engage in conversation about oppression and can see it through the lense of anti-indigenous or anti-Asian racism. It gives them a bigger awareness to be advocates and agents. Secondary students are really able to make connections to current experiences and they feel the power to address it and make it a part of their own narrative. They feel like they can change the world and make a difference.
  - A: David Creighton: Students now have a language and an understanding to resolve issues. They are also learning restorative justice. We have restorative circles so that little problems can be dealt with and not escalate into big situations. Students feel they are part of the solution.

- Link to registration for [Navigating the School System for Black Families](#)
- Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm