

# Ward 10 Forum - Trustee [Chris Moise](#): Secondary School Teaching & Learning in 2021 & Beyond

Thursday April 22, 2021 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

- Meeting started at 6:03 p.m.: Ward 10 Chair D. Williams
  - [Land Acknowledgement](#)
  - Welcome and Introductions:
    - Ward 10 Trustee Chris Moise
    - Superintendent [Mike Gallagher](#)
    - Superintendent [Mary Linton](#)
    - Executive Superintendent [Sandy Spyropoulos](#)
    - Principals, parents and community members
  - Agenda: Presentation, Q&A, and Discussion. With special guests Principal Steve Yee, Vice-Principal Tamara Massey and Vice-Principal Arnold Witt (Harbord Collegiate Institute) Updates from the Trustee, Superintendents, PIAC and FSLAC Reps; Q&A
  
- Presentation: [Secondary School Teaching & Learning in 2021 & Beyond](#)
  - [Harbord Collegiate Institute](#) Principal Steve Yee
  - Vice Principals, Tamara Massey & Arnold Witt
  - Assistant Curriculum Leader of English, Lizzie McNealy
  - Student Representatives, Samir Abdella - Muslim Student Association(MSA), Shai - Jewish Culture Club(JCC), Mouna -Whole of Africa and the Caribbean Countries (WACC)
    - **VP Arnold Witt** introduced the Student Leaders from Harbord CI. These students have been working together and with faculty to create positive experiences during the Pandemic.
    - **Samir Abdella - Muslim Student Association (MSA)**: This is a safe space for Muslim students at Harbord CI to discuss religion. Work with many different clubs and schools to discuss celebrations and religion. Had conversations with the Jewish Culture Club.
    - **Shai - Jewish Culture Club(JCC)**: JCC & MSA got together to discuss Ramadan and Passover. Harbord has a strong Jewish history, bringing in guest speakers including Murray Rubin, president of the Harbord Alumni Association who attended Harbord CI in the 1930's when the school had a 90% Jewish population. Dara Soloman from archives shared photos from the

neighbourhood throughout the years. Holocaust Remembrance day was celebrated with an in school display (also available digitally).

- **Mouna - Whole of Africa and Caribbean Culture Club (WACC):** Discuss issues that have meaning to us. Black History Month Assemble hosted by WACC (virtually). Discussions on current issues. Last year WACC held a Black Achievement workshop, encouraging students to have conversations with their peers and taking those discussions to the equity committee etc.. Working with staff like Mrs. McNealy to bring more relevant material to the curriculum.
- **Shai - Music Program:** Harbord has one of the best music programs in the TDSB. We have been doing virtual concerts through the pandemic. One was done for International Women's Day. The Hockey Night in Canada Theme song was played to celebrate a Canadian Female songwriter.
- **VP Tamara Massy & Assistant Curriculum Leader of English, Lizzie McNealy. Instructional Leadership, Equity & Course Offerings:** Tamara Massy: First Nation, Metis, Inuit Pathway has been started at Harbord. The Equity Committee and the student voice indicated that students wanted to see themselves reflected in the curriculum and have a voice. Department heads came together to find ways to represent the Indigenous students at Harbord and reflect and acknowledge. Courses offer in each of the four years as a progression of the First Nation, Metis, Inuit Pathway. Three departments really stepped up; French, social science and English. These departments met and discussed possibilities and in the 21/22 school year Harbord will offer Pathway courses in history in grades 10 & 11 in French and English. The English Department has replaced an existing course with a Pathway course. We want students to see themselves in the curriculum but also to see other perspectives. Lizzie McNealy: Grade 11 course, Understanding the First Nation, Metis and Inuit Peoples voices. Teachers took additional qualifying courses to be able to accommodate this course. This course honours a call to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. The media coverage has been slightly negative. Eg. "Ontario School Board tosses Shakespeare for Indigenous authors", the Ontario English curriculum does not have specified texts so these claims are false. All the skills in the curriculum will still be developed but the material will be sourced from Indigenous sources. Some of the learning will ultimately

transfer into other areas of the curriculum. English Department will also be offering a Studies in Literature course with a focus on the African Diaspora (Grade 12 elective).

- **Principal Steve Yee:** Curriculum Leaders at the school proposed Talk Show Tuesdays; a day, bi-weekly, where there is a panel discussion that brings guest, staff and students together on the panel to discuss race, racism and culture to reduce racism at Harbord and in society. The first one will be this coming Tuesday. The Math Department has respond to student needs in the Pandemic finding new ways to support the students. Put together the key ideas on a website so that students can go and review and/or look ahead to prepare. [Harbord Mathematics Website](#). Leading a school, for all the leaders, is about mindset. If things are meaningful then there is interest and success. Students held a Virtual Activity Day. Student led online activities, cooking, cerating beats etc... This led to the idea of having student led workshops for digital Literacy week in May.

- **Trustee [Chris Moise](#), Update:**

- This has been a difficult year for everyone at the TDSB. All schools in Ontario are now learning remotely. Congregated site are still open.
- Questions regarding supporting students with Special Needs and IEP. Because of the high transmission in our city all learning is remote. [TDSB letter regarding remote learning and special needs students](#)
- [Vaccine Update](#): TDSB has strongly advocated to have teachers in congregate settings and hot zones vaccinated. Now are advocating for all teachers to be vaccinated before students return to bricks and mortar schools. New initiative in Toronto to vaccinate the city's hot spots; [Team Toronto Spring Strategy](#)
- Quadmester 4 begins April 23rd. [Here is the Quad 4 timetable](#)
- The Ontario Government has proposed continuing with [Remote Learning as a permanent option](#), even after the Pandemic . TDSB has put forth a [motion](#) against permanent remote learning. [Here](#) is a letter you can send to your MPP opposing this.
- Thank you to staff across the Board for all the work you do.

- **Superintendent Update:**

- **Executive Superintendent [Sandy Spyropoulos](#):**

- Thank you to the Trustees for support and advocating at all levels.
- Planning for summer school has begun and will be virtual: [Summer Programs](#)

- Also planning to return to in-school learning in September with an option for virtual learning. We currently need to staff our schools for the next school year so we are moving forward.
- Budget process is starting for the [2021-2022 school year budget](#).
- Report on [Outdoor Education Learning](#).
- Data collected from [consultations on Pandemic Learning](#)
- **Superintendent Mary Linton:**
  - Thank you to the Harbord team for your presentation. You are doing a wonderful job.
  - Learning Network 22 (Mike Gallagher) and Learning Network 23 (Mary Linton) recently got together for a monthly meeting on equity and worked with the Human Rights Department on how we respond to hate, bias or racism incidents. There is data showing that the TDSB has a very high rate of anti-black racism. [TDSB Human Rights Policy](#).  
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/News/Article-Details/ArtMID/474/ArticleID/1606/TDSB-Action-Plan-to-Combat-Discrimination-Outlined-in-Human-Rights-Report>
- **Superintendent [Mike Gallagher](#):**
  - [Policy consultations](#), share your input. We need parent and community input so that we can adapt and reimagine education going forward.
  - Superintendents and principals are working on staffing for next year. This is the time of year when we plan teacher, VP and principal assignments. Schools are working on timetables. SSONs are very important at this time of year when administration roles are changing.
  - Thank you to parents for your patience this year. It is a challenge for everyone. The kids are amazing and resilient.
- **Links:**
  - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/research/Research/School-During-the-Pandemic/Winter-Consultations-with-Parents-Students-and-TDSB-Staff>
  - [Preliminary Findings on Impacts to Learning due to the Pandemic](#) \*see page 143.
  - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Guidance/Academic-Pathways>
- **Community Reports:**
  - **Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC):**<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Conferences/PIAC-Conference>
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.