

Ward 10 Forum - Trustee Chris Moise

Welcome Back to School

Thursday September 30th, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Minutes

- [View the recording of the Ward Forum Here](#)
- [View the Meeting Agenda and slides here](#)
- [View the Kensington Community School National Day of Truth and Reconciliation Presentation here](#)
- The meeting was called to order by Ward 10 Chair D. Williams at 6:06 p.m.
 - Welcome and Introductions were given
 - [Land Acknowledgement](#) was given. September 30th marks the first [National Day of Truth and Reconciliation](#) and [Orange Shirt Day](#)
- **Trustee's Update: Ward 10 Trustee Chris Moise**
 - I would like to highlight some of the initiatives within the TDSB for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day
 - The Board is advised on all matters related to the Indigenous community by the Elders Council and the [Urban Indigenous Education Centre](#) Advisory Committee (UICAC). The ultimate goal is to promote sovereignty and self-determination for Indigenous communities connected to the TDSB. Improving the achievement and well-being of Indigenous students is of primary importance. Supporting the infusion of Indigenous ways of learning, knowing, working and being is also of critical importance. [Kâpapâmahcahkewêw - Wandering Spirit School](#) (Phonetic spelling: Ka-papa-mah-chA-kway(quay)) has expanded to include all grade levels between K-12 and currently has the highest level of enrollment in its history. The Board has also recently appointed its first ever [Superintendent of Education to the portfolio of Indigenous Education Tanya Senk](#). Tanya Senk is also the first ever Superintendent of Education in the history of the TDSB that has self-identified as Indigenous.
 - [Indigenous Education Annual Report](#)

- The TDSB has two Native Learning Centres; [The Native Learning Centre](#) located in Ward 10 and the [Native Learning Center East](#).
 - In 2019 the Board increased the number of [Student Trustees](#) to three, creating a permanent place for an Indigenous Student Trustee. The current Indigenous Student Trustee is [Isaiah Safqat](#)
 - Last year the [LGBTQ2S Community Advisory Committee](#) recommended to the Board that the name be changed to [2SLGBTBQ+ Community Advisory Committee](#). Making this symbolic change demonstrates that the TDSB is making space for and putting the interests of the Indigenous community first.
 - This past June the TDSB held their first 2 Spirit Indigiqueer [Pride event](#) at Urban Indigenous Education Centre.
 - ON September 22nd the Board voted to open the [Boyne Natural Science School](#) as Indigenous Land-Based Learning Site in the Niagara Escarpment.
 - And The [Orange Heart Project](#), initiated by TDSB Students
- Hello from [Jessica Bell, MPP University-Rosedale](#)
 - I am the MPP for University-Rosedale and I have two children who go to Clinton Street JPS so I have direct experience with what it is like to send my children to an excellent TDSB school. And, I have first hand experience dealing with the challenges we face in the schools and during this pandemic. I face these challenges both as a mother and in the Legislature.
 - Today has been a very powerful day as our first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. I had the privilege of being invited to attend Huron Elementary School's recognition ceremony which was a school wide event. It was extremely powerful and moving and is a testament to community organization and what we can do to educate future generations.
 - We will be returning to the Legislature on October 4th. Please [reach out to me](#) with any questions, concerns or feedback or, if you just want to connect. I love connecting with the school community and encourage invitations to civics classes and graduation ceremonies.
 - Thank you for having me here this evening
 - **[Presentation from Kensington Community School](#)**: Principal Richard Stein and Teachers [Andrew Pearson](#) and Emma Fehr.
 - **Superintendent Update:**
 - Executive Superintendent Sandy Spyropoulos:

- We are on day 16 of being back to school and we are in our [Pandemic Recovery Plan](#) and transitioning our students back to school, welcoming them to in person learning, ensuring that learning loss and achievement gaps are being closed and addressing and ensuring mental health and well-being.
- We are ensuring health and safety protocols with Toronto Public Health (TPH), this includes proper ventilation, physical distancing and mask wearing.
- We have received further guidance from TPH and schools are beginning to offer extra-curricular activities and schools are gearing up for curriculum nights.
- Recognizing the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation today; all Canadian flags are flying at half mast. Across the TDSB we have engaged in solemn reflection and learning.
- Superintendent Mary Linton:
 - Some of the National Day of truth and reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day activities that happened in my learning network. Some schools had been doing daily announcements to share the learning and not just focusing on trauma, but really focusing on learning so that we see all the positive things. Some had little orange shirt cut-outs with messages or they did orange ribbons and then they put them up around the school or around the school yard as symbolism. There were readings from indigenous authors and drumming and indigenous music play throughout the month and even today a few schools had a moment of silence and reflection, for their students, as part of their learning.
 - A little bit about what schools have been doing this month, they have been focusing on establishing routines so we're back to school. They've been helping students to build relationships with their peers and with teachers and helping students to have a sense of belonging through teamwork activities in the classroom.
 - September is a time for them to really socialize and get used to the routines. Some schools participated in a Terry Fox walk/ run in different ways around their schoolyard.
 - Classroom Reorganization: we are at day 16 back in school. Class sizes were based on enrollment projections last spring so now that we are back in the classroom, we will be looking at classroom realignment or reorganization based on actual student enrollment. The principals will be informed next week if they need to make staffing changes and it will

be a very speedy process from there informing Parent Councils and notifying families. Hopefully the process will be complete by Tuesday October 12th.

- Superintendent [Mike Gallagher](#):
 - Bloor CI and ALPHA Alternative students have been successfully moved into Central Technical School while their new school is being built.
 - It is Parent Council election time. Parent Councils will be responsible for completing the School Statement of Needs by November. This can be discussed at the next meeting for details.
 - Hybrid Model/Simultaneous Model: Secondary Schools are operating with a simultaneous learning model; students are in the classroom with a teacher who is being broadcast live to students learning virtually at home. It has been an adjustment for the teachers, but it seems to be going well.
 - Secondary School timetables are being finalized.
- **PIAC Update: D. Williams PIAC Co-Chair**
 - **Parents & Caregivers as Partners Conference Oct. 16 and 17, 2021** Join us for a virtual conference and learn strategies to support your child, connect with other parents and hear from our inspirational keynote speaker.
<https://www.parentsaspartners.ca/>
 - **SAVE-THE-DATE**
 - PIAC Annual Conference Saturday, November 27 & Sunday, November 28, 2021
- Executive Superintendent [Sandy Spyropoulos](#) shared this video from Global News: [Indigenous Students Reflect on National Day of Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.
 - Check in to [Trustee Chris Moise's web page](#) for information on upcoming Ward Forums and events.