

## Learning Centre 2

Two Superintendents of Education will be responsible for Willowdale Schools:



**Domenic Giorgi (Acting)**  
Domenic.Giorgi@tdsb.on.ca



**Marwa Hamid**  
Marwa.Hamid@tdsb.on.ca

Reasons to contact your School Superintendent:

- Optional Attendance
- Suspension Appeals
- Inquiries or Questions concerning Willowdale schools (Ward 12)

For more information about Learning Centres, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/learningcentres](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/learningcentres)

### Questions? Please get in touch!

I appreciate feedback, ideas and any questions you may have about public education and the TDSB. Don't hesitate to contact me at anytime. It is very important that we stay connected and up-to-date.

**Email:**  
alexander.brown@tdsb.on.ca  
**Tel:** 416-395-8787  
**Cell:** 416-407-1884

**Address:**  
5050 Yonge Street,  
Toronto ON, M2N 5N8

@AlexBrownWard12  
 alexander.brown.trustee

[www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12/](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12/)

## Back to School – Health and Safety

On August 3rd, the Ministry of Education released its operational plan for the coming school year. I've listed a few highlights of the Ministry's plans along with TDSB commitments to health and safety:

- Students will attend in-person learning daily for the full school day in elementary and secondary schools. Remote learning will remain an option. At the TDSB, most students have chosen to return to an in-person classroom.
- Students in Grades 1 to 12 are required to wear properly fitted non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, but not outside. At the TDSB, we also require Kindergarten (JK/SK) students to wear non-medical or cloth masks.
- Medical masks are required to be worn by school staff and visitors indoors, but not required outdoors.
- Distancing between different cohorts in shared indoor spaces should be maintained.
- All staff and students must conduct a self-screening at home before coming to school. On-site confirmation of that screening may be required at highly transmissible times such as following a holiday.
- Every occupied classroom at the TDSB will have one or more HEPA filter units installed. To learn more about Ventilation visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2021-22](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2021-22)
- Students can participate in extracurricular activities and field trips as per relevant provincial requirements under the Reopening Ontario Act. Assemblies will continue to be held virtually.
- Libraries, computer labs and cafeterias will be open.
- Secondary schools will offer a modified semester model.

For the most up to date information on learning models, mental health and well-being resources, health and safety measures, our pandemic recovery plan and more, please refer to [www.tdsb.on.ca/school-year-2021-22](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/school-year-2021-22). This webpage will continue to be updated with relevant information and resources to help support you and your family.

## New Director of Education:

The TDSB welcomes Colleen Russell-Rawlins as Director of Education. She officially started on August 5th. She has held senior leadership positions with the Peel (Interim Director) and Toronto District School Boards. Colleen focuses on Equity as the foundation for improving student confidence, engagement, and achievement. As Associate Director (TDSB), she led improvements in early literacy, family engagement, childcare, and professional learning in equity, anti-racism, and anti-oppression. Colleen holds a Master of Education, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education from York University. In 2020, Colleen was recognized as one of the 100 Accomplished Black Women in Canada. We are happy to have her leadership at the TDSB. To Learn more about Director Russell-Rawlins visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) (click on the Director Icon)

## Budget 2021-22: Reserves used to cover deficit and avoid cuts to programs and services, but Board urges Province to fully fund all pandemic costs.

Trustees approved the **2021-22 Operating Budget** on June 30th. To support the safe and effective return to school in September, the **\$3.49B budget** includes additional investments in the following areas: staffing supports; mental health; special education; student transportation health and safety; school operations; ventilation; and, re-engaging students.

The **TDSB's 2021-22** deficit, which includes the Board's pre-pandemic structural deficit and pandemic-related costs, is forecasted to be \$59M. To avoid reducing programs and services for students during the pandemic, TDSB reserves will be used to cover these costs and balance next year's budget. To learn more about the Budget visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) (Budget Icon)

While the Ministry of Education has announced extra funding to offset the use of reserves to support pandemic costs incurred by school boards, **the TDSB is not eligible** because its pandemic costs do not exceed 2% of the Board's operating budget. I wrote a letter to the Minister of Education advocating to have all pandemic-related costs covered through provincial funding. The letter can be found at [www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12)

## School Council: Find out how to get involved...

The purpose of School Councils is to improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School councils make recommendations to their Principals, the local Trustee and the Board on any matter. Principals and school boards must consult with school councils on a variety of matters that affect student learning. They must also consider recommendations made by school councils and report back to the councils on how they plan to act on their advice. A comprehensive guide to school council operations is provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education: **School Councils: A Guide for Members**. Visit [www.torontopiacc.com](http://www.torontopiacc.com) to learn a lot more about **School Councils** and how you can get involved as a parent and school leader. Everyone is welcome to join a School Council. I look forward to working with you locally to improve schools and outcomes for all students.

### Important Contacts for School Council Issues:

**Michelle Munroe**  
Central Co-ordinator,  
Parent and Community Engagement  
michelle.munroe@tdsb.on.ca  
416-397-3528

**Susan Lee**  
Parent Involvement Advisory Committee Rep  
(Willowdale/Ward 12)  
info@torontopiacc.com

## Ward Forums 2021-22

Every school year I host several ward meetings for parents/guardians, school councils and students. The meetings give me a chance to connect with you directly, provide useful information, and create an opportunity to share your experiences and open lines of communication with others in Willowdale schools. The location for each ward forum will be chosen once dates have been confirmed. Childcare and translation services will be available at all meetings, if requested. I am hopeful that all Ward Forums will be in-person. Details will be shared closer to the event.

For 2021 I will host **WARD FORUMS** with the following topics:

- Special Education** – (Early October)
- Mental Health and Well-Being** – (Late October)
- School Councils** – (November)

For more details visit my website, [www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12/](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward12/) and sign up for my e-newsletter.

## 2021-22 Important Dates

For more information, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/schoolyearcalendar](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/schoolyearcalendar)