## Ward 15 Forum

## Monday February 6, 2023 6:30-8:00 pm

## Via Zoom

* Meeting called to order at 6:38 pm

### Agenda

* Trustee Sara Ehrhardt reviewed the agenda
  + Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
  + Introductions
  + Guest Speaker: Jack Nigro, Executive Superintendent Learning Centre 4
  + Ward 15 Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Ward Representative Elections
  + Trustee’s Update
  + Q & A
* [Land Acknowledgement](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/Indigenous-Education/Resources/Land-Acknowledgement)
  + With it being [Black History/African Heritage Month](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Home/ctl/Details/mid/42863/itemId/64) Trustee Ehrhardt is providing a resource to explore Black Indigenous identities: [CBC Unreserved: Navigating the Complexities of Black Indigenous Identity](https://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/navigating-the-complexities-of-black-indigenous-identity-1.5998191)
* Introductions
  + Ward 15’s three Superintendents: Mary Linton, Belinda Longe, Nadira Persaud
  + Executive Superintendent Learning Centre 4, Jack Nigro
  + Indigenous Student Trustee, Isaiah Shafqat

### Student Trustee Isaiah Shafqat - Introduction

* Isaiah has served as the Indigenous Student Trustee for the past three years. He/They is a grade 12 student in Ward 15
* As Student Trustee Isaiah sits on the Board of Trustees and indigenous student voice to the board room
* The [Student Trustees](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/TDSB-Student-Senate/Student-Trustees) represent 235,000 students in the TDSB. Student Trustees are elected every year and are grade 11 & 12 students. They attend [Board Committee](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Committees) Meetings, [Student Senate](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/high-school/tdsb-student-senate), Ward Forums and [Community Advisory Committees](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees).

### Guest Speaker: Executive Superintendent Jack Nigro

* Parent involvement is crucial to student success and it is great to see so many out to Ward Forums
* Jack Nigro is the Executive Superintendent for [Learning Centre 4 (LC4)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/portals/0/docs/Map_LC4.pdf), 155 Schools, 63,000 students, 8 Learning Networks (LN) and [6 Wards (3,7,9,10,15,16)](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School/PDF-Map).
* Superintendents are Senior Staff who ensure the smooth operations of schools on a daily basis and their role differs from that of a [Trustee](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/leadership/trustees).
* The role of the Trustee is to develop policy for the Board. The Superintendents develop the procedures to implement the policy.
* [Steps to Address Questions and Concerns at the TDSB](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Contact-Us/Steps-to-Address-Questions-Concerns)
* [Addressing school and community safety](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Caring-Safe-Schools/Addressing-School-Safety)
* [Tutoring Support for Students](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2022-2023/Tutoring)
* Just approved by the Board; a plan to introduce a [Grade 11 Contemporary Indigenous Voices course](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Home/ctl/Details/mid/42863/itemId/66) to each of our schools.  [Ministry of Education Course Curriculum](https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/secondary-first-nations-metis-and-inuit-studies/courses/nbe3u/introduction).

Q & A

* What is being done to promote mental health and pandemic recovery in schools?
  + Superintendent Nadira Persaud
    - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Mental-Health-and-Well-Being-Professional-Support-Staff-PSS/Mental-Health-Toolkits-and-Choice-Boards>
    - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Mental-Health-and-Well-Being-Professional-Support-Staff-PSS/MHWB-Single-Slide-Resources-for-All-Grades-2022-23>
    - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Mental-Health-and-Well-Being-Professional-Support-Staff-PSS/Student-Resources>
  + Principal Sarah Kurita - McGregor
    - Providing Sensory Pathways and Spaces. Sensory items in offices and classrooms
* What is being done to manage illness in schools?
  + Executive Superintendent Jack Nigro
    - [Following Toronto Public Health (TPH) Guidelines](https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-reopening-recovery-rebuild/covid-19-reopening-guidelines-for-businesses-organizations/covid-19-guidance-child-care-elementary-secondary-schools/)
* Why aren’t teachers wearing masks in schools?
  + See <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2022-2023/Health-and-Safety#:~:text=While%20the%20Ministry%20of%20Education,especially%20in%20indoor%20public%20settings>. The TDSB continues to be a mask-friendly environment inclusive of all staff and students. While the Ministry of Education and public health officials are not mandating the use of masks, Toronto Public Health strongly recommends wearing a well-fitting, high quality mask, especially in indoor public settings. The TDSB will continue to provide medical masks to students who want to wear one.

### Ward 15 Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Elections

* Ward 15 needs two Co-Representatives for PIAC
* [PIAC](https://www.torontopiac.com/) is a Ministry Mandated Committee that advises the Board on [Parent/Community Involvement](https://www.torontopiac.com/parents-caregivers/vacancies).
* There are 3 Nominations for 2 positions as Co-Representative for Ward 15: Mohammad Jamal Yousuf, Jennifer Volk and Valerie Politis.
  + Each candidate was given 5 minutes to introduce themselves.
* Ballots were emailed through ElectionBuddy at 7:15 pm to registered voters and the election closed at 8:00 pm
* The election resulted in a 3-way tie and the PIAC membership committee is being consulted to determine how to break the tie.
  + It is noted that a parent participant (Frankland/RCI) was present at the meeting but not registered to vote. The parent was unaware of the voter registration process and requested that it be noted that a ballot would have been cast for Nominee Valerie Politis.
* A tie breaker draw was held on Wednesday Feb 15, 2023 via Zoom. Hosted by Trustee Sara Ehrhardt and witnessed by; PIAC Representative Janice Barnett, Shared Service Liaison Christy Heath and the three nominees, Mohammad Jamal Yousuf, Jennifer Volk and Valerie Politis.
  + Mohammad Jamal Yousuf and Jennifer Volk will be the Co-Represntatives for Ward 15 PIAC.

### Trustee Report: Trustee Sara Ehrhardt

* We have had a very tumultuous time in schools since the fall
  + Threat of Ontario wide general strike
  + Triple threat of respiratory illness
  + Changes to public health measures
  + Unprecedented absenteeism in schools
  + Mental health crisis
  + And violence in the schools
* Recent Motions to the Board
  + [Grade 11 Contemporary Indigenous Voices course](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Home/ctl/Details/mid/42863/itemId/66) to each of our schools.  [Ministry of Education Course Curriculum](https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/secondary-first-nations-metis-and-inuit-studies/courses/nbe3u/introduction)
  + To take part in [Federal](https://www.letstalkbudget2023.ca/let-s-talk-budget-2023), [Provincial](https://www.ontario.ca/page/2023-budget-consultations) and [Municipal Budget Consultations](https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/budget-finances/city-budget/how-to-get-involved-in-the-budget/).
* Government of Ontario will not provide [tutoring](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2022-2023/Tutoring/Free-Online-Tutoring) beyond March
* Wilkinson School will have a Nature and Climate Expo Saturday May 4 from 11 -2 danforthclimateaction@gmail.com
* Please reach out [sara.ehrhardt@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sara.ehardt@tdsb.on.ca) [www.tdsb.on.ca/ward15/](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward15/) [Sign up for my Newsletter](https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1787556/1752440/?v=a).