

Trustee PARTHI KANDAVEL



Welcome Back to School!

Dear Community Members,

My best wishes to you and your family. I hope you've had a restful and safe summer. We were able to spend some time up north and cheer on our Canadian athletes in Tokyo. A few years back our students, staff, and I had the wonderful opportunity to be inspired by our hometown hero Andre De Grasse at Birchmount Park Stadium. We are all very proud of his recent accomplishments!

As we return to school, I would like to recognize and thank all the efforts by our staff and parents through this past school year, one like no other. Balancing work, home, and virtual learning is something else! All of you have demonstrated and inspired our students with resilience and patience.

We are expecting more in-person learning and with it greater stability and focus on health and safety. Keeping our schools safe is a collective task that minimizes community spread and allows in-person learning and promotes well-being. Thus, as I am excited for our return to school in September, I advise flexibility as we seek to ensure a safe learning experience for all.

Finally, I would like to wish my very best to all our students and families for a happy, safe, and successful year ahead! It is indeed a true privilege to serve you, as our public school Trustee.

Sincerely,

R. Kandavel

Trustee Parthi Kandavel



Well-Being and Mental Health:

Many students will be returning after more than a year of virtual learning and increased isolation. Schools can promote mental health, identify and intervene early to prevent the onset of problems and respond to children and youth in distress. Our staff will be working to improve the mental health and well-being of our students. Please visit tdsb.on.ca/MentalHealth for our strategy and resources.

Board Leadership

This past year, I was honoured to be selected by my colleagues to Chair the work of 3 important committees: Director Search, Finance & Budget, and Board Self-Assessment. The work of all three are central to our Board's ability to hold the school system accountable.

Director Search is the most important work of a Board of Trustees, which typically occurs once every 5 years. The Director is the only employee of the Board, like a CEO and leads our 583 schools and nearly 250,000 students. After an exhaustive 10-month search, as Chair, I was pleased to announce this summer Colleen Russell-Rawlins as our New Director. Over her 29-year career with the TDSB, Ms. Russell-Rawlins has held a variety of roles in education, including teacher, principal, superintendent, and Associate Director of Education.



Ventilation in Schools

School ventilation systems have been optimized to deliver maximum amounts of fresh air throughout the school day and 2 hours before/after occupancy. The TDSB has developed an indoor air quality (IAQ) guideline that outlines how to investigate and resolve indoor air quality concerns. Should staff/parents have concerns about the air quality in a particular classroom/ space they are encouraged to work directly with the school Principal, who will notify Facility Services to investigate the issue.





Learning Outdoors

An important aspect of learning I champion at the Board is the role of Outdoor Learning. Outdoor spaces, including the schoolground, can foster authentic learning and should be considered an extension of the classroom. If you would like to see your child's class benefit from this approach in the coming months, please speak to their teacher. More information can be found at tdsb.on.ca/LearningOutdoors.

Local Leadership

A special thank you and acknowledgement of our local area Superintendents, Liz Holder, Lisa Dilworth and John Currie, who I work closely with on a day-to-day basis. Together we support our local schools, ensure policies and procedures are followed, host interactive town halls, and provide direction when needed and appropriate. Parents, on the back you will find the Parent Concern Protocol which outlines the steps to address a local issue at your child's school.



Trustee Parthi
Kandavel



Superintendent
Lisa Dilworth



Superintendent
John Currie



Superintendent
Liz Holder



Development

As you may know, there have been a significant number of high-density development proposal applications in many of our neighbourhoods in Scarborough Southwest. These will have several potential impacts, including upon student enrollment and our schools' space capacities. I will be working with our planning staff in the coming year to update residents on this file.



2021-2022 Information



Your School Trustee
Parthi Kandavel
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Scarborough Southwest
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PA Days & Holidays	Date
Board-wide PA Day	September 2, 2021
Board-wide PA Day	September 3, 2021
Labour Day	September 6, 2021
Board-wide PA Day	September 8, 2021
Thanksgiving	October 11, 2021
Board-wide PA Day	November 19, 2021
Winter Break	December 20, 2021 – December 31, 2021
Elementary PA Day	January 14, 2022
Secondary PA Day	February 2, 2022
Board-wide PA Day	February 18, 2022
Family Day	February 21, 2022
March Break	March 14 - 18, 2022
Good Friday	April 15, 2022
Easter Monday	April 18, 2022
Victoria Day	May 23, 2022
Elementary School PA Day	June 3, 2022
Secondary School PA Day	June 30, 2022

First day of classes for students is September 9, 2021
The last day of class for elementary students is June 30, 2022
The last day of class for secondary students is June 29, 2022

Days of Significance

www.tdsb.on.ca/daysofsignificance

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/schoolyearcalendar

Know what's happening at the TDSB!



toronto.dsboard



@torontodsb



@tdsb

tdsb.on.ca

Parent Concern Protocol

Classroom Teacher

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Step One

If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher can help with:

- Any questions about the classroom
- Classroom rules and consequences
- Homework and assignments

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Step Two

School Principal

If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

- Concerns about an individual school
- Student registration
- Student schedules
- Student suspensions
- Report card concerns
- Classroom concerns
- Code of Conduct
- Safety and security
- Budget and fundraising
- School Council

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Step Three

School Superintendents

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered or for help with:

- Alternate attendance request
- Suspension appeals

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Step Four

Trustees

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board budget
- Collective bargaining

Board Office

You can contact the Board Office directly for any questions or concerns related to:

- Continuing Education
- Night and summer school
- Adult education
- ESL
- Board documents

Phone: 416-397-3000 • Email: GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca