

# Trustee Anu Sriskandarajah

## *Welcome Back to School!*

Dear Community Members of Scarborough-Rouge Park,

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! I hope that you and your family had a safe and enjoyable summer.

As the elected public school board trustee for your community, my role is to advocate for you and your child, and to represent the needs of our students and families in the Toronto District School Board.

After more than two years of the pandemic, we are preparing to welcome students and staff to a more stable school year in September. While most COVID-19 measures have been lifted by the Government of Ontario, the health and safety of our school communities remains our priority. The TDSB will continue to monitor the pandemic and follow the guidance and direction from the Ministry of Education and public health officials as needed.

We know that school can be an exciting and overwhelming time – for both students and parents/guardians. To help you and your child have a great year, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) for information on the school year calendar, getting involved, as well as resources for homework and so much more. The Toronto District School Board is also here to support you and your family's mental health and well-being needs. For a list of tools and resources, including those tailored for students and parents/guardians, please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Mental-Health-Well-Being>.

Lastly, I want to thank you in advance for your understanding, patience and partnership as we work together to welcome both students and staff back to school.

To stay informed, please sign up for my e-newsletter and visit my webpage at [www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward22](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward22).

Thank you,



Anu Sriskandarajah

Scarborough-Rouge Park



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## Pandemic Recovery Plan Motion

Early research is showing that the pandemic has impacted different communities differently. There is evidence of learning loss for some students due to online learning, and we need to continue to address these realities as our students return to in-person learning.

I was pleased to (with Trustee Rajakulasingam) move the motion "COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Plan" to begin addressing these emerging needs. To learn more about the TDSB's Pandemic Recovery Plan please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2021-22/Pandemic-Recovery-Plan>

## Focusing on Reading in the Early Years

The early years, and the ability to read is particularly important for building a strong foundation for success. TDSB expects all students to read at grade level by the end of Grade 1. A new system-wide literacy support model was launched in 2020-21. Action items include:

- Creating a Literacy Lead Learner position in all schools
- Monitoring the effectiveness of interventions in eliminating gaps in students' reading
- Working with the Special Education and Inclusion department to develop inclusive model of Tiered Intervention
- Establish a plan to support implementation of the Ontario Human Rights Commission's "Right to Read" inquiry report and guidance from the Ministry to serve students with reading disabilities including dyslexia



## Multi-Year Strategic Plan

The Education Act mandates that school boards develop a Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The plan sets out goals for the system. The current TDSB Multi-Year Strategic plan is nearing the end of its fourth year and the Board will be creating a new one. As a trustee my role will be to:

- Approve the budget that reflects the cost of implementing the goals outlined in the Plan
- Share the Plan with the community and share local feedback to the Board
- Monitor, evaluate, review the Multi-Year Strategic Plan annually to see if the board is meeting its goals

I look forward to working with our community to make sure our concerns are included in the new Multi-Year Strategic Plan

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## Making Math Count

In 2019, the TDSB created the Mathematics Action Plan. The aim of the plan is to improve mathematical skills by guiding teachers and principals. The pandemic created challenges that included staff shortages, schedule disruptions, redeployment of staff which impacted the Board's ability to further math capacity amongst teachers.

Despite these challenges, professional learning opportunities were provided online. TDSB has also given an additional qualification (AQ) course in mathematics to over 200 teachers since 2020 and subsidized AQ tuition for almost 400 teachers to help them strengthen their math teachings. We continue to make important investments in math education at the Board.

## South Asian Autism Awareness Centre at Emily Carr Public School

This Spring the Trustees approved housing four Ontario Autism Program's Entry to School Programs in our TDSB schools. We are fortunate to be able to house one of the programs at Emily Carr Public School right here in Ward 22 Scarborough Rouge-Park.

The program supports children's transition to school, focusing on skills like communication, play, social interaction, functional routines (e.g. dressing and toilet training), self-regulation, and behavioural self-management. The program will be delivered by the South Asian Autism Awareness Centre.



## TDSB Student Census

This Fall the TDSB is scheduled to conduct its Student Census. The survey is set to be distributed mid-October to mid-November. The survey is confidential and voluntary. Grade 4 to 12 students will complete the survey themselves and parents and caregivers will complete the Census for students in kindergarten to grade 3.

The census data helps inform policies and programs. I encourage everyone to fill out the Census. The Census provides valuable information that help us make evidenced based decisions that will best serve students.





# 2022-2023 Information

Your School Trustee

**Anu Sriskandarajah**

Ward 22, Scarborough - Rouge Park

416-395-8787 | [Anu.Sriskandarajah@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Anu.Sriskandarajah@tdsb.on.ca)

## Find Your School & School Superintendent:

[www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School)

Board Office at 416-397-3000 or [GeneralInquiries@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:GeneralInquiries@tdsb.on.ca)

PA Days & Holidays	Date
Labour Day	September 5, 2022
Board-wide PA Day	September 6, 2022
Board-wide PA Day	October 7, 2022
Thanksgiving	October 10, 2022
Board-wide PA Day	November 18, 2022
Elementary PA Day	December 2, 2022
Winter Break	December 26, 2022 – January 6, 2023
Elementary PA Day	January 13, 2023
Secondary PA Day	February 2, 2023
Board-wide PA Day	February 17, 2023
Family Day	February 20, 2023
March Break	March 13 - 17, 2023
Good Friday	April 7, 2023
Easter Monday	April 10, 2023
Victoria Day	May 22, 2023
Elementary School PA Day	June 2, 2023
Secondary School PA Day	June 29, 2023
Secondary School PA Day	June 30, 2023

First day of classes for students is September 7, 2022

The last day of class for elementary students is June 30, 2023

The last day of class for secondary students is June 28, 2023

### Days of Significance

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

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

### Follow the TDSB on Social Media



[toronto.dsb](https://www.facebook.com/toronto.dsb)



[@torontods](https://www.instagram.com/torontods)



[@tdsb](https://twitter.com/tdsb)

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

## Parent Concern Protocol

1

Step One

### Classroom Teacher

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

2

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

3

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

4

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](mailto:GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca)