

# Ward 9 School Safety Forum

Thursday October 3, 2019 6:30  
The Waterfront School

## Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.

- Trustee Stephanie Donaldson welcomed everyone and gave the Land Acknowledgement.
- Trustee Donaldson made note of a change to the agenda. Brain Waves Association of Canada would be presenting first on the agenda as the 3 guest speakers had exams the following morning.

### **Brain Waves Association of Canada**, a project of Parachute

<https://parachute.ca/en/program/brain-waves/>

- Speakers: Arooj, Mouzhan and Sara. The Brain Waves Executive are student volunteers at the University of Toronto studying Life Sciences. Brain Waves is an organization under the umbrella of Parachute, a charity focusing on injury prevention. With a focus on keeping the environment safe at home, school and work [www.parachute.ca](http://www.parachute.ca)
- Brain Waves is a volunteer run program teaching brain and spinal cord injury awareness and prevention to students from grades 2-8. The program is a half day in school program that includes interactive activities and workbooks to engage students and promote awareness and prevention. They currently present mainly in the Catholic School system and are reaching out to gain more workshops in the TDSB.
- Brain Waves is also piloting a Mental Health/Concussion Awareness Program for high school students. This program is being piloted in northern Ontario.
- To access the TDSB Concussion Awareness: TDSB Policy, Return to Learn Form, click here: <https://sites.google.com/a/tdsb.on.ca/tdesaa/documents-forms/concussion>

### **Trustee's Update:** Trustee Ward 9, Stephanie Donaldson

- **CUPE Ontario Strike** - CUPE set to walk off the job on Monday October 7th.
- There are 18000 CUPE staff in the TDSB. If they walk out on Monday all TDSB schools will be closed to students

- CUPE and the Ontario Government are returning to negotiations on Friday October 4th.
- What are the issues? Job security and sick leave are the main issues. Last contract negotiation was in 2014. In 2017 there was an extension of the existing contract.
- In schools where there are daycares, the daycare is permitted to be open between 8:00am and 4:45pm. It is up to the individual centres whether they open or not.
- Extended day programs will not be open as they are run by CUPE staff.
- Permits are cancelled. This includes SAC meetings and recreation centres operating in schools.
- There was a question regarding Federal Election Polling Stations and whether they will open in schools? Superintendents Tracey Hayhurst and Jane Philips-Long indicated they would obtain more information over the next few days. For information updates go to: <https://tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Labour-Negotiations> and local media sources.
- **Motions being put forward to the board by Trustee Donaldson:** Stephanie Donaldson is involved in 2 Motions being put forward to the Board.
- First, regarding the *Elearning Policy* that the Ministry of Education has put in place requiring all secondary school students to take 4 of their 30 required credits online. A Motion to ask for two actions. The concern is that there was no consultation done on this policy and no sharing of the information that led to its being put in place. The Student Trustees put out a survey which showed 94% of students against mandatory e learning courses. They cited inequity and reduced access to learning. The first part of the motion is for the Chair of the Board to write a letter the Minister of Education expressing the concerns regarding this policy and to actively talk about it. Secondly, it asks the Board staff to put out a survey to parents, students and teachers to ask their opinions on e learning.
- The second motion is regarding *Youth Vaping*. There has been an alarming increase recently in youth vaping, illness and deaths. This is a major issue in TDSB high schools. The Motion requests that the Board ask the Federal Government for a full ban on e cigarettes in Canada until Health Canada can figure out the science on this, why kids are being hospitalized etc...
- Links will be shared if the motions are passed.
  - Question re Dog Runs motion - pilot dog runs on school property. Hoping by providing a dog run it might reduce the amount of dog waste on school property Vaughan Road academy has piloted this. To see if it is viable. Stephanie will share this info.

## Social Media Safety with Crime Prevention Officer Anthony Lamana.

- Officer Lamanna was accompanied by officers Jamie and Juan.
- Presentation on Internet Safety:

- Our rapidly changing digital world impacts most directly on our young people.
- Young people's lives are now mostly on devices.
- Canada has More devices Per Capita than anywhere else in the World. 129 devices per 100 People
- 99% of all students have access to the internet outside of school
- 39% of youth sleep with their smartphones
- 60% of boys access the internet through a gaming console
- Education is key to preventing internet bullying and internet crime. Online we can create our own persona, be anything we want to be. Adults have the filters to navigate this, children do not.
- We are living in a world where what you put out there is instantaneous, worldwide and forever!!! You can not take it back.
- With the loss of face to face interaction, there is now body language to help decipher a message leading to miscommunication.
- Social Media companies are surveying us constantly
- We need to educate ourselves and our children on the perils before we use any new sites and technology.
- Education is key, we need to trust. There is a lot out there to distrust.
- Rules are important. Parents need access to their children's accounts to keep them safe.
- The digital world is where our kids live.
- Common Rules: minimize personal information. make no connection between parents and kids. Only communicate with people who you can speak with in person. Treat people with respect. Take a breath before you respond. Talk to your kids. Keep lines of communication open. Know who your kids online friends are.
- Resources: [Media Smarts](#), [Connect Safely](#), [Net Smartz](#), [Cyber Tip](#), [Get Cyber Safe](#), [Citizen Lab](#), [Hack Blossom](#), [Iheart Mod](#).
- [Toronto Police Safety Zone](#)

## Ward 9 Equity Committee - Alexis Dawson and Trustee Stephanie Donaldson

- Coming soon: Ward 9 Equity Committee.
- School Improvement Plan includes equity.
- Resources are hard to find.
- Ward level equity committee to share information and to create a safe space to give and get info. Parent handbook in a way. Parents sharing with parents.
- information will be sent out on how to join.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.
  - Next meeting, Tuesday November 12th at Carlton Village Jr. and Sr. Sports and Wellness Academy. Student Mental Health and Wellbeing.