

# Ward 9 Roundtable

Trustee Stephanie Donaldson

Tuesday Oct 5, 2021 7-8:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Ward 9 Trustee [Stephanie Donaldson](#)
  - [Land Acknowledgement](#) was given
  - Informal introductions were made by all representatives on the call. This included the Trustee, Superintendents, Parent Council representatives and a principal

## Superintendent Update:

- Executive Superintendent LC4, [Sandy Spyropoulos](#):
  - It is day 19 of being back in school. And it has been great getting our students and staff back to bricks and mortar and seeing the enthusiasm
  - Our [Pandemic Recovery Plan](#) focuses on the mental health and well-being of our students and staff. Ensuring that students in-person and students learning virtually are making connections and engaging.
  - September 30th was our classroom reorganization day.
  - Schools are very committed to following the [Health and Safety](#) Protocols. Everyone entering TDSB buildings is doing the [Daily Health Screening](#) and [wearing masks](#).
  - Following guidance from Toronto Public Health (TPH) schools are gradually reintroducing [extra-curricular activities](#).
  - Curriculum nights are being held this week across the Board
  - Thursday September 30th was the the first [National Day of Truth and Reconciliation](#) for our country and the TDSB also recognized [Orange Shirt Day](#) and honoured the lost lives and the survivors of Residential Schools across the board with education and reflection. On Monday October 4th we honoured the lives of murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, two spirit and gender diverse peoples. We continue to not just honour, recognize and remember lost lives but commit on a daily basis, in all of our spaces across the Board, to learning the truth of our country's history.
- Superintendent [Mike Gallagher](#):

- First of all; [Happy World Teachers Day!](#) Sharing this [Poem](#) that I shared with my schools today.
  - Superintendents are beginning to venture carefully, cautiously and safely back into schools. We are making sure everyone is adjusting and that we have the proper support in place. We are continuing to focus on [early literacy](#) and, we are ensuring that communities are being built based on trust and respect and centering the student voice.
  - Bloor CI and ALPHA Alternative have successfully been welcomed and Central Technical School and everyone is settling into the new space while the new [Bloor CI building is redeveloped](#). On September 30th for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, approximately 30 students from Central Tech, Bloor CI and ALPHA came together in the stairwell to observe 30 minutes of silence in honour of the lives lost in the residential schools.
- [Superintendent Erin Altosaar](#)
  - There has been a lot of change in administration in our schools over the last year going along with all the change the pandemic has brought.
  - I want to acknowledge the excitement and optimism I am seeing from students, families and staff for this school year.
- Questions:
  - Wondering what is being done about the shortage of French teachers?
    - The Province is continually and actively [recruiting French teachers](#)
    - It continues to be a challenge to get enough qualified French immersion teachers in our classrooms.
    - Beginning in November the TDSB will be opening [applications](#) for JK [French immersion](#).
  - Clarity around the requirements for TDSB Staff Vaccinations.
    - By [November 1st all TDSB staff are required to be fully vaccinated](#). Up until November 1st all staff who are not fully vaccinated or have not disclosed their vaccination status must undergo rapid testing 2x per week and produce a negative result.
    - Today all parents were sent a notice of [voluntary vaccination status disclosure](#) for TDSB students 12 and up.

### **Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report:**

- Ward 9 Representative: Cecil Farnum
- Ward 9 Alternate: Andrew Waters
- Cecile and Andrew shared the PIAC information [here](#).

## School Council Updates:

- Regal Road, Adam Miller:
    - Everyone is excited to be back. We have 40 virtual students this year, down from 100 last year. We have a high interest in the Parent Council and our first meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday the 6th. We are having a VP change coming up and it is our second new VP in two years. Last year we had some really great equity conversations and Alexis Dawson was a part of those. We look forward to continuing this work this year.
  - Perth, Alex:
    - We had a new admin last year and a VP for the first time. The Parent Council has a great relationship with and has been working closely with the new principal. We have a playground revitalization going on, it is expected to be finished by November. Equity, inclusion and anti-oppression has been a big focus for our council. For Orange Shirt day we did a solidarity walk and joined the Unity Jam in Dufferin Grove Park. Our first council meeting will be October 26th.
  - Rawlinson, Alexis Dawson:
    - Our first meeting will be October 14th. We are undergoing a playground revitalization. We have some [Freedom School](#) workshops planned for this year.
  - The Island School, Scott Woolford - Principal
    - On Orange Shirt day we had a sea of Orange shirts walking from the ferry. We have three teachers who identify as First Nations and they shared stories with individual classes throughout the day. Our Parent council supplies all the teachers with coffee and doughnuts today for World Teacher Day. Very happy to see everyone back at school.
  - Pauline, David Nield:
    - Glad to be back at School. The virtual meetings have increased engagement in our Parent council meetings. As a council we are engaged in equity and global citizenship.
- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m.