

Trustee Update

Stephanie Donaldson • Ward 9: Davenport and Spadina-Fort York • Toronto District School Board
416-395-8787 • Stephanie.Donaldson@tdsb.on.ca



Ward 9 News + Events:

Ward 9 Steering Committee: The Ward 9 Steering Committee held their first meeting on March 21st and have set the dates of future ward forums for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Please hold the following dates in your calendar for upcoming Ward Forums:

- April 30th
- May 23rd
- June 20th

April 30th Ward Forum: The next Ward Forum will be chaired by Steering Committee member, D. Williams and will focus on the TDSB's Long Term Planning and Accommodation Strategy. Please join neighbours, parents, and staff as we learn about how the TDSB plans ahead and manages space to ensure that all students have access to high quality public education across our city.



Trustee Stephanie Donaldson

Ward 9, Davenport and Spadina-Fort York

Trustee Stephanie Donaldson and Ward 9 Steering Committee invite you to a special

SPACE FORUM

Tuesday April 30, 2019
6:30pm to 8:00pm
Ryerson Community School
96 Denison Ave



Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy

Join this forum to share questions and concerns about the use of our schools, to understand the processes that are used to review school spaces and how these all impact the future of our schools.

- How is school utilization calculated?
- What happens when a school closes?
- Why are the following terms important: PART, ARC, Boundary Change, Grade Change?
- What is the future of your neighbourhood school?

With **Andrew Gowdy**, TDSB System Planning Officer

Childcare provided. Refreshments served. Interpretation services available upon request to Maxeen.Paabo@tdsb.on.ca

All are welcome to attend!



Stephanie Donaldson

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Provincial News:

Budget Update: From the TDSB [website](#)

Ministry's Increases to Class Size Averages & Teacher Job Losses: The Ontario Ministry of Education is increasing class size averages in elementary and secondary schools and the

magnitude of those changes will have negative impacts on the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). Read [TDSB's Letter to Minister of Education Regarding Class Size Changes](#).

The Ministry's increase to the class size average in Grades 4 to 8 and in high schools is projected to result in more than a thousand teachers (1000) no longer instructing TDSB students over the next four years. Here is how those increases will impact the elementary and secondary school levels at the TDSB:

- Class Size Average Increase and Teacher Job Losses – Elementary

The Ministry is increasing the class size average for Grades 4 to 8 to 24.5 students. If our average elementary class size were to change to 24.5 students, it would result in the permanent reduction of 216 elementary teachers at the Toronto District School Board. That reduction in the number of teachers is projected to cost the TDSB a shortfall of approximately \$9.6 million in the coming budget year. We continue to work with the ministry to help them understand this situation and to advocate for funding to deal with the shortfall.

The Toronto District School Board, similar to many other Ontario school boards, has in its collective agreement a class size average that is lower than the province's new average of 24.5 students. In our collective agreement, the elementary class size average is 23.24. We must honor our collective agreement and to do so requires us to have 216 more teachers than the number of teachers we would require to meet the province's new average of 24.5. By raising the class size average, the government will reduce funding for school boards. The government will achieve reductions in teachers province-wide by not replacing retiring teachers.

- Class Size Average Increase and Teaching Jobs Lost – Secondary

The Ministry is increasing the secondary school class size average from 22 to 28 students over the next four years. The magnitude of that change in class size means the TDSB will have 800 fewer high school teachers by the 2022-23 school year. There are significant and far-reaching challenges associated with reducing this many teachers in high schools including:

- Fewer course offerings for students;
- Challenges with growing class sizes;
- Negative impacts on students; and
- Challenges with meeting collective agreement class size caps.

In short, a reduction of 800 teachers represents an order of magnitude that is unprecedented. Furthermore, new requirements that high school students take mandatory e-learning courses may also reduce the number of high school teachers.

Following the Board's budget update meeting on April 10th, we will begin to get a sense of the magnitude of change provincial government decisions will require... and that is before we completely understand the impact of the Grants for Student Need (GSNs) which we understand will follow shortly after the provincial Budget on April 11. Please contact me anytime for further information or clarification. These cuts are deeply concerning to all of us and the TDSB is working hard to ensure that our communities have the information they need as soon as possible.

Public Education Advocacy

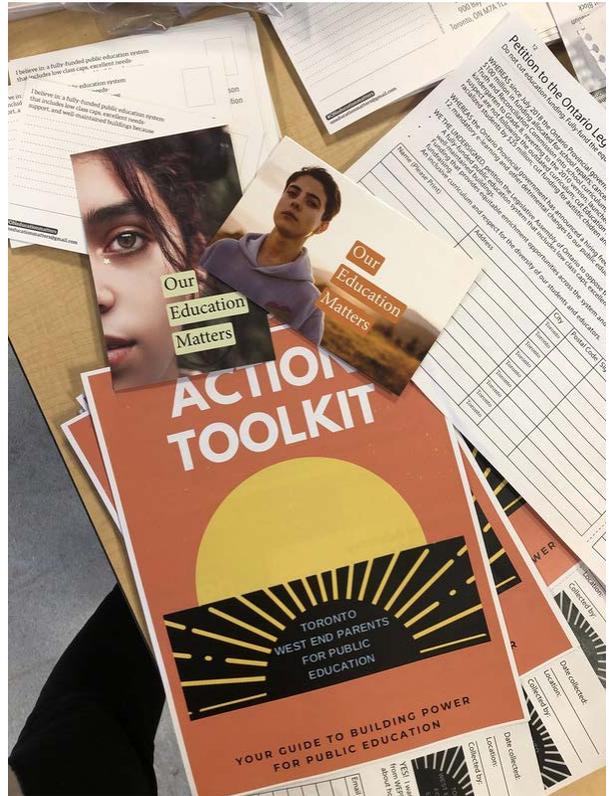
Student Walkout: Last week was a truly inspiring week of people of all ages standing up for public education across the province. I was proud to attend the #Studentssayno walkout at Bloor Collegiate Institute on April 4th and witness the awesome intelligence and power of our students.



Parents taking Action: On April 3rd, I attended a meeting of the [West End Parents for Public Education](#). The meeting had representation from parents and grandparents from 20+ schools across Toronto's west end and attendees focused on discussing the incredible [Action Toolkit](#) that the group has put together, as well as their [postcard campaign](#).

There are other advocacy groups that have been forming around Toronto. For more information on how you can get involved, please follow these links:

- [Etobicoke Parents Network](#)
- [Ontario Families for Public Education](#)
- [Scarborough Parents Network](#)
- [Campaign for Public Education](#)
- [Parents for Diversity](#)
- [East End Parent for Public Education](#)



Rally at Queen's Park: On April 6th, I was so proud to attend the #RallyForEducation with 16 of my Trustee colleagues and our 2 Student Trustees and tens of thousands of others - our presence was important for our students and their families, our staff and our communities - together we support public education. Together we speak with one voice - we have a world class education system - we need continued investment to support all students achieving success. Cuts hurt kids.



More Ministry consultations (now with mandatory e-learning): Students and parents were not originally asked to complete the second phase of the Ministry's consultation on class sizes and teacher hiring practices. However, this week in the Legislature, Minister Thompson invited everyone including students and parents to provide your opinion.

To be clear, the ministry has asked the specific question *"The new vision for e-learning is intended to provide more programming options for students. What comments and advice do you have?"* If you have concerns about mandatory e-learning for a minimum of 4 of the 30 credits that secondary students need to graduate, I encourage you to voice these concerns through this consultation which closes by May 31st.

Here are the links to access the two guides for the consultation process:

Class size: https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2019/B09_attach1_EN.pdf

Hiring Practices: https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2019/B09_attach2_EN.pdf

TDSB News + Events:

TDSB Proudly Celebrates International Day of Pink: April 10th marks International Day of Pink, when Toronto District School Board staff and students wear pink in support of diversity and to raise awareness to stop discrimination, gender-based bullying, homophobia, and transphobia. The Day of Pink is more than just a symbol of a shared belief in celebrating diversity – it's also a

commitment to being open-minded, accepting differences and learning to respect each other.

For more information, please read the TDSB [web story](#).

Mirroring Me: Recognizing My Power: On March 6, 2019, over 300 girls in Grades 7 - 12 gathered for our annual Young Women on the Move event for International Women's Day. The theme for this year's event was: Mirroring Me: Recognizing My Power. Each young woman had the opportunity to listen to our guest speaker, Shelley-Ann Brown, Canadian Olympic Medalist, who inspired the girls by sharing her story of channeling her inner power to achieve her goals, and then challenging them to look inward and recognize the power that they each hold to be their best-self.

For more information, please read the TDSB [web story](#).

TDSB Open Data Webpage Provides Transparency to its School Communities: To ensure transparency with its parents, students and communities, the Toronto District School Board has posted its [Open Data Webpage](#) on the TDSB public website. The page provides context for why it is posting data for the public to view, a link to the TDSB Open Data Policy, and a list with links to the various types of data already available for public view, including the Director's Employment Contract, Facilities Condition Index, Renewal Needs Backlog, and Health and Safety Workplace Inspection Reports. Open Data is an ongoing commitment and process. On a regular basis, departments of the Board will be asked to review their data for potential reporting under the [TDSB Open Data Policy](#) .

Excellence Awards: Do you know a TDSB staff member who goes above and beyond to support our students? Now is the time to honour that outstanding individual with an [Excellence Award Nomination](#). Deadline is April 26, 2019.

Policy Consultations: The TDSB is currently looking for public input on the Caring and Safe Schools Policy (P051). To learn more, including how you can participate, please visit the TDSB webpage for [Policy Consultations](#). Your input is welcomed and appreciated.

Earth Day: On April 22, #FreeYourPlay by encouraging children to get out, connect with the environment and experience the natural world around them. For resources and to learn more about Earth Day, please visit the website for [Earth Day Canada](#).

Celebrate and Recognize: In April, the TDSB recognizes [Sikh Heritage Month](#), [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) and [Latin-America History Month](#). Learn more about how we're celebrating!

Continuing Education – Summer Music Camps: Add to your child's summer vacation with music camp. Through three unique programs – Summer Sounds, DownTown Summer Strings and Toronto Summer Music Camps – the TDSB offers band, strings and orchestral experiences for students from Grades 3-9. Registration is open now.

For more information please visit <http://www.tdsbsummercamps.ca> .

Clean Toronto Together Event: Friday, April 26 is the City of Toronto's School Yard Clean-up day. Join over 200,000 residents, students, businesses, organizations and community groups as we come together for the 16th annual city-wide cleanup of public spaces.

For more information, please visit the City of Toronto's webpage for [Clean Toronto Together](#).

TDSB Updates: Sign-up for [TDSB Update](#) and stay informed about recent Board decisions and district-wide news.

Ward Updates: Sign-up for [Ward 9 Updates](#) and stay informed about ward-level, board-level and provincial-level news



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