

Trustee Update

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WARD 9 NEWS + EVENTS

Ward 9 Steering Committee: Motion to Oppose Education Cuts

At the Ward Forum on April 30th, Ward 9 Steering Committee member and PIAC Co-Chair D. Williams brought forward a motion for the committee to write a letter to the Minister of Education to express concern about the government's cuts to public education. The motion passed unanimously. Together with the Steering Committee, we will share the letter at the next Ward Forum.

Cuts to Toronto Public Health: Taking Action for our Students

I am honoured to represent the TDSB on the Toronto Board of Health and advocate for a strong and well-funded public health system. Days after the provincial budget was released, boards of health across Ontario received calls from staff at the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care that their budgets were being cut and that the 35 existing public health units across the province would be reduced to 10. For Toronto Public Health, the cuts amount to a loss of \$1B in funding over the next 10 years. The TDSB is deeply concerned about the impact that any loss of public health programs or services will have on our students and families. At an April 25th Special Meeting of the TDSB trustees, I brought forward a [motion](#) calling on the province to immediately hit pause on this short-sighted plan and engage in discussions with the TDSB about the impact the loss of these programs will have on our students, particularly our most vulnerable students. The motion passed unanimously. Please take a moment to read the letter to the Minister [here](#). Also, on April 29th, I was pleased to join TCDSB Chair Maria Rizzo and several city councillors in speaking out against these cuts and discussing the importance of student nutrition programs in our city.



Guest Column from West End Parents for Public Education

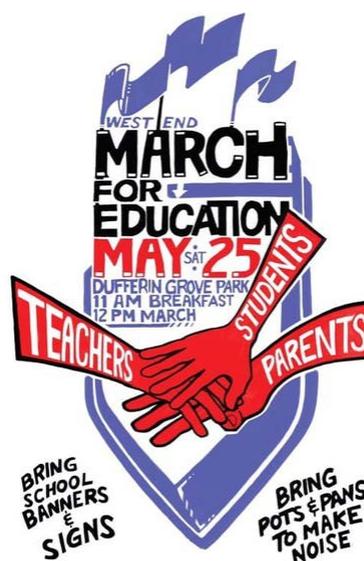
Here in TDSB Ward 9, I am proud to say that we have one of the strongest and most talented parent-led grassroots organizing in the city, perhaps even the province! As a parent of two young girls who attend our neighbourhood public school, I am honoured to work alongside the West End Parents for Public Education (WEPPE) to take action to preserve and expand all of the important gains we have made in our publicly-funded education system here and fight for the world-class education ALL of our kids deserve. WEPPE graciously accepted my invite to bring greetings to all of Ward 9 through a guest column here. You can follow them on [Facebook](#), sign up for their newsletter, or check out their website at www.weppe.org.

Greetings:

We are West End Parents for Public Education, a network of parents in Toronto's west end organizing to oppose education cuts and fight for fully-funded equitable public education. We are parent-led and parent-powered!

First, for all those parents reading this, thank you for all the work you already do supporting your school! If you participate in your School Advisory Council (SAC) you are already committed to being a strong parent advocate for children in the public education system. We also want to recognize the time and energy you all contribute to enriching schools for all of our children!

As parents, we are upset and angry about the recent cuts to education, we know the education system was already underfunded--schools are falling apart, classes are too big, children with special needs don't have adequate support. We don't accept the idea that we have to balance the budget at the expense of young people--education cuts need to be off the table. We need more money for education, not less. We are getting organized as parents, so we can act collectively and as powerfully as possible.



We are encouraging parents to build strong communities at each school to fight back. We've put together a toolkit to support parents taking action in their schools to stop provincial education cuts. Here is what you can do:

- 1. Send a letter expressing solidarity with education workers and a letter opposing cuts at your School Advisory Council (SAC). To date 39 School Advisory Councils have passed letters to express their opposition to the cuts and solidarity letters!*
- 2. Has your School Advisory Council sent these letters? Please register your school using this link <https://tinyurl.com/WEPPEform>. We are aiming to have participation from every SAC in our ward and beyond! Engage parents to ensure they know what is happening to our education system. This can take many forms. Create an item on the agenda where the principal outlines the impact on your school, invite the Trustee to speak at your next meeting to understand how the system change will affect your neighbourhood or mobilize a group of parents at your school who are interested in getting involved and taking more action to stop the cuts. Many parent/guardians have organized ongoing school based outreach to sign petitions and talk to other parents. This has been deeply effective in ensuring the school community is educated about these changes.*

Our toolkit contains template letters, how-tos and talking points to help parents organize their school communities. The toolkit is available for download at our website, here:

<https://weppe.org/2019/04/03/school-based-action-toolkit/>

WEPPE has chosen to stand in solidarity with educators and their unions in our fight to protect public education. Why? Educators and parents/guardians share exactly the same goals: quality, well-funded education for our students and we know that educators' working conditions are our children's learning conditions. We believe that parents, educators and students working together creates strong school communities. Strong school communities will form the bedrock of our resistance to these cuts and build the future our children deserve.

We have an upcoming event that you are very welcome to join! Together we can stop the cuts!

West End March for Public Education Saturday May 25

Dufferin Grove Park

11 am breakfast

12 pm march

**Bring pots and pans to make noise*

**Come with parents from your school! Make a school banner or sign*

We are here to support your local school organizing! Please contact us via email at weppetoronto@gmail.com

Ward 9 Space Forum, April 30 – Ryerson Community School

Grateful to all those who came out to our Ward Forum on April 30th where we discussed the TDSB's Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy and how we plan forward to ensure that our students have equity of access to all of the programs and services our education system has to offer, in every part of this city. You can find minutes of the meeting, a copy of the presentation, and the agenda on my website at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward9/Ward-9/Ward-Forums>. Thanks again to Andrew Gowdy from the

TDSB and Samuel Perry from [CultureLink's Bike To School Project](#) for their presentations.



Bloor Collegiate Institute/Alpha II Alternative: Update

In April, students, staff and parents were informed that, due to timing constraints between the build of the new Bloor CI and the sale of the land for development under the existing Bloor CI, the school will be temporarily relocated to Central Technical School at Bathurst and Harbord. As of September, Bloor CI/Alpha II will begin classes in the Central Tech building and Bloor CI and Alpha II will keep offering the same high-quality programs at its new home. The TDSB is very committed to supporting students during the relocation process and ensuring a successful transition for all students is the priority. Central Tech students and staff are looking forward to welcoming Bloor CI and Alpha II into their building. Central Tech was selected for its proximity to the Bloor-Danforth subway line, capacity to accommodate both schools, and a number of facilities that will support and enhance Bloor CI and Alpha II Alternative School programming. A relocation committee will be formed to assist with the transition and advise TDSB staff on how to make the relocation successful. For more information, including a list of Q and As, please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward9/Ward-9/Bloor-Alpha-Rebuild>

Regal Road Public School: Mural Unveiling

On May 1st, I was honoured to be invited to Regal Road PS to help unveil a beautiful mural that the students of Ms. Camargo's class (Rm 18) had been working on for over 5 months. The pride that the students took in their work and the dedication to creating their best work was magnificent to behold. Thank you Ms. Camargo for your leadership, and special thanks to all of the parents and friends who helped make it happen. Grateful to also be joined by Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst, and School Council Chair Stephanie Ayers at the unveiling.



Next Ward Forum: May 23 – Playground Revitalization

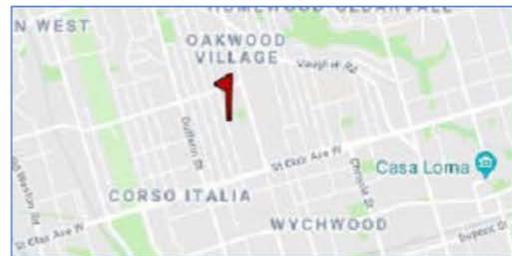


Trustee Stephanie Donaldson
Ward 9, Davenport and Spadina-Fort York

Trustee Stephanie Donaldson and the Ward 9 Steering Committee invite you to join us for a

WARD FORUM

Thursday May 23, 2019
6:30pm to 8:30pm
Rawlinson Community School
231 Glenholme Ave



Playground Revitalization

Special Guest:
Richard Christie, TDSB
Senior Manager,
Sustainability,
Sustainability Office

Bring your questions about TDSB playgrounds, school yard greening, energy conservation, the Eco Schools program, and our role in environmental stewardship.

Childcare provided. Refreshments served. Interpretation services available upon request to Maxeen.Paabo@tdsb.on.ca. **All are welcome to attend!**



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Traffic Study: Rawlinson Community School

On May 10th, I joined Councillor Ana Bailao, Vice-Principal Edward Vella, Richard Christie from the TDSB Sustainability Office, City of Toronto staff, and many engaged Rawlinson parents to begin a review and traffic study of the intersection at Glenholme/Millerson/Earnscliffe. All parties have agreed to work together to make safety improvements to the intersection to ensure that students and families can get to and from school in a safe and secure manner. We are grateful for the Councillor's partnership in this

initiative and look forward to working together.

David Crombie Public Park Revitalization: Update

Downtown Alternative School shares space with David Crombie Park as its school playground and this incredible public space is set for a major revitalization! I joined Councillors Joe Cressy and Kristyn Wong-Tam as well as many engaged St. Lawrence Community members to discuss the three design options currently under consideration. You can have your say about the design of the new park by taking this [online survey](#). Thanks to all TDSB staff and parents for your continued advocacy and bringing the consideration of the students of Market Lane PS and Downtown Alternative School to bear on this incredible shared space.



TDSB NEWS + EVENTS

On Monday, May 13, staff from the Toronto District School Board presented a [proposed balanced operating budget](#) for 2019-20 to Trustees. This plan outlines various reductions and changes to the delivery of some programs and services needed to meet the challenges of the Board's projected \$67.8 million revenue shortfall. It also highlights areas that will retain or increase in funding from last year.

It is important to note that the proposed budget does not eliminate any programs or professional staff functions. However, the plan proposes reductions in scope and professional staffing levels, and changes to delivery models to achieve savings in areas like transportation services.

We encourage you to review the plan, which includes a cover report; a detailed list of budget reductions (Appendix G); a technical background; and more documents to help you better understand the proposed reductions and changes, and areas that will retain or increase in funding.

Please note that the proposed budget is not final and is subject to change by the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee and Board of Trustees. Once approved by the Committee, it will proceed to the Regular Board Meeting in June for final discussion and approval.

In the days to come, the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee will hold several meetings to discuss

the budget. We invite you to provide input on the proposed balanced budget. To learn more, including how to participate, please visit the webpage for [TDSB Budget Consultations](#).

To follow the budget process and receive regular updates, please visit the [2019-20 Budget](#) webpage.

TDSB Budget Consultations

The Toronto District School Board is inviting parents/guardians and community members to provide input on the draft [2019-20 budget](#). The TDSB is facing a shortfall of approximately \$67.8 million and trustees welcome input from the public on what they believe should be the Board's top budget priorities.

More information, including how you can participate, is now available [online](#).

TDSB Parents and Staff Identify Early Years, Student Success as Top Priorities

Investing in early years programming and student success should be the Toronto District School Board's top priorities, according to parents, staff, students and community members who participated in the TDSB's recent survey on how to prioritize spending.

Seventy-five per cent of respondents ranked those two categories of investments as highest importance, followed closely by differentiated approaches to serving students, and allocating staff to support all students, which were ranked as highest importance by 74 per cent of respondents.

The full story is available [online](#).

Director's School Visits

Director of Education John Malloy is continuing to visit schools across the Toronto District School Board. Last year, he began recording and posting short video updates from each visit to showcase the innovative ways we are teaching and learning throughout the Board. Watch the latest videos of the [Director's school visits](#).

School Year Calendar

The 2019-2020 school year at the TDSB begins on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 following the Labour Day long weekend. For more information about important dates and holidays for the upcoming school year, please refer to the [2019-20 School Year Calendar](#).

Elementary Summer School

Elementary summer programs increase engagement and build self-confidence in our students. This summer, from July 3 – 26, we are opening schools across the city to help build reading, writing and math skills in our students. Visit www.tdsb.on.ca/summer for a complete list of participating schools.

@TDSB_ConEd

Continuing Education

Adult High School

Find a career path and meet your educational goals every year. Register now for the new semester beginning April 23. Tuition is free! Earn credits in nine weeks and gain Canadian work experience.

Discover programs in business & technology, social science, mathematics and specialty programs such as accounting, office administration, childcare assistant, and more.

Visit www.adultschooltoronto.ca for more information.

Improve Your English With Us

Adults are welcome to join the many English as a Second Language classes offered at various locations across Toronto. In addition to classes throughout the year, summer school will be offered from July 8-31.

We offer a wide range of levels, from beginner to advanced, to help you build your language skills and to help you reach your life goals. The Adult ESL program is free for eligible learners. For more information, visit www.ESLtoronto.ca or call 416-338-4300.

Community Programs

Registration for Learn4Life summer classes begins Wednesday, May 15. Take up a new hobby, learn a different language, and meet people in your community. Learn some new dance moves, or keep up your fitness goals with yoga classes, tennis and golf. Gain knowledge on how to invest in the stock market or prepare your taxes.

For more information, please visit www.learn4life.ca.

Summer International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs

Register your child in TDSB's half and full day international languages summer programs. Open to all students from SK to Grade 8, our language learning programs involve cultural activities like games, songs, dance, storytelling, traditional crafts and writing. Classes begin July 2 – 26.

Visit www.ILEprograms.ca for a complete list of participating schools and language classes.

Bike to School Week at the TDSB – May 27 – 31

Let's get rolling! Join students and teachers across the province in celebrating Bike to School Week. Schools participate in Bike to School Week by encouraging their students to walk and/or roll to school, and by holding events both inside and outside the classroom to promote the benefits of active transportation. For more information and resources, please visit our [Bike to School Week](#) webpage.

Pedestrian Safety - Safety Tips for Parents

Children under nine should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Teach your children the rules of the road - start when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the time your child reaches age nine and can act independently, the road safety rules will be second nature.

- Teach children how to cross the street safely. Teach them to stop (before stepping onto the road), look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic before stepping out into the street. Teach children to wait until the street is clear and to keep looking until they have crossed the street. They should also look the driver in the eye before crossing.
- Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals but not rely on them. Before crossing, children should also be sure the traffic has stopped. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in the crosswalk.
- Teach children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.
- Teach your children to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street.
- Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars
- Teach children to respect the role of the crossing guard and to understand his/her signals
- Teach children that wherever possible they should walk on the sidewalk. In areas without sidewalks, teach children to walk as far away from the road as possible, facing approaching traffic (when there is no choice but to walk on the road)
- Teach children that playing games at railway crossings or around trains can be deadly. Teach children that the only way to cross railway tracks is to use designated railway crossings. Follow the same rules that you want your child to follow. You may want to cut across the street in

the middle of the block, but you want your child to learn to cross at the intersection. Be a good role model.

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



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