

# Trustee Update

**Stephanie Donaldson**

**Ward 9: Davenport & Spadina - Fort York**

**Toronto District School Board**

**416-395-8787 • [Stephanie.Donaldson@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Donaldson@tdsb.on.ca)**



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to a very new school year. This school year, like last year, will continue to be different and challenging in new ways. Throughout this pandemic, our kids have had to constantly adapt and to be courageous in the face of the unknown. Their resilience has been truly remarkable. The adults in their lives have consistently been asked to do the same - and this week will be another week of adapting to new changes. There is so much that I am proud of in our community. The kindness and compassion shown for our neighbours within our communities during this time has been remarkable. I know that this community spirit will be alive in our schools this week too as all of our students return to learning either in class or virtually.

If there is one thing I know about our staff in the TDSB, it is how excited they will be to greet students once again this week. They understand deeply that stability and safety are key factors in supporting our students' well-being as they return to school.

I am thinking of all our students, families and staff this week. There are many people and resources to reach out to if you need help – members of your school community, school advisory council, teachers, principals, superintendents, trustees, and board staff. Please reach out when you need to – we are all in this together.

Take care of each other.

In community,  
Stephanie

---



## Download COVID Alert Today

As you know, a new Bluetooth-based COVID-19 contact tracing app developed in Canada was rolled out for testing in Ontario on July 31. Although the app is strictly voluntary, I urge everyone to download it. Privacy is respected.

For more information, please

click <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-alert.html>.

---

## Returning to School

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School>.

As we prepare to open our schools and welcome back students and staff, we are doing everything possible to ensure the health and safety of all school community members, while also providing the best academic experience possible for students, supporting mental health and well-being and considering the needs of families and staff.



Read the most recent TDSB [parent/guardian update](#) from September 10. It includes a link to [Toronto Public Health communication](#) for parents/guardians regarding TPH School Health Services and important updates during COVID-19.

For more details, please click on the links below that will bring you right to the information -

- [Daily Health Screening](#)
- [Mask/Face Coverings Required](#)
- [Daily Checklist - Elementary](#)
- [Daily Checklist - Secondary](#)
- [Resources for Preparing for Back to School](#)
- [Mental Health and Well-Being Resources](#)
- [Questions and Answers](#)
- [Safe Return to School - Detailed Plan](#)
- [Response Plans for Covid-19 Cases](#)
- [TDSB Return to School Video](#)
- [Learning and Instruction](#)
- [Health and Safety](#)
- [Operations - Transportation and Before and After School Programs](#)

Thank you for your continued patience as we all work through the challenges.



## Balancing Elementary Class Sizes

This year the assignment of teachers and students to classrooms is different. In previous years, a few weeks into September TDSB would review actual student enrolment in our elementary schools (compared to April's projections) and provide schools with updated staff allocation numbers. Remember, the number of teachers allocated to the system (all schools) is directly dependent on the number of students in the TDSB; and the number of teachers allocated to a specific school is directly dependent on the number of students enrolled in that school. There were always factors, such as new or departing students, that affected how classrooms were organized. Placements were subject to change as they were based on projections. Enrolment fluctuations and staff changes might have resulted in reorganization within the school in prior to the end of September. This was always difficult, but necessary. As a system, we were generally within 1% of our projection.

The significant challenge this year has been trying to reorganize classes in the system before the start of school and actual attendance of students. As you know, we had initially staffed schools based on the registration data we collected from parents/guardians. However, to allow maximum parent choice, we allowed changes up to Friday, September 11 which has created shifts in enrolment in many schools. This year is obviously quite a challenge for assignments— especially with the introduction of the Virtual School, now that 70,000 students are now registered to attend school solely from home. To address these changes, staff is working over the weekend to allocate additional teachers to schools with class sizes significantly over the targeted class size caps.

Although the Provincial Government provided school boards with additional funds because of Covid-19, and although those funds were helpful, they were insufficient to hire enough teachers to space students 2-metres apart in all classrooms. For 2020-21, Trustees made a decision to use additional funding as well as reserve funding to enable work to be done on lowering class sizes in the elementary panel where students were returning every day.

Schools in communities identified in conjunction with Toronto Public Health as higher risk for contracting COVID-19 will have JK/SK classes with a targeted cap of 15 students, while Grade 1 to 8 classes would have targeted caps of 20. A total of 94 schools fall into this category. However in approving a deficit budget, TDSB trustees were also attempting to use limited additional funds to address large class sizes in all other schools. Please remember however, the provincial funding model for staffing was not changed. This means that class sizes in some schools will remain the same as it has been in other years, and over the targeted cap.

Staff will continue to monitor this next week as students start attending school and immediately adjust large class sizes where needed. We will not be removing teachers from schools with small class sizes at this time, as we do not want to further disrupt the system.

Please note that once enrolments have stabilized, and the first chance for transitioning from in-class to virtual and vice-a-versa has occurred, complete system reorganization will be required — likely in

early October.

To be clear, we remain committed to achieving acceptable class sizes and appreciate your patience as we work through new processes.

---

## Mental Health Video Series Return-to-School

## Mental Health Video Series

The Toronto District School Board has released a series of short videos

called ***Mental Health Moments***. Featuring Professional Support Services Staff, these videos provide tips on mental health and well-being for students and parents/guardians as we approach the first day of school. Please watch the videos...

[Feeling Good About Returning to School - for Elementary Students](#)

[Changing Your Sleep Routine - for Teens](#)

[Feeling Good About Going Back - for Students](#)

[Anxiety and Where To Go For Help - for Teens](#)

[Developing Your Coping Skills - for Students](#)

[If You Need Help, We're Here - for Parents Caregivers](#)

[If You've Chosen Virtual School - for Parents Caregivers](#)

[Where To Go For Help At The TDSB - for Parents Caregivers](#)

[Getting Back Into Routine - for Parents Caregivers](#)

[Tips For Parents of Children With Special Needs - for Parents Caregivers](#)

[How To Recognize Anxiety In Your Child - for Parents Caregivers](#)

[Anxiety How To Help Ourselves - for Parents Caregivers](#)

[When To Seek Help - for Parents Caregivers](#)

[How To Help Your Kids Manage Anxiety - for Parents Caregivers](#)

---

## Tip Sheet for Parents and Families

Tip Sheet for Parents and Families



### Supporting Mental Health and Wellness During the Return to School (School Mental Health Ontario)

Going back to school after a summer break can be an adjustment, even under normal circumstances. This year brings additional challenges and stress because of COVID-19. It's important to acknowledge that returning to school will look and feel quite different this year, whether

it's in-person learning, remote learning or a combination of both. You can help your children to know what to expect, be flexible when things are uncertain, and feel confident about the return to school. Please click here - <https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Supporting-Mental-Health-and-Wellness-during-the-Return-to-School-Tip-Sheet-EN.pdf>

---

## Webinar re Director Search - Log-in Information

Click here at 5pm on Monday, September

14 <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/stream/boardmeetings/LiveMeeting-Director-Search-Committee.html>

For more information, click

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Director-of-Education/DirectorSearch>

# Director of Education Search

The Toronto District School Board is in the process of recruiting its next Director of Education.



## Upcoming Events

### Informational Webinar

**Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

Please join the Trustee Director Search Committee and Mandrake, an executive search firm, to learn more about the recruitment process for the next Director of Education. This online event will include a presentation, as well as a question and answer portion for community participation.

To join the webinar, please click the following link at about 5 p.m. on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020: [Director of Education Search Webinar](#)

### Public Delegations

**September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

The evenings of Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> (7 p.m.) and Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> (4:30 p.m.) have been reserved to hear from the public on the required Career Experience and Accomplishments and Leadership Attributes and Personal Values for the next Director of Education.

For more information, including how to participate, please visit: [www.tdsb.on.ca/directorsearch](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/directorsearch).

### Contact Information

**Vice President Charles Lennox**

Mandrake

416-922-5600 x 246

[cmlennox@mandrake.ca](mailto:cmlennox@mandrake.ca)



---

Policy Consultations

We would like to know your thoughts about our policy decisions by inviting you to our policy consultations. Please click on the policy of your interest to see the current draft. You are welcome to provide your comments, including suggestions on the wording and provisions of the draft policies, questions or recommendations using the contact information below.

**Records and Information Management Policy - [Draft New Policy](#)** Email: [rim@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:rim@tdsb.on.ca)

- **Objective:** The Records and Information Management Policy supports the Toronto District School Board's commitment to the effective, efficient and secure management of recorded information, regardless of format or media. The Policy is consistent with subsection 171. (1), par. 38 of the *Education Act* which states the Board may institute a program of records and information management.

**Specialized Schools and Programs Policy - [Draft New](#)**

**Policy** Video: <https://youtu.be/r2mTJHUTIoA> Survey: <https://bit.ly/3cvDsBS>

- **Objective:** To affirm the Board's commitment to providing focused specialized programming in both local schools and in district-wide specialized schools or programs, and to improving access for all students to these programs. Learn more: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review> Email: [secondaryreview@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:secondaryreview@tdsb.on.ca)

**Parent and Community Involvement Policy**

- **Objective:** To establish a framework for building and supporting parent and community involvement in the Toronto District School Board. We are currently reviewing [P023 – Parent and Community Involvement Policy](#) and are inviting feedback from our community as we develop the first draft of the policy. Learn more, and share your voice, at [www.tdsbengage.ca](http://www.tdsbengage.ca)

**Advertising and Distribution of Materials Policy - [Draft Revised Policy](#)**

Email: [businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca)

**Objective:** The Advertising and Distribution of Materials Policy supports the implementation of the legislative requirement under Ontario Regulation 298, section 24 of the *Education Act* which governs advertisements and announcements in a school, on school property, or to pupils of these schools. The Policy's objective is to establish parameters related to advertising on Board property, including distribution of advertising materials to students, parents/guardians and staff.

---

## School Year Calendar 2020-2021

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 1 to June 30, inclusive and has now been approved by the Ministry.

- First day of classes for students - **In-Class Elementary entry will be staggered from the September 15-17 - In-Class Secondary, either Thursday September 17 or Friday September 18 based on the cohort assignment. We are no longer staggering entry to the Virtual School. Both Elementary and Secondary Virtual Schools will open on September 17.**
- The last day of class for elementary students is June 29
- **Updated Secondary Quadmester Calendar**
- **Quad 1: Sept. 17 - Nov 17 + exams Nov 18 & 19**  
**Quad 2: Nov. 23 - Feb 3 + exams Feb 4 & 5**  
**Quad 3: Feb 8 - April 20 + exams April 21 & 22**

## PA Days & Holidays

Board-wide PA Day September 1, 2020

Board-wide PA Day September 2, 2020

Board-wide PA Day September 3, 2020

Labour Day September 7, 2020

Thanksgiving October 12, 2020

Board-wide PA Day November 20, 2020

**Winter Break** Dec 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021

Elementary PA Day January 15, 2021

Secondary PA Day (Semestered Schools Only) February 2, 2021

Board-wide PA Day February 12, 2021

Family Day February 15, 2021

**March Break** March 15 – 19, 2021

Good Friday April 2, 2021

Easter Monday April 5, 2021

Victoria Day May 24, 2021

Elementary School PA Day June 4, 2021

Secondary School PA Day June 29, 2021



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

5050 Yonge St.  
Toronto, Ontario | M2N 5N8 CA

This email was sent to .

*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

