

# Trustee Update

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## Ward 3 Update - June 2020

### A Message to the Families, Students and Community of Ward 3

This past year has been without a doubt the most disruptive to public education in recent history. I share the same frustration, inconvenience and concern as you do. The past number of months has redefined our schedules and work life balance. With families together at home, all working or learning remotely we have faced new challenges and have had to adapt to our new reality as we do our part to ensure the health and safety of our community.

I have heard from many of you regarding our delivery of remote learning opportunities. Our board of trustees has expressed these concerns to TDSB staff and changes were made to improve its quality and level of engagement. On behalf of our board and community I want to thank you all for your patience and contribution in our collective effort to get ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On one hand I am sure many students are continuing to enjoy a six month summer holiday without a full time schedule at one of our schools. While more importantly I am certain that all students are missing out on opportunities to spend time with their peers, to continue their academic journey and remain engaged in that process. As you may know, TDSB also provides a great deal of mental health support through the structure of our curriculum and through the work of teachers, counselors and support staff. Although we have made every effort to pick up the slack we recognize that it does not compare to what can be done through our standard in-person school routine. This has been top of mind for all of us at the TDSB and I want to express my personal concern for the gaps that we will need to close this upcoming fall. Until then, here is a list of helpful resources <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Remote-Learning/Resources-During-Covid-19>.

These have been big challenges, many with big solutions. We have had success in some places while some areas in our pandemic response continues to need improvement. I want to thank teachers and staff for their hard work in responding to this on such short notice. This has been a learning experience for all of us which leads me to feel confident in our board's ability to respond effectively to future public health threats.

Throughout all of this our board of trustees has continued to provide meaningful input, direction and oversight to the operation of our system. I am thankful for the dedication from all of us at TDSB and the communities we serve. I hope you and your families enjoy the summer holiday and will be ready to return to school in September.

The Toronto District School Board is committed to keeping all parents/guardians updated on the impact of COVID-19 on schools and any developments with regard to remote learning.

Below are recent updates from Director of Education John Malloy:

- [Update on Retrieval of Belongings, Real-Time Learning, Report Cards, Summer School and Online Surveys \(May 29, 2020\)](#)
- [Schools to Remain Closed for the 2019-20 School Year \(May 19, 2020\)](#)

For on-going updates, more information and resources, please visit [tdsb.on.ca/coronavirus](https://tdsb.on.ca/coronavirus) and [tdsb.on.ca/remote-learning](https://tdsb.on.ca/remote-learning).

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## Back to School

In preparation for fall, we currently have two separate committees looking at return to work/school. One committee is focused on instruction and the other on operations. We have realized that we need to take a more holistic approach to working together and we are implementing a new return to school/work committee structure. A steering committee will be led by Associate Director Carlene Jackson. There will be several sub-committees to work on the focused areas. The chairs of the sub-committees will be part of the steering committee to ensure we have coherence. We are not mirroring the structure of the steering committee and sub-committees with the Ministry structures. How do we move from emergency remote space to something that exists longer? It is evolving. We need to be absolutely prepared to be in a remote space, a hybrid space or back in the school space. When it comes to direction, we have to be sure we have supported every educator to be successful working in a remote space and we are working through this. We are meeting and collaborating with our union partners on a weekly basis. We need to work towards September with the three scenarios (1. still remote, 2. hybrid or 3. we are back in school). Cleaning will be key. Physical distancing will need to be considered but that information is not here yet. We are interested in hearing from educators and all stakeholders.

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## End of Year Celebrations

Many of the milestones that would have taken place at the end of the school year have been postponed until it is safe to gather. Over the last few weeks we have had many creative ideas to celebrate students. Schools are able to work in creative ways to create safe celebrations. Staff have developed guidelines for celebrations to support principals. Principals are welcome to work with their school councils and parent communities to consider unique and creative ways to acknowledge these important milestones and occasions in a safe and remote way. We are asking principals to keep the following guidelines in mind:

- TDSB schools and buildings remain closed to all staff and individuals with the exception of school-based staff, students and parents clearing out classrooms, conducting end-of-year business and retrieving their belongings.
- In support of physical distancing, the Ontario government's emergency orders gatherings remain restricted to no more than five people. During these

unprecedented times, when celebrations are happening we must not gather with others in person to celebrate.

- Mandated physical distancing of at least 2 metres or 6 feet away from each other remains a critical aspect of reducing the spread of COVID-19.
- Temporary closure of places of non-essential business (e.g. banquet halls) is still in place in Ontario to help protect the health and safety of the people of Ontario in response to the declared emergency.

Anything postponed to the fall will be subject to any new parameters that may be in place then.

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## **Discipline Matters**

All of our policies and procedures still apply to discipline in a virtual way. Principals and vice principals are reporting discipline matters through their school structures as they normally do. We have suspensions, although they are significantly reduced.

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## **Pride Month**

Pride has always taken a significant place in the operations of TDSB. This year, thus far it has been different; however, we have updated all of our landing pages and websites to communicate our commitment to Pride. Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Awards - working on collecting information for this although the celebration will need to be postponed. We won't be having the Pride parade as in past, Pride Toronto is working on a virtual parade and we have shared information with them.

Virtual Pride - <https://www.pridetoronto.com/virtualpride/>

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## **Remote Learning Expectations**

We are working closely with our educator colleagues. We have to potentially move to a different place. Different families have different perspectives on what real time learning is. We are trying to do our very best to communicate. We continue to think and plan from a contingency perspective for the fall, as we await further direction from the Toronto Public Health and the Ministry of Education. At this time we don't know what school will look like in the fall, and based on COVID-19's unpredictability and it may be some time before we do know. Based on the recent announcement from the Minister of Education, there will be enhanced expectations for TDSB teachers for the month of June, particularly in the area of synchronous learning. We plan to look at best teaching practices from April to June and use this information to plan a more structured teaching model for the fall in the event that we continue with remote learning. Please note that it is not our intent to duplicate the classroom with remote learning, as this would not be possible. When our parent concern protocol is required because parents want more, they can follow that. Teacher - Principal - Superintendent - Trustee.

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## **Bylaw Enforcement on TDSB property**

**3-1-1** - Executive Officer Steve Shaw and Associate Director Carlene Jackson had a meeting with the Municipal Licensing Standards (MLS) and they were given the message - the City doesn't have the resources or capacity to enforce this work. They only enforce on their top 20 parks. They said they could help do some analysis where 311 calls are reporting on and whether or not we need to do some additional efforts i.e., putting up signs, etc. to deter people from gathering. It is unlikely there will be people to go and enforce those who are not compliant with the order not to gather. Our staff do not have the ability to ticket, that is the by-law enforcement and they do not have the resources to keep up. We will continue to discuss with the City.

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## **Statement on Addressing Anti-Black Racism**

The Toronto District School Board continues to be committed to equity and inclusion, and we acknowledge the importance of addressing anti-Black racism. Please read the full [statement](#) from Chair of the Board Robin Pilkey and Director of Education John Malloy.

Recent incidents of racist and discriminatory violence in communities across North America have focused our attention on the pervasive racism in our own country, city and even school system. Since the COVID-19 virus was identified as originating in Wuhan, China, anti-Asian racism has been on the rise due to racist stereotypes, misconceptions and misinformation. The Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice (CCNC-SJ) recently conducted a poll to measure how anti-Asian bias has grown across Canada. These disturbing statistics are indicative of rising racial biases that impact our staff, students and communities. Our response to that, curriculum resources have already been distributed to school administrators to address the issues of racism arising from COVID-19. This information, which will also include links to supports for staff and students who may be experiencing racism. Everyone in TDSB has the right to learn and work in a place free of racism, hate and discrimination.

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## **Letters from the Chair of the Board**

On behalf of the Toronto District School Board, Chair of the Board Robin Pilkey has issued the following letters to raise a number of concerns with the Mayor of Toronto and the Minister of Education:

- [Letter to the Mayor: SPA, By-Law Enforcement and Child Care](#)
  - [Letter to the Minister of Education: Transition Funding](#)
  - [Letter to the Minister of Education: Funding Concerns](#)
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## **TDSB Reaches Local Agreement with Education Workers**

The Toronto District School Board has reached a tentative agreement with the Board's 17,700 education workers who are represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 4400.

For more information, please read the [news release](#).

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## Retrieval of Belongings

A [comprehensive protocol](#) and [guidelines](#) have been developed to allow for the retrieval of students' personal belongings in schools. It is not mandatory to come to the school to pick up belongings and students or parents/guardians should only visit the school if absolutely necessary. Your Principal will provide additional details, including your school's schedule for picking up and returning items.

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## Mental Health and Well-Being

We care about the range of emotions and questions students of all ages may be experiencing in this uncertain and unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures. Access [resources and information](#) to support your mental health and well-being.

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## School Reopening Plans and Upcoming Survey

A [TDSB School/Work Reopening Committee](#) has been established to consider what the reopening of schools and administrative buildings will look like when it is safe to do so. While the final direction and health and safety requirements will come from the Ministry of Education, Toronto Public Health and/or other public health agencies, the committee is reviewing issues in a number of critical areas. A TDSB survey for parents/guardians will be shared during the week of June 8 to seek input for reopening plans.

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## Keeping Connected

While schools are closed, connection is more important than ever. Read our latest [trending@tdsb](#) article on how some schools are staying connected while we are apart.

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## Secondary Program Review

The [Interim Report of the Secondary Program Review](#) was recently presented to Trustees and highlights the issues, gaps, and needs facing our system that are impacting our ability to support equitable access to strong programs and opportunities. Read the report, learn more about your area and share your feedback.

While the report offers some preliminary concepts for discussion, it is not a set of recommendations on school closures or a roadmap to a one size fits all approach to our schools. Using comprehensive and data-rich information, including enrolment and population projections, this report acknowledges where we have been, where we are and where we could go, all while respecting and protecting many of the successful schools and programs that exist right across our system. A Summary Guide has been developed to help

navigate the Interim Report. The complex and comprehensive report is divided into four appendices. Click here

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mihLxCilt86nCCeetnEKyw6lvBGvM25W/view>.

In addition to our updated website, we have developed two tools to help increase awareness of and engagement in this work for our communities. Please click here <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review>.

Please take the time to complete the Feedback Survey about the Interim Report <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review/Interim-Report-2020>.

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## **Delegation Process - Addressing a Committee**

Delegation requests will still be accepted during the closure of all schools and administrative sites at the Toronto District School Board; however, oral delegations to address a committee of the Board will be presented by phone. To submit a delegation request (written or oral), please refer to the information here <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Delegations> and email [delegates@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:delegates@tdsb.on.ca). If your request is approved, further details will be provided to you via email.

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## **Student Transportation**

While we do not yet know what transportation will look like in the fall, we are committed to keeping parents/guardians informed of all changes and safety practices for the upcoming school year. All parents/guardians with children who take the bus to school are encouraged to sign up for the [Student Transportation Parent Portal](#) to access important information and updates. If you have moved this past year, or plan to move over the summer, please complete the [Student Transportation Application form](#) with your new address, and email it to your school and [studenttransportationapplications@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:studenttransportationapplications@tdsb.on.ca).

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## **Student Trustees Election: View Your Candidates!**

The election of Student Trustees for 2020-2021 will be taking place on Thursday, June 11, 2020. Students in Grades 6 to 11 will have the opportunity to elect two Student Trustees through an online voting process.

Official candidates and their [campaign videos](#) were revealed on Thursday, June 4, 2020. These videos will help students better understand the candidates and their platforms to ensure they are making informed decisions on election day.

Student Trustees represent the voice of approximately 247,000 students in the Toronto District School Board. They are elected members of the Board of Trustees and sit alongside the adult Trustees at board and committee meetings and act as a link to students, the Board and school communities. Student Trustees are members of the Student Senate and work closely with Student Senate Executives and school communities to empower and promote student voice and engagement across the district.

Please note that due to the impact of COVID-19, Student Senate Elections will be held separately in the Fall

## Heritage and History Months

June:

- [National Indigenous Peoples History Month](#)
  - [Italian Heritage Month](#)
  - [Portuguese-Speaking Heritage Month](#)
  - [Pride Month](#)
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## 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.

Reprinted with the permission of Safe Kids Canada. Visit [www.safekidscanada.ca](http://www.safekidscanada.ca) for more safety tips on keeping children safe.

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## Secondary Credit Program Option

Remote Credit Recovery: Available only to TDSB students

Registration Opens: May 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Registration Closes: June 26, 2020 at 12:00 noon.

The Continuing Education Department is offering a Remote Credit Recovery Summer School Program for TDSB secondary students only from July 6 to July 31. This program allows students to **recover** the credit in a course in which they were unsuccessful within the last two school years. It is a NEW summer program and will be delivered only online. The Remote Summer Credit Recovery Program focuses not on time, but on the overall expectations the student must attain before earning the credit. Students are able to recover more than one course through this program. Interested students need to connect with their guidance and/or student success teacher to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria so that the home school can get the necessary credit recovery paperwork completed. Students in Grades 9 to 12 register for the credit recovery program through e-Reg by selecting RCR101.

Hybrid Remote Summer Credit Program: Available only to TDSB students  
Registration Opens: May 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Registration Closes: June 26, 2020 at 12:00 noon.

The Continuing Education Department is offering a Hybrid Remote Summer Credit Program for TDSB secondary school students only from July 6 to July 31. This program replaces the in-class summer school program which has operated in previous years. This program may include both online and in-class learning environments in accordance with the ongoing guidance of the Ministry of Education.

This program allows TDSB students to enrol in one full-credit course that is offered in July. The program includes courses in all subject areas from Grades 9 to 12, with a focus on compulsory courses. The list of courses available to students and registration information is on the Continuing Education Summer School web page. Students in Grades 9 to 12 register for their requested course through e-Reg.

#### e-Summer Program

Registration for TDSB students, 14-20 years old: July courses: April 8 to June 15 at 4:30 PM and August courses: April 8 to July 8 at 4:30 P

Registration for non-TDSB students: 14-20 years old: July courses: May 25 to June 15 at 4:30 PM and August courses: May 25 to July 8 at 4:30 P

The e-Learning Department is offering the e-Summer program for TDSB and Non- TDSB secondary school students in both July and August. The program includes courses in all subject areas in Grade 11 and 12 as well as Grade 10 Civics and Career Studies.

Students may enrol in two full-credit courses, one in July and one in August. Students who are completing graduation diplomas should select a July course where possible. Registration is restricted to TDSB students until May 24. Secondary school students who do not attend a TDSB secondary school may begin registration on May 25.

The list of courses available to students and registration information is on the e-Learning web page Students register through e-Reg.

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## Sun Safe Behaviour

This spring and summer, the Toronto District School Board and Toronto Public Health want kids to be safe while playing outdoors.

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, please follow all guidelines from Toronto Public Health, including social distancing.

Getting students outside and active is good for their health but too much sun can have serious side-effects, including burns, eye damage, premature aging of the skin and skin cancer. We encourage all students to practice sun safety.

What exactly does sun safe behaviour look like?

- Cover up: Even on days with a moderate UV index students should wear a hat and sunglasses, especially if they'll be outside for over 30 minutes.



- Stay cool: Students should stay in shady areas, particularly at midday when the sun is strongest.
- Use sunscreen: Choose sunscreens with SPF 15 or higher that include protection from both UVA and UVB rays.

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## Elementary Summer School

Our elementary summer school program focus is to close the achievement and well-being gap and to continue student engagement into July. Programs for students in Grades 3 to 8 will be delivered from July 6 to 31, 2020 from 9am to 12pm. French programs will also be available for students currently in a French Immersion or Extended French Program. Remote synchronous learning will be offered. There is a possibility that learning may move from remote learning to in-class learning environments in accordance with the ongoing guidance of the Ministry of Education.

Registration is online and is currently open to the public. More information is available at [www.tdsb.on.ca/summer](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/summer).

### International Languages Elementary/African Heritage

The International Languages Elementary/African Heritage Program offers language classes to students Kindergarten to Grade 8. Classes will run from July 6 to 31, 2020 from 1:30 to 4pm. A minimum of 23 students is required to open a language class. Remote synchronous learning will be offered. There is a possibility that language learning may move from remote learning to in-class learning environments in accordance with the ongoing guidance of the Ministry of Education. Registration will be online and open on Monday, May 25, 2020. More information is available on [www.ileprograms.ca](http://www.ileprograms.ca).

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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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## Follow the TDSB

Join the conversations happening on TDSB's social media communities. You'll find the most up-to-date information about us on our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts.

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- [Instagram @Torontodsb](#)



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