

Trustee Update

Patrick Nunziata • Ward 3: Etobicoke-Lakeshore

Toronto District School Board

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable and safe summer. Our board of Trustees and staff have been working around the clock to prepare our school system for this upcoming year. As I'm sure you have gathered, this return to school will no doubt be historic. A special thank you needs to go out to all of the staff at the TDSB for how hard they have worked in planning and implementing all of the layers of protection we now have at our schools.

As the elected public school board trustee for our community, my role is to advocate for you and your child, and to represent the needs of all students and parents/guardians in the Toronto District School Board.

As we prepare to re-open our schools, the TDSB is 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. This year, back-to-school will be like no other as students and staff adjust to new health and safety procedures, physical distancing requirements, the wearing of masks and face coverings and so on. I want to thank you in advance for your understanding, patience and partnership as we work together to overcome these challenging circumstances.

Here is a link to a video that is very informative for both students and parents on what the school experience will look like this year <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Resources-for-Preparing-for-Back-to-School>

In addition - to help support you and your child this school year, I encourage you to visit www.tdsb.on.ca/returntoschool for all the latest updates, information and supports related to safely re-opening schools, including: [health and safety measures](#), [well-being supports](#), [operations](#), [daily check-lists](#) and so much more. I also encourage you to read-up on the daily requirements for [health screening](#) and [masks and face coverings](#), which is also available on the [return to school webpage](#). For more information about COVID-19, including symptoms, testing and translated health screening posters, please visit www.toronto.ca/COVID19.

To stay informed, please sign up for my e-newsletter by emailing me at patrick.nunziata@tdsb.on.ca and visit my webpage at [Trustee Webpage](#). Additionally you can call or text me at : 416 996 5572

For system-wide news about the Toronto District School Board, subscribe to TDSB Update at www.tdsb.on.ca/TDSBUpdate and follow the TDSB on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. You will also continue to receive important information and updates from your school and the system via email.

Also, please take a look at what else is new with our board!

Yours,

Patrick Nunziata - Trustee Ward 3

Etobicoke Lakeshore

REGISTRATION RESULTS

Registration Results

As you may know, this year we have provided the option to learn fully remote for those families that choose it. In planning for this we reached out to Parents/guardians for 247,583 students (173,220 elementary and 74,363 secondary) by email and/or phone to register.

I want to thank all of you for your prompt response to our registration survey, this information has been very important for central and local school staff to have accurate numbers for in-school attendance and for remote learning in the Virtual School, so they can build classes and plan appropriately.

With the online registration now closed, schools have been busy following up with families whose response is yet to be recorded. As I write, classes are being organized and buildings are being readied to welcome students back beginning Tuesday, September 15th.

In total, parents/guardians for 89% (218,025) of elementary and secondary students responded. Schools are now in the process of reaching out directly to parents/guardians who did not respond to the registration emails or phone calls. Below are the results and links to school by school breakdowns of our numbers this year.

Elementary (K-8)

90% of parents/guardians of all elementary students responded to the registration process

70% (107,601) indicated an in person option

30% (47,462) indicated a virtual school option

Secondary (9-12)

78% of parents/guardians of all secondary students responded to the registration process

78% (49,181) indicated an in person option

22% (13,781) indicated the virtual school option

Please see the school-by-school breakdown of the registration results as of September 4, 2020:

Elementary – [School-by-School Registration Results](#)

Secondary – [School-by-School Registration Results](#)

Elementary Staffing

We have 47,462 students enrolled in the Elementary Virtual School which will require in excess of 2000 classroom teachers.

Staffing allocations for in-school have been completed and were sent out to principals Friday. Based on the responses from families we were able to achieve the following caps in the elementary panel for staff allocation:

School	JK/SK	Grades 1 to 3	Grades 4 to 8
Virtual School	29	20	35
TDSB Identified High Priority Schools (based on TPH and other criteria)	15	20	20
All Other Schools	24*	20	27

Original projection for JK/SK was 27

Schools are now in the process of adjusting their staffing models (i.e. class configurations and teaching assignments) for students who will be attending in-person learning. We appreciate that the timelines to do this are quite short and want to thank our Elementary Principals and Vice-Principals for the heavy lifting that is needed over the upcoming days in order to welcome students and staff back to school. And we thank teachers for their patience. This is not the same process as previous years with reorganization happening at the beginning of the year. It is my understanding staff will not be "surplus" based on usual processes, but reallocated to either another school or the Virtual School - and they would return to their home school after we return to normal.

Staff confirm as we finalize the registration numbers in Virtual School, we continue to work on the Special Education staffing that is dependent on student placement by program and level of support. Also, as previously indicated, wherever possible, staff at the Virtual School will try to keep students from the school and same specialized programs together.

Finally, staff have been working to try to figure out teaching for the virtual school and getting classes set up. They don't know exactly when information can be shared with families, but it will also be as soon as possible.

What happens if someone tests positive at school?

Many of you have asked me what our plan is should a student or staff member test positive for COVID 19. Recently, the Province released their guidelines, and asked school

boards to work with their local public health units to develop their own versions. The TDSB, working together with Toronto Public Health, has now officially released our own plan, TDSB Response Plan: COVID-19 Case Management for Schools and Administrative Sites. To read this document, please click [here](#).

Director of Education Search

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



The Toronto District School Board is in the process of recruiting its next Director of Education. This process is being led by a Trustee Director Search Committee, in partnership with Mandrake, an executive search firm.

The Trustee Director Search Committee is made up of 11 elected trustees. This committee was selected to represent the four different Learning Centres; provide oversight, guidance and direction in the selection of the new Director of Education; and represent the TDSB and all of its stakeholders. This committee will also interview and select candidates for final approval for hire. I am pleased to share that I am an active member on this committee providing input and direction on the search for our next director.

Mandrake has been retained as an external executive search firm to run and manage the recruitment process. Their role is to provide advice to and represent the interests of the Trustee Director Search Committee. They will also play a role in interviewing and assessing interested and qualified candidates.

Below you will find more information about the process, including key dates, consultations, how to apply and contact information.

I invite members of our community to share their opinions with me on this search

Timeline (Please note that dates are subject to change)

September

Stakeholder Consultations

Recruitment Commences

Target: September 24 – Job Posted

October

Candidate Recruitment

November

Candidate Interviews and Assessment

Candidate Selection

Consultations / Information Sessions

Stakeholder Consultations

Various TDSB stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate in an electronic survey that will inform the specific job criteria, accomplishments, experience and background that will be used to create the candidate profile for recruitment. Stakeholders include: leadership staff, trustees, union and federated leaders, Community Advisory Committees, the Special Education Advisory Committee and the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee. Trustees will also be reaching out to community members in each of the four Learning Centres. This information will also inform the candidate profile for the next Director of Education.

Informational Webinar

Monday, September 14, 2020 at 5 p.m.

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, 2020:

• [Director of Education Search Webinar](#)

Public Delegations

September 15, 2020 and September 16, 2020.

The evenings of Tuesday, September 15 (7 p.m.) and Wednesday, September 16 (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.

• [Delegation Process](#)

How to Apply

The Director of Education position is expected to be posted on **Thursday,**

Sept. 24, 2020. This date is tentative and subject to change. Please check back soon for more information.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the recruitment process, please contact:

Mandrake

Vice President Charles Lennox
416-922-5600 x 246
cmlennox@mandrake.ca

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 all students is **September 15 - Elementary entry will be staggered from the 15-17 - For secondary, either Tuesday September 15 or Wednesday September 16 based on the cohort assignment.**

• The last day of class for elementary students is June 29

• The last day of class for secondary (full year) students is June 25

• The last day of class for secondary (semestered) students is June 28

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 (Full Year Schools)	June 28, 2021
Secondary School PA Day	June 29, 2021



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