



## BENDALE BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

1555 Midland Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1P 3C1

Telephone: (416) 396-6695

September 5, 2017

Dear students and parents/guardians,

In May 2017, our SRO revealed that his division had made a decision to terminate the SRO Program at Bendale BTI.

More recently, the TDSB Board of Trustees has voted to approve a plan to review the School Resource Officer (SRO) program beginning this September. The SRO program sees officers from the Toronto Police Service (TPS) assigned to 45 of the TDSB's 584 schools, including our own. To allow for open and unbiased input during the course of the review, trustees also voted on August 30 to suspend the program in the schools in which it was operating.

The purpose of the review is to seek input from students, parents, principals, staff, and community through surveys and community consultations. The suspension of the program helps to ensure that all participants, particularly marginalized students whose voices are essential to capture during the process of the review, are comfortable sharing their experiences and opinions. The review will begin this September and is anticipated to be completed in late Fall 2017.

This review is an important reflection of the TDSB's commitment to putting equity, inclusion and the well-being of students, staff and school community members at the centre of all its activities. Following the review, a decision about the continuation of the program will be made. TPS is also conducting its own separate and independent review of the SRO program.

Our school continues to be a caring and safe place in which to learn. We have a comprehensive safety plan that includes secure building access, bullying prevention and conflict resolution programs, community partnerships, 32 security cameras, 3 child and youth workers, 10 support staff dedicated to keeping our hallways and school grounds safe, and more.

The TDSB values its strong relationship with Toronto police. While the SRO program is suspended pending the outcome of the review, we will continue, as always, to work with police on school safety. Regardless of the outcome of the TDSB's SRO review, I know that our students, staff and community will benefit from this on-going partnership.

Learn more about the TDSB's review of the School Resource Officer program at [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca). Further information about how you can be involved in the review will follow in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Colin Dye  
Principal