



Trustee Alexander Brown

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Dear Willowdale Parents, Guardians, and Community,

- November is [Indigenous Education Month](#) at the TDSB. It provides an opportunity to focus on First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives, histories and realities. It is also an opportunity to learn about treaties, Indigenous leadership, achievements, resistance and perseverance.

In this newsletter, I have included information about upcoming meetings on [traffic safety](#) and [eLearning](#).

I urge anyone with kids in secondary school or who will eventually enter secondary school to attend the **eLearning meeting on November 21st**. It will be an opportunity to learn more about eLearning, what it means to have 4 Mandatory courses for graduation and how online learning impacts students who may need different kinds of support.

Everyone has questions about this - myself included. [Beyhan Farhadi](#) will be leading a panel discussion on eLearning. Many of your questions may be answered... See the poster below for more information.

Also note that I have included information about the [Secondary School Program](#) and [Optional Attendance Policy](#) reviews. Your input on these reviews is helpful to staff and trustees in making better decisions.

You can also speak directly to trustees about any policy or issue that you have with the TDSB at anytime by following our [delegation procedure](#). There will be opportunities to speak to trustee committees on both of these reviews once recommendations have been made to the Board.

In an upcoming newsletter, I will include information about the cuts to school budgets across the TDSB including schools in Willowdale. I know that there are concerns about what the cuts mean for schools with specialized programs that have lost significant amounts of school budget funding.

Happy November.

Kind Regards,
Alexander



School Councils

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ol/School Council Funds and Grants 2019-2020

Each year various funds and grants are made available to school/school councils for engaging and supporting families to effectively engage in the schooling of their children. Below I have included a list of funds and grants available to schools and school councils.

Funds and grants available for the 2019/2020 school year:

Preliminary [school budgets](#) have been allocated \$1.25/student with a minimum of \$300.00 and a maximum of \$1,000 to support the work of school councils.

The Ministry's **Parent Engagement fund** allocates \$500.00 each year to support activities that are geared to reaching parents who are not accessing council/school activities. These funds will be arriving in the school by December and can be accessed by contacting the Principal.

Business Services has researched a number of grants that councils may explore. [To access this list of grants school council chairs must request that the school activate the school council TDSB e-mail account.](#) Once the account is activated, councils may visit the Contests, Grants, Scholarships webpage for a list of grants.

[Continuing Education](#) provides schools with resources (\$3.00/parent) to support school/school councils in delivering parent/guardian/caregiver courses/workshops. For further information, schools may contact Belkis.Romero@tdsb.on.ca.

The Ministry of Education has announced that the **Parent Reaching Out Grant (PRO Grant)** [will continue](#) for the 2019-2020 school year. The program has been changed from an application-based funding model to an allocation-based grant provided to each school board. School boards received a predetermined funding amount for parent engagement projects. [Report Implementation of PRO Grant](#) / Nov. 2019

TDSB has received \$133,405.35 for projects that demonstrate a commitment to respecting the role of parents in students' educational experiences.

As stipulated by the Ministry, the Board is consulting with the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) on allocation options for the funds. Following consultations, TDSB staff will provide a report of recommendations to the board of trustees for direction.

For more information about funds available to school councils or to ask other school council related questions please contact the Parent and Community Engagement Central Coordinator, **Michelle Monroe** at michelle.monroe@tdsb.on.ca.



Willowdale Road Safety Town Hall

Road safety in Willowdale continues to be a significant issue in local communities. Providing safe spaces for residents of all ages to walk and cycle in their local neighbourhoods is a critical part of reducing the number of trips taken in cars, and reducing the overall traffic impact on our local roads.

On November 19, Councillor John Filion is assembling a panel to discuss current and future initiatives relating to road safety in local neighbourhoods. Panellists will include TDSB trustee Alexander Brown, Friends & Family for Safe Streets and community road safety advocates.

Topics will include the City's Vision Zero program, photo radar rollout, red light cameras, speed limit reductions, addressing gaps in our sidewalk network, increase in traffic signals for safe crossing, police enforcement strategies and other traffic calming countermeasures.

Councillor Filion encourages residents to attend and participate in the road safety town hall taking place on November 19, and share their thoughts and **participate in interactive polls** throughout the evening. Residents can also view the presentation or participate online at <https://johnfilion.ca/>.

For more information contact **Katiana Moussa** in John's office at 416-338-5302 or by email at katiana.moussa@toronto.ca.

Where: North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St. (Council Chambers)

When: November 19, 7-9 PM

Councillor John Filion, Willowdale, johnfilion.ca

POLICY Review

Up
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te:

Optional Attendance & Secondary Program Review

The Optional Attendance policy is being reviewed to ensure consistency with the TDSB's Mission, Values and Goals Policy, the Equity Policy and the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

- **Read Draft Policy** - Attendance at Schools Outside of Designated Attendance Area (formerly Optional Attendance) (P013)

The Optional Attendance policy has not been fully reviewed since 1998 when the TDSB was created.

We are also holding **PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS** as part of the Secondary Program Review. In June 2019, the Board of Trustees approved the action plan outlined in the [Secondary Program Review report](#). This report presented the rationale for a comprehensive review of secondary school programming and related policies, procedures and practices (including Optional Attendance).

Final recommendations may include the following:

1. Potential consolidation of schools
2. Relocation or consolidation of existing program(s)
3. Repurposing of secondary school buildings to address other system needs, i.e. using a secondary school facility for a large elementary school
4. Different models of school organization, including full-year programming and campus models

Please share the following **public consultation dates** with your

school communities and within your neighborhoods. These consultations are open to all:

November 14, 7:00 p.m. at Western Technical-Commercial School, 125 Evelyn Crescent, Cafeteria

November 20, 7:00 p.m. at East Education Office, 140 Borough Drive, Committee Room 3/4

November 26, 7:00 p.m. at C W Jefferys Collegiate Institute, 340 Sentinel Road, Cafeteria

November 28, 7:00 p.m. at John Polanyi Collegiate Institute, 640 Lawrence Avenue West, Cafeteria

More information about the Policy Consultation process will be found on the [public TDSB site](#) at the beginning of November.

NEW: Information about the Secondary Program Review can be found on the [public TDSB site](#).

Q&A

Secondary Program Review: Questions and Answers

1. Why is the TDSB undertaking a Secondary Program Review at this time?

Current and projected enrolments at the secondary panel do not support the number of facilities in operation. The current utilization rate of TDSB secondary schools is 78.6%, the equivalent of close to 20,000 surplus pupil places.

The vision for the Secondary Program Review includes fewer schools with stronger programming, and increased access to courses that support all pathways, including apprenticeship and the workplace. The vision also supports the revitalization of neighbourhood secondary schools, many of which, over time, have experienced significant enrolment declines.

2. Will the TDSB be naming specific schools for closure?

No. Although the Secondary Program Review will provide recommendations that may include school closures or consolidation, relocation or consolidation of existing programs, and repurposing of secondary school buildings to address system needs, the recommendations will be made without naming specific schools. The needs of the system will be identified by geographical cluster.

School closures must follow the Ministry of Education's Pupil Accommodation Review process. Currently, the Ministry has a moratorium on school closures in place. Once the moratorium is lifted, communication will be sent to specific schools that may be affected by a potential closure (including schools that would receive students from closing schools) to outline the

process and invite participation from the school communities.

3. Why is the Optional Attendance policy being reviewed?

Optional Attendance is a TDSB process detailed in a policy and procedure that gives students the option to apply to attend schools other than their designated school by home address. This process allows students to access schools outside of their area, including those that offer specialized programs.

As a function of declining enrolment over the years, Optional Attendance has become much more pervasive across the system. Today, the reality across the city is that past practices of choice combined with the harsh reality of declining enrolment have created inequities where students are opting out of certain schools and neighbourhoods in favour of others.

This policy will be reviewed in the 2019-2020 school year to ensure consistency with the TDSB's Mission, Values and Goals Policy, the Equity Policy and the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan. The Optional Attendance policy has not been fully examined or reviewed since its creation in 1998 when the TDSB was created. The review of the Optional Attendance policy and its procedure will be an important component of the Secondary Program Review.

4. Are there plans to eliminate Specialized Programs?

There is no plan to eliminate Specialized Programs. The Review will make recommendations which may include the creation or duplication of Specialized Programs in parts of the city where they do not exist, the consolidation of existing programs to support program viability, and the relocation of programs to ensure equity of access. As well, the Review will look at current admissions practices and criteria to increase equity of access across the system.

5. How long will it take to conduct the Secondary Program Review?

Monthly updates will be provided at Committee of the Whole meetings throughout the 2019-2020 school year. A final report will be presented to the Board of Trustees in June 2020.

6. Will students be consulted as part of the Secondary Program Review?

Yes, in addition to the feedback we received from the Student Voice consultations that the TDSB conducted in 2016-2017, plans are underway to engage students from schools across the TDSB in Grades 7 to 12.

7. Will parents have the option to voice their opinion?

Yes. We would like to hear feedback, recommendations, suggestions and concerns from parents. In addition to participation in the Policy Consultations, we encourage parents, students, staff and community

members to contact us at SecondaryReview@tdsb.on.ca.

Feedback on Optional Attendance & the Secondary Program Review: Send questions or comments directly to SecondaryReview@tdsb.on.ca

School Operations staff will be monitoring the new mailbox and following up as required. We look forward to hearing from you. Other opportunities for consultation on this policy and the Secondary Program Review (face-to-face and online) will be made available throughout the months of November, December and January. More information on this will follow as it becomes available.

What Is A Deputation?

A deputation or speech is a form of public statement that argues for change/s at an institutional level around social issues. This can be made by an individual, group of people or representative of a larger group in a formal procedure.

Making a deputation is another option for **having your voice heard at the TDSB**. If you are interested in speaking directly to Trustees at the TDSB about any issue regarding public education, policy, concerns, suggestions, etc . . . you can follow our deputation / delegation process.

Feel free to do so anytime.

[Click here to learn more](#)



OPEN
HOUSE

**Open
Houses &**

Information Nights

To help you make an informed decision when choosing a school, TDSB schools host open houses and information nights for parents and students each year **between October and January**.

Learn everything you need to know about our incredible variety of schools, programs and courses. Click here to see [all open houses](#)

If you have questions about a specific school or open house, please contact the school directly for more information.

To learn more about **Early French Immersion**, please visit the [French Programs Page](#)

Information Sessions

Early French Immersion (SK Entry). Online information sessions are being held to provide parents/guardians with the opportunity to learn about Early French Immersion (SK Entry) and the application process.

Dates and times for the remaining 2019-20 online information sessions are as follows:

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 from 10 to 11 a.m

**Please note: A link to access the [online sessions](#) will be posted closer to the date of the session.*

Academic Pathways: Grade 9 and 10

As part of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, we are committed to working over the course of three years to support the majority of students to study academic courses for Grades 9 and 10. [Read about Academic Pathways.](#)

What are the benefits of Grade 9 & 10 Academic?

Research has shown that students enrolled in academic courses:
Experience higher achievement in courses beyond Grade 1
Have access to increased post-secondary pathway options (college, university, apprenticeship and workplace)
Achieve greater success in post-secondary program

Why is the TDSB doing this now and what is the timeline?

As part of the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, we have established an Action Plan that will be implemented over a three-year period, with a goal that by September 2021, the majority of Grade 9 and 10 students will be successful in all academic compulsory courses. We believe that every student can succeed and we know that we have to start early and provide classroom interventions to support this work.

Learn more about [Academic Pathways](#)

Update

Labour Negotiations

ETFO

Members of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) which represents elementary teachers at Ontario school boards (including those at the TDSB) **have voted in support of taking strike action**

A word cloud graphic with 'COLLECTIVE BARGAINING' as the largest and most prominent text in the center. Other words include: Salaries, Employment, Health, Grievance, Protection, Law, Limits, Work, j1eF, Salary, Regulate, Contract, Participate, Process, Negotiation, Agreement, Productive, Working Hours, Terms, Rules, Employer, Union, Wages, Group, Overtime, Safety, Establish, Cost, Representative, Employees, Issues, and Healthcare. The words are arranged in various orientations and sizes, creating a dense, colorful cluster.

if there is no agreement on a new contract.

Despite this strike vote, it does not necessarily mean that job action/partial or full withdrawal of services will be taken by elementary teachers.

In October ETFO applied to the Ministry of Labour to appoint a conciliator (a third-party person to act as a mediator) to assist the parties with central negotiations. As part of the conciliation process, ETFO could choose to ask for a "no board report". If this request is granted, it is possible that ETFO could be in a position to take strike action by the third to fourth week of November, if there is no agreement on new contracts.

[What is a No Board Report?](#)

[A notice that the government will not appoint a conciliation board to settle a collective bargaining dispute. This notice may set the time when a legal strike or lockout can happen - 17 days.](#)

Ontario Secondary School Teachers (OSSTF) & OSSTF Educational

Workers:

Strike Action as

Early as November 18, 2019

The Ministry of Labour released a "no board report" for OSSTF Teachers and for OSSTF Education Workers. This means that **OSSTF Teachers and OSSTF Education Workers will be in a legal strike position in 15 days, which is November 18, 2019**, if there is no agreement on new contracts.

At this time, OSSTF has not indicated that strike action (partial withdrawal or full withdrawal of services) will begin. Negotiations between the OSSTF, OPSBA and the Ontario government continue.

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) are in contract negotiations with representatives of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA - representing Ontario's public school boards, including the TDSB) and the Ontario government. School boards and unions share a commitment to public education and work together towards positive labour relations. The collective bargaining framework for the education sector features a two-tier bargaining process, involving both central and local bargaining. [Learn more about the process.](#)

Central negotiations between the Government of Ontario (the Crown), public school boards represented by the Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA), and teacher federations and

education worker unions ([including ETFO and OSSTF](#)) remain ongoing.

The TDSB is currently bargaining locally with CUPE. We anticipate local bargaining with ETFO and OSSTF to commence in the near future.

•••It is important to note that a strike vote of its members does not necessarily mean that job action/partial or full withdrawal of services will be taken by teacher groups.



attention

Please join us!
WARD FORUM



Trustee Alexander Brown

Ward 12, Willowdale

Special Ward Forum

MANDATORY E-LEARNING



Keynote Speaker: Beyhan Farhadi PhD., e-Learning researcher and teacher

Thursday, November 21, 2019

7:00 – 9:00pm

Earl Haig Secondary School - Cafeteria

(100 Princess Ave, North York)

- Starting in 2020, Ontario School Boards must implement MANDATORY e-learning courses for Secondary students in grades 9-12.
 - Four (4) e-learning credits will be required to graduate from high school in Ontario.
- Join Trustee Alexander Brown, Beyhan Farhadi and a panel of experts to learn about the PROS and CONS of mandatory e-learning courses.
 - Lots of opportunity for Q&A. Bring your questions!

All parents/guardians welcome!

Childcare available upon request - please RSVP to: Araz.Hasserjian@tdsb.on.ca



Alexander Brown

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Please RSVP to: Elise.Davis@tdsb.on.ca

For Child Care contact: Araz.Hasserjian@tdsb.on.ca



School Councils Ready • Set • Engage



As a token of appreciation, PIAC invites you to join us for a day full of knowledge exchange, council capacity building and networking. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee appreciates the work the School council members & community put into the schools to enhance the learning environment for our children.

Date: Saturday November 16, 2019

Time: 9:00 am-3:30 pm (Registration starts at 8:00 am)

Location: Earl Haig Secondary School 100 Princess Avenue North York, ON

RSVP at:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/PIAC-2019-Event>

Please note:

On-site check-in: 8-9am
Workshops are between from 9-11:45 am
Lunch, networking and celebration from 12-2:45 pm
Registration closes Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 or before if full. A waitlist will be in effect.

Workshop Descriptions

FAQs

What are my transportation/parking options for getting to and from the event?

Parking: Limited free parking is available on site.

Bussing: Free bussing is provided, [Bussing routes available](#).

Please note bus routes may be cancelled if there is insufficient registration and will be communicated via email.

TTC: Earl Haig is TTC Accessible. Please visit myttc.ca for TTC directions.

Do I have to bring my printed ticket to the event?

No, but please remember the name you are registered under.

Is my registration free or ticket transferrable?

Yes, registration is free. Should you find that you are unavailable to attend you may provide your ticket to a fellow school council member from your registered school. If no other school council member can attend, please cancel your registration online. In past years there has been a waiting list and another school's school council member would appreciate the opportunity to attend.

Is it ok if the name on my ticket or registration doesn't match the person who attends?

Yes, you may transfer your registration to a fellow parent or school council member. If no other school council member can attend, please cancel your registration online.

Is childcare available?

Yes, childcare is available through online registration, space is limited. Breakfast and lunch are provided during childminding.

Is interpretation service available?

Yes, interpretation service request has to be made through online registration only.



Want More Information?

TDSB Update

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

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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