

**Ward 7 Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday November 18th, 2020**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

[Agenda](#)

**Present:**

TDSB Administration: Trustee Robin Pilkey, Superintendent Debbie Donsky, Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst, Shared Service Liaison Christy Heath

Ward 7 Schools Represented: Annette St., Fern Ave, Garden Ave, High Park Alternative, Howard Park, Indian Road Crescent, Humbercrest, Keele St., Western Tech, King George, Mountview Alternative, Parkdale PS, Parkdale CI, Queen Victoria, Runnymede CI, Runnymede PS, Swansea P.S., Ursula Franklin Academy

- The meeting was called to order by Trustee Robin Pilkey at 7:05pm
  - Trustee Pilkey gave the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands
  - Trustee Pilkey made introductions of the Superintendents for Ward 7, Superintendent Debbie Donsky and Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst

School Updates

- **Annette Street:** Ward Rep. Stevie Baker
  - Everything is going fairly smoothly, no major issues.
- **Fern Ave:** Ward Rep. Heather Johnson
  - Communication from administration has been stellar
  - Active parent Facebook Group
  - Lots of time being spent outside
- **Garden Ave:** Ward Rep. Anne Gleeson
  - Everything is going well
  - Communication is good
  - Kids are spending time outside
  - Interested to hear about outdoor classrooms and what the kids are going to do regarding extra clothing in the winter
- **High Park Alternative:** Ward Rep. Joshua Tusin
  - Admissions process is being looked at and had a healthy talk with the Principal regarding admissions
  - Also looking at technology and outdoor learning.

- **Howard Park:** Ward Rep. Alice Romo
  - We had very little communication with the administration over the summer but now that has changed and we are receiving lots of updates.
  - School Yark Revitalization fundraising is going very well and construction should start in the summer
  - We have a very active Outdoor Learning Committee that is willing to share information. Contact [alice.e.romo@gmail.com](mailto:alice.e.romo@gmail.com)
  - Virtual School Parents have been having issues. Many were part of the French classes that were having problems.
    - Robin: For those who don't know, we have an extreme shortage of French teachers, particularly in the Virtual School. As a result virtual school students in grades 3 & 4 French Immersion are receiving ½ day french and ½ day english instruction. This is to spread the available french teachers out and maintain the Province's french instruction standards. This decision was made so that the youngest french learners in JK would have full day french instruction and a solid introduction to french immersion.
  
- **IRC:** Ward Rep. Steve Lappano
  - Things are going well. There is lots of communication from the administration
  - Outdoor learning options are being explored
  - We are working to connect with Virtual School Families
  
- **Humbercrest:** Ward Rep. Michael Taylor
  - Communication from administration has been exceptional
  - School is going well. Music teachers are holding classes outdoors
  - Virtual School families seem to be having some issues
- Ward Rep. Jessica Capobianco
  - Virtual School families are feeling removed from the home school. We are working on ways to improve the situation for them.
  
- **Keele:** Ward Rep. Lisa Patsiopoulos
  - Things at Keele are generally good
  - We started the year with a new principal and then had a disruptive re-org where we lost a VP.
  - Lack of tech has been an issue and handled poorly.
  - The kids are adapting
  - We lost a few teachers to retirement and virtual school but have gained some great new teachers
  - We have has some great in school experiences
  - The Parent council is working hard to maintain a sense of community
  - Keeping annual events with some changes due to the pandemic
  - We have started an inclusion and anti-discrimination initiative

- Robin: When the re-org happened in October 42 Vice Principals were moved to Virtual School. Keele and Parkdale both lost VPs
- **Western Tech:** Co-Chair Susan McDonald
  - Nothing big to report. Communication from the Administration and Parent Council has been good.
  - Student Council has been active
  - We had a virtual Grade 9 Welcome night
  - On November 5th we had a Virtual Graduation and it went very well
  - Lockers are closed so as winter approaches wet clothes will be an issue.
- **King George:** Ward Rep. Janet Oswald
  - Families are feeling good
  - There is a lot of new staff so we getting to know each other
  - More staffing changes are coming. Our Principal is retiring in December and some new teachers are coming in.
  - There are questions about ventilation in the portables
- **Mountview Alternative:** Ward Rep. Elise Cousineau
  - We are doing pretty well
  - Teachers and Administration are doing a great job. We have a new .5 VP this year
  - We are in our second year of sharing space with Runnymede CI and last year got truncated so everything is still new and we are finding our way
  - There is lots of outdoor space for recess cohorts
  - Air purifiers are a big discussion topic for parents
  - We are figuring out communication between school and families both in class and virtual
  - Lots of great virtual field trips
- **Parkdale P.S.:** Ward Rep. Sarah Cambell
  - There are a lot of changes and everyone is doing their best
  - The new Principal is doing very well, very accessible. Engaged parents before the start of the school year with town halls
  - We may be losing a VP
  - Had our first Parent Council meeting and had some students reps which is new for us
  - Lots of interest in outdoor learning. We have set up an outdoor learning committee
- **Parkdale CI:** Ward Rep. Gigi Morin
  - High School is different from the elementary schools. Things are going well
  - You don't get as much info at the high school level.
  - Virtual School kids are feeling disengaged

- IB fees have been put off for another year
  - Robin: IB was going to have to charge fees for grades 11 & 12 but when COVID hit it put a wrench in IB training and everything went online reducing the cost significantly
- There may not be yearbooks this year so the parent council is looking into how to make that happen.
- Not quite sure what is happening with the new Virtual live feed classes?
  - Robin: High School works like this; the number of students drives the number of teachers and the number of teachers drives the number of course offerings. So, if you don't have a lot of students you don't have a lot of courses and students need certain courses to graduate from high school. So there are a number of models right now but some courses are being live streamed to students from all over the city in virtual school. Here is the information on [Virtual Secondary School](#). Ward 7 has the lowest virtual school enrollment in the TDSB at 20%
- **Queen Victoria:** Ward Rep. Marcela Saitua
  - Had a tough end to last year with racism issues that were in the media. This year is looking better
  - Our "at risk" status was removed early in the school year and then restored
  - We have a new principal who is very communicative
  - We have lots of participation in the Parent Council. The new Executive is in place with a Black Student Success Committee Representative made permanent.
  - We have held coat and food drives
  - There have been 3 cases of COVID-19 in the school but all have been contained and there has not been any in school transmission.
  - Virtual field trips and outdoor education are happening at the school
  - Questions from parents about going back into lockdown or, if not, how winter will affect air circulation etc...
    - Robin: Minister has said today we are not extending winter break. Expectation for teachers is that they are prepared to teach remotely if that happens. Admin and teachers are preparing for this. This is in place for classes that are sent home to isolate etc... TPH so far happy with how schools are operating. Transmission is not happening in schools generally. Procedures that are in place are working. Masking is working.
    - You can see all TDSB COVID-19 cases on the [COVID-19 Advisories page](#)
    - Superintendent Debbie Donsky: High School going Virtual - Already set up remotely because they are doing a combo of in class and online. Have not yet had conversation about two week extension to holiday but everyone is ready to pivot.
    - Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst: Ministry of Education's Requirements for Remote Learning [PPM164](#) notes the number of minutes that need to

happen synchronously. We are ready for the Pivot. Continue to assess and evaluate. The work has been done to make sure we are ready.

- ❑ Question: Lisa from Keele - Will students who are currently in class get tech if they are forced to go remote?
  - ❑ Robin: Yes. If students need tech it will be distributed
  - ❑ Debbie: Schools are receiving new devices. Orders for Chromebooks are being made.
  
- **Runnymede CI:** Rep. Melanie Boyde-Brown
  - Things are going well.
  - Hats off to administration. Communication has been incredible
  - The number of students going virtual has increased participation in Parent Council
  
- **Runnymede JS:** Ward Rep. Kathleen Hyatt
  - Everything is going well. Students are being engaged
  - There have been fun activities like Halloween door decorating (with a fire alarm).
  - There have been concerns with the lack of tech and some virtual school families have had issues.
  - The Outdoor Education Committee is working hard and teachers are getting the kids outside.
  
- **Swansea:** Ward Rep. Scottie Fech
  - School is going well and there are no major issues to report.
  - There were some concerns with health and safety and the drop off and pick up points for the school but there has been resolution.
  - There is good communication from administration. We have a new principal as of last January
  - The Parent Council is up and running and moving ahead.
  
- **Ursula Franklin Academy:** Co-Chair Sanja Sekaric
  - New Principal this year. She is doing well, working with parents and communicating
  - UFA has the highest in person enrollment in the board at 95%
  - A survey has gone out to the students to see how the school year is going. It is still being analyzed.
  - The admissions process is changing. There will no longer be an essay requirement, it will go straight to a lottery. There has always been a mandate to have a 50/50 split of females and males. This is being done away with.
  - Grade 12 students are worried about Post Secondary applications
    - Robin: On Tuesday November 24th there will be a virtual [Post-Secondary Information Session](#) regarding applications to post secondary

and what has changed. [Guide to Applying to Post-Secondary: What to Know](#)

### Advisory Committee Updates

- **Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC):** Ward 7 Representative Alice Romo
  - <http://www.torontopiac.com/index.html>
  - PIAC Supports parent engagement, parent councils, and parent involvement at the Board level
  - The [School Council, Ready Set Engage Virtual Conference](#) is coming this weekend (November 21 & 22). [Registration](#) is open.
  - Notes from Tuesday November 17th Meeting: budgeting will be more public with room for engagement. Virtual School reorg was touched on, french standards are still being met.
  - PIAC has written a [Letter of Recommendation about Virtual School Engagement](#) and sent it to the Board.
  
- **French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC):** Ward 7 Representative Mandy Moore
  - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac>
  - [French as a Second Language Program Review](#) was completed
  - Recommendations from the French Review are being implemented. Beginning next year, there will only be two entry points; Junior Kindergarten and Grade 4. All programs will be immersion, extended french will no longer be available.
  
- **Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee (ESCAC):** Parent Member, Anne Keary
  - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Community-Advisory-Committees/Environmental-Sustainability-Community-Advisory-Committee>
  - Working on environmental issue in schools
  - TDSB is endorsing the City of Toronto's [TransformTO](#) Environmental Action Plan
  - Working on Climate Literacy and consulting on Climate Action Guide for Schools
  - 352 Schools in the TDSB (over 50%) have solar panels on their roofs. Proposing signage for these schools to promote.

### Trustee Update

- Ward 7 Trustee Robin Pilkey:
  - Here is the information on non-urgent matters:
  - School Reopening
    - \* COVID cases – follow the instructions of TPH. Outbreak is greater than 2 students and if TPH determines that it possibly maybe linked to a

school., will decide on actions to be taken (generally isolate close contact, no closure), some changes to our website starting Nov 10. Information that is available is on our website.. Analysis of cases would be done by TPH, not us.

- [\\* Where to get info – TDSB website](#)
  - Elementary in person – 107,300
  - Secondary in person – 54,300
  - Elementary VS – 73,000 (approx)
  - Secondary VS – 18,000 (approx)
  - Ward 7 lowest % of students in virtual school (just under 20-%0. Other wards – between 50-60%
- **Technology updates:** Technology Funding for Additional Devices The Board has allocated \$2.5M for additional technology spending. The plan for these funds will be to replace a portion of the devices that were removed from 370 schools in the spring for the purpose of remote learning. 18% of the devices borrowed from schools have already been replaced in September. This additional influx of devices will raise the percentage of device replacement on average close to 50% volume of what was borrowed in the spring. We are working with our vendor to establish a delivery schedule. Schools will be notified next week with respect to the quantity of Chromebooks they will receive.
- **Update: Switching into Elementary Virtual School**
  - As you know, the schedule to request a switch between the two learning models (in-person and virtual) was adjusted several weeks ago and there is no longer an opportunity to request a switch in November. However, at the time that this change was communicated, we indicated that unique circumstances would be considered on a case by case basis and we have continued to receive requests from families to switch students into the Elementary Virtual School.
  - Currently, requests to switch a student into the Elementary Virtual School will be reviewed based on space availability and compassionate grounds (see below). Learning Network (LN) Superintendents will review all requests and determine if the requests meet any of the compassionate grounds. The student will either be approved to move at this time (if there is space within a class for the VS in their Learning Centre) OR at the next formal transition point.
  - Criteria for Compassionate Grounds that Warrants Transfer to Virtual School:
    - On an ongoing basis, the following criteria for compassionate grounds will warrant a student being approved for transfer to Virtual School, provided there are spaces available:
    - \* There is a verifiable current medical condition or disability requiring human rights accommodation. If a student/parent makes a request based on medical condition/disability

- without providing (adequate) supporting documentation, the needed documentation should be requested from them by the decision-maker. In some cases, this will not be necessary if their school is able to verify the need\*\*\*
- \* There is a need for accommodation based on another protected human rights ground\*\*\*
- \* Students who are not attending school and/or missed the transfer deadline due to participating in a human rights accommodation process (for example, they now want to switch to virtual school because their mask accommodation request was denied). \*\*\*
- \* Students who have a sibling already in Elementary Virtual School.
- \* Clerical errors (this should be very few, as most errors have been corrected already).
- \*\*\*Human Rights staff are assisting LN Superintendents as needed while they consider requests to switch to virtual school.'
- Criteria That Does Not Warrant an Immediate Transfer to Virtual School:
- The following circumstances do NOT warrant transfer to Virtual School at this time unless there is a human rights duty to accommodate. These students must wait until the next transfer opportunity. These include (but are not limited to):
- \* Students who are brand new TDSB registrants, unless the student meets one of the criteria for approval;
- \* Students who are able to but do not wish to wear a mask/face covering to attend school in-person, unless there is verified medical information/documentation provided to indicate that the student cannot attend in-person or they missed registering for Virtual School due to participation in a request for accommodation process (see above). It is recommended that the Human Rights Office and/or Health and Safety staff be consulted with as part of the verification process;
- \* Students whose families have changed their minds after originally attending Virtual School, then switching to bricks and mortar at the October transfer opportunity, and now would like to return to Virtual School;
- \* Students who are required to self-isolate at home for a period of time (they should access asynchronous activities from their homeroom teacher during isolation if well enough); and
- \* Students whose families are requesting either a change in teacher, or a change from one Virtual School teacher to another.
- Switch Requests for the Next Transition Opportunity We also understand there are many students who would like to switch to virtual learning at the next transition opportunity. A formal process will be communicated soon.
- Requests to Switch from Virtual School to Bricks and Mortar On an ongoing basis, families who wish for their child(ren) to return to bricks and mortar schools can make requests through the LN Superintendent of



Education for their child(ren's) OSR school. Requests will be granted once the LN Superintendent has confirmed with the OSR school Principal that class caps will not be exceeded by allowing the student(s) to return. Once a student transfers back, decisions to return to bricks and mortar learning are final. Further requests to switch back to Virtual School will be addressed at the time of the next transition opportunity.

- Robin: Thank you to everyone for attending tonight.
  - A shout out and big thank you to Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst and King George Principal Patricia Venetti, who are both retiring at the end of this year.
  - Thank you and congratulations!
  
- **Next Meeting: Tuesday January 19th, 2021.**
  - Will likely be on Equity and Anti-Black Racism. This will be held as a Forum and open to more people.
  - Tentative dates for 2021 Ward Meetings:
    - February 23, 2021
    - April 20, 2021
    - May 25, 2021
  
- **ASKS:**
  - We are looking for an Alternative Rep for PIAC (update - volunteer from Queen Vic!)
  - Looking for suggestions for meeting topics.
  - Sign up for the [Ward 7 Council Facebook Group](#), and suggest parents at your school sign up. Good source of information and sharing and I try to answer questions as they arise.

## Other information that we didn't get to discuss

### Ward 7 Ventilation Information

Ward	School Name	School Ventilation - see Notes below	LC	LN	HEPA Filters Provided
7	Annette Street Jr. & Sr. PS	all mechanical	4	20	No
7	Fern Avenue Jr. & Sr. PS	all mechanical	4	19	No
7	Garden Avenue Junior PS	all mechanical	4	19	No
7	Howard Jr. PS	all mechanical	4	19	No
7	Humbercrest Public School	partial mechanical	4	20	Yes
7	Humberside CI	all mechanical	4	20	No
7	Indian Road Crescent Jr. PS	all mechanical	4	20	No
7	Keele Street PS	all mechanical	4	19	No
7	King George Jr. PS	all mechanical	4	20	No
7	Lucy McCormick School Senior*	all mechanical	4	20	No
7	Parkdale Collegiate Institute	all mechanical	4	19	No
7	Parkdale Jr. & Sr. PS	all mechanical	4	19	No
7	Queen Victoria Junior PS	all mechanical	4	19	No
7	Runnymede Collegiate Institute	all mechanical	4	20	No
7	Runnymede Jr. & Sr. PS	all mechanical	4	20	No
7	Swansea Jr. & Sr. PS	all mechanical	4	20	No
7	Warren Park Jr. PS	partial mechanical	4	19	Yes
7	Western Tech. & Comm. School	all mechanical	4	19	No

### Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

- [Motion for Use of Outdoor Space for Instructional Time](#) - put forward by Trustee Story and Trustee Aarts

OPAL program: Practices to remove barriers and support outdoor learning & play

Community engagement & support: A broad range of community engagement strategies have been used by OPAL schools to better understand the barriers in perception and experience with outdoor learning. Schools have held community events highlighting the benefits of outdoor play and play-based learning, and hosted community conversations with public health nurses and Trustees to support education around all-weather/season outdoor play and learning.

(Specific OPAL school example: Ionview P.S, Crescent Town E.S.)

Recognizing students' lived experiences and knowledge: OPAL provides an opportunity for students to share their lived experience and knowledge through outdoor play and experiential learning. While all OPAL schools employ similar strategies and resources to improve outdoor learning (e.g. improving access to the outdoors, using simple loose parts for play) the rich learning experiences are unique to each school and community.

Outdoor clothing libraries: A strategy used in several OPAL schools to address socio-economic barriers to all-weather, outdoor learning and play. Items are donated from the local community, sister OPAL schools or local businesses to provide all students with access to outdoor clothing (rain boots, raincoats, snow pants etc.).

(Specific OPAL school examples: Chester E.S. and Cresthaven P.S.)

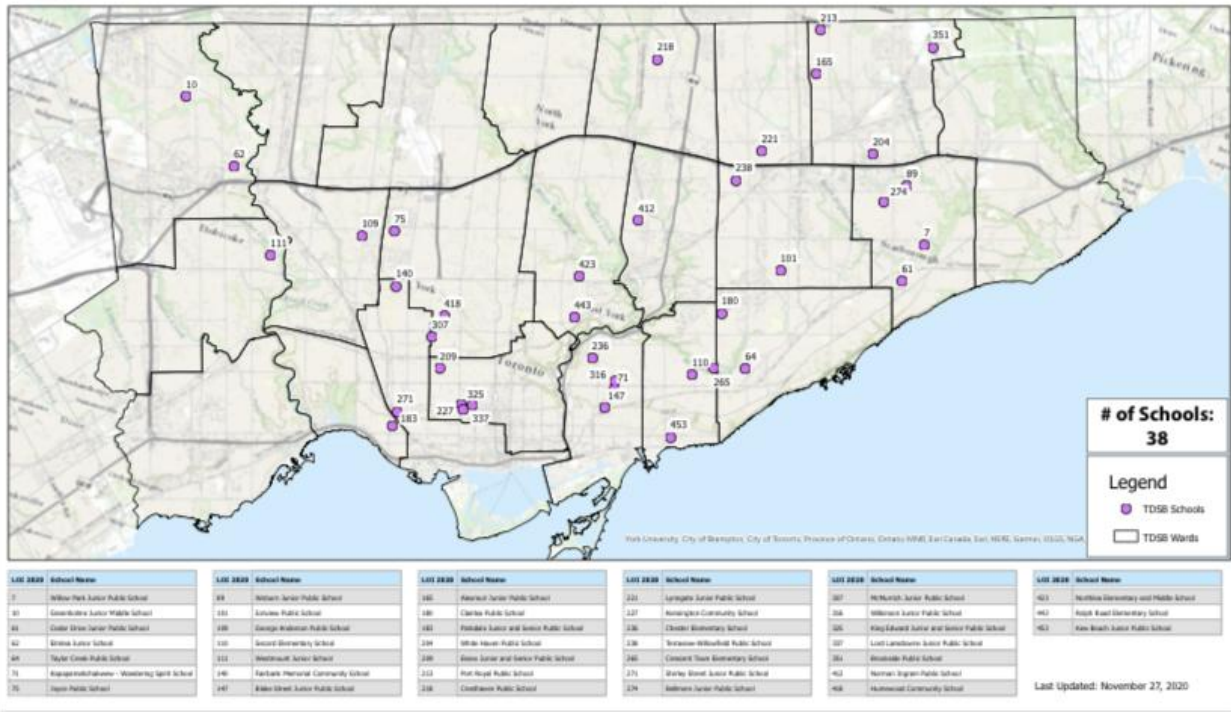
Here are some strong OPAL champions from diverse schools:

- \* Avinash Mani - Principal, Crescent Town (formerly VP at Humewood)
- \* Tamara Mitchell - Principal, Cedar Drive
- \* Sheila Smalley - Principal, Willow Park
- \* Annie Slater - Principal, Woburn (formerly VP at Ionview)
- \* Jennifer Zurba - Principal, Blake Street
- \* George Vlahos – Secord P.S.
- \* Dan Fisher, Kensington Community School

The roll out of OPAL at each school was unique and took into account the specific needs of their communities. As a result, each school has their own OPAL program that looks slightly different, but all are similar in their commitment to gradual change and support for outdoor play and learning.



## TDSB OPAL Schools



### Links from the Ward Meeting

- [Virtual Secondary School Information](#)
- [High School Guidance](#)
- [TDSB COVID-19 Advisories](#)
- [Ministry of Education's Remote Learning Policies PPM164](#)
- [Post-Secondary Information Sessions](#)
- [Guide to Applying to Post-Secondary](#)
- [PIAC](#)
- [PIAC Ready, Set, Engage Conference](#)
- [PIAC Letter of Recommendation: Virtual School Engagement](#)
- [FSLAC](#)
- [French as a Second Language Program Review](#)
- [ESCAC](#)
- [TransformTO](#)
- [TDSB Website](#)
- [Ward 7 Council Facebook Group](#)

### **Links from the Chat feed**

- Connect with Howard Park's Outdoor Learning Committee [alice.e.romo@gmail.com](mailto:alice.e.romo@gmail.com)
- [AGO Virtual Programs](#)
- [Anti-Bullying Magic Show](#)