



TRUSTEE NEWSLETTER

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Quick Communicator

I don't believe in New Year's resolutions. Resolutions - yes - but only when you are ready to accomplish your goal – not one that is set because of a date on a calendar. However, this year I have set four goals I am determined to work on. Here they are: **Foster an Environment that Supports Students in Achieving their Personal Best** There are 30,000 employees at the TDSB. We have amazing office and facilities staff, teachers and administrators. So many innovative initiatives come from our talented staff. But our staff need to be part of a team that works together for each child. They need to be inspired, respected, mentored, given autonomy, and recognised. For the next 18 months Dr. John Malloy will be the Director of the Toronto District School Board. John is a highly regarded educational leader. He has worked in York Region, Hamilton and the Ministry of Education. **As a Trustee I will endeavor to work with Dr. Malloy to strengthen our staff's abilities to provide the best educational environment possible.**

[Link to response of the TDSB Governance Advisory Panel \(Hall Report\)](#)



Dr. John Malloy:
Director of Education



Negotiations

The school year began with an ominous cloud overhead- negotiations had broken down with our unions and federations. Although teachers and other school staff continued to welcome and support students - all was not well - as demonstrated by entrance halls not cleaned as they should have been, staff planning meetings cancelled and student report cards incomplete. Our principals, the only group of employees in our schools not undertaking some sort of job action/strike, were under tremendous pressure. Withdrawal of services – no matter how innocuous they seemed to have been - are detrimental to our students. This cannot continue every time there is a contract to be determined. Our staff deserve to earn an excellent salary and experience excellent working conditions and it has to be determined within a framework of societal affordability. The process of negotiations has failed our students. **As a Trustee I will endeavour to work with our partners to improve this shattered system of negotiations.**

[Link to Labour News](#)



Better Communication

Presently I hold Ward Forums, host Community Coffees with Gerri, issue newsletters, actively communicate on Twitter and available on phone and email. I also visit school council meetings from time to time as well as community meetings, ratepayer meetings and school events. Somehow, however I am only connecting with a small minority of the electorate in our community. Can you help me?

What more should I be doing? How can I make my newsletters more interesting? What would you like to have on the agenda of ward forums? Are meetings the right time of day? Can I use

technology more effectively? Please respond if you have any ideas. **As a Trustee I will endeavour to improve my communications with parents.**

[Link to my webpage](#)

Provide Facilities to Support Student Success

One the most pressing concerns at the TDSB is the state of our buildings. The problems of aging infrastructure effects our roads, bridges, hospitals, - and schools. With the limited resources available to the school system, can we alone solve our problem? The answer is no. The TDSB strives to use our facilities wisely by eliminating and selling vacant space, leasing surplus property, consolidating schools and programs, and partnering with agencies and business. However, keeping in mind the provincial initiative of community hubs and the growth of our city, the TDSB simply cannot address the enormity of the dollars needed to fix our buildings. We need a new approach to the issue of aging infrastructure and a new source of funds.



As a Trustee I will endeavor to focus on the issues surrounding our aging infrastructure so that students have appropriate learning environments.

[Link to information about Facilities](#)

Scrapbook



Bedford's Mr. Singh voted one of the best crossing guards in Canada



Santa visits Sunny View



Norman Ingram generosity for Project Snowman



York Mills strings and wind instruments extraordinaire!



Valley Park principal receives cheque from retired teachers for breakfast program



Windfield students learn about financial planning



Principals of Thorncliffe and Fraser Mustard March for peace



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