Dear Elementary School Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for contacting me regarding concerns about larger elementary class sizes in some grades during the first week of school.  While understandable, I wanted to assure you that this is not uncommon for the first two weeks of school.  This school year there may be more awareness of class size issues due to a new provincial plan to reduce the number of teachers over the next four years, especially in secondary schools. This will increase class sizes in each of the next four years.

I want to take this opportunity to outline our process for stabilizing our class sizes in elementary schools. Each spring, the Board projects enrolment for every school and for every division/grade within the school. At that time, the Board also allocates the number of teachers for each school. At the end of the second week of the new school year, schools report their enrolments by grade to the Board. For schools that experience an enrolment above their projection, there may be some reorganization of the school and/or they may be assigned additional teachers. Schools that report lower than expected enrolment may experience a reduction in their teacher allocation. By the start of the third week of school, class sizes will normalize – meaning they will reflect expected class sizes for different grades.

For this school year, TDSB class size expectations (based on Regulations in the Education Act and/or Collective Agreement stipulations) are as follows:

* All Kindergarten: A **system average** of no more than 26.0 students per class. A **cap** or maximum of 29 students in any class. Classes with 15 or MORE students are required to have a teacher and a Designated Early Childhood Educator. Classes of 15 or fewer students are required to have a teacher only.
* Grade 1-3: A maximum of 20 students in any class. The Board is permitted to exceed the maximum in 10% of Grade 1-3 classes up to a maximum of 23 students.
* Grade 3/4 Combined Grade Classes: A maximum of 23 students in any class.
* Grade 4-8: A **system average** of no more than 23.24 students.

It is important to note that in Grade 4-8 this is a TDSB system-wide average, meaning that in some schools, some classes may be as low as 20 and as high as 30. There have been a few isolated cases where some classes in the first week reached as high as 40. Please know that this will change with the next week to meet the expectations outlined above.

Finally, there are some exceptions at some schools. For schools that experience higher than projected enrolment that do not have space to create additional classrooms, there may be a longer than usual wait time for class sizes to meet our expectations. Delays may be due to the need to find space for new classes (e.g. place one or more portables at the school or the need for minor renovations to make room for additional classrooms).

I trust this helps explains some of the concerns we have heard about class sizes this September. Please don’t hesitate to contact your Principal if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



**Trustee Chris Moise
Ward 10, Toronto Centre and University Rosedale**