



Thursday, January 16th, 2025

### CO-CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Thank you to Sarah, Steph, Omar, Wendy, Cathy and Gavin for their work on the Staff appreciation breakfast in December.  
Thank you also to a large team of robotics students and parents for their assistance with drafting a nomination for the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence.
2. Welcome  
A warm welcome to all members of the Northern Community who are joining us today both in person and on-line.
3. National School Food Program Funding  
On November 22, the province and federal government reached an agreement on funding school food programs in Ontario. Funding in Toronto will be administered through the Toronto Foundation for Student Success. Details about the criteria have not yet been announced. We are expecting more information this month.
4. Auditor General's report - TDSB  
The Auditor General of Ontario released a report on December 3, 2024. One section of the report focussed specifically on Safety, Financial Management and Capital at the TDSB. The full report can be found here:  
[https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/audits/en2024/AR-PA\\_TDSB\\_en24.html](https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/audits/en2024/AR-PA_TDSB_en24.html)  
  
A summary of the report can be found here:  
<https://www.thetrillium.ca/news/education-and-training/ag-report-finds-safe-learning-environment-not-always-the-case-at-tdsb-schools-9897827>  
  
Key findings:  
- TDSB buildings are in the worst condition of school buildings in any part of the province.  
  
For Northern-specific context, that Facilities Condition Index, a measurement of the condition of a school building, for Northern is 96.6%. Higher numbers indicate higher repair needs. An assessment of which repairs are most urgent can be found in the link below.  
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/Schools/School-FCI/schno/5620?ref=readthemaple.com>  
  
- Rates of violent incidents in the TDSB are lower than the provincial average, but are the highest that have ever been recorded.
5. Financial Accountability Office report on school building conditions  
On December 17, 2024, the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario released a report on the condition of schools across the province

(<https://fao-on.org/en/report/school-boards-capital-2024/>). While 62% of schools in the province meet the threshold of being in a State of Good Repair (SOGR), urban boards struggle to come anywhere close to that. In the TDSB, 81% of schools do not meet the threshold to be in a State of Good Repair. This is largely due to the way that the province administers funds for capital projects. Each year, each school board, regardless of size, is allowed to submit only 5 applications for capital funding. The TDSB has over 580 schools. Compare this to the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (where I grew up), which has 39 schools. Allowing boards of vastly different sizes to submit that same number of capital projects cannot have any outcome other than the one that we are seeing. Nearly new schools in small boards, and crumbling infrastructure in urban boards.

See the TDSB's five proposals here:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Capital-Priorities>

6. **School Trustee By-Election:** A by-election has been called to fill the school trustee position for Ward 11 which includes Northern. Our school trustee can be instrumental in helping to navigate challenges related to TDSB policies. The nomination period is open until 2 pm on Friday, January 17th. We encourage Northern families to inform themselves and ask thoughtful questions of [the candidates](#), whether you are able to vote in the by-election or not. How our school is represented at the board level will be affected.

Once the nomination period has closed (tomorrow), we plan to invite each candidate to answer a list of questions, and to share answers with the school community. We will also invite each candidate to share one virtual meet and greet opportunity which we will share with Northern families in the Parent Post. The current list of questions is below. We welcome feedback about other questions to ask.

1. What makes you qualified to be a Trustee in the TDSB?
2. What is your connection to Don Valley West?
3. Did you attend a school in the TDSB? If you have children, do they/did they attend TDSB schools?
4. What do you see as the most important role of a school trustee?
5. What issues do you think need to be addressed most urgently?
6. If elected, how much time are you prepared to dedicate to this position? How do you anticipate spending this time?
7. Are you affiliated with a political party?
8. Do you have any endorsements? If so, from whom?

7. **School Statement of Needs (SSON)**

The School Statement of needs has been submitted, and the final version is available on our website.

8. **Ongoing Consultation: Use of Copyright Protected Works Policy (P079)**

Consultation on this policy is open until February 1st. It sets out expectations of staff students and other parties regarding how copyrighted work will be used and credited in the course of TDSB business. Interested individuals can review the revised policy at the link below.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations>