

## **Stacey Cline**

### **1. What makes you qualified to be a Trustee in the TDSB?**

I am qualified to be a Trustee, for several reasons:

(1) As a former TDSB teacher (Gracedale PS), I have a deep understanding of educators' needs with respect to helping students unlock their potential.

Throughout my 10 years as an educator, I taught grades 3 and 5, and ESL Resource. I cultivated learning environments centred on academic achievement and mutual respect. I imparted essential skills to children from diverse backgrounds, fostering a shared language of knowledge. Currently, I demonstrate my commitment to equity by working with Grade 1 students to elevate their reading proficiency skills as an active participant of the TDSB Volunteer Readers Programme.

(2) I have served as an advocate for quality education. As a former board member of Friends of Etobicoke School of the Arts - Contemporary Art (FOESCA), I fundraised for the visual art program, and advocated for specialized programs to ensure that every student has access to enriching educational opportunities

(3) As a proud mom of a Northern student, I am dedicated to actively listening to fellow parents. I will champion the priorities of parents within the TDSB, ensuring their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed.

(4) I have served the residents of Don Valley West. As I detail below, I worked as a constituency assistant for John Godfrey, Member of Parliament for Don Valley West. This started me on my career of public service as I look forward to support the needs of Don Valley West residents as a trustee.

### **2. What is your connection to Don Valley West?**

I proudly served the residents of Don Valley West as a constituency assistant for John Godfrey, Member of Parliament for Don Valley West. In that role, I supported a variety of local needs in the riding, such immigration or tax inquiries. I worked in the office at Bayview and Eglinton, welcoming many families and individuals who visited looking for help, or just a chat about politics. I loved that role, and it set me on a path of public service for local communities.

My younger daughter is currently a student at Northern.

### 3. What do you see as the most important role of a school trustee?

(1) Accountability to the electorate: Trustees serve students, parents and educators. They also serve all constituents of their ward, because public education benefits everyone.

(2) Trustees must consult with their own constituents, incorporating their priorities while developing policy direction for the good of the whole board with a focus on student achievement, well-being and equity.

(3) Build relationships within the larger community, and be actively involved. We all share a common goal that every student deserves the opportunity to thrive.

(4) Work with all trustees as an effective team member, remembering that students come first when passing board policies.

### 4. What issues do you think need to be addressed most urgently?

(1) **Capital Repairs and Capacity.** [A report suggests](#) that 84% of TDSB schools are below the state of good repair, translating into a backlog of \$2.86 billion. This includes leaky faucets, boilers that break down in winter, old windows, decrepit bathrooms, and pest and rodent problems. With respect to Northern specifically, I am aware of several issues regarding capital repairs and capacity that must be addressed, such as bathrooms (as reported by my complaining daughter) and windows.

We must allocate resources efficiently to ensure that we maximize what we need to support urgent school repairs.

(2) **Investing in Special Education and Specialized Programs** such that all students with a variety of needs have the tools to succeed.

Special education is a priority matter that must be addressed through better allocation of resources. It is frustrating to hear examples of mismanagement of public dollars, while families cannot access priority resources for special education. As Trustee, resources for special education will be a priority issue.

(3) **Focus on Academic Achievement:** I have been hearing from parents that they are concerned about academics being placed on a back burner while equity is prioritized. While equity is essential to ensure that all students have an equal shot, I will work hard to ensure resources and opportunities are available to students, setting them on a path of academic achievement and future success. Looking at average test scores for the TDSB, we have more work to do. Parents, educators and the Ministry of Education expect elected trustees to deliver a quality education system through responsible and effective policy.

**(4) Ensure Student Well-being:** The COVID pandemic took its toll on students, educators and administrators. As Trustee, I will be committed to ensuring we foster safe learning environments for all. When I am knocking on doors and speaking with parents, I continually hear concerns about mental health, physical safety, bullying, and geopolitics in schools. I am committed to addressing these issues to build an environment based upon mutual respect and safety. Students must feel safe and welcome.

**5. If elected, how much time are you prepared to dedicate to this position? How do you anticipate spending this time?**

I currently operate a consulting business in children's media programming, where I advise producers of educational children's shows. I control my time, which means I will easily be able to prioritize the needs of students, parents and educators in Don Valley West. I will happily continue Rachel's coffee meets, which date back to Gerri's days!

I anticipate spending this time by ensuring I am available for interactions with my constituents and schools, attending events, and attending board and committee meetings. I am accustomed to balancing work and personal activities, and I will diligently embrace the added role of a trustee.

**6. Are you affiliated with a political party?**

I am not affiliated with any party. I am an educator and a mother of a DVW student, looking to broaden my involvement in the TDSB and wider community.

**7. Do you have any endorsements?**

My endorsements are not yet public, but will be shared publicly in the next couple of weeks. NSS representatives are welcome to contact me and I can provide information regarding my endorsements.