



Thursday, April 3rd, 2025

CO-CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Thank you to Pflag for making a presentation to our families on Tuesday, to Bronwen for inviting us to an earlier presentation and to Caryl for suggesting that we bring the event to Northern.

Thank you to Kristina for putting together a selection of social events for our parent community including a parent tea, walks and visit to the ROM.

2. Welcome

A warm welcome to Superintendent Jennifer Chan who is joining us for her first Northern Council meeting, to Jessica Pearson who is filling in for Adam and to all members of the Northern Community who are joining us today both in person and on-line.

3. School Trustee By-Election: Congratulations to Stacey Cline, our new School Board Trustee.

4. New Minister of Education. Paul Calandra is the new Minister of Education following the February 27th Provincial Election.

5. New Boilers for Northern. Since our last meeting, work to replace the boilers has been moved up the priority list and preliminary work has already begun. To accommodate this work, no new permits will be granted in the evenings, weekends or summer so that work can get underway at those times. It is anticipated that it will take approximately 2 years to complete the full project. This may affect in person School Council meetings.

6. Policy Updates

The Learning Opportunities Index remains under consideration until April 4th.

All policies in active consultation can be found on the following website:

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

7. Boundary Changes affecting Northern. The TDSB regularly reviews school boundaries to ensure that students can be accommodated appropriately. New development in the midtown area has resulted in NTCl reaching capacity. Their site cannot accommodate portables, so there is a need to reallocate some students to other schools. The removal of Commercial and Technical Boundaries has meant that there is potentially more space available at Northern to accept students from a larger local catchment. Some addresses have also previously had access to more than one high school, and the TDSB is working to reduce this and direct each residential address to just one high school. These boundary changes will benefit Northern by giving a larger pool of students from the local area. When students are drawn from across the city, enrollment can fluctuate

throughout the year if students change their minds about the feasibility of commuting long distances to go to school. Decreases in enrollment lead to fewer teachers at the school, and that in turn results in fewer co-curricular opportunities and course options for our students. Stable enrollment of approximately 2000 students would allow room in the building for flexibility when repairs are required while still allowing for a full complement of co-curricular activities and a full slate of course offerings.

The Boundary Change proposal will be voted on at the Planning and Priorities Committee on May 14th and by the Board of Trustees on May 21st. If passed, changes would be implemented in September 2026.

The full slide deck and links to more detailed information can be found here:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Search-All-Reviews/id/206>

8. Northern's Centennial Celebrations

Northern will be 100 years old in 2030! Major milestones are an opportunity to consider projects that alumni and current families can get excited about. It may be wise to establish a committee of council to explore opportunities to work with administration and other stakeholders as this anniversary approaches. Possible projects include the following:

- the back field revitalization
- creating an outdoor useable space in the inner courtyard
- creating and installing ceramic tiles with ASL signs at the main entrance to signal to visitors that our community includes DHH students and staff.