



Thursday, May 22, 2025

### **CO-CHAIR'S REPORT**

1. Thank you to all school council voting members and interested parents for their contributions to council this year. A number of our members have students who are graduating this year. I want to acknowledge Wendy Li, John Barrons, Kristina Turner for their service. We are grateful for your contributions and hope that you will continue to be in touch. We are also grateful to Jenn Marr, who has served as our teacher rep this year. She has shared that she is moving to a school closer to home for next year. We wish her well in her new role and thank her for her commitment to Northern.

2. Welcome

A warm welcome to all members of the Northern Community who are joining us today both in person and on-line.

3. TDSB Budget Process

The TDSB Budget Process continues to evolve. The provincial budget was released last week with marginal increases for education. Unfortunately, the TDSB still does not know how much funding will be received for the 2025-2026 school year.

One of the options to balance the budget is to close TDSB pools not under lease to the City of Toronto. This includes the pool at Northern. The Minister of Education has indicated that he will not allow that to happen, but there is also no funding for pools in schools, so this will be an issue to continue to watch. For anyone feeling so inclined, Josh Matlow has a petition to [save school pools](#).

There is also currently an investigator assigned to look at TDSB finances. Their report is due May 31st. It is unclear what this report will add to the [Auditor General's report](#) and the [Financial Accountability Office report](#), both released in December 2024.

There is a Rally for Education planned at Queen's Park this Saturday, May 24th from noon to 1:30. Anyone interested in attending is asked to [pre-register](#). The event is being sponsored by two opposition MPPs and the Toronto Labour Council. The Toronto Labour Council also invites families to contact their provincial representatives to increase education funding. Their letter to school councils is appended to this report.

4. TDSB Fundraising Policy

At our last meeting, we discussed the proposal to make contributions to a central priorities fund mandatory for school councils. The proposal was defeated in a vote of 10-12.

This means that there is no requirement for councils to share with other schools. The issue

may be raised again if the councils don't choose to share on a voluntary basis. Northern has not historically shared fundraising dollars with other schools.

**Subject: Our Schools Are Under Threat—It's Time to Act**



Dear School Council members,

It's the **Fund Our Schools** campaign—a coalition of parents and education unions (including ETT) united to fight the chronic underfunding of Public Education. We're reaching out because, once again, Toronto schools are facing massive cuts.

The TDSB is considering **\$58 million** in cuts next year: including **closing pools, cutting music instruction, dismantling outdoor education and continuing education, cutting 1:1 student technology, and more.** Even **staffing cuts and larger class sizes** are back on the table. And Special Education programs continue to be massively underfunded.

Why? Because since 2018, the Ford government has deliberately shortchanged our schools, failing to cover even the basic necessities. Every year, TDSB must then make budget cuts in order to submit a balanced budget as required by the *Education Act*. For example, this past year the Province underfunded education by \$1500 *per student*, forcing the TDSB to make harmful cuts to balance their budget. The budget for next year looks much the same.

The cumulative cost of these “balanced” budgets is high: students not getting the support they need, programs cut, schools crumbling, violent incidents escalating... with teachers and education workers left holding the system together. Trustees shouldn't be forced to slash budgets when there's nothing left to cut. We need the province to step up and fund the schools our students deserve. **Here's how your School Council can take action:**

- ✂️ **Add TDSB Cuts to your next agenda** and circulate the enclosed fact sheet with parents and caregivers;
- 📧 **Send a quick email to the Premier & Education Minister** (and cc'd to your Trustee) by visiting [www.fundourschools.ca/take-action](http://www.fundourschools.ca/take-action);
- 🙌 **Join the May 24 Rally @Queens Park (12-1:30)** to demand more education funding;
- ⚡ **Dial Up the Pressure at our Phone Zap on May 27 (4:30-6:00pm)** to flood MPPs with one clear message: *students need support, not cuts!* Register at [www.FundOurSchools.ca](http://www.FundOurSchools.ca)

School Councils are powerful community voices. You care deeply about Public Education—and that **makes you essential in this fight.** What we do now will shape the future of our schools. Let's make sure it's one we can be proud of!

Sincerely,

**Fund Our Schools**