



Monday, September 29, 2025

CO-CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Thank you to all school council voting members for their contributions to council this year. We want to acknowledge and thank the following members who are not returning as voting members for next year: Thank you Wendy Li, John Bakous, Harp Thind, Sarah Flint, Stephanie Nacawa, Shelagh Durno and Julie Buckareff. We are grateful for your contributions and hope that you will continue to be in touch. As mentioned in May, our teacher rep Jenn Marr has moved to another school. We wish her well in her new role and thank her for her commitment to Northern. Thanks also to Savannah for serving as our student rep last year.

Finally, Omar and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your co-chairs this year. It was truly an honor. We will both be stepping back from our roles in the coming year and look forward to supporting the leadership of our new co-chairs.

2. **Welcome**

A warm welcome to all members of the Northern Community who are joining us today both in person and on-line. A special welcome to all of the new faces on voting council this year. We are thrilled to have you.

3. **TDSB Supervision**

Since our last meeting, the province placed the TDSB under supervision. This means that elected trustees have been removed from their roles and replaced with a single Supervisor. Having worked closely with Trustees over the past years, it is hard to imagine how we are going to be able to access the information and support that we have come to count on from Trustees. I hope that you will join me in watching this process closely over the course of the next school year.

School Council has been approached by the Samara Centre for Democracy about the possibility of surveying our parent community about their views of provincial supervision. This is something that the new slate of voting members will be able to review and discuss. A draft survey is included at the end of this report as a starting point for the discussion. Due to time constraints, we may need to make a decision after this meeting.

4. **Development on Roehampton**

Some members of the school community may have noticed that signage has gone up related to a proposed development across the street from Northern on Roehampton. Public consultation will take place on October 22nd. Please see the Parent Post for contact information about the consultation.

5. Things to monitor in the coming years

While each council is free to decide its own priorities, we would like to highlight several items that council may wish to keep on their radar as time passes:

- a. **Support for the Student Nutrition Program.** Renovations are underway to get stoves and other equipment up and running so that more types of foods can be prepared. While these renovations are underway, it will be necessary to purchase grab and go food options, which are more expensive than the cold options offered previously. Student Success will almost certainly run out of money this year and will need support. We will await guidance from April Vibert on how we can best support this vital program.
- b. **Road Safety around Northern.** Traffic around Northern can be heavy when students are entering and leaving the building. Traffic on Roehampton can get particularly congested when buses arrive. Several students have been hit in the morning drop off period. Advocacy to improve safety for our students may be required.
- c. **Upgrades to the back field.** We have previously discussed looking into partnership opportunities to allow upgrades to the back field that are a priority. The TDSB has indicated that they cannot be started until work on the boilers is complete. This project may require advocacy, fundraising and other support from council.
- d. **Possible policy changes affecting Northern.** We will need to stay informed about decisions being made by the Supervisor. Key areas that may be affected:
 - Pools in schools (including Northern's pool)
 - Access to Schools Without a Boundary (including at Northern)
 - The size of the incoming Gifted cohort (there is room to add more)
- e. **Northern's centennial.** This is five years out. It may be an excellent opportunity to implement the courtyard improvements that have been discussed. This may require fundraising with the parent community and will involve more than one year of planning.

Tell us what you think about TDSB Supervision

On June 27th, the TDSB was placed under supervision by the provincial government. This means that elected Trustees were removed from their roles and replaced by an appointed supervisor. The supervisor will oversee decisions of the board moving forward and can review past Trustee decisions and overturn them. To date, this power has been used to reverse Trustee decisions related to renaming schools and the TDSB's Special Education Plan. Published decisions from the supervisor can be [viewed here](#).

As with any complex issue, there will be a variety of viewpoints about the decision to put the TDSB under supervision. School Council would like to get a better sense of how Northern families view the situation in order to inform our response over the coming year.

Please answer the questions below as you feel comfortable, or reach out to us directly at nss.school.council@gmail.com

1. How are you affiliated with Northern?*

I have one or more students currently enrolled at Northern

I have a student who plans to attend Northern in the future

I have a student who graduated from Northern

I am a former Northern student

I am a current Northern student

I am a future Northern student

I work at Northern

I have worked at Northern in the past

Other:

2. How have you engaged with Trustees in the past?

I voted in Trustee elections

I subscribed to my Trustee's newsletter

I attended my Trustee's ward forums or other events hosted by my Trustee

I reached out to my Trustee for information

I reached out to my Trustee for assistance in resolving a challenge related to my student

I attended meetings of the TDSB or its committees

I made one or more deputations to Trustees

I have not interacted with Trustees

Other:

3. Please feel free to provide any details that you feel are important about how you interacted with Trustees.

4. How do you feel about the decision to bring in a supervisor to replace Trustees?

I support this decision

I have concerns about this decision

I don't know

5. Please feel free to elaborate on your answer, if desired.

6. While the TDSB is under supervision, the following forums remain available for parents, guardians and caregivers in addition to the [Parent Concern Protocol](#):

- School Advisory Councils ([Northern School Council](#) at Northern)

- [Parent Involvement Advisory Committee](#) (PIAC)

- [Special Education Advisory Committee](#) (SEAC)

These are all committees made up of volunteers.

Have you been involved with any of these organizations?

Yes, I have volunteered my time

Yes, I have participated in meetings or events

Yes, I am on a mailing list

No, I have no involvements with School Council, PIAC or SEAC

Other:

7. Please feel free to elaborate on your answer, if desired.

8. Please indicate which issues you are most concerned about related to the TDSB.