

Toronto District School Board UPDATE

Volume 31 - Dec. 5, 2019

NEWS

Robin Pilkey Elected as TDSB Chair

Robin Pilkey was elected for her sixth term as Chair of the Toronto District School Board during the annual Organizational Board meeting on Monday, Nov. 18, 2019. Trustee Trixie Doyle was elected as Vice Chair.

For more information, including a list of committee members and meeting schedules for 2020, please read the [news release](#) and the [summary of decisions](#).

Labour Negotiations

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) teachers and education workers held a one-day walkout on December 4 as a tentative agreement between OSSTF, the Government of Ontario, and the Ontario Public School Board Association was not reached. As a result of the walkout, the Board had no other option but to close all secondary schools (Grades 9 to 12) to students on this date as there would not have been sufficient supervision to ensure student safety. The TDSB remains hopeful that negotiations will continue and that a contract agreement can be reached to avoid any further disruption to students' education.

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) began Phase 1 work-to-rule job action on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. The job action is a partial withdrawal of services and is not a full withdrawal/strike at this time. During this phase of work-to-rule, elementary schools will remain open and instructional programs will continue. However, should the work-to-rule progress to include further sanctions, it may have a more significant impact on school activities, permits and school operations. At this time, negotiations between ETFO, OPSBA and the Ontario government continue and we are hopeful that an agreement can be reached soon.

For ongoing updates regarding OSSTF and ETFO negotiations, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/labour.

Concerns About Vaping: Letter to Health Canada

The Chair of the Board Robin Pilkey wrote to the Minister of Health Canada to express the Board's deep concerns with the dangers of e-cigarettes and vaping products (i.e. vapes, mods and juuls) and the negative impact they have on youth health.

The full letter is now available [online](#).

Concerns with Mandatory E-Learning: Letter to Minister of Education

The Chair of the Board Robin Pilkey wrote to the Minister of Education to express the Board's deep concerns with the Government of Ontario's plan to introduce mandatory e-learning courses for all secondary school students.

The Toronto District School Board will soon be consulting with students, staff, parents/guardians and school communities about this topic.

The full letter is now available [online](#).

Drinking Water Safety in Schools

The City of Toronto's water treatment facilities are some of the best in the world. Designated drinking water sources in our schools are safe to drink and are tested on a regular basis, according to provincial regulations.

For more information, please visit the TDSB webpage for [Drinking Water Safely in Schools](#).

Student, Staff and School Achievements

The Toronto District School Board is always proud to highlight the achievements of our students, staff and school communities. Below are a few highlights from November and December:

- [Recess Rangers at Ogden PS Strengthens Relationships and Reduces Conflict](#)
- [Student Senate By-Election – The Results Are In](#)
- [Central Toronto Academy Designs a Shoe Fit For a Museum](#)
- [Celebrate Military Trail Public School's 50th Anniversary!](#)

BOARD MEETING NOTES

Implementation of the Parents Reaching Out Grants, 2019-20

The Ministry of Education has announced that the [Parents Reaching Out \(PRO\) Grant](#) will continue. This grant provides funding to district school boards and school authorities to lead projects with a focus on the identification and removal of barriers that prevent parents and families from participating and engaging fully in their children's learning.

Changes to the program were made for the 2019-20 school year from an application-based funding model to an allocation-based grant provided to each school board.

The TDSB was allocated \$133,405.00 for projects.

The Board [decided](#) that:

- The Ministry of Education's Parents Reaching Out Grants allocation amount of \$133,405.00 be distributed, as presented in the report; and
- The Chair sends a letter to the Minister of Education to express the Board's dismay with the changes to the overall funding amount and disbursement process for the 2019-20 Parents Reaching Out Grants.

2020-21 Budget Reductions in Year 2

Trustees [approved](#) the following [recommendations](#) from staff with regards to year two budget reductions approved by the Board in June 2019:

- That French and Gifted bussing reductions in the amount of \$1.9M in 2020-21 be delayed until the Learning Opportunities Index (LOI) review and French redistribution of program sites are completed; and
- That the Director present a report in January 2020 on the achievable savings in 2020-21 and future years on supplementary French and Gifted teachers.

Staff considered the following factors for the recommendations above: Multi-Year Strategic Plan commitments, policy issues, staffing concerns, available resources and timing.

Next Board Meeting

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for [Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019](#).

TDSB Trustees

Harpreet Gill

Ward 1 - Etobicoke North
Harpreet.Gill@tdsb.on.ca

Dan MacLean

Ward 2 - Etobicoke Centre
Dan.MacLean@tdsb.on.ca

Patrick Nunziata

Ward 3 - Etobicoke-Lakeshore
Patrick.Nunziata@tdsb.on.ca

Christopher Mammoliti

Ward 4 - Humber River-Black Creek
Christopher.Mammoliti@tdsb.on.ca

Alexandra Lulka

Ward 5 - York Centre
Alexandra.Lulka@tdsb.on.ca

Chris Tonks

Ward 6 - York South-Weston
chris.tonks@tdsb.on.ca

Robin Pilkey

Ward 7 - Parkdale-High Park
Robin.Pilkey@tdsb.on.ca

Shelley Laskin

Ward 8 - Eglinton-Lawrence and Toronto-St. Paul's
Shelley.Laskin@tdsb.on.ca

Stephanie Donaldson

Ward 9 - Davenport and Spadina-Fort York
Stephanie.Donaldson@tdsb.on.ca

Chris Moise

Ward 10 - University-Rosedale and Toronto Centre
Chris.Moise@tdsb.on.ca

Rachel Chernos Lin

Ward 11 - Don Valley West
Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca

Alexander Brown

Ward 12 - Willowdale
Alexander.Brown@tdsb.on.ca

James Li

Ward 13 - Don Valley North
James.Li@tdsb.on.ca

Trixie Doyle

Ward 14 - Don Valley East
Trixie.Doyle@tdsb.on.ca

Jennifer Story

Ward 15 - Toronto-Danforth
Jennifer.Story@tdsb.on.ca

Michelle Aarts

Ward 16 - Beaches-East York
Michelle.Aarts@tdsb.on.ca

David Smith

Ward 17 - Scarborough Centre
David.Smith4@tdsb.on.ca

Parthi Kandavel

Ward 18 - Scarborough Southwest
Parthi.Kandavel@tdsb.on.ca

Zakir Patel

Ward 19 - Scarborough-Guildwood
Zakir.Patel@tdsb.on.ca

Manna Wong

Ward 20 - Scarborough-Agincourt
Manna.Wong@tdsb.on.ca

Yalini Rajakulasingam

Ward 21 - Scarborough North
Yalini.Rajakulasingam@tdsb.on.ca

Anu Sriskandarajah

Ward 22 - Scarborough-Rouge Park
Anu.Sriskandarajah@tdsb.on.ca

Adnan Habib

Student Trustee
Adnan.Habib@tdsb.on.ca

Ivy Deng

Student Trustee
Ivy.Deng@tdsb.on.ca

Director of Education

John Malloy
John.Malloy@tdsb.on.ca



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5050 Yonge Street 5th Floor, Communications and Public Affairs
Toronto, Ontario | M2N 5N8 CA

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