

# TRUSTEE RACHEL CHERNOS LIN



## *Message from Rachel*

With fun fairs and graduations in our riding in full swing as I write, I am struck by how quickly the year has flown by.

As your local TDSB Trustee for Ward 11/Don Valley West, and as Chair of the Board, I am so proud of the work accomplished this past year.

One of the true joys of being your trustee is the opportunity to get into our schools and see first-hand the incredible work of our staff and their impact on the students who enter their schools each and every day. These visits provide me with insight into the dynamic and creative approaches to learning taking place in every school. From the newly established pollinator garden at Rolph Road, to Music Mondays at Dunlace, to the Marc Garneau culinary program cookbook production, I am constantly amazed by the imaginative and varied opportunities for learning and the partnership with community being cultivated in schools throughout our ward.

In addition to this local perspective, as Chair of the Board I had the opportunity to visit schools all over Toronto. Those experiences provided me with valuable insights into our system-wide challenges, which I was able to bring back to the Board and Staff as we worked through governance and other issues to create a system focussed on student well-being, achievement, and academic excellence.

This year our Board has concentrated on advocacy work, pushing for more support in areas of mental health and well-being, student nutrition and food insecurity, and education funding. We have had many successes, in particular increased supports for mental health and well-being, as well as a significant investment from the Federal Government for a National Food Program. The TDSB also launched a renewed and more focussed Multi Year Strategic Plan, which places the belonging of all students at its core and establishes eleven key performance indicators (KPI's) to ensure academic achievement and accountability. Our Board also led the way in policy reform that will restrict cell phone use in schools, raising the alarm about the negative impacts of social media platforms and cell phone addiction on young people. Going forward, the TDSB will start the 2024-2025 school year with a much stricter cell phone policy in effect, and I am extremely hopeful that this will have a profoundly positive effect on student mental health, well being, and achievement.

Until then, let's take a moment to savour the long days of summer. Before we know it, September will be upon us. I want to wish all of you in Don Valley West a happy, healthy, and joyous summer break, filled with rest, relaxation, and a whole lot of fun!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Chernos Lin".

Rachel  
Trustee, Chair of the Board  
Ward 11, Don Valley West  
[Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca)



# TRUSTEE RACHEL CHERNOS LIN



Trustee Chernos Lin  
and School Council Members

## Community Engagement: A Year in Review

As your local trustee, one of my favorite parts of the job revolves around community engagement. This comes in the form of school visits, but also more organized meetings, including:

### Coffee Mornings:

During the 2023/24 school year, I hosted five coffee mornings, alternating between virtual and in-person, upstairs at Longo's on Laird. Joined by our local superintendents, these are mornings of rich conversation about all things education, bringing parents, caregivers, community members and school council members from across the ward and beyond together for information-sharing, updates and more.

### Ward Forums:

These are more formal evening events with focused topics and TDSB staff, including local school staff, giving presentations. Events this year included The Multi Year Strategic Plan (October), Mathematics and Numeracy (February), and Literacy and the Right to Read (April).

**School Council Chairs Meetings:** March and May

## Multi Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)

The [Multi-Year Strategic Plan \(MYSP\)](#) *Inspiring Minds and Shaping Futures: Our Multi-Year Commitment to Student Success* sets direction and identifies system goals to support the TDSB's 238,000 students and 583 schools. With equity as its guiding principle, and our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation: Calls to Action, the MYSP will focus this work for the next four years (2024-28). Created in collaboration with stakeholders, the MYSP will serve as a roadmap towards realizing a collective vision for all students and staff, and reflect the varied perspectives, ideas, and goals of TDSB communities. The MYSP has 11 Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to ensure the focus remains on student success and academic achievement through deliverable, measurable outcomes. TDSB Trustees will use this roadmap to navigate the next 4 years in support of students, parents, staff, and communities.

## Coming soon: New Cell Phone Policy in effect September 2024

Trustees are responsible for the policies of school boards. From my perspective, the single most important policy reform we have made this year at the TDSB was the launch of a new policy on cell phone use in schools. During the winter, Trustee Sara Ehrhardt and I moved a motion calling on the TDSB to develop a Cell Phone/Mobile Device Use in Schools Policy, and work began in the winter. Over the years, and particularly post-pandemic, I heard increasing concerns from educators, parents and experts about cell phone and social media addiction and their negative impact on the mental health and academic success of young people. I am glad to see the Provincial and Federal governments beginning to act as well, and I am gratified that the Province followed our lead and set out guidelines for a consistent approach across all Ontario school boards. At the TDSB, we have been consulting this spring with local stakeholders, and our new board-wide policy will be in place when schools open in September 2024!

# TRUSTEE RACHEL CHERNOS LIN



TMU DAIS Panel

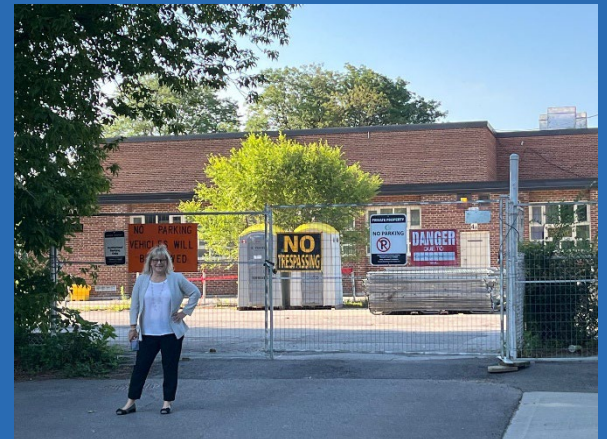
## Suing Social Media Giants

In late March, the TDSB and other Ontario boards launched a lawsuit against social media giants Meta, Snapchat and TikTok. In May, I participated in a [discussion at TMU](#) with Frances Haugen (Visiting Scholar at McGill and Facebook whistleblower) and Dr. Alexia Polillo (CAMH staff scientist). Moderated by Senior DAIS Fellow and Toronto Star Columnist, Martin Regg Cohn, we discussed the lawsuits by school boards against social media giants, where I highlighted the negative impact on students and the education sector. Social media companies need to be held accountable for the harms they have created and must change their addictive platforms to keep young people safe.

## School Renewal and Hodgson

Now that all permits are in place and retrofit work has been completed on the 1926 addition at Hodgson Sr. PS (this part of the building is remaining), demolition of the 1960s addition is underway, beginning with asbestos removal. Work will continue over the next two years and the doors of the newly-expanded Hodgson are expected to open to students in September 2026.

Construction and renewal work now happen year-round in our schools, but summer is by far our busiest time for repairs and renewal, as many of our buildings are unoccupied. In addition to the work at Hodgson, I am thrilled to report that 18 of our remaining 23 schools in DVW will undergo renewal and repair work! Projects include roof replacements, washroom renovations, painting, HVAC upgrades, and so much more!



Trustee Chernos Lin at Hodgson Sr. PS

## Community Safety & Support

If you should you ever see any suspicious activity around school buildings after school hours, please contact 311, Toronto Police Services Dispatch at 416-808-2222, or the TDSB's 24-hour Call Centre at 416-395-4620.

If you or a family member is in crisis, please contact Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868 or get support right now by texting CONNECT to 686868.

## Welcome Minister Todd Smith

On June 6, 2024, Premier Ford announced a cabinet shuffle that saw long-time Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, switch portfolios with Minister Todd Smith. I have written letters to both [outgoing Minister of Education Lecce, to wish him well in his new appointment](#) as Minister of Energy and Electrification, and [to Minister Smith, to congratulate him on his appointment](#) as the new Minister of Education, expressing how much I look forward to working with him and I have requested an introductory meeting. I am confident we will be able to build a strong relationship with the new Minister of Education and will continue our advocacy efforts in support of students and public education.





# 2024-2025 Information



Your School Trustee  
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Find Your School & School Superintendent:  
[www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/School)  
 Board Office at 416-397-3000 or [GeneralInquiries@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:GeneralInquiries@tdsb.on.ca)

PA Days & Holidays	Date
Labour Day	September 2, 2024
Elementary School PA Day	September 27, 2024
Board-wide PA Day	October 11, 2024
Thanksgiving	October 14, 2024
Board-wide PA Day	November 15, 2024
Board-wide PA Day	November 29, 2024
Winter Break	December 23, 2024 – January 3, 2025
Elementary School PA Day	January 17, 2025
Secondary School PA Day	January 30, 2025
Board-wide PA Day	February 14, 2025
Family Day	February 17, 2025
Mid-Winter Break	March 10 - 14, 2025
Good Friday	April 18, 2025
Easter Monday	April 21, 2025
Victoria Day	May 19, 2025
Elementary School PA Day	June 6, 2025
Secondary School PA Day	June 26, 2025
Secondary School PA Day	June 27, 2025

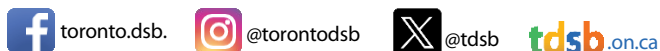
First day of classes for students is Tuesday, September 3, 2024  
 The last day of classes for elementary students is June 27, 2025.  
 The last day of classes for secondary students is June 25, 2025.

## Days of Significance

For more information, please visit

[www.tdsb.on.ca/schoolyearcalendar](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/schoolyearcalendar) [www.tdsb.on.ca/daysofsignificance](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/daysofsignificance)

## Follow the TDSB on Social Media



## Parent Concern Protocol

### STEP 1 - Classroom Teacher

If you have any questions or concerns, the first person to go to is your classroom teacher. The classroom teacher can help with:

- Any questions about the classroom
- Classroom rules and consequences
- Homework and assignments

### STEP 2 - School Principal

If you would like more information or you have questions that are beyond the classroom, the school principal can help.

- Concerns about an individual school
- Student registration
- Student schedules
- Student suspensions
- Report card concerns
- Classroom concerns
- Code of Conduct
- Safety and security
- Budget and fundraising
- School Council

### STEP 3 - School Superintendents

Superintendents are responsible for a Network of Schools. They support school staff and can be contacted if you have questions that have not been answered or for help with:

- Alternate attendance request
- Suspension appeals

### STEP 4 - Trustees

Trustees are your elected community officials. They are available to help you with the following areas of the TDSB:

- Concerns about your community
- Ideas and suggestions for the Board
- Items on Board Agenda
- Board policies under review
- Board budget
- Collective bargaining

## Board Office

You can contact the Board Office directly for any questions or concerns related to:

- Continuing Education
- Night and summer school
- Adult education
- ESL
- Board documents

Phone: 416-397-3000 • Email: [GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca](mailto:GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca)