



Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin

Chair • Trustee, Ward 11 • Don Valley West

Toronto District School Board

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Dear friends,

It is hard to believe another school year has come and gone! I hope this note finds all of you enjoying a fabulous start to summer.

For some recent updates and a look back on the year, please read my [summer newsletter](#) (pasted below -some of you may have also received a copy by now in the mail).

Also in this email, after the summer newsletter, you will find additional information, including the following: the TDSB's Summer Guide, Mental Health & Well-Being Resources, Grand Finale information of the Tour de Thorncliffe fundraiser, the TDSB Backpack & School Supplies Drive fundraiser, and Back-to-School information (such as the calendar of important dates and student transportation information).

And with that, I wish you all a safe, relaxing and fun-filled summer break!

~ Rachel

Rachel Chernos Lin, TDSB Chair and Trustee, Ward 11, Don Valley West

Rachel.ChernosLin@tdsb.on.ca



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 Ralph 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 (KPIs) 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,

Rachel Chernos Lin
 Rachel
 Trustee, Chair of the Board
 Ward 11, Don Valley West
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 (KPIs) 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 DWN 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: 1-800-688-6868 or get support right now by texting CONNECT to 688888.

Welcome Minister Todd Smith

On June 6, 2024, Premier Ford announced a cabinet shuffle that saw long-time Minister of Education, Stephen Lece, switch portfolios with Minister Todd Smith. I have written letters to both outgoing Minister of Education Lece, 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
 Board Office at 416-397-3000 or 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 20, 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 4, 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/schoolboardleader www.tdsb.on.ca/wardsignificance

Follow the TDSB on Social Media
[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/tdsbontario) [instagram](https://www.instagram.com/tdsbontario) [linkedin](https://www.linkedin.com/company/tdsb) [youtube](https://www.youtube.com/tdsb) [tdsb.on.ca](https://www.tdsb.on.ca)

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 schedule
- 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
- Board documents
- Night and summer school
- Adult education

Phone: 416-397-3000 • Email: GeneralInquiries@TDSB.on.ca

Index

- [Celebrating Good News](#)

Including:

- LINC-Overlea Community Services Unit Hosts First-Ever Open House,
- the 2024 TDSB Excellence Awards Winners, and
- two TDSB winners of the Prime Minister's Teaching Excellence Awards

- [2024 Tour de Thorncliffe TO \(Toronto\) Bike-a-Thon](#)
 - [Backpack and School Supplies Drive](#)
 - [Summer Well-Being Guide](#)
 - [\(More\) Mental Health Resources to Support Students and Families](#)
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- [2024-25 Student Transportation](#)
 - [School Year Calendar 2024-2025](#)
 - First day of School: Tuesday, September 3
 - [Steps to Address Your Questions and Concerns](#)
 - [Connect with your school\(s\) and the board](#)
-

Celebrating Good News

I encourage you to read about some of the recent events, initiatives, and great things happening across the Toronto District School Board, including:

- [LINC-Overlea Community Services Unit Hosts First-Ever Open House](#)
 - [TDSB Excellence Awards Winners 2024](#)
 - Combatting Hate and Racism
 - Delivering Operational Excellence
 - Driving Innovation
 - Enhancing Well-Being and Belonging
 - Student Achievement and Engagement
 - [Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and Teaching Excellence in STEM](#)
 - [TDSB's 2024 Innovation Challenge](#)
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2024 Tour de Thorncliffe TO (Toronto) Bike-a-Thon

I was happy to attend a 2024 Tour de Thorncliffe Bike-a-Thon event last weekend.

Please consider attending de Grand Finale event this Saturday, all in support of Thorncliffe Park Autism Support Network 2024 Inclusive Summer Camps!

- **Date:** Saturday, July 13



- **Time:** 10 am - 12 pm
- **Venue:** Parking spot between East York Town centre mall and Fraser Mustard Early Learning, 82 Thorncliffe Park Dr, East York, ON M4H 1K3

Program:

- 10 am - 10.20 am - breakfast with TPASN, meet your beneficiaries from inclusive camps and see their accomplishments
- 10.20 am - Welcome speech, John Paul Clemente, a youth Autism self-advocate
- 10.25 am - Partners feedback: Women's Cycling Network, Cycle Toronto
- 10.35 am - Celebratory part, politicians will announce the names of top fundraisers and collaborators, Cake cutting ceremony
- 10.45 am -11.00 am - Community Final Lap
- 11 am - 12 pm - raffle draw and entertaining

[Check out the Fundraising Page, and help get TPASN over the top raising more than \\$20,000!](#)

Backpack and School Supplies Drive



This year's Backpacks & School Supplies Drive will run from March 1, 2024 to the end of September 2024. Individual donors and companies can help our students by making a monetary donation and/or a donation of new backpacks and school supplies. Tax receipts are available for these donations. 100% of all proceeds and in-kind donations go to benefit our students.

Please note: Due to potential health & safety, hygiene, sorting and storage limitations, the TDSB can only accept new items.

For more information about how to donate new items, please contact the Business Development department at BusinessDevelopment@tdsb.on.ca.

[Read More](#)

Summer Well-Being Guide



The [2024 Summer Well-being Guide](#) is now available!

The guide has resources, community connections, events, and ideas for students and parents/guardians/caregivers to promote mental and physical wellness during the summer months. The resources are culturally responsive and include many for students with disabilities/special education needs.

[The Guide has been translated into the top 23 TDSB languages spoken and is accessible.](#)

(More) Mental Health Resources to Support Students and Families

I encourage you to look at a variety of helpful resources available from [School Mental Health Ontario](#).

Read about [Tips For Managing Test and Exam Stress](#), [Mental Health Activities for Home](#), and a series of supports related to navigating the transition from secondary school: [Parent/Caregiver Handout](#), [Student Balanced Thought Journal](#), and [Personal Stress Management Plan](#).

2024-25 Student Transportation

The [Toronto Student Transportation Group](#) will once again implement a phased-in start for the new school year.



Starting **Tuesday, September 3**, transportation will begin for students with special education needs (excluding those in the gifted program) who travel to school on minibuses, minivans, taxis and wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

Bussing for all other eligible students will begin on **Monday, September 9**, pending driver availability.

Parents/guardians/caregivers with children who take the bus to school are encouraged to sign up for the [Student Transportation Parent Portal](#) to access important information and updates.

Note: You must register for the portal with the email address on file at your child's school.

Contact support@torontoschoolbus.org for any issues with the registration process.

School Year Calendar 2024-2025



Mark your calendars! The first day of school for the 2024-2025 School Year is Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

[The School Year Calendar for the upcoming year is available now](#)

- [Elementary Calendar](#)
- [Secondary Calendar - Semestered](#)

KEY DATES - SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2024-2025

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, inclusive

Professional Activity Days	September	October	November	January	February	June
Elementary Schools	27	11	15, 29	17	14	6
Secondary Schools		11	15, 29	30	14	26, 27

Designation of Professional Activity Days	
Elementary	Secondary
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. September 27, 2024 – Professional Development 2. October 11, 2024 – Professional Development 3. November 15, 2024 – Parent Teacher Conferences 4. November 29, 2024 – Professional Development 5. January 17, 2025 – Assessment and Reporting 6. February 14, 2025 – Parent Teacher Conferences 7. June 6, 2025 – Assessment and Reporting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. October 11, 2024 – Professional Development 2. November 15, 2024 - Professional Development 3. November 29, 2024 - Professional Development 4. January 30, 2025 - Professional Development 5. February 14, 2025 - Professional Development 6. June 26, 2025 - Professional Development 7. June 27, 2025 - Professional Development

EQAO: - The following dates have been established:

Gr. 9 Math: TBD
Gr. 9 Math: TBD

OSSLT: TBD
Primary/Junior EQAO: TBD

Dates to Remember - School Year Holidays (as per Ministry of Education)	
Labour Day:	September 2, 2024
Thanksgiving:	October 14, 2024
Winter Break:	December 23, 2024 – January 3, 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

Steps to Address Your Questions and Concerns

Here at the TDSB, we are always open to hearing your questions and concerns and make every effort to address them as quickly as possible. Your child's classroom teacher is the first point of contact, followed by the school's principal, the school superintendent, and me, your Trustee!

[Read on the website for more information](#)

Stay Connected with your school and the board

Upcoming Meetings

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024. For a list of upcoming meetings, including many about the Budget, please click on the [meeting schedule](#) and/or the [calendar](#) on the main webpage of www.tdsb.on.ca. Board and Committee Meetings can be [watched online](#).

Follow the TDSB

Join the conversations happening on TDSB's social media communities. You'll find the most up-to-date information about us on our Twitter ([@TDSB](#)), Facebook ([@toronto.dsb](#)), Instagram ([@Torontodsb](#)), and Threads ([@Torontodsb](#)) accounts

If you notice anything at a school that concerns you, please call the TDSB 24-hour Call Centre (416) 395-4620, Toronto Police Services Dispatch (non-emergencies via 416-808-2222), and/or Toronto 311.

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.





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