

# Trustee Anu Sriskandarajah



## *Welcome Back to School!*

I hope you and your family had an enjoyable and safe summer. As we embark on a new school year, I am filled with anticipation and excitement for the opportunities and growth that lie ahead for TDSB students and communities.

As the elected public school board trustee for our community, my role is to advocate for you and your child and represent the needs of students and families in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). I am proud of the progress we have made in strengthening student achievement, fostering a sense of belonging, and spreading joy throughout our schools and community. There still remains work to be done.

This past school year, we tackled several critical issues, including cell phone use in schools, social media, and academic achievement. These initiatives are at the heart of our commitment to creating productive and supportive learning environments for all students.

Despite the financial challenges we've faced in recent years, we continue to maintain important supports for students while advocating for the Ministry to provide the necessary and sustainable support and adjustments for the TDSB to deliver the highest quality education. For more details about our efforts and the key issues we have highlighted, [please review our advocacy letters available on our public webpage](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/ViewAllArticles/mid/43824). <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/home/ctl/ViewAllArticles/mid/43824>

We will be ready to welcome students back for the first day of the 2024-25 school year on September 3, 2024. I am here to support you, to ensure a successful and rewarding educational journey for your child.

Thank you,



# Trustee Anu Sriskandarajah



## Chair of Director Search

It is my great pleasure to share that I have been selected to be the chair of the director search committee for the Board. It was announced in the Spring that our current director has submitted her resignation. We are currently undertaking the process of hiring a new director.

Fun Fact! The Board of Trustees under the Education Act only hires one employee, the Director of Education. The Director of Education is the most senior position in the Board, akin to a CEO in the private sector. The Director of Education oversees a \$3.5 billion budget, 42,000 employees, and 583 schools! Directors are typically hired every 5 years.

## New Program at Mowat CI!

I am proud to share that Mowat CI will be getting a Math, Science, and Technology (MST) Program starting this September. There are only 20 high schools (out of almost 110) across the TDSB to have the program and we are very fortunate to be one of the schools.

As a part of the program students will be required to take 7 mandatory courses. Upon completion of the courses students will receive a MST certification at graduation.



## Toronto Board of Public Health - Education Representative

As the TDSB education representative on the Toronto Board of Public Health, I served on the Toronto Public Health's Strategic Plan 2024 to 2028 Development subcommittee. In this capacity I was able to inform the strategic plan for the next 4 years. I encourage you all to take a look at the strategic plan.

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/accountability-operations-customer-service/long-term-vision-plans-and-strategies/toronto-public-health-strategic-plan/>



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## AI and the TDSB

In June the Board of Trustees passed a motion asking the Director of Education to explore the implications of AI on the Board and report back to the trustees during the upcoming school year.

Some of the key asks include:

- implications of AI on student well-being and achievement
- anticipated benefits to AI use by school boards, educators and students
- implications for board policies and procedures
- early perspectives on the emergence of AI as relates to:
  - connection to curriculum
  - privacy, data and security
  - personal safety

## Financial Literacy Curriculum

In June the Board of Trustees passed a motion asking the Director of Education to review the current financial literacy implementations within the curriculum.

Key asks of the motion included:

- re-evaluate the existing financial literacy learning modules currently available across all grades to understand their current utilization and effectiveness
- more actively promote and utilize existing financial literacy resources
- present a report to by fall 2024 on methods to enhance the visibility and usage of existing educational resources, including textbooks, online materials and interactive tools, to broaden financial literacy education across all grades



## Climate Action at the TDSB

In 2021, the Board established a goal of net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.

Some of our initiatives so far include:

- Approval for the design and construction of Ontario's first mass timber school right here in Scarborough!
- A 10% reduction in electricity consumption across 40 schools between April and September 2023, for a savings of \$142,763 and a reduction of 892,268 kWh of electricity; equal to the annual consumption of 94 average Ontario households
- TDSB educators were offered diverse professional learning opportunities for teaching about climate and the environment
- Launch of Youth Climate Action Grant program in 2021/22



# 2024-2025 Information



Your School Trustee  
**Anu Sriskandarajah**  
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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

### Classroom Teacher

#### STEP ONE

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

### School Principal

#### STEP TWO

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

### School Superintendents

#### STEP THREE

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

### Trustees

#### STEP FOUR

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)