

Trustee Update

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Happy December

I can't believe it is almost the end of 2022. This for me was one of those years that simply flew by and suddenly it's almost the time for the year end holidays. I hope everyone will have a fantastic season of celebrations, get a ton of rest, enjoy time with your loved ones, stay warm and healthy, and I look forward to seeing you next year when I visit all the school council meetings.

James

Ward Forum Presentation Deck

Thank you to everyone who joined our Ward Forum on Giftedness and Special Education on November 24, 2022. We had a great turn out and an even better discussion with Centrally Assigned Principal and our leading special education expert Susan Moulton. As promised, please see the link below to the presentation deck that was reviewed at the meeting. [Please note that the link will take you to my personal external website as it is the only way for me to upload the file].

[Ward 13 Forum Presentation Deck on Giftness and Special Education - Nov 24 2022](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Program Area Review Impacting Woodbine MS, Crestview PS,
Bavview MS, Avondale PS**

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A process has begun to review school boundaries and programming locations to address changes required at four schools (three in Ward 13) due to growing density within the North York Community. To complete this process, a Program Area Review Team (PART) including TDSB Staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, and Trustees will be formed to provide feedback on the proposed options and discuss alternatives.

Issues Under Review

Issue 1: Reduce enrollment pressures at Avondale PS due to growth in local student population.

Issue 2: Reduce travel distance for middle school students residing in residential buildings along Sheppard Ave E between Bayview Ave and Leslie St. Students are currently redirected to Woodbine MS with a travel distance of up to 4.5KM.

Proposed Solutions

Issue 1 Solution: Permanently relocate Avondale Alternative School (JK - 8) to Bayview Middle school.

Issue 2 Solution: End all redirections to Woodbine MS for grade 6 - 8 students residing in the review area. Students will be able to attend Bayview Middle School, which is within walking distance to much of the community. Option to attend Woodbine MS will continue to be available through the Out of Area Admissions process until Woodbine MS becomes full.

Links to Additional Information

[What is a Program Area Review?](#)

[Official Community Notice Letter](#)

[Program Area Review Information Portal](#)



New PIAC Representatives

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On Nov 24, 2022, we elected two brand new PIAC Representatives to represent the parents of Don Valley North (Ward 13) at the TDSB's Parents Involvement Advisory Committee. **Jenny (Jiafen) Zeng** and **Janet (Jun) Zheng** received the most votes from the election and have been confirmed by PIAC as our new Ward 13 Representatives. Going forward, they will be working as a team to enhance parent engagement, support school councils, relay important information, and provide consultation to the board with parent voice. Warmest welcome to both Jenny and Janet to the team!

Below are Jenny and Janet's email addresses that you may use to connect with them if required.

Jenny Zeng: jenny.zeng@tdsb.on.ca

Janet Zheng: janet.zheng@tdsb.on.ca

I would like to send my most sincere appreciations to our retiring PIAC Representative **Aretha Philip**, who had served as our Ward 13 Rep for the past five years. During Aretha's tenure, she had represented our ward to advocate for adequate funding and resourcing in our classrooms, voicing concerns from our parents on various policy consultations, pushing for safety in our schools during the pandemic, and making sure that the TDSB stay true to its Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Aretha has been a partner, ally, mentor, and a friend who has helped me become a better Trustee over my term of service, and I am fortunate to have had her support. Thank you Aretha and I wish you all the best in all your future adventures!



Out of Area Admissions

TDSB students have the opportunity to access schools outside of the school that is designated to serve their home address by applying for Out-of-Area Admissions. Acceptance at these schools is subject to space availability and program suitability.

Each year in November, schools are classified Out-of-Area Admissions based on the space they have available for the upcoming school year.

[More Information on Out-Of-Area Admissions and the status of schools](#)

Elementary Out of Area Admissions – Key Dates:

Application: January 9, 2023 - February 10, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Round 1: Families to be informed of the status of the application Wednesday, March 8, 2023; Families must confirm acceptance of the offer by Tuesday, March 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Round 2: Families to be informed of the status of the application Wednesday March 22, 2023; Families must confirm acceptance of the offer by Tuesday, March 28 at 4:00 p.m.

Secondary Out of Area Admissions – Key Dates:

Application: January 9, 2023 - January 27, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Round 1: Families to be informed of the status of the application Wednesday, February 8, 2023; Families must confirm acceptance of the offer by Tuesday, February 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Round 2: Families to be informed of the status of the application Wednesday February 15, 2023 Families must confirm acceptance of the offer by Tuesday, February 21 at 4:00 p.m.

Final Round: Families to be informed of the final status of the application request Wednesday February 22, 2023; Families must confirm acceptance of the offer by Friday, February 24 at 4:00 p.m.

TDSB Students must finalize their acceptance by completing and submitting the corresponding course selection for the accepted school in myBlueprint no later than Monday, February 27, 2023.

Middle French Immersion Application Process

The entry point to the Middle French Immersion program for September 2023 is Grade 4. The online application process for Middle French Immersion will take place between January 9 and February 3, 2023. An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants. Families with an older sibling currently enrolled in a French program and who will be in attendance next year are still required to complete an online application for the new student. Please select the “sibling option” within the online application.

Visit the TDSB website for more information about [Middle French Immersion](#), [Virtual & In-Person Information Sessions](#) or the [Application Process](#).

Addressing School Safety

The TDSB is committed to schools that are caring, safe, welcoming, and

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families, and community members and the TDSB will continue to invest resources in school safety. The Board is taking a number of different steps to improve school safety across the Board including the hiring of additional staff to better support students, staff and school communities, creating a Safe Schools Audit Team to work with schools on safety issues, and forming an Expert Table Reference Group related to school and community safety with representation from recognized service providers across the City (e.g. The Centre for Mental Health and Addiction, Toronto Public Health, City of Toronto) and include students, parents, Trustees, staff, and faith-based groups.

[Learn more about what the TDSB is doing to make schools safer.](#)

Policy Consultations

We would like to know your thoughts about our policy decisions by inviting you to our policy consultations. Please click on the policy of your interest to see the current draft. You are welcome to provide your comments, including suggestions on the wording and provisions of the draft policies, questions or recommendations using the contact information below.

Sexual Misconduct Policy - To prevent sexual misconduct from taking place and to investigate and respond to incidents and complaints of such behavior in an accountable, timely and effective manner.

Accessibility Policy (P069) - To establish the framework for the Board's compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation; and to demonstrate the Board's commitment in actively removing barriers and increasing accessibility and participation for all members of its community and maintain compliance through this Policy.

[Get more Information and participate in the consultations](#)

Mental Health and Well Being

The TDSB's Professional Support Staff (PSS) are here to help with anything you need to support your mental health and well-being and to help you navigate the tools and resources you may need. During these times it is especially important. Please note the staff holds regular virtual office drop-in sessions. [More Information](#)

Kids Help Phone is available 24/7 for ages 5-29 for anonymous care from professional counsellors. Call 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868

Input from over 2,400 students across Ontario indicated that students want greater access to tools & resources to support their mental health, cope with

stress and navigate peer support safely. [School Mental Health Ontario has this latest report online in addition to many resources.](#)



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