

Trustee Update

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Dear Neighbours,

Around the globe we are seeing an increased trend towards extremist positions of far right and far left ideologies, taking precedence over the immediate now and the impending tomorrow. As the world around us is growing more and more fractured, we are steadfast in our commitment to fighting for better schools that promote knowledge and critical thinking through progressive public education. We are advocating for a richer learning environment and a healthier future for our students, teachers, and community members.

Ministry Funding Cuts and Changes

There have been some significant changes and cuts relevant to the 2019-2020 public school budget. As members of the community, we want to inform you of these significant changes, while also providing support and resources in light of them. The ministry grant reductions have posed potential difficulties for our Board, teachers, and students, with the following changes being instituted:

- Class sizes will increase in grades 4-8, which will result in 216 fewer elementary school teachers, and in grades 9-12, resulting in 800 fewer high school teachers, over the next four years. No current changes to kindergarten and primary (grades 1-3) class size or requirements.
- It has been stated that 4 of the 30 credits required by secondary students to obtain their OSSD will take place in an e-learning environment.
- There will be a funding reduction for early childhood educators, with no specific parameters of how this may affect student development and curriculum.
- These vital jobs are considered part of the flexible allocations for the Board's new budget breakdown: vice-principals (elementary, secondary), education assistants, special education support staff, food program assistants, caretakers, and school-based safety monitors. However, we are being told that the overall supports in special education will remain constant.
- There will be a renewed emphasis on the importance of skilled trades and a new, four-year math strategy will be a priority in the curriculum of the coming years, both important notices that we agree are necessary to ensure our students are best prepared for the world around them.

These re-allocations will severely impact the learning curriculum and nurturing environment of our classrooms, having a negative impact on our teachers, students, and parents. We will be working hard in the coming months to continue fighting for the betterment of our students.

We must remind ourselves that our classrooms and schools are in dire need of our support. We must ensure that we are providing the very best education we can to our students. However small the changes might seem, the value lost in these cuts is immense.

I urge our provincial government and Ministry of Education to understand these budgetary cuts set a dangerous precedent for the future of the Toronto public school system. We must reframe our sense of value and come to understand where we need to allocate our resources and who is most in need in order to move towards safer, healthier, and smarter schools.

To find out more about the upcoming changes with the 2019-2020 budget go to <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/2019-20-Budget>

New Zealand Shooting

I want to acknowledge the horrible tragedy of violence and intolerance affecting the Islamic community in New Zealand. I was shocked and saddened to learn of the violent acts that occurred on March 15, 2019, at two different mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. The news has rocked our community to its core and has served as another reminder that we need to ensure safer and more tolerant streets and public spaces. This tragedy gives us a very real perspective of what can happen when growing ideological unrest and violence are met with readily accessible firearms.

My thoughts and best wishes are with the victims of the horrible tragedy, as well as their families and supporting community members. We must be vocal in our stand against violence and continue to encourage an inclusive, safe, and respectful environment for our community.

Throughout my time as a Trustee and Vice Chair, overseeing Ward 10, Toronto Centre and University Rosedale, I have been a staunch supporter of inclusive and tolerance-supporting platforms. Now more than ever is a time when we must stand up and fight for the safety of our schools and neighbourhoods, advocating for those who need more representation within our diverse Toronto community. We continue to remain committed to supporting students, staff, and community members feeling vulnerable in the wake of these attacks.

It is important to have open and honest dialogues within the classroom setting. These thoughtful discussions can turn difficult moments into opportunities for students to voice their opinions and think critically about the world around them. The TDSB has put out an aid to help us speak with students about tragic world events such as the Christchurch shooting.

To find out more about how to deal with these events in the classroom, go to <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Professional-Support-Services/Speaking-with-Students-About-Tragic-Events>

What's Next?

Although we are disheartened by the upcoming changes and tragedies we are committed to bettering our classrooms and our communities. I will continue to advocate with hope and compassion for our students, parents, and teachers.

I plan on building a healthy infrastructure for the community, as we all push through these difficult times and look towards the positive future that we are building together.

Stay tuned for more info at my [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) page.

Sincerely,

Chris Moise



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