

## Ward 15 Forum

Monday February 6, 2023 6:30-8:00 pm

Via Zoom

- Meeting called to order at 6:38 pm

### Agenda

- Trustee Sara Ehrhardt reviewed the agenda
  - Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
  - Introductions
  - Guest Speaker: Jack Nigro, Executive Superintendent Learning Centre 4
  - Ward 15 Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Ward Representative Elections
  - Trustee's Update
  - Q & A
- [Land Acknowledgement](#)
  - With it being [Black History/African Heritage Month](#) Trustee Ehrhardt is providing a resource to explore Black Indigenous identities: [CBC Unreserved: Navigating the Complexities of Black Indigenous Identity](#)
- Introductions
  - Ward 15's three Superintendents: Mary Linton, Belinda Longe, Nadira Persaud
  - Executive Superintendent Learning Centre 4, Jack Nigro
  - Indigenous Student Trustee, Isaiah Shafqat

### Student Trustee Isaiah Shafqat - Introduction

- Isaiah has served as the Indigenous Student Trustee for the past three years. He/They is a grade 12 student in Ward 15
- As Student Trustee Isaiah sits on the Board of Trustees and indigenous student voice to the board room
- The [Student Trustees](#) represent 235,000 students in the TDSB. Student Trustees are elected every year and are grade 11 & 12 students. They attend [Board Committee Meetings](#), [Student Senate](#), Ward Forums and [Community Advisory Committees](#).

## Guest Speaker: Executive Superintendent Jack Nigro

- Parent involvement is crucial to student success and it is great to see so many out to Ward Forums
- Jack Nigro is the Executive Superintendent for [Learning Centre 4 \(LC4\)](#), 155 Schools, 63,000 students, 8 Learning Networks (LN) and [6 Wards \(3,7,9,10,15,16\)](#).
- Superintendents are Senior Staff who ensure the smooth operations of schools on a daily basis and their role differs from that of a [Trustee](#).
- The role of the Trustee is to develop policy for the Board. The Superintendents develop the procedures to implement the policy.
- [Steps to Address Questions and Concerns at the TDSB](#)
- [Addressing school and community safety](#)
- [Tutoring Support for Students](#)
- Just approved by the Board; a plan to introduce a [Grade 11 Contemporary Indigenous Voices course](#) to each of our schools. [Ministry of Education Course Curriculum](#).

### Q & A

- What is being done to promote mental health and pandemic recovery in schools?
  - Superintendent Nadira Persaud
    - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Mental-Health-and-Well-Being-Professional-Support-Staff-PSS/Mental-Health-Toolkits-and-Choice-Boards>
    - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Mental-Health-and-Well-Being-Professional-Support-Staff-PSS/MHWP-Single-Slide-Resources-for-All-Grades-2022-23>
    - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Supporting-You/Mental-Health-and-Well-Being-Professional-Support-Staff-PSS/Student-Resources>
  - Principal Sarah Kurita - McGregor
    - Providing Sensory Pathways and Spaces. Sensory items in offices and classrooms
- What is being done to manage illness in schools?
  - Executive Superintendent Jack Nigro
    - [Following Toronto Public Health \(TPH\) Guidelines](#)
- Why aren't teachers wearing masks in schools?
  - See <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2022-2023/Health-and-Safety#:~:text=While%20the%20Ministry%20of%20Education,especially%20in%20indoor%20public%20settings>. The TDSB continues to be a mask-friendly environment inclusive of all staff and students. While the Ministry of Education and public health officials are not mandating the use of masks, Toronto Public Health strongly recommends wearing a well-fitting, high quality mask, especially in indoor public settings. The TDSB will continue to provide medical masks to students who want to wear one.

## Ward 15 Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Elections

- Ward 15 needs two Co-Representatives for PIAC
  - [PIAC](#) is a Ministry Mandated Committee that advises the Board on [Parent/Community Involvement](#).
  - There are 3 Nominations for 2 positions as Co-Representative for Ward 15: Mohammad Jamal Yousuf, Jennifer Volk and Valerie Politis.
    - Each candidate was given 5 minutes to introduce themselves.
  - Ballots were emailed through ElectionBuddy at 7:15 pm to registered voters and the election closed at 8:00 pm
  - The election resulted in a 3-way tie and the PIAC membership committee is being consulted to determine how to break the tie.
    - It is noted that a parent participant (Frankland/RCI) was present at the meeting but not registered to vote. The parent was unaware of the voter registration process and requested that it be noted that a ballot would have been cast for Nominee Valerie Politis.
- ★ A tie breaker draw was held on Wednesday Feb 15, 2023 via Zoom. Hosted by Trustee Sara Ehrhardt and witnessed by; PIAC Representative Janice Barnett, Shared Service Liaison Christy Heath and the three nominees, Mohammad Jamal Yousuf, Jennifer Volk and Valerie Politis.
- Mohammad Jamal Yousuf and Jennifer Volk will be the Co-Representatives for Ward 15 PIAC.

## Trustee Report: Trustee Sara Ehrhardt

- We have had a very tumultuous time in schools since the fall
  - Threat of Ontario wide general strike
  - Triple threat of respiratory illness
  - Changes to public health measures
  - Unprecedented absenteeism in schools
  - Mental health crisis
  - And violence in the schools
- Recent Motions to the Board
  - [Grade 11 Contemporary Indigenous Voices course](#) to each of our schools. [Ministry of Education Course Curriculum](#)
  - To take part in [Federal](#), [Provincial](#) and [Municipal Budget Consultations](#).
- Government of Ontario will not provide [tutoring](#) beyond March
- Wilkinson School will have a Nature and Climate Expo Saturday May 4 from 11 -2 [danforthclimateaction@gmail.com](mailto:danforthclimateaction@gmail.com)
- Please reach out [sara.ehrhardt@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sara.ehrhardt@tdsb.on.ca) [www.tdsb.on.ca/ward15/](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward15/) [Sign up for my Newsletter](#).

