

City of London (Wards 1, 11, 12 & 14): Municipal Election – October 22nd 2018 Survey Results (*denotes incumbent)

Candidate Name	School Closure	One Public System	School Violence
Christine Morgan	<p>“Having worked at Saunders S.S. for thirty years, I have been colleagues overwhelmed by workloads, and students suffer from decreased attention. Smaller schools provide better opportunities for building relationships with students resulting in higher scholastic outcomes. Given the history of some school closures, only to build newer mega schools, or to bus students further from home, is a waste of valuable funds, which could be better spent on programming. Given the opportunity I will be supporting the Continual operations of community schools. Although programming for students is scheduled during daytime hours, there is still time for building use through community activities. Having a retired educator within the Trustee compliment can only be a supportive position for OSSTF.”</p>	<p>“There currently is so much duplication between both Boards. Within the Public Board, there are a host of elective courses to complete OSSD requirements. That leaves room for separate school board students to attend public classes and enhance their spiritual education in the same facility. There already exists unique classes for First Nations students where apart from curriculum requirements, they are taught pertinent materials for their own development. Considering the number of students will be consistent, all staff needs will be maintained. The savings from decreased duplication then becomes available for greater programming for students and opportunities for reduction in student teacher ratios.”</p>	<p>“Having been assaulted three times in the course of thirty years. I have a personal desire to minimize these occurrences. Every staff should be informed of students who may exhibit aggressive tendencies. Transparency is a legal necessity. When Trustees create policies that inhibit communication, their fiduciary responsibilities suffer. There exists some dead zones within the Education Centre, where concerns vanish. These vortexes need to be addressed. When such blockades occur, then I believe that the message needs to be sent to the top, where it has a greater result when hammering down to clear out dead centers, while resolving classroom issues.”</p>
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
	<p>“Within the individual student plans are assessments of student needs. Each staff supporting these students should have access to these notes, as well as contact with other support staff that can give advice to support your student within their abilities. Dependent on the student’s</p>	<p>“Private educational institutions suck the financial blood from the public domain, and as previously suggested provide facility duplications. There isn't any reason why unique programming offered in such private facilities can't also be offered in a public setting.”</p>	<p>“Now retired, I have taken the opportunity to volunteer in our community within numerous Not For Profits, as an active member on their executive boards. This has given me greater understanding in Board responsibilities. Combining my experience within the TVDSB family, I feel my best contribution can be continued</p>

<p>Christine Morgan</p>	<p>abilities, the best course of action may be for removal of such students. While being concerned with an individual’s growth; there are many more students under the Educator’s responsibility. Safety for the majority takes priority. This assessment is based on multiple input from all concerned staff. A student who may exhibit balanced behavior in one situation may lose that stability in another. Here the need for transparency is vital. I would be remiss in ignoring violent behavior between students. Many escalations occur when administrators are ill prepared, and lack the ability to support classroom educators. There should always be a backup plan, supported by administration. Each educator should never reach their breaking point.; but have external support staff to remove volatile students to a neutral location.”</p>		<p>helping our younger generation prepare for the future, while providing a safe environment for staff and students. Neighbourhood Watch, London (2010 – present), governance chair Tecumseh Community School (2014 - present),secretary London Power & Sail Squadron (2017 – present), secretary Jet Aircraft Museum (2016 – present), educational staff (2015 – present), governance chair NDP, London West Federal executive (2014 – present), secretary Addiction Services of Thames Valley (2015 – 17) governance Committee. As you may perceive, I continue to be involved in my community. I don’t subscribe to Twitter, or Facebook; but you may be aware of my letters to the editor.”</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">School Closures</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">One Public System</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">School Violence</p>
<p>Lori-Ann Pizzolato</p>	<p>“I have personal experience with the threat of school closure. The elementary school that my children attend was being considered for closure and went through the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) Process. It was a deeply emotional and frustrating experience for our school community. I would prefer not to close schools. I think schools – no matter how big or small – bring value and pride to the neighbourhood in which they reside. However, I am not oblivious to the fact that there is not enough funding to sustain all the schools and</p>	<p>“I believe in a One Public System. I was raised an Italian Catholic. I went to Catholic schools. My children have been baptized Catholic and attend public schools. I have experienced the Catholic and public side of education and I believe it is time for a thorough review of education funding in Ontario. A report by the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (March 2012) suggests the savings for Ontario from funding one public education system could range between \$1.3 billion and \$1.6 billion. A One Public System is an inclusive system and, with parent and community engagement, can provide for the needs of all students.”</p>	<p>“I hesitate to comment on streamlining a process when I do not currently know what the reporting process entails. My understanding is the process was held up by IT infrastructure. Currently, staff must access many sites to obtain full student information. I would like to see TVDSB consider using one system where an authorized staff member can review a student’s record – including marks, issues, resolutions to the issues, next steps, etc. This is a system similar to what many hospitals use to for more through continuance and professional communication. I believe there should be zero tolerance of violence and racism. I believe student violence is a</p>

	<p>maintain our high standard of programming. I do, however, feel high schools differ from elementary schools in regards to closure. High schools have the capability of marketing great programs that would increase student enrollment. A couple of years ago, I attended a Trustee Forum where the community was able to voice their ideas. One parent, a teacher, suggested high schools could partner and share programming. I feel encouraged to look into that insightful comment further. Throughout my personal experience of a threatened school closure, there were several key components that, I felt, would assist throughout the ARC process: The social and emotional impacts of school closures need to be considered and supported; a decision of closure cannot be made quickly or without consultation from all the different stakeholders; the community needs to be heard and their feedback considered along with stakeholder input; every community and school is different; there needs to be a long term vision of the area included in the closure plans; closures can bring both positive and negative outcomes but if the community is included on every step of the process through continuous communication with complete transparency, the community and its leaders are empowered.”</p>		<p>systemic issue and one that urgently needs to be addressed. Whether I am elected or not, I am committed to becoming involved with this initiative as I am passionate about Safe Schools.”</p>
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	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
Lori-Ann Pizzolato	<p>“As a parent of a child with social-emotional challenges, I know there is a need for more resources within the school system – for students, staff and parents. Typically, when a student has a challenging incident, their teacher is the first responder. Therefore, advanced training for teachers to deal with such episodes is important – but so is the ability for those teachers to call the main office and have a mental health professional available to continue and follow-up with the student. For several years I have been advocating for the increase of specialized support workers within the school. In addition, I am a member of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations (OFHSA) where we also advocate for increased support workers within schools. OFHSA would also like to see a full-time psychologist in every school – three part-time social workers in a school of 2400 kids, for example, is not enough. Currently, it takes the average TVDSB student 14 days to receive a referral to a social worker! It is imperative to connect with our government officials (local and beyond) to ensure there are adequate resources and supports within the community so staff are able to direct families for further and ongoing assistance. It would be a significant benefit to partner with professional offices located within school neighbourhoods to work together in supporting children within the community.”</p>	<p>“Education, for every child, should be inclusive and without financial barriers. I believe that the role of the education system is to educate, enrich and provide students with the tools to become productive individuals within society. The Ontario government cannot continue to starve boards forcing services to be contracted out.”</p>	<p>“For the last 10 years, I have been a community advocate for public education. I sincerely enjoy what I do. I am honest, empathetic, transparent, curious and I sincerely enjoy my volunteer work with school councils and the Thames Valley Home and School Council. I am ready to take my work within the school system to the next level and learn from the broader community. After a decade, my passion has only intensified and it would be an honour to serve the parents and students within Wards 1, 11, 12 and 14.”</p>

	School Closures	One Public System	School Violence
Sherri Polhill*	<p>“Thames Valley was to propose a Board wide review of the secondary school prior to the Moratorium. I was in support of this review not because I believe necessarily that we should be closing schools. I supported this because I think we can do better in how we serve our secondary students. The rethink Secondary document makes me excited about the innovation and the programing that we can bring to students. Some of the components of the Rethink Secondary require the school review to happen. Some components are moving forward regardless. How this review would move forward is mandated by the Province for the most part. For this review it is going to require significant organization between Administration, Staff, Unions and Parents/Community. I see my role in this review as one of an observer so that I can get the information from all parties and bring those views to the board and to reflect my community’s needs best.”</p>	<p>“I don’t think it is as easy as stating I am in favor of it or not. I think it depends on what it would look like to our Board and what the Ministry’s roll out plan would look like. My priorities around this topic would be 1) to make sure our staff are secure and that no one would be losing jobs based on a merging of the systems and that our current contracts would remain untouched or would be benefited by the merge 2) that our Board Priorities remain the focus and we do not lose sight of them and 3) that the TVDSB students continue to be served at the current level or higher. If any of the above 3 priorities would be in jeopardy then I would 100% not be in favor of a merge. My focus remains on the students and staff of TVDSB and what is in their best interests.”</p>	<p>“I think the current process is good however it doesn’t serve the needs of students and teachers in an ever increasing violent society. I feel the process should have exclusions that allow for removal of the unsafe person or situation. I feel increasing relationships with our local police departments and liaison with them to determine what appropriate steps would be beneficial. I also feel that it is important for the Board to continue funding technology that supports security cameras etc in the public areas of our schools. I’m not exactly sure that a new process should look like but I do know that a constant review of the needs of our community is needed so that we can adjust the process as the community changes. Most importantly it is necessary to ensure that our staff has the process they need to feel safe in our schools and to ensure that they are comfortable in the measures needed to keep our students safe from whatever threat may arise.”</p>
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
Sherri Polhill*	<p>“As in the past I would continue to be a loud voice at the board table for Mental Health initiatives and funding. With a child with mental health concerns myself I am well aware of the strain this puts on families and how essential the supports of the school can be in making a</p>	<p>“I do not agree nor support privatization. I think it is important to make sure that the people working for you are in fact your staff. I feel it is important to have contracts with those staff so that they are secure in their employment and are receiving the benefits offered by TVDSB.”</p>	<p>“Initially I would say that I ran for trustee years ago because of the Watson report and the threat of so many school closures. But the more years I serve on the Board the more invested I become. The stronger my voice gets and the more important serving TVDSB staff and students becomes. This time I feel like my work isn’t</p>

	<p>difference for a child. We have in the past but the board should continue to petition the Ministry for more funding for Mental Health as this budget item is always underfunded. I think that we should continue to move towards allocating additional staff to specifically support the mental health of our students. We need resources that are not just for when the student is in crisis but to support the student when they are doing well so that crisis can be averted. It is important to create an open dialogue and ensure students know that being proactive about mental health is important. I support Wellness Wednesday activities but I think it needs to be every day and all day. Additionally there should be training offered to all teachers so that they can properly address students at any stage of the mental wellness continuum and I would actively support funding for this training.”</p>		<p>done. I want to see Summerside school to the finish as I worked very hard to advocate for those students and to see that school being built as a Trustee would be a great achievement. I also feel an obligation to be back at the board table if the Moratorium is lifted so that there is a voice at that time that hasn’t always supported the closure of small rural schools.”</p>
	<p>School Closures</p>	<p>One Public System</p>	<p>School Violence</p>
<p>David Smith</p>	<p>“Community participation is of critical importance when discussing school closures. School boards should take into consideration various factors when deciding on the closure of a school. Schools, for many (rural areas, for example) continue to be the hub of the community. Economic viability for many communities is directly correlated to the existence of a school. Because of this, I support a recommendation that municipalities should expand their financial contributions to schools.</p>	<p>“Given the fiscal reality pertaining to public education, I support investigating further the feasibility of merging multi faith-based education systems (catholic and public boards). If there’s substantial realized savings and synergies created by one public secular education system in each official language, and the savings are reinvested back in to the education system, it’s an option worth exploring further.”</p>	<p>“Ensuring our schools are a safe space for students, teachers, our community and visitors is of paramount concern. While it’s the school’s responsibility to respond to and report threats of violence and follow-up, it should be the Board’s responsibility to ensure policy is in place to help support schools. The process for following up violent or potential violent incidents should be documented at each school. A clear reporting policy and procedure (including a safety plan) should be documented for staff to reference. Depending on the nature and severity of the violent incident would dictate</p>

	<p>Furthermore, I feel the government needs to revisit their current funding formula for schools but removing enrollment as the central funding criteria. If a school is deemed viable to a community, additional funding should be provided at a level that ensures quality education for our children and youth. This should decrease the need to shut schools down if public funding is allocated more effectively.”</p>		<p>which stakeholders should be notified and reported to (internal staff, parents, community members). Ensuring there is a decision-making framework, violence risk assessment, emergency continuity plan and reporting communication plan should all be considered as part of the reporting process.”</p>
	<p>Mental Health</p>	<p>Education Privatization</p>	<p>Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?</p>
<p>David Smith</p>	<p>“Mental health and wellness are growing concerns for all of Ontarians. As a school board trustee, it’s our responsibility to be advocating to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Local Health Integration Networks/LHINS) for additional mental health resources in schools. Having increased professionals trained and qualified for services/referrals for students will be imperative. Intervening early in life will help our children and youth later in life. Teachers do not have the time and/or knowledge to dedicate to mental health and wellness compared to a trained mental health professional that can handle treatment and referral services.”</p>	<p>“It is my opinion that the public education system (and privatizing services within a publically funded education model) must remain independent of the private education system. Privatized education will create and often increase social determinant barriers many individuals and families already face. Equity and access to education will create societal divides. Privatization of services within a publically funded education system might lead to a deterioration of the public school system and increase social segmentation (leading to wealthier families/students obtaining a better education for their children). Education should continue to be a basic human right and essential for human development. Societally, we should be concerned about all children and youth, ensuring all children and youth have access to quality education, not just ones that can afford it.”</p>	<p>“School Board Trustees are an integral link to their communities. I want to become a School Board Trustee because I want to advocate and bring forward local matters when governing the delivery of our publicly funded education system. I do not only want to govern, but I want to focus on providing educational opportunities for students. I want to ensure our education system continues to deliver and surpass current expectations for student outcomes. Such issues as provincial funding, adapting to the shift in student demographics, enrollment, and the current state of our facilities are areas that need attention. As a School Board Trustee, it would be my commitment to work towards ensuring our students and our community are our central thought when taking on such issues.”</p>

	School Closures	One Public System	School Violence
Amanda Stratton	<p>“Ideally, the moratorium will not be lifted until there is a workable funding formula in place. However, if it is lifted by the provincial government without any changes in place, in general, I believe that we should a) look for opportunities to coordinate with the Catholic school board so that communities and neighbourhoods keep at least one school; b) work with municipalities, non-profits, etc. to find ways to mitigate expenses at low-enrollment schools by making them true community hubs and directing revenue from those uses toward maintenance, repairs, and other facility needs; c) continue to advocate, as a school board, for a better funding formula. We cannot stop pushing for the province to provide the funds needed to keep schools open, properly resourced, and safe; d) engage in ongoing consultation with students, families, and community members. I have promised that I will not vote on decisions that affect a particular school until I have visited the school and met with the community around it; e) balance urban and rural schools’ needs. It is too easy for our school board to become urban-centric because London representation is so heavy as compared to that of any county. If elected, I will be a London trustee, but I am deeply committed to my responsibility to <i>every</i> student in the whole board; f) if it does become necessary to close a school, we must work</p>	<p>“I strongly agree with the OSSTF position that one public system would allow us to make education more equitable. I believe public funds should go to public schools. Finding greater efficiencies with regards to facilities and their costs, supplies, and other non-tangibles, will allow us to dedicate more of our funds toward making sure our classrooms and schools are adequately staffed. We need to realize a better student to teacher ratio in many of our classes, and we need more educators to meet the needs of students with difficulties, create a better learning environment, and keep our classrooms safe for all. Even without changes at the provincial level, I believe there’s a great deal we can do to keep schools open in more communities if the Catholic school board is willing to come to the table. For example, we could collocate and share resources between faith-based and public education to find significant efficiencies. This is a conversation I would be eager to start, especially as we face the closure of several rural schools. I would be very supportive of having an expert review panel and all-party task force explore our options for merging Catholic and Public boards, including looking at what role faith-based education or religious instruction might play in a single public system.”</p>	<p>“I’m not entirely familiar with the reporting process from the perspective of educators, though I have spoken with some teachers and EAs about this. I am familiar with, and in agreement on, some of the OSSTF positions on this, such as a need for more training on handling and reporting violent incidents, making the forms more accessible and less of an inconvenience, and involving teachers and EAs in safety plans and handling incidents. I am deeply concerned by the OSSTF-reported statistic that 55% of members have felt pressured by their employer to not report an incident. I think this reveals a concern that violent incidents will reflect badly on the administration and/or board. As a trustee, I would like to investigate this further, and make sure that we’re fostering a culture of working together to keep our schools safe places to work and learn, and that no administrator or educator needs to worry about their job security or future prospects at Thames Valley. If this is a problem in our board, we need urgently to get to the root of it and correct it. I would be eager to talk more about this and get feedback from people dealing with these issues every day about reporting. Ultimately, we need to increase resources, both in terms of the number of staff in our schools and the tools they’re given to help deal with these issues in the most effective way.”</p>

	together with the affected families and staff to provide the smoothest transition possible. When I believe that a school should stay open, I will fight to keep it open.”		
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
Amanda Stratton	<p>“There is so much that needs to be done on this front. I’ve spoken with many parents and educators who have had difficult experiences trying to address the mental health needs of students. If we can do better to support the mental health needs of our students when they are young, the outlook for the rest of their lives greatly improves. I will advocate for funding from the province for programs offered in our schools that support students, and more training and tools for educators to better recognize and deal with mental health issues. Our community-based mental health support programs are already overtaxed and often difficult to access. We should be making a broad range of mental health supports available in our schools where students are most likely to be able to access it. I will advocate for a “mental health lens” on every incident. Mental health issues can lead to disruptive, abnormal, or violent behaviour—whenever these issues arise, educators should be investigating whether a mental health issue may be at the core of it. I will advocate for more proactive mental health education for students. We can help equip children to recognize when they need help and to learn some basic skills for</p>	<p>“While I believe that there can be great mutually-beneficial opportunities to partner with private entities to provide a rich education to our students, as a rule, I do not believe that public education services should be provided by private corporations. A few specific cases:</p> <p>I am concerned about our schools’ reliance on partnerships with private companies to fundraise or to provide resources to our schools (e.g. Canadian Tire, Indigo). Although it is, of course, very generous, the implementation of these things is not always equitable. It creates a wider gap between schools where families can afford to spend on fundraisers, purchase photos, buy sponsored items, or donate—and those where families cannot. As a parent, it has been wonderful to see the school board adopt new technologies for things like reporting absences, distributing newsletters, and paying for expenses like field trips. I’m also glad to see that the board and even individual teachers have been trying out various platforms from private sector providers. I would like to look more at whether it would make sense in the long term to make these internally-owned and operated tools. The busing contract issues before the start of the school year revealed one potential problem that can arise when working with private service providers, which is that when we contract out work, we have little control</p>	<p>“As a candidate in the most recent provincial election, I had the opportunity to talk to thousands of people across Thames Valley. Again and again, education was a primary concern. I was left feeling a responsibility and motivation to continue to work on issues like our schools’ repair needs, closures, curriculum concerns, violence, student needs, and more. I want to become a trustee for the Thames Valley District School Board so that I can fulfill the commitment I’ve made to my community to keep doing what I can to make the world a better place. As a parent, I know that making our schools better is an impactful way to do that. Having advocated for various policy changes, both as a political candidate and a parent, I’ve become passionate about the importance of trustees engaging our communities and stakeholders—including educators—in our decision-making, and about being vocal advocates ourselves for what our communities need. I’ve proven myself as a community leader who is not afraid to use my voice, and who delivers on my commitments. I want to put my skills, experience, and expertise to use for our school system. I want to help make our schools better places for our students to learn and grow, more integrated players in our communities, and better workplaces for our educators. In short, as my slogan says, I want to be a</p>

	<p>copied with things like mild anxiety, stress, depression, and anger before they escalate. Right now, the unfortunate reality is that even when a student and their family recognize that help is needed, it too often simply isn't available. This is the larger problem we need to address, and as someone elected to be one of many voices for the needs of students, I will advocate strongly for broad, system-wide improvements to our mental health supports across the province."</p>	<p>and even knowledge of the wages and working conditions of the people we're indirectly employing. I believe public funds should only be used to provide fair work, and I'd like to see more provisions for this in all of our private contracts."</p>	<p>trustee for TVDSB because I know that I can make a difference when I Stand Up for Our Schools."</p>
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