

City of London (Wards 7,8,9,10,13): Municipal Election – October 22nd 2018 Survey Results (*denotes incumbent)

Candidate Name	School Closures	One Public System	School Violence
Joyce Bennett*	<p>“When the moratorium was put in place by the Ministry we were working with our document “Rethink Secondary Learning – Translating Vision into Action.” It outlines our strategies for moving forward. The actions related to accommodations were put on hold. When we surveyed students for the documents they asked for spaces that support more technology and experiential learning. Many of our secondary schools need renovations to make sure environments are updated for students and staff. There are alternatives to school closures such as boundary adjustments or the development of partnerships with our coterminous board as well as community and government services. If there are no alternatives, school closures may need to be considered after thorough consultation with TVDSB communities, staff, parents and students.”</p>	<p>“I support one public school system. I think there is a better model that would serve all of Ontario. Change will be up to the provincial government to act. Other governments like Quebec and Newfoundland have managed this change. In my time as a trustee, all three major political parties have clearly stated that they are not willing to support one system. As an interim measure, all boards should seek efficiencies by sharing vacant space rather than building new schools and share other education resources as we have been doing with purchasing and the transportation consortium.”</p>	<p>“We have policies and procedures in place that must be reviewed regularly to assess their effectiveness. This is done with input from staff and the community. A problem of transparency arises when the procedure is not applied consistently by principals and staff. Our Superintendents of Student Achievement need to work more closely with staff so that our students and staff are protected. I think we can do more to promote transparency in our public reports on the nature of incidents in school and the consequences to those involved in violence. We have our students and staff complete safe school surveys to assess how safe they feel in our schools. We need to more readily share the results of these surveys to help better engage parents and the community in these efforts.”</p>
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
Joyce Bennett*	<p>“I have a long track record of leadership in making mental health and appropriate resources a priority – in fact, TVDSB Trustees made this issue a budget priority years before the provincial government raised the issues. I support the need for more mental health</p>	<p>“I believe that public education should be just that – public not privatized. Privatization interferes with ensuring equitable access to quality programs, resources and supports across the district with a focus on students who face barriers to academic success. I worry about the impact of poverty on our students and</p>	<p>“I want to be re-elected so that I can continue to be an effective advocate for students, families and public education. There are exciting initiatives such as our new Strategic Plan and Rethink Secondary Learning that I want to help move forward. We have outstanding teachers and staff in our system that I celebrate on a</p>

	resources and better coordination with community agencies to help our students. There also needs to be an increased focus on building staff capacity and student and parent awareness.”	think we should be doing more to ensure better access to resources for all students – including working with the TVDSB Foundation on behalf of disadvantaged students.”	regular basis. Together we have made a <i>DIFFERENCE</i> . I want to continue this work and offer my experience and rich history to TVDSB.”
Linda Ludwar (no response)			
	School Closures	One Public System	School Violence
Sherri Moore	“I think it must be managed on a case by case basis with careful consideration. It is important to get input from the entire community, including those who live in the area without school-aged children, as well as the faculty and staff of the school itself. I expect that the decision to close a school is not taken lightly, but I am not personally a fan of adding portables and busses to another school and removing an important resource from a community.”	“I have not studied the issue thoroughly, but I have never understood how the current system has lasted so long, serving only one specific religion and no others. I would think we would have to fund all separate schools or none. Interestingly, much of the argument I have heard against amalgamating is from people (many non-Catholic) who have children in the separate board and claim their children are getting a “better education.” This seems to support the idea that splitting resources between a Catholic and Public board is not benefiting kids in the public education system.”	“Without being fully informed on how the current reporting procedure works, I don’t think I can fairly state how I would improve it. I agree though that it is a growing concern, and that transparency and follow up are key. Everyone deserves to be safe at school.”
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do want to become a Trustee?
Sherri Moore	“I would need to make sure I am fully informed on what exactly is currently in place to support teachers and staff in our schools before declaring how I intend to advocate. Teachers and families need resources to be able to recognize warning signs and maintain a safe environment for kids both at home and at school. It seems increasingly	“The only privatization I would be open to as a parent and as a member of the community would be something like the fundraising that hospital foundations do, that would provide income to the Board that would be equitably distributed among schools. It would have to give the donor no influence over Board decisions, curriculum, budget allocations.	“Public service is important to me. I have spent many years advocating for my kids in the system as we navigated French immersion, the gifted stream, the ASD program, dual credit, SWAC, co-op, etc. I have learned a lot about how to work together as a team to ensure that the students get what they need, within the boundaries of what is fair for their teacher and their

	<p>common to struggle with mental health, and I think we need to support and care for our kids while being cautious not to pathologize emotions and experiences that are perfectly normal for adolescents. We also need to make sure that teachers are able to focus on teaching and are not expected to take on full responsibility for the mental well-being of students. Teachers need to have the tools to help the students, but additional resources are absolutely required.”</p>	<p>To be honest, I cannot speak to how exactly that would work, and I’m prepared to find out it is not possible. I just find it frustrating that schools in affluent areas receive access to so much more fundraising dollars than schools in higher need areas and it seems like this could be a way to address that. I have looked into charter schools after being asked my opinion on that earlier this month and it looks like it would lead to two-tier education and the concept makes me uncomfortable. Would the schools be obligated to hire teachers from within the union? What steps would be taken to ensure it didn’t become a ‘free private school’ for students from other areas whose families have the resources to bring them to an out of district school?”</p>	<p>classmates. I spent several years working on the Pride London Festival Board and it helped me understand how important it is to build a strong team to represent the community. I think I can bring those skills to this role and really make a difference. The biggest complaint I have heard from people regarding the role of the trustee is that they don’t feel like they are being listened to or responded to. I don’t think that’s right. This is an elected position, not an appointment, and the community needs to feel like they have input into Board decisions. I know I can be accessible and accountable, and hope I have the opportunity to show you that over the next four years.”</p>
	<p>School Closures</p>	<p>One Public System</p>	<p>School Violence</p>
<p>Jake Skinner*</p>	<p>“I oppose the practice of closing schools to manufacture a business case, so the Board can tap into provincial capital funds. This has led to several problems including not depleting existing empty pupil spaces, overcrowding in schools with student populations awaiting provincial funding for a new school, unrealistic expectations for parents convinced the school will be built on time for their pupil to benefit, and the degradation of those communities where the closed school was an important community anchor. My approach to the process of school closures has been to adopt a quasi-judicial position limiting engagement to the public meeting process, public input through written and verbal communication at specific stages of</p>	<p>“I would support a task force to examine the feasibility of merging the Boards but think effectiveness of delivering education which prioritizes student achievement and well-being should drive the change rather than “efficiencies”. When this is discussed I often think back to the amalgamation of school boards and municipalities in the 1990s by the Harris government which in retrospect did not result in cost savings and caused unnecessary political upheaval. Whatever occurs I think it should be approached with caution so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past.”</p>	<p>“We must do all we can to maintain a safe work environment for our staff while recognizing that violent incidents often occur due to mental health issues or environmental factors. This means putting supports in place earlier than we currently are and maintaining strong channels of communication. I would like to see more information from our teaching community and staff to understand what a stronger prevention strategy might look like, the costs or cost savings that might be yielded, and the outcomes in terms of improving student well-being and safety for our staff.”</p>

	<p>the process, and staff’s report. Doing so has allowed me to remain objective in the process and limit my exposure to lobbying from one group or another that could result in possible suggestions of conflict. I believe that in some cases a school closure is warranted, but at present, prefer to maintain and rehabilitate our current stock by changing boundaries and eliminating empty pupil spaces. For the most part, this approach is likely to be less expensive to the tax payer, maintains greater continuity for parents, students, and communities, and avoids awkward circumstances where high performing schools are sometimes closed to accommodate a “business case” which is wrongly preferred over student achievement and well-being.”</p>		
	<p>Mental Health</p>	<p>Education Privatization</p>	<p>Why do you want to be a TVDSB Trustee?</p>
<p>Jake Skinner*</p>	<p>“Since becoming a Trustee I have supported and advocated for increased mental health funding. Parents, students, and staff members can expect me to be a continued supporter of initiatives and strategies that will help address mental health.”</p>	<p>“Ontario enjoys one of the best education systems in the world largely because it is publicly funded. I do not oppose private institutions but disagree that public dollars should fund them or that government should provide tax incentives. I do not agree with privatizing the work of school teachers but agree that it is wise for us to hire privately when it comes to things like snow removal, bussing, or other operational related matters. Doing so helps us be good stewards of education dollars and keep them where they belong which is in the classroom.”</p>	<p>“I became a trustee because I wanted to push the boundaries on what it means to pursue an education in the new economy. In my first term, I pushed a STEAM education and improved school safety. I pushed to fund robotics teams in our high schools and put in place additional funding for the purchase of needed technologies like Arduinos, Spheros, and other tools that some teachers were funding out of their own pockets. I advocated to have extra coding supports and resources added to the elementary panel and succeeded. I supported capital improvements to bring our internet connections up-to-speed and a pilot program that put Chrome Books into the hands of students in 8 high schools. On the side of safety, I passed a policy that</p>

<p>Jake Skinner*</p>			<p>would allow our schools to be equipped with lifesaving AEDs. I lobbied our City Councillors to change the speed limit in school zones to 40 km/h and to increase traffic calming measures. I am proud to say that our AEDs have saved lives already and our school zones are safer. As a father with 5 children at TVDSB I don't feel my turn is over and I want to do more. In my next term I want to do the following: 1) Create a STEAM Centre magnet in partnership with the local tech industry 2) Work with London's tech industry to develop a technological designation that recognizes the student recipient as being career-ready 3) Explore the implementation of virtual technology in the classroom. 4) Increase participation in robotics competition 5) Significantly improve parent-teacher communication about their student. 6) Change the AED policy so defibrillators can be funded by Board appropriated surplus. 7) Work with the City of London to increase safety in school zones by implementing student drop zones only a 5-minute walk away. 8) Explore the opportunity for collaboration between the City of London and TVDSB to transition high school students from the yellow bus system to London Transit. Most of my ideas come from talking to people. In my first year I made sure to visit all the schools under my portfolio to see what I could do to support them and whenever a principal has called to have me attend a graduation or other recognition ceremony they knew they could count on me to be there. When teachers have called me, I have picked up the phone and listened. That's how we got funding for technology tools and additional coding supports. I hope I can count on your support!"</p>
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