

City of London (Wards 2,3,4,5 & 6): Municipal Election – October 22nd 2018 Survey Results (*denotes incumbent)

Candidate Name	School Closure	One Public System	School Violence
Eric Southern	“We should look at integrating the different school boards to try and keep more schools open by allowing students to keep attending local schools as opposed to shipping them to more central schools in cities.”	“I would prefer to merge all 4 school boards into one. The administration should be able to properly handle any differing needs for the students between languages. We should definitely eliminate the Catholic school boards.”	“I have no defined improved reporting and follow-up process. I would listen and consider all aspects of a higher quality process that meets the needs of all stakeholders while following best practices not only in the education sector but in any workplace that has violence.”
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
Eric Southern	“I would work for greater co-operation with mental health professionals and organizations. I would also attempt to integrate the Psychology and Psychiatric schools at the local universities into a role with the school board, our teachers, our students and families to help them be more proactive in addressing any potential areas that could cause any issues to develop. I would also be an advocate for better follow up and integration of any treatment and needs for those with any mental health issues.”	“I prefer the Finnish model for education. There are very few to no private schools in Finland since they cannot charge tuition. This keeps the wealthy more engaged with the public school system and allows for a higher quality system where all members of society are stakeholders. I do think there are areas within the school system that could be considered for privatization of services but nothing related directly to the education of our children (cleaning, busing, building, maintenance, etc, are acceptable for privatization).”	“I wish to work to better the system for the benefit of my children as well as all future Canadians. Education is a key element for a successful life and a better country.”
	School Closure	One Public System	School Violence
Corrine Rahaman	“If and when, the moratorium is lifted, I believe that we should always be mindful that student success needs to be the priority. We need to learn from our stakeholders what are the potential	“I support the view of one public system. I believe that in the current economic climate finding efficiencies at the administrative level could result in more resources for teachers and schools. I’ve read through the work of	“This is something I’ve heard from parents and educators. I am fully supportive of using best practices in reporting and streamlining the process. I believe the best way to learn how to improve the process is through

<p>Corrine Rahman</p>	<p>unintended consequences associated with a school closure, looking beyond just an economic impact study and support inclusive public consultation. Through collaboration, engaging and joint decision making.”</p>	<p>One Public Education Now (Open) and they have indicated that the potential savings could be \$1.2 billion to \$1.6 billion. I support an all political party task force to examine this option further.”</p>	<p>direct knowledge of the gaps and challenges the current system faces. This would require a full consultation with stakeholders to inform the new process. As the new process is being implemented we should look to undertake a harassment and violence prevention training program throughout the organization. There have been recent media stories highlighting underlining issues of bullying, harassment, intimidation and violence and it is important that every member of the TVDSB family be provided with the proper tools to address these issues.”</p>
	<p>Mental Health</p>	<p>Education Privatization</p>	<p>Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?</p>
<p>Corrine Rahman</p>	<p>“I believe we have a duty of care to every member of the TVDSB family. Mental health is at a crisis level and educators see first-hand the connection between mental health, wellness and achievement. I believe we need to look at the following areas: We are under resourced. We need more support from higher orders of government related to Mental Health. We need more school Psychologists and other resource staff to help with early interventions and strategies. We need more champions. We need to help reduce the stigma associated with mental health illnesses in our schools, so that everyone feels comfortable accessing help. We need to help our parents and families to find and access supports in the community early before things reach a crisis level. We need to continue to work with the community and our research facilities to find supports for our learners.”</p>	<p>“I believe that we need to be very careful and deliberate with education privatization. We need to ensure that we do not create a two-tiered system or create unintended outcomes. “</p>	<p>“I’m running because I know I can make a difference. I’ve been an active volunteer for children and families across our community. I’ve served two consecutive terms as a school council chair, I’ve served as vice-chair of a Home and School and worked with the ad-hoc strategic planning committee on the current strategic plan. I’ve worked with parents on an attendance area review and advocated for a school expansion. Currently, I am serving as a member of the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee. I am passionate about education, equity and community building. Teaching is my passion, and I am dedicated to supporting my students in achieving their goals. Currently, I teach classes in ethics, leadership and conflict resolution in the Kinlin School of Business at Fanshawe College. I have also worked with leaders in Municipal government in several capacities. I spent 7+ years working in non-profit leadership and fundraising. My experience, educational background and passion for this work, are the reason I am running.”</p>

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Leroy Osbourne	<p>“I am concerned that with the current provincial government there will be a sacrifice of the education system to pay for initiatives that do not better the people of Ontario. The buck-a-beer campaign and cancellation of the basic income project is a troublesome precursor to what is ahead. I think it is the job of the TVDSB along with other school boards to demand the province to review the funding formula for schools. I would like to see a better collaboration with London City Hall to address the need of young Londoners; they are the future of this city. If other surrounding municipalities can work together to solve problems for children there is no reason London cannot do the same when it comes to addressing school closures. The following should be taken into account for managing school closures:</p> <p>Is closing the school better than trying to repair or upgrade the school?</p> <p>Work between the city and the school board should be taking place well in advance to consider options to save a school and community from closure. Neighborhoods that lose their school should have some form of academic hub in place for the neighbourhood and the children that live there in collaboration with the closest library in the area. Sale of school land should come with a development premium that is paid to the school board. For example, if the land is sold to the city</p>	<p>“The task force makes economic sense but should include stakeholders from different areas of education and experts who have seen amalgamation in other industries take place. I am wary of the mega city concept from the Mike Harris era that did not amount to any improvement in service nor a savings to the tax payer as promised. If a merge can bring forward smaller classes, more resources for students with exceptional needs, better equipment in the classroom, before and after school programs in every school, breakfast programs and the completion of outstanding repairs in school, I am supportive and will push for this initiative. I would also like to see extensive public consultation in order to ensure this plan take into account students and families of different religions and both official languages.”</p>	<p>“Any reporting system needs to have a check and balance to ensure it is being applied fairly and appropriately in order to protect all parties involved: teachers, support staff and students. It is also important that the system has a mechanism in place to support and find remedies for the individual(s) who is the perpetrator or instigator of violence. We cannot have a system that throws people away because of indiscretions. They are still children and still have opportunity to correct course.</p> <p>Transparency is helpful to give reassurance to others that the system or process works, but there needs to be a degree of discretion in order to protect the privacy of all parties. To assess effectiveness of a process it would be best to have an aggregate of the incidents and the outcomes positive or negative that have transpired from those incidents. From there we can do an assessment of the efficacy of current policies. Applying blanket policies across the school board will not build community to rectify concerns of a particular type of violence happening at one school and not another. This is a matter that would warrant consultation with that particular school to better determine the needs and remedies.”</p>

	then later sold to a developer. A portion of that premium is invested in the academic hub of that neighborhood that lost their school through either infrastructure and/or personnel to provide academic support.”		
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
Leroy Osbourne	<p>“I currently work at a university, I see the struggle of our university students in their first year. I would love to see that universities are given a report on trends of what high schools are seeing in their students so that we are better prepared when they arrive. I would want to see cost effective means that provides mental health support to every child in school. Parents should be given transition support when their children go into gr. 1, and gr.9 so parents can better support their child. I would like to see more guidance counsellors in schools with advisor training for academic support as well as more training in mental health support. Ideally, a model that can provide a school counsellors in schools similar to that of the US model for school counsellors. Having a masters degree in clinical mental health counselling I have firsthand experience and appreciation for the struggle of individuals and how your mental state can make all the difference between struggling and thriving when encountering adversity in life.”</p>	<p>“This notion paints the picture of a two-tier system where only those who can afford all the resources, get the resources. Education is meant to be an equalizer to open doors. Privatization is a slippery slope leading to the privatization of periphery services and resources leading to an elitist geared system that will ensure future generations can never rise from their original SES.”</p>	<p>“I came from a family with little means. I was given the notion that I would not be very successful during the early years of my education. It was not until Gr.4 that I had two great teachers who appreciated that I was a different type of learner. It was then that I began to succeed going from a ‘C’ and ‘D’ student to a straight ‘A’ student. Today, I have completed my master’s degree, have been employed with King’s University College for ten plus years, have acquired several investment properties over the years and have been accepted to an MBA program. I persevered through the adversity growing up to accomplish what I have today. I am connected to the issues when it comes to speaking about a child’s success. I am the community rep on the TVDSB Supervised Alternative Learning Committee where we discuss strategy plans to ensure struggling students complete their grade or diploma. I want to see current policies and new policies apply a lens to ensure that they do not inhibit the success of children because they do not have an abundance of resources in their family network. I wish to work with families, other board members, educators and students to ensure everyone know what is feel like to succeed in school.”</p>

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Adam Khimji	<p>“With the per pupil funding formula, schools are penalized when there are empty seats in the classroom. That being said, with reduced funding due to low enrollment, required programs – including extracurriculars – might be significantly lacking. Furthermore, if the school is prohibitive to repair, a new modern facility being built elsewhere might be the best course of action. All in all, closing a school is not a decision that I would make lightly, but sometimes the closure of a school is best for the community and can give rise to new facilities, in addition to the possible reuses for the old building to provide value for the community. I believe that transparency and communication is the key to a community, and would ensure that I did not make the decision ‘behind closed doors’ but rather through conversations with community members, and ensure that the community is at the forefront of the ultimate decision that gets made.”</p>	<p>“I support conducting a feasibility study/report into merging the boards into one. Ontario has grown so much over the past few decades, and continues to grow, however over that time we have not looked into merging the varying school boards into one public sector board. Before advocating for or against the matter, a feasibility report should be conducted that allows for the community to be informed of the potential gains and consequences from such a system. Only when information is gathered and analyzed, and a formal report is made, can the community move in the right direction. Furthermore, there is no downside in conducting a feasibility report if it means that the potential outcome could result in a better education system for the community.”</p>	<p>“The TVDSB has been a leader in helping students overcome bullying with its efforts through safe school policies. It’s also a leader in the LGBTQ community with various protections for Trans students. However, violence and bullying occurring in – and in this 21st century technologically connected world – outside the school, is not okay and should not be tolerated. That being said, when bullying occurs, and is reported, there must be accountability along the ‘chain of command’ to ensure the issue was handled appropriately. This should come in a formal report that gets written AND signed off by the Principal, or the Vice-Principal, and a copy gets sent to the parents of the children affected, as well as the children’s teacher(s). The report should outline the basics of the issue, but it should also contain concrete steps to mitigation so the issue does not occur again. If an issue is persisting, then it might be beneficial to the students’ learning, mental health, and overall well-being to relocate them to a different class or perhaps school.”</p>
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
Adam Khimji	<p>“Being in my youth, I am often surrounded by friends, and close friends who have mental health related issues and know the impact it can have on all aspects of one’s life, such as education. Having had a friend a couple years ago die from suicide, I know the importance of having mental health resources in the education setting. The TVDSB</p>	<p>“Education is a lifelong pursuit that affects the entire community. I am against the privatization of services within the publicly funded education system. I believe that all students should have access to the same high-quality education and resources. Students should have access to education and resources that remains unbiased and based on fact and quality. To bring private</p>	<p>“I was born in Toronto and have a sister. Up until about age 6 or 7 I lived in Toronto, however my father was abusive to my mother, and we would sometimes have to stay in shelters. When the opportunity to move into government-housing in Richmond Hill came, she took it, and officially left him. When I came to that elementary school I was diagnosed with a learning disability.</p>

	has been a leader in this front, as well, with its many safe school policies, however we can always keep improving. With the new Ontario government, this is a crucial time to ensure that mental health funding remains at the forefront of the decision table. Ensuring every school has the adequate amount of health professionals that can address mental health, as well as educational resources is paramount.”	corporations into the education system would be to undermine that unbiased nature of education that we need to strive to protect.”	Thereafter I had an IEP and would receive a modified education plan than my peers, in fact I would attend a separate class with other students with IEPs for a few hours a day. Over the course of my time in public education that did not change, however what did was my growth. I continued to strive to do my best, and managed to make it into Western University despite the odds and statistics against me. That pursuit to do my best never stopped. I have continued to excel in school, and I have continued with various jobs learning various skills, and continuing to grow as a person. Over the past five years in London I have learned so much about this city, and the issues that face it. I believe that my unique life experiences, in combination with my vast skill set, would allow me to add a perspective to the decision table that is not often there.”
	School Closures	One Public System	School Violence
Maryna Greer	“I’m against school closures. I believe that revising distribution of funds can help to solve the problem.”	“I think that there has to be one and only system that would serve ALL students.”	I think there has to be an online system for Ontario for reporting violent incidents which will: 1. Make reporting and response faster; 2. Make more clear the follow up process after the incident; 3. Make big improvement in organizing statistics about violent incidents in schools within province.
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
Maryna Greer	“As an elected trustee I would support programs for mental and physical health of the students.”	“I understand that privatization of some services can drop their cost but I think that education system has to be more self-sufficient.”	“I want to become a trustee because I care and want to make a difference.”

	School Closures	One Public System	School Violence
Brian Gibson	<p>“This is a strict issue with two distinct sides. Of course there are the parents, students, and staff members who are strictly against the closing of their schools (namely rural schools). And then there is the budgetary and administrative side which are currently reviewing which schools to close. In my opinion, no one should be looking at the review of schools with the intention in mind that certain number of schools MUST be closed. That I think is wrong, I am in support of school allocation review to see if we can relocate, open, or close to better serve students, parents and staff. But when we complete these reviews, we must not have the mindset that we must meet a certain number of schools to be closed. We must keep in mind how we can allocate school resources (including schools themselves) to better serve the public.”</p>	<p>“I am someone who supports the idea of reviewing a One Public System. I do understand both sides of the issue as to why we have a catholic board and a public board; but it can come at great cost (not only financially). Often when there are too many schools in a certain area, the number of students in these schools can be severally low thus impacting the amount of resources the schools have for the students and the staff. When there are too many catholic and elementary school near each other, this can often be a result. It is in my belief that we come to a compromise in combining the resources of the Public and the Catholic boards to create a better educational experiences for students and greater resources in staff, while maintaining the philosophy of the Catholic School Board System.”</p>	<p>“It is in my view that the only way we can improve and streamline the reporting, reviewing and follow-up system of violent incidents in our schools is by implementing a specific task-force to have the sole focus on investigating the reported incident in schools. With our current system by going through administration, there is no guarantee that the full dedication of staff will be allotted to investigating and resolving the reported incident. Not to blame administration, but they also have other responsibilities on their plate and thus they cannot dedicate their full undivided attention to the issue at hand.”</p>
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
Brian Gibson	<p>“I would advocate for the mental health of TVDSB Students by motioning to bring in new initiatives and programs to combat and de-escalate mental health crises. The first initiative would be to look at the feasibility and implement a program that would require all staff (teachers, custodial staff, administration, etc.) to take a course in the recognition of mental health and how to help someone who is at a point of a mental</p>	<p>“It is in my opinion that if parents prefer to put their children into private schools, that is completely their choice and I will not stand in the way of that. Though, when it comes to the government providing resources to private schools, or privatizing education services, that is where I have an issue. It is the responsibility of the government to provide all educational services to students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12.”</p>	<p>“I am running to become a TVDSB Trustee for a reason most candidates share, because they want to better education for TVDSB Students and see change within the school board. Now I do share two main points that may be distinct from other candidates. My first point is that I want to increase resources for teachers and students within our schools, especially schools that face a lower socio-economic demographic. Schools that lye in a strong socio-economic status area often have more</p>

	<p>health crisis. The second initiative would be to create a Mental Health Crisis Response Team in each school that respond to a crisis with a student when in progress, and they would also act as a resource team for students to seek when in a time of need. The Mental Health Crisis Response Team would operate similar to the First Aid Response Team in each school in the idea that they respond to issues and act as a resources when issues arise.”</p>		<p>resources available for students, or resources are not needed because the families can afford the needed resources for their students. Though the schools the lye in a lower socio-economic status area often have less resources than needed because they receive the same amount of funding similar to everyone else, yet their families cannot afford the resources that their children need to go to school. So by adjusting resources allocated to certain schools, we can decrease this gap between high and low socio-economic status areas. My second point as to why I am running for TVDSB Trustee is because of the lack of Skilled Trades Education in Secondary Schools. I grew up in a Skilled Trades family. My father is an electrician by trade (now Business Manager of IBEW Local 120) and my brother is an apprentice to become a Lineman base out of IBEW Local 353. There is a huge gap in finding new apprentices for skilled trades and jobs are consistently being filled by people from out of province an/or out of country. Secondary School is the biggest resource to proving education in Career Preparation yet there is a huge lack of Career Preparation for the Skilled Trades, and it is barely taught in our schools. Only 3 schools in the London Area (Saunders, Clarke and Beal) have proper skilled trades programs. And the programs that those schools have are dramatically underfunded, so far to the point that the tools these kids use are from the 90’s. If I get the privilege to become a TVDSB Trustee, I want to work on increasing Skilled Trades resources in our high schools, and to increase Skilled Trades Career Preparation in all of our schools, not just select schools.”</p>
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	School Closures	One Public System	School Violence
Peter Cuddy	<p>“It should be handled with respect, compassion and what makes the most sense. We need to look at schools that are way below minimum enrolment and make the best decisions for that location in consultation with the school community. We have to take into account where students and staff will go if a school closes. If there is a new school opening then staff should have the first right to be relocated there. If there are openings that come up across the Board close to where the displaced staff live, then they should be given the first opportunity for those positions.”</p>	<p>“I believe in school choice and any system funded by the Provincial Government should adhere to the direction of the Ministry of Education. Staff and students regardless of their religious persuasion should be able to learn and teach in all systems that are publicly funded.”</p>	<p>“My position on this is very clear – we should give as much information to staff that we can without breaching confidentiality or a police investigation. We need to be very careful that we balance the flow of information to those who need it without creating miscommunication and panic. I would like to see a more streamlined effort with preventative measures and a review of the re-entry programs in the hope that these could reduce the number of violent incidents.”</p>
	Mental Health	Education Privatization	Why do you want to become a TVDSB Trustee?
Peter Cuddy	<p>“This is an issue that is very important to me. I have supported family members who have dealt with mental health issues. First, I will advocate for no reductions to any current funding that deals with mental health. Second, I will work with my colleagues to see what other partnerships and funding opportunities are available to support mental health. Third, mental health reaches all in our system. If given the opportunity I will meet with staff, parents and students to have a full understanding of what they face and ask them what I can do as Trustee to advocate.”</p>	<p>“It depends on the services. If we are talking about privatizing teacher instruction then my view is – no - we should not do that. If we are talking about privatizing certain services that relate to planning, capital or other areas where there is an RFP process then we should look at that so it is done in a fair way with the intention to make efficiencies. If there are savings then be reinvested back into students and staff.”</p>	<p>“I want to serve the community I live in. I want to serve the institution where my children went to school. I feel that my skill set and my leadership experience in business will help me assist the communities I represent and help students, staff and parents.”</p>