



Councillor Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo
Chair, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries



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Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

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Zakir Patel

Trustee Ward 19, Toronto District School Board

5050 Yonge Street

Toronto, ON M2N 5N8

Zakir.Patel@tdsb.on.ca

Dear Trustee Zakir Patel,

I have been contacted by Parents Engaged in Education, a charitable organization that provides educational tools including digital devices to children and youth to perform well at school. Parents Engaged in Education are concerned with the Toronto District School Board's policy, requesting students return their borrowed digital devices during the summer months. I share this concern. Parents Engaged in Education has been crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the gap in educational support for our youth in Scarborough by raising funds to provide students with the tools they require to excel at school, specifically computers, as the school boards did not have sufficient supply.

I am requesting the Toronto District School Board reconsider allowing students to retain their board-issued devices over the summer for them to continue with their education as they ready for the Fall semester. If Provincial legislation is required I would encourage it to be tabled before the end of this school year, amending the school boards borrowing policies allowing for an extension of the borrowing period to include the summer months.

Students with limited access to technology, especially those in low-income families have relied on the school board devices, retaining them over the summer will only benefit them. Specifically with the unknown COVID-19 regulations for the upcoming months. Isolation and the lack of attainable in-person tutoring or programing to enhance their education will be negatively impacted if students in need are not able to retain their digital devices over the summer months.

Thank you for your advocacy. Please keep me informed on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Ainslie

City of Toronto Councillor

Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

c.c: Mitzie Hunter, M.P.P. Scarborough – Guildwood, mhunter.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Karen Falconer, Director of Education, Toronto District School Board Karen.Falconer@tdsb.on.ca

Theresa Pastore, Executive Director, Parents Engaged in Education, parentengagementgroup@gmail.com