



**July 27, 2020**

**Dear School Community Members**

Thank you for attending our joint virtual Ward meeting on July 22, 2020. The meeting focused on the TDSB's preliminary school re-opening plans. We explored different options and heard from many voices of our parent community. I would also like to express my gratitude to parents, students, and staff for your patience and consistent feedback during these challenging times.

Please see a below for the minutes from our meeting.

**Meeting Date/Time:** July 22, 2020 6:30 PM

**Meeting Location:** WebEX Online Meeting hosted by Trustee James Li and Trustee Manna Wong

**Number of Attendees:** Approx. 180 participants

**Also in Attendance:** James Li (Trustee), Manna Wong (Trustee), Kiki Zhang (Trustee's Office Shared Services Liaison), Tania Jabbar (Trustee's Office Shared Services Liaison), Aretha Philip (Ward 13 PIAC Representative), Zoujun Han (Ward 20 PIAC Representative)

**Items Discussed:**

**1. Preliminary Plans for Discussion: Please refer to the PowerPoint presentation:**

<https://jamesli.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/TDSB-Preliminary-School-Reopening-Plans-July-15.pdf>

- a. Planning ahead for September
  - i. TDSB takes direction from the Ministry of Education as well as Toronto Public Health
  - ii. TDSB has formed a Return to School and Work Steering Committee and multiple sub-committees to plan and prepare
  - iii. We are working with and hearing directly from our communities, including unions and federation partners, staff, parents/guardians and students
- b. Guiding principles
- c. Survey highlights
  - i. In June, three system-wide online surveys were distributed to TDSB staff, students (Grade 7 to 12), and parents/guardians (current and future).

- ii. The surveys were designed collectively in order to gauge perspectives of both the remote learning experience and the potential return to school in September.
- iii. Over 70,000 people participated in these surveys and reported on their feelings about returning to school, their mental health, general well-being, and their experiences in remote learning.
- d. Current timeline
  - i. **Week of July 20:** Pre-registration survey for parents and staff about intentions for September opening
  - ii. **Week of July 27:** Meeting with Ministry of Education to review preliminary plans
  - iii. **August 4:** Final draft of reopening plans shared with Trustees at Special Committee of the Whole TDSB provides reopening plan to Ministry of Education for approval
- e. Pre-registration
- f. Possible models
- g. Supporting students with special education needs
- h. Elementary models
- i. Secondary models
- j. Adult day high schools
- k. Professional learning and capacity building
- l. Re-opening principles for working with itinerant staff
- m. Mental health and wellbeing
- n. Before and after school program
- o. EarlyON child and family programs
- p. Staff considerations and support
- q. Transportation considerations
- r. Health and safety
- s. COVID-19 measures- budget implications
- t. Next steps

## 2. Roundtable discussion

- a. School staff will decide on a contingency plan based on the feedback from surveys
- b. Parents are encouraged to reach out to their principals if they change their mind about their survey answers
- c. Schools have enough space for reduced class sizes, but need more funding to hire more teachers
- d. Elementary Model 1A is the most expensive option, but preferred by the TDSB the most
- e. Parents will have a choice to send their children to school or keep them home regardless of survey results
- f. Online at-home learning will always be offered as an option should parents change their mind



- g. Parents/guardians will be instructed to complete a separate survey for each child enrolled in the TDSB
- h. A combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning will be offered
- i. There will be different teachers delivering online and in-person learning
- j. The TDSB is in search of more teachers with French qualifications to hire for the French Immersion program
- k. Schools are working hard to put up signage to normalize social distancing
- l. The TDSB is prioritizing real-time learning for students in the ISP program
- m. The TDSB is committed to keeping families in one school
- n. There is a concern over the quality of education when teachers are forced to teach every subject in a typical rotary school
- o. Parents who are also teachers are encouraged to reach out to their principals for accommodations
- p. Parents will have the option to switch to remote learning any time
- q. Public health has yet to set a model that the TDSB needs to follow
- r. The TDSB is working with unions to ensure that standards are aligned
- s. Different protocols for pick up and drop off would be followed for child care
- t. E-learning content will be delivered by teachers who chose that option and performance expectations will be more streamlined
- u. The board has yet to come up with contingency plans should a child test positive for COVID-19
- v. Every school will have a special room to accommodate students who have symptoms
- w. Contingency plans are created with the intention to be flexible and adaptable

Please let Trustees James Li and/or Manna Wong know if you have any questions to the meeting minutes as recorded above. I look forward to meeting you in our next Ward Meeting.