

Meeting Name: TDSB Reopening Plans Joint Ward Forum

Meeting Hosted By: Trustee James Li(Ward 13) james.li@tdsb.on.ca
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Date & Time: July 23, 2020 Thursday, 6:30-10:00 pm

Topic: Preliminary Plans for Returning to School

Related link:

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

You can download the preliminary school reopening plans through this link



Questions and Answers

From Lina

Q: From a safety point of view, it is inappropriate for students to return to school now. Many parents are forced to send their children to school because they do not have the resources to take care of their own children. After Quebec was fully opened, the COVID pandemic became even worse. What options do our parents have?

A: TDSB provides an option for parents to let their kids take online courses, and guarantees the online courses will have the same quality and standard as the onsite courses.

From Tong:

Q: how will the students be assessed if they take online courses?

A: The assessments will be the same as usual. The teachers will design specific assessment formats for each course.

From Dan:

Q: We have two children in our family and I hope they can be put in the same school, so it is more convenient for pick up and drop off. I have submitted my application to the school, however, the school said that they did not see our application. Is there still a chance to put both of my kids in the same school?

A: please forward the emails from the school to Manna Wong: manna.wong@tdsb.on.ca, she will try her best to help the parents.

From: Meiz

Q1: If I have chosen to taken online courses or onsite courses, can I change my mind after the new semester starts?

A1: Please contact the principal of the school immediately if students or parents change their minds. And the school will make the best arrangements for parents. It may not be the same school as before but the school or TDSB will try to put the students in the closest school possible.

Q2: When should we register the course?

A2: The students have to register the courses asap. TDSB will try to put kids from the same family into one school. And TDSB will try to make sure the quality of online courses will be the same as the onsite courses.

From Deborah

Q1: Do I have to submit my application if my kid is upgrading from grade 5 to grade 6?

A1: Not necessary.

Q2: Is wearing masks mandatory or optional?

A2: All public schools have to follow the safety and hygiene regulations from the public health agency of Canada. The students are not required to wear masks if they can keep 2 meters social distance. If not, then it is necessary.

Q3: If the kids have to take the school bus, are there any detailed safety plans for school bus?

A3: The maximum capacity of big school buses has been reduced from 50 to 24 students, and of small school buses to 8. TDSB will make an update. If there are not enough school buses or drivers, we may require students to wear masks when they get on the school buses.

Q4: Can my kids request to attend the same school as their friends?

A4: Your request will be individually considered and you can contact the principal of the school directly.

Q5: How can we contact the principal during summer time?

A4: The principal will start to work two weeks before the new semester starts.

From Yanlichen

Q: My daughter is in grade 2, and she is planning to take full online classes? What's the difference between online

class and on-site class?

A: TDSB will guarantee the online courses will have the same quality and standard as onsite courses.

From Leli

Q: How do I tell TDSB if I have made a decision to take online courses?

A: The survey will be issued to parents next week, so that the parents can make a decision.

Q: Do I need to submit my application if my kid is going to upgrade to grade 1 in September?

A: Not necessary.

Q: what is the ratio of teachers/students if my kids choose to take onsite classes?

A: JK-Grade 3, 15 students

Grade 4-8, 20 students

Grade 9, 15 students

From Julia

Q: For 1A plan, If I was assigned to a school which I don't like, and don't want to attend, what should I do?

A: The fairest plan is to assign school to students randomly. TDSB will try to make the best arrangements for all students, for example, we will try to put students in the closest school to their homes. If students really don't like the school assigned by TDSB, they still have a chance to take online courses.

Q: For 1B plan, is it possible to put all my children in on site classes in the same week?

A: TDSB will try to consider all your requirements.

Q: Is the education plan one year or six months?

A: So far, the entire plan is for one whole academic year. And it may change again according to the situation of the pandemic.

From Bill

Q: If children must wear masks, how do we ensure that they always wear masks?

A: If there is 2 meters social distancing, masks will not be mandatory.

Q: Lunch time is the most dangerous time as kids have to take off their masks so can students go home for lunch?

A: The students will be required to have their lunch in class with a proper distancing from each other. But also it is the students' right to go home for lunch if they so choose.

Q: Any detailed safety and hygiene plan at school?

A: Please refer to page 62-Page70 of "preliminary school reopening plan for "the health and safety rules"

Q: is everyone required to be tested before the new semester starts?

A: No, but we recommend parents to check whether their children have symptoms of COVID-19.

From Vivian

Q: Which model has longer face to face teaching?

A: The Model 1A and 1B will have the maximum face to face teaching. It will be implemented if there is sufficient budget.

Q: if we choose half online, half on site, will it be the same teacher to teach both?

A: Firstly, the final decision will be made by TDSB according to the survey by the parents and to the budget. If the students take half courses online and half on site, there will be two teachers working together to teach one subject.

Q: is there any specific teaching measures for courses like music, sports which is not easy to teach online?

A: We understand parents situation and we also know it is challenging to teach these course online. We encourage you to contact TDSB.

From Amy:

Q: How can we contact the school when the school is not open during the pandemic?

A: You can register at the school online and contact the principal of your school.

Q: After the registration, do I need to submit any other documents?

A: The principal can be reached by email so all the application documents should be emailed to the principal. Otherwise, you can hand them over to the school when the school opens in September.

Q: Do I have to choose the class model even if the students are studying at JK?

A: Yes.

Q: How do I choose the class model? Online or other method?

A: Firstly, register at the school, and then the principal /trustee will help you to choose the class model too.

From Lynn

Q: Is there still day care after school starts in September?

A: If school opens, day care will open too. Since all before and after school programs don't belong to TDSB directly, TDSB will try to resolve these issues asap.

Q: If I choose the class model now, can I change my mind later?

A: Yes, you can change your option, however, you have to contact your principal directly and the decision will be made depending on vacancy of each model.

Q: what is the students' number for online classes? Is it still same as before?

A: JK-Grade 3, 15 students

Grade 4-8, 20 students

Grade 9, 15 students

Q: Can I switch to online classes at any time if I have chosen the onsite class?

A; Yes, we will try our best to help you.

From Hongtao

Q: Have you considered changing the class rotation weekly and not on a daily basis because I think our kids will have a higher chance of being infected by daily basis?

A: The daily rotation is made taking into consideration that most of the parents cannot rotate their work.

We are planning to completely clean all classrooms and schools everyday to ensure the safety of all our kids.

From Lina:

Q: If we choose online courses, can we do experiments like before? Will the report card be negatively affected for art and physical education?

A: We understand that it is challenging to teach these courses online. The teachers will adjust the teaching method according to the nature of each course.

Q: Will the report card be negatively affected generally for specialty classes?

A: We will try to provide an option for students to take onsite courses for those specialty courses. And we also hope parents and student will adjust your expectation due to the pandemic.

Q: Is there open school planning?

A: It could be, but it will be planned after TDSB settles down the reopening plan for September.

Q: If the child has to choose to go back to school after choosing to take online courses, is it possible that there might not be vacancy in the original school?

A: Yes.

Q: If I move, for example to York Region, how do I transfer to a new school under York region?

A: You can register at the new school under York region school board and also contact your new principal.

Q: Is there a requirement to provide covid-19 test reports for children who will come back to school in September? Is there quarantine requirements for children who have travelled outside of Canada?

A: So far the test report is not required. But according to the Public Health Agency of Canada, it is required for anyone who has travelled outside of Canada to self quarantine for 14 days.

From Yiping

Q: 1A or 1B, does it mean the final decision of the parents have made after we finish the survey from TDSB?

A: Regarding the survey, TDSB is trying to collect responses from parents so that TDSB can make the final decision for the school model. Parents cannot decide which model will be implemented.

Q: If you choose to take online classes, are the teachers and classmates the same as before?

A: It is not guaranteed.

Q: 1A and 1B last for one year. If the pandemic is under control, can I return to the original school?

A: Yes.

Q: If COVID-19 cases occur in a class or school, will the school be closed?

A: We encourage all parents and students to make sure students don't have symptoms of COVID-19 before returning to

school. If someone shows symptoms at school, he or she will be required to quarantine immediately under the instruction of TDSB. All people that have had close contact with this student will be quarantined also. Others who have not been affected will still have classes as usual.

From: Jack

Q: Is the survey issued to students or parents?

A: Parents

Q: Grade 9-12, after returning to school, how many students in each class?

A: 15-20 students

Q: How long is the teaching time everyday for each class?

A: The teaching model is the same as usual.

Please refer to page 38 of the preliminary school reopening plan.

Q: Does the TDSB have a contingency plan? If there are anyone infected, what will happen in the school? Do parents have the right to know and what will TDSB do to deal with this issue?

A: It depends on the situation; we may close 1 classroom, or 2 classrooms, or one part of the school. All students and parents who are directly related will receive notice from school or TDSB. Other students or parents will not receive any notice.

From: Deborah

Q: If there is COVID-19 case/s in the school, do students need to self quarantine at home for 14 days and still have a chance to go back to the original school?

A: Please contact the principal immediately and we will make the best arrangements for your child.

Q: what is the clean water plan for schools of TDSB to reduce the chance of students getting infected?

A: No public water fountain will be available/ accessible in September.

Q: is there any training for teachers to teach online classes, and what training is available for children's behavior and psychology during this special time?

A: We will have a survey for teachers also. Anyone who is not comfortable with online courses can choose to go back to school. And we also have training for teachers who prefer to teach online courses.

About the psychology training/courses for children, TDSB will have to follow the provincial curriculum. We cannot decide which course/s to be available on our own. But the mental health care is our priority too.

From Li

Q: My daughter will start grade 9 in September, at don mills CI. Will there be specialty class and art class for all 4 semesters?

A: Please email to Trustee Li: james.li@tdsb.on.ca

From Kate

Q: In Grade 12, each class is less than 2 hours, and most of the time students don't have instructions from teachers directly. I am very worried about this short teaching time.

A: Even with 1.5 hours lecturing time, the teachers do not talk for the whole time. This applies also to the new teaching models of the covid-19.

Q: do students have other ways to ask teachers questions if they need help?

A: Yes, students are always welcome to ask their teachers questions by emails.

Q: After TDSB's classes changes to 4 semesters, will it negatively affect the timely upload of high school scores to the university? Does it negatively affect our children's college/university applications?

A: (1) Quadmester is new to us but it is not a new model. Some schools have already adopted quadmester for a while.

(2) If students can select courses properly, they can get 6 top grade 12 courses by the middle of April, therefore making this model more efficient.

(3) The guidance counselor will upload the transcripts of each grade 12 student periodically. For students who need 2 courses from the last semester to complete the requirements of universities, the universities are able to see i) which courses students have completed, ii) which courses students are taking now and iii) which courses students are going to take. The universities will then adjust their time to issue offers based on this information.

(4) The managers of TDSB will also negotiate with universities and OUAC about our schedule change so that they will adjust their schedule to accept students from us.

Q: Is the time of the online class the same as the onsite class?

A: No.

Q: Online exam format

A: Teachers will design proper online exam formats according to the teaching material. And also students' academic performances will be comprehensively assessed by a few methods, with one of these methods being exams.

From June

Q: Since the flu has similar symptoms as COVID-19, is there a specific requirement for kids who have the flu? And how long do kids with the flu have to quarantine at home?

A: TDSB will strictly follow the rules from Public Health Agency of Canada.

Q: Can students take online courses during the 14-day quarantine period?

A: Yes, please contact the principal of your school directly.

From Zirui

Q: Is there only 2 options for high school students?

A: The survey to parents is not a decision but it is a data collection for TDSB to make the final decision.

Q: Can students interact with the teachers in online classes?

A: Absolutely. Students are welcome to interact with teachers and to seek help from teachers.

Q: Does the teacher give comments for student's assignments' and performance?

A: Yes, TDSB will have a standard for online courses.

Q: For online lessons at home, there are no textbooks, what should we do?

A: All digital textbooks are posted online already. Students and parents can download them.

Q: Can I select the online courses?

A: Yes, only the available online courses can be selected by students.

Q: After the online lessons, if students return to school, will they be placed in the original school?

A: Yes, the parents can contact the principal directly and TDSB will try to place students in the original school.

Q: How does the TDSB recognize and accept credits from private schools?

A: Yes, once the student gets the report card from the private school, they can hand it over to the guidance counselor or principal of your home school. Your home school will put it in your student file

Q: If you choose all online courses, is the learning model the same in Canada as it is in China?

A: Yes.

From Fanny

Q: are there regular courses and gift programs for online courses?

A: Yes

Q: Do they have a homeroom teacher for online classes?

A: Yes.

Q: If students have questions, should they talk to teachers or the principal?

A: Students can still talk to their principal.

Q: Does TDSB have a survey to ask whether the teachers would like to teach online classes or onsite classes?

A: Yes, we do.

Q: Can parents know the percentage of teachers that prefer online classes as opposed to onsite classes?

A: No, this information is only available to the HR department of TDSB.

From Julia

Q: Does the school continue to mix classes?

A: It depends. The classes of TDSB are divided by the number of students.

Q: Will the students for the onsite class be the same students as for the online class before?

A: Not sure yet. It may not be the same.

Q: Is the online course the same for young children and older children?

A: Yes, same format.

Q: SK children are basically accompanied by their parents throughout the online courses. If they continue to learn online, their parents must accompany them throughout the course. How do we solve this problem?

A: TDSB always encourage parents to send their children to school if they do not have enough time to take care of their kids at home.

From Yqian

Q: do all teachers and students have to wear masks? Are there requirements for the material of the masks?

A: The students are not required to wear masks if they can keep 2 meters social distance, but if not, it will be necessary.

Q: is there only one teacher in the online class for grade 7?

A: Yes, one teacher for one class.

Q: If a teacher or student has an infection in the school, will the parents be notified?

A: If your child is at risk, the parents will be notified; if there is no risk with your child, the parents will not be notified. The notification is generally based on the requirement of Public Health Agency of Canada.

From Vivian

Q: When will the high school timetable be available ?

A: Before the new semester starts in September

Q: One week before the school starts, can I change the course if I find that the course is not suitable?

A: TDSB will do our best to help you as long as the course is still available.

Q: If we have chosen the onsite course model, but there is one course my kids would like to take can only be taught online, what should we do?

A: If you choose the online course model, then only the online courses are available to you. If you choose onsite course model, then only onsite courses are available to you

Q: If the students' timetable is different from what we choose, what should we do?

A: You can contact the principal.

From Katherin

Q: Can we defer our school time by one semester or one year if we cannot come to Canada due to lack of flights to Canada?

A: Please contact the international student office of TDSB: studytoronto@tdsb.on.ca.

Q: are there ESL courses in TDSB in September?

A: Please contact the international student office of TDSB studytoronto@tdsb.on.ca.

Q: is the mandarin course still available?

A: TDSB will do our best to make this course available.

From Lina

Q: I heard that the French courses will be cancelled next year. Will it negatively affect children who are going to take IB program?

A: For kids who are going to take IB programs, our schools will have some special arrangements. Please contact your principal directly. We will do our best to help you.

Q: Qualifications of French teachers

A: Since one teacher takes charge of one class, the French teachers will be qualified to teach French class.

Q: Will French courses be reduced in TDSB?

A: All French courses will be arranged according to the provincial curriculum.

From Frank LI

Q: May I ask the refund policy of TDSB, is there a deadline to submit my refund application? And whom should I contact?

A: Refund is available .Please refer to refund policy of TDSB

Q: if my kid transfers to a private school, do all credits granted by a school in TDSB be uploaded to my kid's university application account automatically?

A: After students transfer to a private school, the transcripts of these students will be transferred to the private school together with his/her OSR(Ontario Student Record). When students apply for universities, it is his/her current home school's responsibility to upload all required transcripts to the students' university application accounts.