



**TRUSTEE James Li** MBA CPA CMA

**Ward 13, Don Valley North**  
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August 14, 2020

Dear Community Members,

Thank you for attending a series of virtual meetings regarding the TDSB's school re-opening plans. We explored different options and heard from many voices of our parent community. Please note that the preregistration survey was released earlier this week and should reflect your intentions on how you would like to continue your child's schooling this year. I look forward to sharing your observations and questions for future planning in the upcoming school year with the Board. 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:** August 9-11, 2020 6:30 PM

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

**Number of Attendees:** Approx. 430 total attendees

**TDSB Members In Attendance:** James Li (Trustee), Manna Wong (Trustee), Aretha Phillip (Ward 13 PIAC Representative), Kiki Zhang (Trustee's Office Shared Services Liaison), Tania Jabbar (Trustee's Office Shared Services Liaison),

#### Items Discussed:

1. **TDSB Return to School Guide:** <https://jamesli.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Returning-to-School-Guide-Aug-10.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. Well-Being and Supports for Students
  - c. Professional Support Services
  - d. Reopening Principles for Itinerant Staff
  - e. Learning and Instruction

- f. Elementary Models
- g. Before- and After-School Programs
- h. Secondary Models
- i. Additional Learning and Instruction Considerations
- j. Classroom Setup
- k. Lunch & Recess
- l. Technology/Allocation of Devices
- m. Transportation
- n. Cafeterias & Student Nutrition Programs
- o. Budget

**2. Q&As on School Opening:** <https://jamesli.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/School-Reopening-Trustee-QA-August-7.pdf>

- a. The TDSB will continue to advocate for additional funds from the Ministry of Education to reduce class sizes to support physical distancing.
- b. Students (including those in Special Education and French Immersion & Extended French programs) will attend school 5 days per week, with one cohort for the full day, including recess and lunch.
- c. The Secondary model was designed to accommodate commute times for students when returning home for asynchronous remote learning.
- d. Students in Special Education programs will attend school five days a week where secondary students with special education needs will also be integrated into an adapted secondary schedule.
- e. The TDSB is contenting to push for policies that require all students in every grade to wear non-medical or cloth face masks/face coverings indoors.
- f. Students may wear their own non-medical masks, and non-medical masks will also be made available. Reasonable exceptions on the requirement to wear masks will apply.
- g. School-based staff who are regularly in close contact with students will be provided with all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- h. Direct and indirect contacts in schools for elementary students should be limited to approximately 50 and for secondary students should be limited to approximately 100.
- i. To support parents/guardians and adult students in their own language, the TDSB website will include translations of the phone survey and an online survey will be sent to those who are not able to respond to the phone survey.
- j. To support parents and adult students in their own language, the online survey will be available in 20 languages.
- k. We are asking parents/families to let us know what model they plan to have their children participate in for September.
- l. The opportunity to switch between remote and in-person learning will depend on availability of an appropriate class placement.

- m. Students may need to wait until the next progress report or term if they choose to switch to remote or in-person learning during the school year.
- n. If a change is required in between these periods, exceptions may be made on a case by case basis with time built in to transition into a classroom or remote cohort.
- o. If no additional Ministry funding to lower class size is provided, we will work as best we can with the resources we have to ensure that we minimize class size to the greatest extent possible.
- p. Once we receive information from the pre-registration survey to families, we will have a better idea as to what class sizes will be (some students will opt for remote learning).
- q. In the event that class sizes need to be adjusted, staff will explore strategies such as reorganizing classes or adding additional resources to the extent that the budget will allow.
- r. Given current class size caps in the Secondary collective agreement, we do not anticipate significant cohort size issues in most secondary classes.
- s. Current class sizes are allotted based on the collective agreements made with teacher unions and their respective grades.
- t. Information will be gathered from all staff via survey regarding ability to return to work, potential accommodation needs, and other pertinent and important information.
- u. The teachers delivering remote and in-person learning will be different.
- v. The TDSB is dedicated to providing continual professional learning and capacity building opportunities for educators.
- w. Students are expected to pre-screen themselves for COVID-19 prior to attending each school day.
- x. Upon arrival at the school, all individuals entering the building will complete an entry screening although temperatures will not be taken.
- y. If symptoms appear during the school day, students will be sent to an isolation room and Toronto Public Health will conduct contact tracing.
- z. Principals and school staff will provide specific detail about arrival and departure safety protocols including staggered entry/exits and limiting visitation.
- aa. Students will be expected to stay in their classroom for the full day, but allowed to take off masks during outdoor breaks.
- bb. Scheduled bathroom breaks and deep cleaning of the school twice daily are strategies to reduce contact with the virus.
- cc. Students are expected to carry their belongings for the day and are not permitted to use lockers.
- dd. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom and food programs will only serve pre-packed items and single use cutlery.
- ee. All staff will be provided with a full day of Health and Safety training prior to the start of the school year including training on COVID-19 Awareness, Screening/Signs/Symptoms, donning/doffing PPE, and other safety protocols related to the return to work.

- ff. Mechanical HVAC system settings will be adjusted to increase the amount of fresh air and windows will be opened, where possible, to increase natural ventilation.
  - gg. TDSB will track student and staff attendance and alert Toronto Public Health about large increases in absenteeism due to illness. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 are reported by the lab to Toronto Public Health who will help the school community through contact tracing.
  - hh. TDSB will work closely with Toronto Public Health. Factors for consideration may include closeness and extent of contact, and severity of symptoms, which will determine how TPH manages the case. TPH will determine if a class/school or part of a school would need to close.
    - ii. Additional direction will be taken from TPH and is based on Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health guidance in the workplace.
    - jj. All students with special education needs will continue to be supported by Homeroom and Resource teachers, as well as support staff, as per their IEPs.
    - kk. Resource support will be available for students with special education needs.
    - ll. Learning materials will not be shared, and will not be offered to students if they cannot be sanitized.
    - mm. School buses will adhere to seating plans where siblings and students from the same cohort can sit together.
- 3. TDSB Pre-Registration Script (Elementary Schools):** <https://jamesli.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Elementary-Script.pdf>
- 4. TDSB Pre-Registration Script (Secondary Schools):** <https://jamesli.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Secondary-Script.pdf>
- 5. Roundtable discussion**
- a. Staffing is decided based on the feedback from the survey.
  - b. Schools do not have an operating plan until they hear back from parents from the survey.
  - c. If schools have not received survey answers from parents, they will receive calls from school administration.
  - d. The regular Ontario curriculum will be delivered in consideration of health and safety measures (example: using technology instead of worksheets, reduced sharing of materials, etc.).
  - e. Students in specialized programs are expected to resume their learning in their specific cohorts.
  - f. It is not guaranteed that students will be learning from their home school teachers.
  - g. Specialized teachers may move between classes or deliver online synchronous learning while another teacher supervises the class.

- h. Teachers will schedule the movement of their students to adhere to social distancing.
- i. Rotating teachers can offer remote synchronous learning for students in the class to reduce contact.
- j. There will be no fans in classes as per Toronto Public Health recommendations.
- k. The number of student absences will be monitored closely.
- l. Remote learning will be centrally managed so the teachers will likely not be from the student's home school.
- m. The hours for remote learning are yet to be decided.
- n. Specialized teachers may also teach remote classes.
- o. Since remote learning is centrally staffed, materials like textbooks will be mailed to students.
- p. Guidance counselling will still be available to students.
- q. Bring your own device policies will be encouraged to prevent sharing of materials.
- r. There is a cap of the number of students a teacher can be exposed to.
- s. Teachers are free to deliver the curricula at their own pace.
- t. There is no guarantee that students will have the same teachers as their home school.
- u. Teachers will continue to assess students during remote learning to ensure that progress reports are distributed on time.
- v. If the number of cases rise in a school, closures will be considered with the advice of Toronto Public Health.
- w. Students will have someone supervising them at lunch, where principals will make decisions on where staff will be allocated.
- x. Students in remote learning do not have in-person access to school libraries.
- y. Anything that is shared is required to be sanitized and anything that cannot be sanitized will not be used.
- z. School councils should approach their principals for potential fundraising ideas.
- aa. Music classes may not require the use of instruments.
- bb. If the teachers cannot physically rotate, they will be remotely rotated.
- cc. The teacher delivering remote learning will write the student's report card.
- dd. Labs and projects are up to the discretion of teacher planning.
- ee. If a student's quarantine is extended, then their education will be accommodated at home.
- ff. Students will have opportunity to access TDSB devices should they need remote learning with no printing needed.
- gg. Parents are encouraged to remain engaged in their school councils.
- hh. Remote learning will have the same instructional time and curriculum as in-person learning.
- ii. If a local school is unable to accommodate the smaller class sizes, students will be moved to other locations.



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Please let me know if you have any questions to the meeting minutes as recorded above. I look forward to meeting you in our next Ward Council Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Li", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**James Li**

Trustee, Ward 13 Don Valley North