



TRUSTEE James Li MBA CPA CMA

Ward 13, Don Valley North
5050 Yonge St., Toronto, ON M2N 5N7
Phone: 416 395 8787
Email: James.Li@tdsb.on.ca



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Dear Friends

Thank you for attending our ward forum on the 2021 School Re-Opening Plan. We hope this session was informative and helpful. Please note that we will continue to provide you with the latest updates as they come along. Much of this process involves decisions and advice from the Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health. As we await further information, please refer to the PowerPoint presentation and meeting minutes to clarify any questions you may have.

Please see a below for the minutes from our meeting.

Meeting Date/Time: August 11, 6:30 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom Online Meeting hosted by Trustee James Li

Number of Attendees: Approx. 240 participants

Non-School Councils Members In Attendance: Aretha Philips (PIAC Rep), Marwa Hamid (Superintendent of Education), Nandy Palmer (Superintendent of Education), James Li (Trustee), Kiki Zhang (Trustee's Office Shared Services Liaison), Tania Jabbar (Trustee's Office Shared Services Liaison)

Items Discussed:

- Health and Safety
 - Many policies are still being developed on the advice of the province and Toronto Public Health
 - Health and safety are protocols based on lingering case numbers
 - Students and staff will be required to continue daily screening
 - For high level questions, go to Toronto Public Health to see what you should be doing if you have symptoms
 - All students are expected to wear masks. If you have situations where your child cannot wear a mask, please speak to the principal about exemptions
 - physical distancing will continue to be practiced where possible
 - classroom caps have not been confirmed yet, but they are still not big enough for all students to maintain a 2 meter distance which is why they are being asked to wear a mask

- In Ward 13, the schools built in the 60s and 70 are more spacious but this is not the case for many other schools across the TDSB
- Time will still be allocated towards maintaining proper hygiene such as proper handwashing
- Water fountains remain closed
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned multiple times per day
- Students can interact with different cohorts when going outdoors for recess

- Facilities
 - Special care for ventilation includes HEPA filters in every class
 - Schools in Ward 13 are relatively new with more mechanical ventilation
 - For more information, please visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/School-Year-2021-22/Health-and-Safety/Ventilation>

- Vaccinations
 - Protective measures in school are being enforced for people who are unvaccinated
 - Encouraging everyone to get vaccinated if possible
 - At the moment, the TDSB cannot enforce mandatory vaccinations
 - TDSB still awaiting guidance from Toronto Public Health regarding policies on vaccinations for school staff
 - Ward 13 has a lower vaccination rate in comparison to the rest of Toronto because it is considered a lower risk area

- Learning in Elementary Schools
 - Whether in-person, or virtual, all students will attend class daily
 - Middle School rotary classes cannot be practiced with different teachers for every subject, with exception to French
 - TDSB will continue with mixed grade classes if needed
 - Tri-grade classes are an option given registration numbers
 - Through the learning hub model, one administrator or team of administrators will manage the virtual learning hub, and the teachers assigned to one of the schools in the learning hub
 - The benefit of the learning hub model is that schools are smaller and parents can navigate the system easier. In this model, parents can contact their homeschool principal

- Learning in Secondary Schools
 - High schools will follow a different timetable than last year. The TDSB has opted out of the quadmester model. Instead, a modified semester model will be adopted to reduce stress and burnout for students
 - Each class will be taught over five months but in alternating weeks.

- Special Ed/Specialized Programs/French Language
 - Specialized education and French immersion will be offered in person, and virtually (if there are enough students registered)
 - There is still a provincial-wide shortage of French teachers
 - Gifted programs and any other ISP programs under special education will follow the same class caps unless not enough students can be populated to a class
 - If there are not enough students for a gifted class, they will be sent to a regular class. They can continue gifted programming the next time there are enough students for a gifted class
 - Please connect with the school for any questions related to special education
 - connect with school, and then school will connect you to special ed folks
 - Students in virtual FI programs might be in classes that were created by mixing schools if registration numbers are low in one school
 - Hybrid online/in-person classes are not an planned option at the moment in elementary schools. [Addendum: certain exceptions may be made depending on specific need]
 - Switching back and forth between in person and virtual shifts resources
 - The TDSB is working towards transition planning for students with special needs to address challenges they faced during the pandemic that inhibited their development in some areas
 - The TDSB is working on rebuilding relationships between staff and students with a huge focus piece on social emotional development and resilience

- COVID-19 Case Management for Students/Staff
 - Action by the school and Toronto Public Health will differ when a COVID-19 case occurs based on immunization of individual
 - An entire family may not need to self-isolate depending on if they are vaccinated or not, and if they are showing symptoms

- COVID-19 Outbreaks in Schools- Protection Measure
 - Toronto Public Health declares an outbreak when there are two or more cases within a 14 day period
 - A class or school might be dismissed from in-person learning and shifting to online school
 - Outbreaks end after Toronto Public Health declares it as over
 - TDSB encourages everyone to follow Toronto Public Health measures regardless if they attend in-person or virtual schools
 - In case a student is at home isolating, there will be no simultaneous learning available for them. Although, teachers can provide work.
 - Pivoting to virtual learning should there be another lockdown will remain the same as the previous lockdowns
 - Students who are vaccinated or unvaccinated will not be treated differently from one another



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- You can stitch from in-person to virtual learning in February 2022
- TDSB is still waiting for operational plan regarding music program in regards to sharing of instruments

End of Meeting

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 Meeting.