



TRUSTEE James Li MBA CPA CMA

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June 7, 2022

Dear Community Members,

On behalf of myself and Trustee Wong, we would like to thank you for attending our joint ward forum on the new Science curriculum and E-learning programming. We are grateful for the informative session delivered by Wendy Terro, Mahfuza Rahman, along with Peggy Aitchison and Denise De Paola. We are hopeful that these changes allow for deeper learning that is more accessible and engaging for different learners. Please refer to the presentation slides attached for additional information. I look forward to sharing your observations and questions for future planning in the upcoming school year with the Board. As always, I am thankful for all parents, students, and staff working their hardest to remain flexible during these turbulent times.

Please see a below for the minutes from our meeting.

Meeting Date/Time: June 7, 2022 7 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting hosted by Trustee James Li and Trustee Manna Wong

Number of Attendees: Approx. 80 participants

Non-School Councils Members In Attendance: Helen Fisher (Superintendent of Education), Marwa Hamid (Superintendent of Education), Peggy Aitchison (Centrally Assigned Principal, E-Learning), Denise De Paola (Centrally Assigned Principal, Student Well-being, and Innovation), Wendy Terro (Centrally Assigned Principal of Learning Transformation and Equity, Special Education and Inclusion, The Arts, Math, Science/STEM and Robotics), Mahfuza Rahman (Coordinator, Secondary, STEM Science & Tech and Robotics), James Li (Trustee), Manna Wong (Trustee), Kiki Zhang (Trustee's Office Shared Services Liaison), Tania Jabbar (Trustee's Office Shared Services Liaison)

Roundtable Discussion

Science Curriculum

- The intention is to break down barriers that hinder cross-curricular connections and cultivate curiosity, interest, and joy
- There is more fluidity within Strand A of the elementary and secondary divisions
- A more comprehensive engineer design process
- The structure of each strands is more aligned with the secondary curriculum for more STEM continuum development

- There is no more streaming (removal of applied and academic science courses)
- Science courses are compulsory for all students
- The new curriculum will allow for more connection and continuity between the elementary and secondary science curriculum
- Some new components of the new curriculum include food literacy and climate change
- More opportunities to make broader connections along with STEM
- The aim is to ensure that all students are scientifically literate with a willingness to delve into science in the future
- More opportunities to collaborate with interdisciplinary connections
- The curriculum changes encourage students to think about solutions for global problems (ex. climate change, accessibility)
- Although STEM education integrates mathematical thinking, financial literacy (money and time management) concepts can be found in the new math curriculum
- More on Financial Literacy: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/surveyliteracy.html>
- All schools across Ontario integrate STEM in their classrooms, it is not a separate program where students need to enroll
- Educators continue to receive ongoing professional development opportunities to familiarize themselves with the new curriculum and STEM/STEAM learning
- there is lots of overlap with old curriculum but it's not a full rewrite
- teachers should understand where students are coming from and where they are going when transitioning to the new curriculum
- the new curriculum will better prepare students with more breadth to be more successful in high school

E-Learning Component

- If you choose to opt out of the program, it will not affect the student's graduation
- Individual schools will consult with students or families to determine which course they'd like to take through learning
- You can opt in or out anytime but you need to request it through the school
- E-learning courses will be offered in summer that are separate
- An E-learning course would become one of the student's 4 courses but it would be delivered in an asynchronous format which would not conflict with other courses

Additional Resources:

- Science Curriculum: <https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/science-technology>
- Science Teachers Association of Ontario: <https://stao.ca/>
- Math Curriculum: <https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/elementary-mathematics>
- Financial Literacy: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/surveyliteracy.html>



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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