



**Committee of the Whole  
(Special Meeting)  
Revised Agenda**

CW:025A

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

4:30 p.m.

Electronic Meeting

Trustee Members

Alexander Brown (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Rachel Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Trixie Doyle, Harpreet Gill, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Alexandra Lulka, Dan MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Robin Pilkey, Yalini Rajakulasingam, David Smith, Anu Sriskandarajah, Jennifer Story, Chris Tonks, Manna Wong

The purpose of this meeting is to provide strategic advice and recommendations to the Board on the continued implementation of services during school closures, creating a successful path to the post-COVID reopening of schools and other potential learnings from the pandemic period.

**Pages**

- 1. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands**
- 2. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest**
- 3. Delegations**  
To be presented
- 4. Report From the Director of Education**  
Oral update
- 5. Report From the Chair of the Board**  
Oral update
- 6. Report From Representative on the City's Board of Health**  
Oral update

- 7. Report From the Directors on the Ontario Public School Boards' Association**  
Oral update
- 8. Report From the Chairs of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Program and School Services Committee, the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee**  
Oral update
- 9. Report From Representatives on the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee**  
Oral update
- 10. Reports From Student Trustees**  
Oral update
- 11. Written Notices of Motion for Consideration**
  - 11.1 COVID-19 Specific Needs (Trustees Story and Chernos Lin) 1
  - 11.2 Masks for All Students, Staff and Visitors (Trustees Aarts and Chernos Lin) 3
- 12. Emergency Motions**
  - 12.1 More Nurses for a Safe and Staggered School Re-Opening (Trustees Donaldson and Story) 5
- 13. Other Questions, Insights and Advice From Trustees to Staff**  
To be presented
- 14. Adjournment**

### **Written Notice of Motion for Consideration (Trustees Story and Chernos Lin)**

From: Denise Joseph-Dowers, Manager, Board Services, Governance and Board Services

In accordance with Board Bylaw 5.15.2, notice of the following motion was provided at the special meeting of the Board on August 6, 2020 and is therefore submitted for consideration at this time.

5.15.2 A notice of motion will be introduced by a member who is present as an advance notification of a matter to be considered at a subsequent Board or Committee meeting. A notice of motion will not be debated at the meeting at which it is introduced...

5.15.2 (c) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a committee meeting, will be considered at a subsequent committee meeting...

### **COVID-19 Specific Needs**

Whereas, the Board has previously advocated for a significant number of supports to help in the transition back to school for September, 2020; and

Whereas, the announcement of province-wide funding for school boards on Thursday, July 30, 2020 shows recognition by the Province of the significant needs created by Covid-19 and was a welcome addition; and

Whereas, though staff will continue to ensure our focus is on the safe and secure return to school for all staff and students, nonetheless there remain significant gaps in funding for school-based response to Covid-19 impacts;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- a) That the Chair write to the Minister of Education to advocate for the following COVID-specific needs:
  - i. increase staffing to allow boards to reduce class sizes in elementary panel to the greatest extent possible,
  - ii. ensure its commitment to full funding PPE for all staff and students continues for as long as needed,
  - iii. support effective teaching/learning in outdoor classrooms;
- b) That the Ministry of Education be called upon to fund school boards' repair and maintenance budgets to continuously and systematically, throughout the next budget year:

- i. renovate indoor classrooms and other indoor spaces to maximize ventilation and fresh air flow, including but not limited to the installation/retrofit of windows that open,
  - ii. ensure that every bathroom be equipped with touchless handwashing stations,
  - iii. fund the installation of water-bottle filling stations to a ratio of one per every student washroom in the school;
- c) That the Provincial Government, the City of Toronto and the Toronto Foundation for Student Success be urgently called upon to ensure that funding for student nutrition is maintained such that any potential increased cost of nutrition programs under COVID-19, including but not limited to the provision of prepackaged meals does not result in any decrease to the number meals/snacks provided in any of our school sites;
- d) That the Director:
  - i. report as soon as possible on the status of the board's current water-bottle filling station program;
  - ii. ensure that up to date school by school safety inspections are published online;
  - iii. ensure that the line by line renewals needs of each school similarly be published;
  - iv. encourage administrators and educators to use to the maximum extent possible all of our outdoor spaces and large well-ventilated indoor spaces as teaching/learning environments;
  - v. request advice from Toronto's Medical Officer of Health regarding the most appropriate public health standards and protocols that will be effective in keeping students and staff safe in Toronto's schools.

### **Written Notice of Motion for Consideration (Trustees Aarts and Chernos Lin)**

From: Denise Joseph-Dowers, Manager, Board Services, Governance and Board Services

In accordance with Board Bylaw 5.15.2, notice of the following motion was provided at the special meeting of the Board on August 6, 2020 and is therefore submitted for consideration at this time.

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5.15.2 (c) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a committee meeting, will be considered at a subsequent committee meeting...

### **Masks for All Students, Staff and Visitors**

Whereas, the Ministry of Education has mandated the use of masks for all staff as well as for all children in Grade 4 and higher as part of the safe reopening of schools; and

Whereas, research shows that young children do contract COVID-19 and carry high viral loads in their respiratory system, therefore indicating both the ability of young children to contract and spread COVID-19; and

Whereas, research shows that the primary route of spread of COVID-19 occurs via respiratory droplets and that face-coverings, including non-medical masks, combined with frequent handwashing, are effective at reducing spread of virus via droplets; and

Whereas, all three levels of government health agencies in our country, province and city recommend or require the use of face coverings indoors in situations of the three Cs (closed spaces, crowded spaces, and close contact) to effectively reduce exposure to virus via respiratory droplets; and

Whereas, Toronto Public Health advises the public of the following:

- *The use of masks/face coverings is non-invasive, inexpensive, and can help save lives,*
- *Wearing masks or face coverings indoors helps us keep our respiratory droplets to ourselves to prevent spreading germs to others. There is evidence that cloth masks can reduce the spread of respiratory droplets into the air and landing on surfaces. Jurisdictions that have legislated mandatory masks have seen a decrease in new COVID-19 cases,*
- *all people two years of age and older wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain;*

and;

Whereas, Toronto Public Health guidelines as outlined in the [City of Toronto By-law 541-2020](#) now require the use of masks in all publicly accessed indoor spaces, including apartment buildings, for everyone over the age of two years; and

Whereas, Toronto Public Health data shows that communities across the City are differentially impacted by COVID-19 and suggests that our most vulnerable populations of students and families are at highest risk of continued and renewed outbreaks; and that, it seems likely that these same communities have less flexibility to 'opt-out' of in-school learning to protect their families;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Director:

- i. include the requirement for masks indoors for all students, staff, and visitors, with appropriate medical exemptions, where two metres of social distancing cannot be maintained, until such time as masks are no longer required or recommended in the general population to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
- ii. explore alternatives, such as face shields for students who are unable to wear face masks;
- iii. present a report to the Committee of the Whole (Special Meeting) scheduled for August 18, 2020 on the projected costs to provide students with reusable masks or medically-approved masks beyond the funding provided by the Ministry of Education.

**Notice of Possible Emergency Business**

Committee of the Whole

August 18, 2020

*Trustee Donaldson, seconded by Trustee Story, might move the following as an item of emergency business for consideration by the Committee of the Whole on August 18, 2020*

**More Nurses for a Safe and Staggered School Re-Opening**

Whereas, the Board's bylaws define emergency business as:

a situation, or the threat of a situation, adversely affecting health, safety and/or well-being, or resulting in significant legal risk or financial damage or loss, which by its nature and seriousness requires an immediate response;

and;

Whereas, Trustees Donaldson and Story have submitted the following as a matter of urgency and for consideration as emergency business;

Therefore, be it resolved:

A. That the following matter be deemed as emergency business;

and, if approved (requires a two-thirds majority vote of the members present to be considered);

B. That the following be considered:

Whereas, the TDSB has prepared an operational plan for re-opening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic that provides learning in multiple modes (fully remote, in-class, hybrid);

Whereas, Public Health Canada has released COVID-19 guidance to administrators for schools Kindergarten to Grade 12<sup>1</sup> that outlines measures, such as a phased-in return to school, that would increase the safety of students and staff;

Whereas, Toronto Public Health has recently highlighted improvements to the Province's plan for re-opening schools that would make Toronto schools safer, such as:

- (i) Ensuring that class sizes are limited to allow physical distancing of 2 metres between all students;
- (ii) Strongly encouraging masks for younger students (below Grade 4) where possible;
- (iii) Prioritizing resources for schools in high-transmission and high-needs areas;
- (iv) Piloting a saliva-based testing option that could be used in homes and schools;
- (v) Implementing active daily screening practices; and

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<sup>1</sup> Public Health Canada, "COVID-19 Guidance for Schools Kindergarten to Grade 12", <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/guidance-schools-childcare-programs.html>

- (vi) Encouraging a later start the school year or having staggered start dates for students in order to allow school boards and schools time to prepare and incorporate public health recommendations.

Whereas, the Province's intention to hire "up to 500 public health nurses" lacks detail about how many nurses Toronto Public Health will be able to hire for the 850+ schools in our city;

Whereas Toronto has had the highest COVID-19 total case count of any area of the province since the pandemic began, and whereas Toronto Public Health is gathering and transparently providing neighbourhood-level data about the incidence of COVID-19 cases that are prevalent in particular areas of the city; and

Whereas additional school-based Toronto Public Health nurses in Toronto schools could aid in a safe return to school buildings, assist with health measures and protocols (such as screening) in the first few weeks of school, and play an important on-the-ground role in outbreak management.

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Chair write to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health to request:
  - (i) the immediate hiring of additional of public health nurses for Toronto schools to provide support needed for a safer return to school, and in particular, schools within high incidence areas,
  - (ii) implementation of a saliva-based test to be piloted with the TDSB and Toronto Public Health, and scaled up as needed, to minimize disruption to student learning that could be impacted from having to repeatedly shut down in-class instruction.
- (b) That the Director of Education report back to the Board about:
  - (i) a staggered start to the in-class re-opening of schools to ensure the highest degree of success in implementing safety protocols for students, staff and visitors entering, moving around within, and exiting schools,
  - (ii) a regional approach to prioritizing our own resources to schools within the highest incidence areas, in coordination with Toronto Public Health's neighbourhood-level data about COVID-19 activity.



## **Acknowledgment of Traditional Lands**

We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe (A NISH NA BEE), the Haudenosaunee (HOE DENA SHOW NEE) Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

## **Reconnaissance des Terres Traditionnelles**

Nous reconnaissons que nous sommes accueillis sur les terres des Mississaugas des Anichinabés (A NISH NA BEY), de la Confédération Haudenosaunee (HOE DENA SHOW NE) et du Wendat. Nous voulons également reconnaître la pérennité de la présence des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuit