



**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 **Returning to School: Planning Ahead for 2020 [3935]** 1
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12. **Written Notices of Motion for Consideration**
 - 12.1 COVID-19 Specific Needs (Trustees Story and Chernos Lin) 41
 - 12.2 Masks for All Students, Staff and Visitors (Trustees Aarts and Chernos Lin) 43
13. **Emergency Motions**
 - 13.1 More Nurses for a Safe and Staggered School Re-Opening (Trustees Donaldson and Story) 45
14. **Other Questions, Insights and Advice From Trustees to Staff**
To be presented
15. **Adjournment**



Returning to School: Planning Ahead for September 2020

To: Special Committee of the Whole Board Meeting

Date: 18 August, 2020

Report No.: 08-20-3935

Strategic Directions

- Transform Student Learning
- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Returning to School: Planning Ahead for September 2020 report be received.

Context

The presentation in Appendix A outlines staff's most current plan for the safe return to school in September 2020. Staff have worked closely with the Ministry of Education, Toronto Public Health and other stakeholders in the development of this plan.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Upon review and approval of the appropriate Model for September 2020, staff will work with the Ministry of Education, Toronto Public Health and other stakeholders to ensure and seamless and safe return to school.

Resource Implications

The available reserves will be outlined in the presentation.

Communications Considerations

Communications is a critical component of engaging and educating all stakeholder groups (staff, students, parents/guardians and the community) in the plans for September. The Government, Public and Community Relations Department has developed a comprehensive communication plan to support timely communications to all stakeholders through multiple channels (email, website, social media, school communications, etc.).

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Not Applicable.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Returning to School: Planning Ahead for September 2020 - PowerPoint

From

Carlene Jackson, Interim Director of Education at carlene.jackson@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-397-3190.

Manon Gardner, Associate Director, School Operations and Service Excellence at manon.gardner@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-394-2041.

Craig Snider, Interim Associate Director, Business Operations and Service Excellence at craig.snider@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-397-3188.

Kathy Witherow, Associate Director, Leadership, Learning, and School Improvement at kathy.witherow@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-397-3069.

Karen Falconer, Interim Associate Director, Equity, Well-Being and School Improvement at karen.falconer@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-396-9184.

Steve Shaw, Executive Officer, Facility Services and Planning at steve.shaw@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-393-8780.

Andrew Gold, Executive Superintendent, Employee Services at Andrew.Gold@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-397-3726.

Returning to School

Planning Ahead for September 2020

Committee of the Whole

August 18, 2020



Guiding Principles



Prioritize health and safety



Support well-being



Provide predictable learning opportunities with high quality instruction



Foster connections to staff and peers



Ensure equity of access



Consider needs of staff, students and families



Be adaptable and flexible



Be financially feasible and sustainable

Toronto Public Health Recommendations

- 2m spacing between desks
- Masks/face coverings where physical distancing is not possible
- Open space whenever possible
- Regular hand washing and sanitizing
- Incorporate outdoor activities whenever possible for distancing and relief from mask/face coverings
- Active screening of symptoms prior to entry
- Delay start of school year or have staggered starts to allow time for public health measures to be incorporated

Pre-Registration Surveys

- School Messenger was used to conduct an automated telephone survey to find out how many students are intending to participate in learning in school or remote learning.
- The survey was broadcasted to parents/guardians of elementary and secondary students as well as Adult Day and Edvance students between Tuesday August 11 to Friday August 14.

Pre-Registration, Overall Response Rates

The average response rate was 67%, a total of 169,312 responses. There were 82,286 non-respondents.

	Total Responses	Response Rate
JK to Grade 3	59,907	71%
Grades 4-6	37,342	72%
Grades 7-8	23,831	70%
Grades 9-12	45,466	60%
Adult Day and Edvance	2,766	49%
Total	169,312	67%



Pre-Registration Response Rates by LOI and TPH Priority Neighbourhoods

- Across LOI rankings:
 - Response rates at the elementary level show a **slight** difference between the most challenged and least challenged schools, but overall high response rates across neighborhoods.
 - Response rates at the secondary level shows **more variability** across LOI school rankings when compared to elementary
- Toronto Public Health ranked schools by neighbourhood based on COVID-19 risk score
 - Survey response rates for TPH neighbourhoods ranked most at risk align with our overall response rate (range: 48% to 74%)



Pre-Registration Results

Elementary Student Findings

Will your child be returning to school in September if there is:

- **A regular school day model with normal class sizes (this means a full day of learning in school every day)**

Yes, my child will return to a regular school day	85,677 (71%)
No, my child will not return and will participate in remote learning instead	35,389 (29%)

- **A school day model with smaller class sizes of 15-20 students (this means learning in school every day and may mean a shorter school day)**

Yes, my child will return with smaller class sizes	91,549 (77%)
No, my child will not return to the smaller class size model and will participate in remote learning instead	26,776 (23%)

- Across LOI school rankings, there is **strong intention** to return to school with regular and smaller class sizes.



Pre-Registration Results

Secondary Student Findings

Will your child be returning to school in September for:

An **Adapted** In-School Day Model with **Smaller** Class Size Cohorts (this means students attend school in person every other day, in smaller class sizes of approximately 15 students, with learning continuing at home the other half of the day including both independent work time and live synchronous teaching):

Yes, my child will attend	37,843 (83%)
No, my child will not attend and will participate in fully remote learning instead	7,622 (17%)

- Across LOI school rankings, there is **strong intention** to return to school with an adapted day model.



Pre-Registration Results

Adult and EdVance Student Findings

In September, Adult and EdVance high school students will have the choice of taking their courses at school or online.

I want to take my courses at the school in September	1,127 (41%)
I want to take my courses online in September	1,125 (44%)
I will not be coming to an Adult or EdVance High School in September	424 (15%)

International Students

Parents/guardians of International Students were sent an online survey on August 14.

This surveys closes on August 18.



Staff Survey Results

- A survey was sent to all permanent staff on August 15, 2020 after consultation with all TDSB Bargaining Units
- The survey will give us data on staff ability to return to work and potential needs to support a full time and safe return to work. This data will be by employee classification, location, etc.
- The survey also provided details on contact information for requesting medical accommodation due to a disability and contact names for requesting non-medical accommodation (i.e. childcare/elder care) accommodation. Staff in Employee Services will work with employees, Union representatives and Principals/Managers to respond to these requests on a case-by-case basis.
- A survey for casual/daily workers (e.g. Occasional Teachers, replacement support staff) is being finalized.

Secondary Quadmester Calendar

Quad 1: Sept 8 - Nov. 9 + Exams Nov. 10 and Nov. 11

Quad 2: Nov. 12 - Jan. 28 + Exams Jan. 29 and Feb. 1

Quad 3: Feb. 3 - April 19 + Exams April 20-21 *April 8, 2021: OSSLT Day













Quad 4: April 22 - June 23 + Exams June 24, 25, 28

PA Days: September 1-3, November 20, February 2, February 12, June 29

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Full Year	8 courses all year									
Semester	4 courses					4 courses				
Quadmester	2 courses		2 courses			2 courses		2 courses		





Time	Cohort A				Cohort B			
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
8:45 a.m.– 12:30p.m.	<u>Course 1</u> In Person @ School 	<u>Course 1</u> Independent Learning @ Home 	<u>Course 2</u> In Person @ School 	<u>Course 2</u> Independent Learning @ Home 	<u>Course 1</u> Independent Learning @ Home 	<u>Course 1</u> In Person @ School 	<u>Course 2</u> Independent Learning @ Home 	<u>Course 2</u> In Person @ School 
12:30 p.m.– 2:00 p.m.	Student Dismissal (return home/lunch)							
2:00 p.m.– 3:15p.m.	<u>Course 2</u> Live Virtual Learning 		<u>Course 1</u> Live Virtual Learning 		<u>Course 2</u> Live Virtual Learning 		<u>Course 1</u> Live Virtual Learning 	

 Live Virtual Learning	 Independent Learning	 In Person Learning
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Fully Remote Learning - Secondary

Some students may opt to not return to school and continue their learning at home. We may also need to be prepared to pivot from face to face instruction if public health guidance requires a change in operation. The guidelines below outline Remote Learning in the TDSB for secondary students.

Students will have a daily schedule as outlined below. A minimum of 90 minutes/course/day must be synchronous through *BrightSpace or Google Classroom*.

Course 1: 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Course 2: 12:30 to 3 p.m.



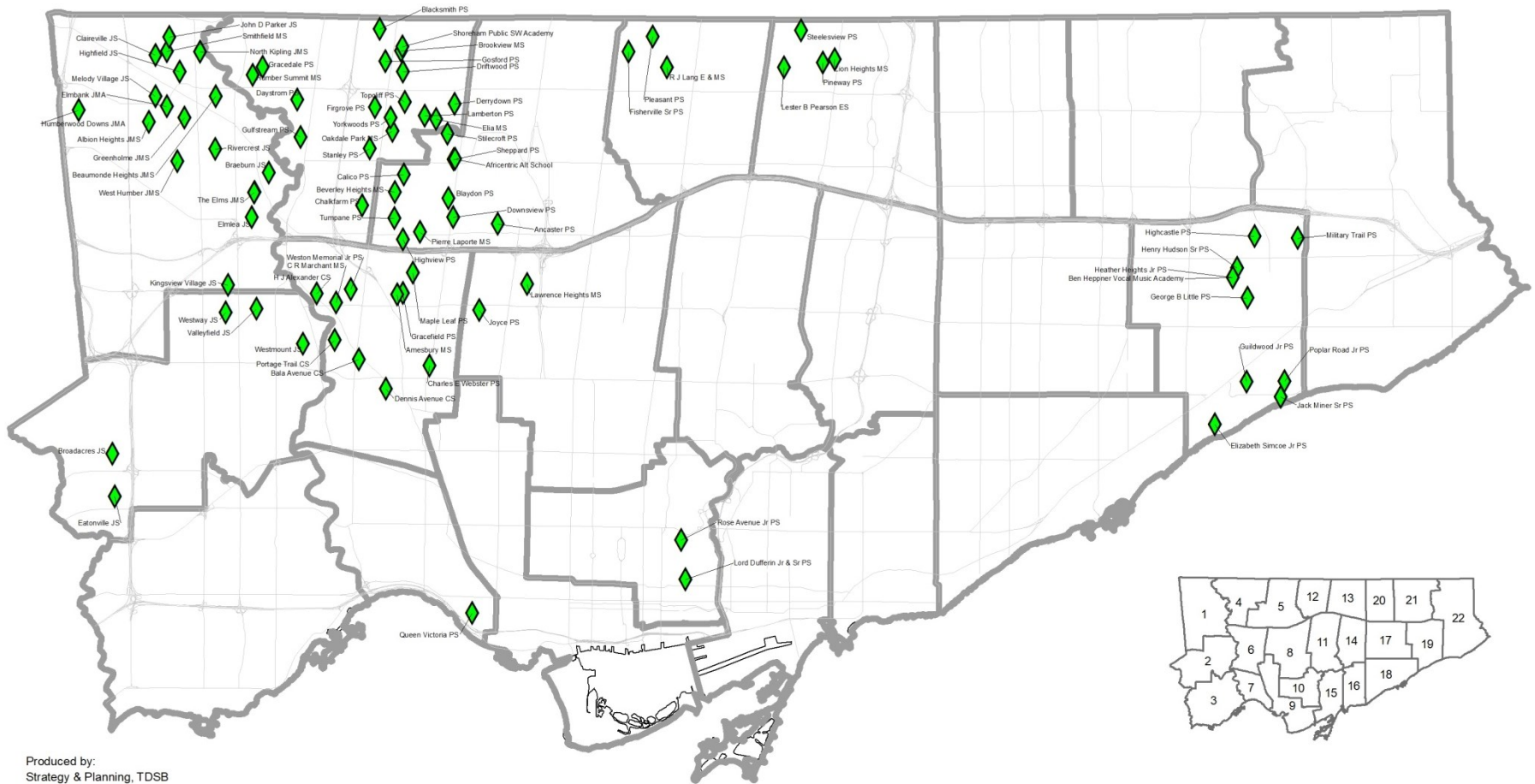
Virtual School for K-12 Remote Learning

- Through the Ministry of Education, TDSB is requesting a BSID (Board School Identification) number to create a central “virtual school” for all students choosing fully remote learning for the 2020-21 school year
- The school will be staffed with Superintendent, principals, vice-principals, teachers, guidance counsellors

Focus of Elementary Program

- TPH letter to TDSB states that: “We recommend that the priority for allocation of resources should be schools within high incidence areas.”
- Identify available spaces within school (gym, cafetorium, library) to support increased distances between students
- Work with external partners to identify, secure and set up alternative space for student learning (i.e. City of Toronto)
- On August 18, we received an updated list from TPH re: schools in high incidence areas and continue to work with TPH to develop more precise modelling of school configurations in the coming days

List of Elementary Schools in Highest Risk Areas Currently Identified by Toronto Public Health



Produced by:
Strategy & Planning, TDSB
August 2020

(*as of August 18)

Elementary Class Size Limitations

In Person:

- The TDSB does not have sufficient funds available to support class sizes which would allow for 2m distancing between students in every class.

Remote Learning:

- Delivered through a central virtual school model as there are not sufficient resources to provide for an individual school based model.

Status of Reserve Funds

***As of August 31, 2019**

Reserve Type	Amount	Details
Health and Dental Reserve	\$4.5M	These funds will be used to complete the transition of employee to benefit trusts
Group Life Insurance	\$12.9	The surplus in this benefit plan of \$10M was used to balance the Board's original forecasted deficit
Long Term Disability Reserve	\$88.2	These funds offset the actuarial liability of LTDI claims which were calculated to be \$59.9M as of 18-19 yearend.
School Budget Carryovers	\$17.7M	This reserve offsets the use of school budget carryovers in future years
Contractual Professional Development Carryovers	\$0.9M	This reserve offsets the use of contractual PD of Superintendents and Principals carryover in future years



Status of Reserve Funds

***As of August 31, 2019**

Reserve Type	Amount	Details
IT Projects	\$1.3M	Information technology projects not completed in 18-19. This reserve will be spent during 19-20.
Various Department Carryovers	\$1.7M	Projects in 18-19 that were not completed until 19-20. This reserve will be spent during 19-20.
Environmental Legacy Fund	\$2.9M	Funds received through carbon credits to support environmental related projects
Artificial Turf Fund	\$0.7M	Permit Revenue from artificial turf fields used for future replacements
Total Reserves	\$130.8M	



Elementary Class Size Model

- All three proposed models would require the redeployment of some central, itinerant and school-based teachers
- This redeployment would result in approximately 400 teachers to support smaller class sizes



Elementary Model: Option 1

Funding

- Uses additional teacher funding from the Ministry of Education of approximately \$6.3M, plus repurposed \$2.9M of TDSB budget
- The total TDSB deficit would remain at 1% under this option

Staffing

- These funds provide 86 teachers in addition to the 400 redeployed teachers
- Total: 486 teachers to support smaller class sizes

Elementary Model: Option 1

Considerations and Risks

- Insufficient space to accommodate students
- Student supervision
- Transportation



Elementary Model: Option 2

Funding

- In addition to Option 1, additional use of reserves to increase the deficit by 1% (\$29.5M)
- The total TDSB deficit would be 2% under this option
- The following reserves would be utilized to provide this additional funding:
 - School Budget Carryovers (\$17.7M)
 - Contractual Professional Development Carryovers (\$0.9M)
 - Environmental Legacy Fund (\$2.3M)
 - Artificial Turf Fund (\$0.2M)
 - Long Term Disability Reserve (\$8.4M)

Elementary Model: Option 2

Staffing

- The use of these reserves would result in an additional 280 teachers
- Total: 766 teachers to support smaller class sizes



Elementary Model: Option 2

Considerations and Risks

- Insufficient space to accommodate students
- Student supervision
- Transportation
- Use of reserves could impact financial position of TDSB in current or future years
- Potential second year of COVID-19 would require use of additional reserves

Elementary Model: Option 3

Funding

- In addition to Option 1 and Option 2, additional use of reserves to increase the deficit by 2% (\$59.0M)
- The total TDSB deficit would be 3% under this option
- The following reserves would be utilized to provide this additional funding:
 - School Budget Carryovers (\$17.7M)
 - Contractual Professional Development Carryovers (\$0.9M)
 - Environmental Legacy Fund (\$2.3M)
 - Artificial Turf Fund (\$0.2M)
 - Long Term Disability Reserve (\$37.9M)

Elementary Model: Option 3

Staffing

- The use of these reserves would result in an additional 280 teachers
- Total: 1,046 teachers to support smaller class sizes

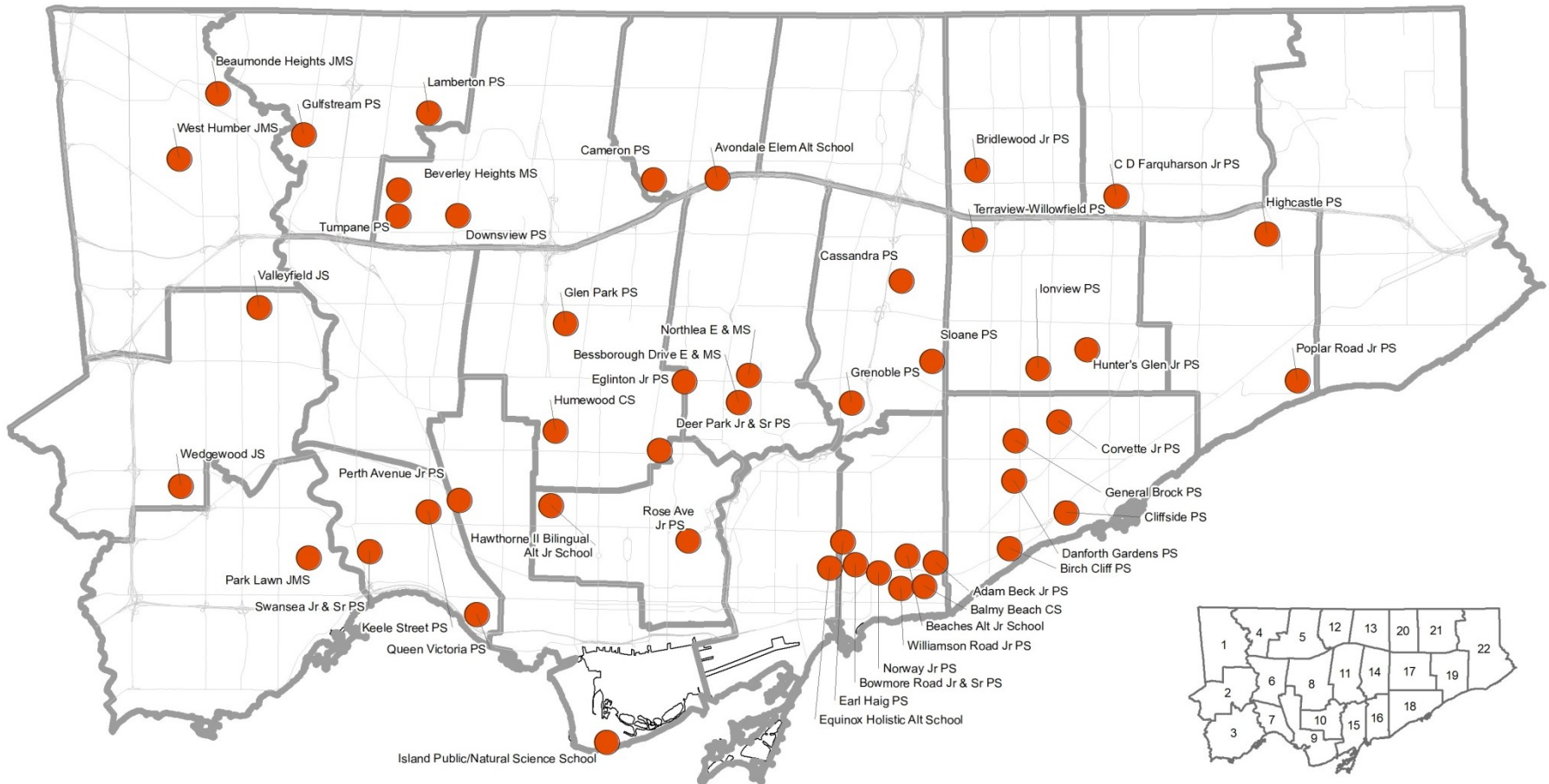


Elementary Model: Option 3

Considerations and Risks

- Insufficient space to accommodate students
 - Approximately 48 elementary schools could have a shortfall of classrooms after using the gyms, libraries, lunchrooms and cafeterias as classrooms, resulting in an 96 additional classrooms required
- Student supervision
- Transportation
- Use of reserves could significantly impact financial position of TDSB in current or future years
- Potential second year of COVID-19 would require use of additional reserves

Elementary Schools Anticipated to have a Shortfall of Classrooms



Summary of Financial Options

Description	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
TDSB additional budget allocation	\$2.9M	\$2.9M	\$2.9M
Ministry Funding for Additional Teachers	\$6.3M	\$6.3M	\$6.3M
Use of Reserves up to 2% Deficit		\$29.5M	\$29.5M
Use of Reserves up to 3% Deficit			\$29.5M
Total	\$9.2M	\$38.7M	\$68.2M
Number of additional Teachers Available	86.0	366.0	646.0



Summary of Available Teachers by Option

Full Time Equivalent Teachers

Source of Teacher		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Available Funded Teachers				
	TDSB additional budget allocation	\$27.0	\$27.0	\$27.0
	Ministry Funding for Additional Teachers	\$59.0	\$59.0	\$59.0
	Use of Reserves up to a 2% Deficit		\$280.0	\$280.0
	Use of Reserves up to a 3% Deficit			\$280.0
Redeployed Teachers				
	Central, Itinerant and School-based	400.0	400.0	400.0
Total Teachers		486.0	766.0	1046.0



Optional Attendance

For Regular Schools, Specialized Programs, Alternative Schools and French Programs, Staff is finalizing the process and messaging for Principals and Superintendents on:

- Parents' requests to have their children attend their designated school by address instead of their Optional Attendance school.
- Parents' requests for re-admission/re-entry to FSL programs.

Technology Devices

Principals and Superintendents will receive details on:

- Devices that were distributed to the system in the spring
- Devices that will be returned to them
- How they can purchase additional devices for staff and students
- How parents will be able to ask for devices in September

Transportation

- Toronto Student Transportation Group (TSTG) approved a staggered start to transportation
- All students with Special Education needs (excluding gifted program) will be transported in the first week of school
- Barring any significant issues, bussing would begin for all other students, including French and gifted, in week 2
- Transportation to remote sites would be subject to availability of transportation and where available would not be in place for start of school year.

Delayed Start and Staggered Entry

- As part of a recent update from the Ministry of Education, the concept of delaying the start of school has been suggested and staff are currently looking at this option given the ongoing evolution of plans that are happening.
- Further, staff is considering how a staggered start within each school might occur. For example, to build experience with new routines, a few grades will start for a couple of days and additional grades would begin school on a staggered basis.

Next Steps

Pre-registration: All elementary and secondary families will be surveyed again once all school model information has been finalized.

Returning to School: A Guide to Safely Reopening TDSB Schools:

Update this guide for staff, students, parents, education partners and the community. Create additional documents and resources for staff to provide the necessary information for implementation.

Protocols for Principals:

- Two 'Return to School Working Groups' of Principals, Senior Managers, Staff and Superintendents at the elementary and secondary levels have been working to create elementary and secondary guidelines for school operations as well as teaching and learning for both in-person as well as the fully remote settings
- Superintendents will engage Learning Network Principals and Vice-Principals in almost daily conversations to monitor and support safe reopening and school experiences with close attention paid to addressing local contexts across the TDSB
- Principals will continue to engage parents and School Councils in a variety of ways so that student and parent voice inform climate and decision-making at the local level



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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

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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 12¹ 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

¹ 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