

Written Notice of Motion for Consideration (Trustees Story and Aarts)

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 on August 10, 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 ...

Use of Outdoor Spaces for Instructional Time

Whereas, outdoor play and learning has been shown to help mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infection as well as support healthy child development;¹ and

Whereas, outdoor play offers critical opportunities for learning, development and well-being;² and

Whereas, access to open outdoor spaces while adhering to public health guidance (e.g., physical distancing, careful and regular hand-washing) has been recommended by Toronto Public Health,³ is important to help maintain both physical and mental health, and is one of the best ways Canadians can increase their defence⁴ against COVID-19;⁵ and

Whereas, during times of crisis, children benefit from play as a means to explore their emotions as well as to make sense of and cope with environmental anxiety, and through this process, develop resilience and build self-confidence to help them navigate life's challenges;⁶ and

Whereas the TDSB has prioritized outdoor learning as part of the 2020 Return to School plans;

Therefore, be it resolved:

¹ <https://www.outdoorplaycanada.ca/should-i-go-outside-in-the-covid-19-era/>

² [Source: Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play](#)

³ (<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-reopening-recovery-rebuild/covid-19-reopening-guidelines-for-businesses-organizations/covid-19-guidance-elementary-secondary-schools/>)

⁴ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1471489216300479>

⁵ <https://www.outdoorplaycanada.ca/pandemic-play-child-centred-policy-in-a-global-crisis/>

⁶ <http://www.ipacanada.org/covid-19/statement-play-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>

- (a) That the Director develop and implement a plan for encouraging and supporting schools to use outdoor spaces for instructional time throughout the day:
- (b) That the plan at Part (a):
 - (i) be based on approaches used in the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) program successfully piloted at TDSB schools;
 - (ii) include support for an initial group of up to 24 schools (6 per Learning Centre) as soon as possible, using an equity lens to determine which schools will be eligible;
 - (iii) include consistent and clear messaging to all schools that helps to remove barriers and supports the use of temporary, low-cost and volunteer-led approaches to the use of outdoor learning spaces;
 - (iv) include collaboration between the Sustainability Office and Outdoor Education in supporting schools with this work;
- (c) The Director provide an update in the February-March 2021 cycle of meetings.