



**Planning and Priorities Committee
(Special Meeting)
Report No. 02**

PPC:002A
Tuesday, December 8, 2020
Electronic Meeting

Members Present Alexander Brown (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Rachel Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Trixie Doyle, Harpreet Gill, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Dan MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Zakir Patel, Robin Pilkey Yalini Rajakulasingam, Anu Sriskandarajah, Jennifer Story and Chris Tonks

Regrets Regrets were received from Trustees Alexandra Lulka, Patrick Nunziata, David Smith and Manna Wong.

Trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#)

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. Report From the Director of Education: Update on Return-to-School

The Committee heard a presentation from staff (see page 4) on the return to school during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moved By: Trustee Laskin

Seconded By: Trustee Doyle

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the following be referred to staff:

Whereas, COVID numbers have drastically increased in the City of Toronto, with daily record numbers in the thousands; and

Whereas, the City of Toronto's Public Health maps and our own TDSB data analysis demonstrates particular neighbourhoods and particular social identity groups have disproportionately been affected by COVID; and

Whereas, the choice of Virtual School has greatly varied by demographics across our system and city; and

Whereas, the City of Toronto has mandated the closure of many facilities, businesses, institutions and public spaces in the City of Toronto; and

Whereas, the Toronto District School Board very clearly committed in the Fall to our parent and student communities that there would be an option for a switch on January 29th;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the TDSB offer one final opportunity (in January) for students/families to switch from bricks and mortar schools to virtual school and vice versa.

Carried

The matter was introduced by Trustee Kandavel, seconded by Trustee Patel.

Part B: Information Only

2. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

An electronic meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee was convened on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 from 4:30 to 6:42 p.m., with Alexander Brown presiding.

3. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

4. Delegations

No matters to report

5. Report From the Director of Education

The Committee heard a presentation from the staff providing an update on the return to school (see attached)

6. Report From the Chair of the Board

No matters to report

7. Report From Representative on the City's Board of Health

No matters to report

8. Report From the Directors on the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

No matters to report

9. Report From the Chairs of the Governance and Policy Committee, the Program and School Services Committee, the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

No matters to report

10. Report From Representatives on the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee

No matters to report

11. Reports From Student Trustees

No matters to report

12. Other Questions, Insights and Advice From Trustees to Staff

No matters to report

13. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Laskin, seconded by Trustee Kandavel, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Alexander Brown, Chair

Update to Return to School

December 8, 2020



Agenda

- Provincial Testing Update
- New Screening Tool
- Secondary Virtual School Update
- Elementary School Update
- Communications



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Provincial Testing Update

- Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health are conducting a pilot program to support disease control and develop testing strategies
- Schools in the province's 4 regions with high incidence of active cases (Toronto, Peel, York, and Ottawa) are being offered school-wide COVID-19 testing
- Testing is voluntary for all students and staff in the schools
- Testing can occur at the school or at a COVID Assessment Centre
- Program will last 4 weeks - started November 23 and ends December 18
- Toronto Public Health identifies the schools based on the school having multiple cases of COVID-19 for which there are no epidemiological links and/or where multiple cohorts have been dismissed



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Provincial Testing Update

TDSB schools identified for school-wide testing to date
(additional schools will be identified over the 4 weeks of the pilot):

School	Ward	Testing Dates	Results
Thornccliffe Park PS	11	November 26, 27, 30	26 additional cases identified; school dismissed, December 3 to 9, while investigation continues
Valley Park MS	14	December 3, 4, 7	0 additional cases identified at this time; awaiting final testing results
Lawrence Park CI	8	December 4, 5, 6, 7	TBD
Lester B Pearson CI	21	December 7	TBD
Marc Garneau CI	11	December 10, 11, 14	TBD



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Provincial Testing Update

TDSB schools identified for school-wide testing to date continued:

School	Ward	Testing Dates	Results
Swansea Jr Sr PS	7	December 8, 9	TBD
Wandering Spirit School	15	December 8, 15, 16	TBD
Fraser Mustard ELA	11	December 9, 10, 11, 12	school dismissed, December 7 to 13, in advance of testing due to high number of active cases

Additional schools are being considered at this time.



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New Screening Tool

Toronto Public Health updated its COVID-19 student screening tool, effective Monday, December 7, 2020.

As part of this guidance, if a child has one or more new, or worsening COVID-19 symptoms, parents are now required to:

- Keep their child home.
- Keep siblings and other children home, even if they do not have symptoms.
- Arrange for the child to get tested or contact their health care provider.
- Without testing, the child must stay home for 10 days.
- Monitor the family for symptoms. Adults must stay home if they have one or more symptom.

The TDSB Student Health Pass and Health Screening App also reflect the new guidance. The staff and visitor tool remains the same.















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STOP COVID-19 K - 12 STUDENT SCREENING TOOL
Please complete before entering the school.

1. Does the student have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?*

 Fever > 37.8°C	 Cough	 Difficulty breathing	 Loss of taste	
 Feeling unwell, muscle aches or tired	 Stuffy or runny nose	 Headache	 Sore throat or pain swallowing	 Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea



If "YES" to any symptom:  Stay home & self-isolate +  Get tested Or  Contact a health care provider

2. Is there a child or sibling in your household who has one or more of the above symptoms? Yes No

3. Has the student travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? Yes No


4. Has the student been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19? Yes No

5. Has the student been told to stay home and self-isolate? Yes No

If "YES" to Questions 2,3,4 or 5:  Stay home & self-isolate +  Follow public health advice

*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child's normal symptoms.

Updated December 2020

TORONTO.CA/COVID19 

Virtual Secondary School Updates

- Quad 1 final report cards were e-mailed the week of November 30
- Quad 1 final report cards mailed to families without an email the week of December 7
- Twelve vice-principals have been redeployed to VSS effective December 7
- December newsletter will be sent to Virtual Secondary School parents mid-December
- Increased emphasis on Mental Health and Well-Being in several subject areas (i.e., music, visual arts, English) as well as in out-of-class opportunities (i.e., lunch Zoom boxing, after school clubs/activities)
- Tutoring programs (peer tutoring and with UofT students) to support underachieving students currently in development
- Focus of November PA Day was understanding and building community. Using an equity and anti-oppression lens, staff examined data about our students, considered innovative ways to teach and assess, and how to intentionally foster community to support student achievement & well-being.



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Virtual Elementary School Updates

- Week of November 30: JK/SK to Grade 8 Progress Reports were distributed & Parent/Guardian-Teacher Virtual Conferences took place
- The vast majority of 2,645 classes of reports were emailed December 2 (to December 4). Due to some issues related to the volume of reports, some class sets needed to be resent. An email went to all families on December 4 and letters to some classes impacted beyond December 7
- One Centrally Assigned Principal for French Programs K-12 dedicated to Virtual School
- Four online Grade 8 to 9 Transitions sessions on December 7 (LC2 and LC3) and December 8 (LC1 and LC4)
- Opportunities for students that support equity, well-being and student voice



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Virtual School Elementary

Examples of Professional Learning Opportunities

- Brightspace
- Digital Tools / Resources
- Anti-Oppression
- Early Years - Literacy, Reading Strategies
- Pedagogical documentation
- Kindergarten P.L.A.Y.
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Fostering Classroom Community
- Assessment & Reporting
- Junior/Intermediate - Literacy, Reading Strategies



Communications

- Improved communications with Virtual School parents with elementary and secondary VS newsletters
 - First editions issued November, next edition due mid December
- Communications working with Virtual School administrators on inventory of common VS parent questions/inquiries to improve consistency and timeliness of email responses
- *Trending@TDSB* to feature stories profiling innovative ways schools/teachers use outdoor spaces for learning and the Virtual School learning experience