



Special Board Meeting

Agenda

June 24, 2020 — 8:00 p.m.



Congratulations to the Class of 2020

To our graduates of 2020, we offer our heartfelt congratulations. This is a tremendous accomplishment, especially in these unprecedented times. You've done very well to meet all that has been put before you and we know that you will be ready for anything that comes your way. Celebrate this moment with family and friends, and we wish you good luck with the next chapter in your lives.

Please note that all DDSB public meetings will be held virtually until further notice. Members of the public can continue to participate in public meetings by watching the live-stream on YouTube, and are still able to make delegation presentations and/or ask public questions through electronic means.

Durham District School Board
calendar.ddsb.ca/meetings
Twitter: @Durhamdsb



Chris Braney
Chair of the Board
City of Pickering

Niki Lundquist
Vice Chair of the Board
Town of Whitby

Christine Thatcher
Vice Chair, Standing
Committee
Town of Whitby

Patrice Barnes
Town of Ajax
Wards 1 & 2

Michael Barrett
City of Oshawa

Paul Crawford
City of Pickering

Donna Edwards
Town of Ajax
Ward 3

Darlene Forbes
Chair, Education Finance
City of Oshawa

Carolyn Morton
Townships of Brock,
Scugog & Uxbridge

Ashley Noble
City of Oshawa

Scott Templeton
Town of Whitby

Sally Meseret
Student Trustee

Arlene Wang
Student Trustee

Tyler West
Student Trustee

**DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, June 24, 2020
8:00 p.m.**

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1. Call to Order
 2. Declarations of Interest
 3. Recommended Actions
 - (a) Update #1 on School Re-Opening
Norah Marsh
 4. Adjournment
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DURHAM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

REPORT TO: Durham District School Board

DATE: Wednesday, June 24, 2020

SUBJECT: Update #1 on School Re-opening

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ORIGIN: Norah Marsh, Acting Director of Education

1. Purpose

To provide an update to the Board of Trustees on the Ministry of Education's communications related to the re-opening of schools in September.

2. Ignite Learning Strategic Priority/Operational Goals

EQUITY – Promote a sense of belonging and increase equitable outcomes for all by identifying and addressing barriers to success and engagement.

ENGAGEMENT – Engage students, parents and community members to improve student outcomes and build public confidence.

SUCCESS – Set high expectations and provide support to ensure all students and staff reach their full potential every year.

WELL-BEING – Create safe, welcoming, inclusive learning spaces to promote well-being for all students and staff.

LEADERSHIP – Identify future leaders, actively develop new leaders and responsively support current leaders.

INNOVATION – Reimagine learning and teaching spaces through digital technologies and innovative resources.

3. Background

3.1 On Friday, June 19, 2020 the Ministry of Education released the document, *Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year*. The document provides a general framework for consideration in local planning and sets specific due dates for planning to be complete and submitted to local public health departments. Key aspects of the framework include the following highlights:

- Plans need to be submitted to the Ministry of Education in July, for review and discussion;
- Plans are due to local public health officials by August 4, 2020 for their input and approval;

- Attendance at schools will be voluntary for students, giving families the choice to decide whether they wish to have their child attend a physical school site or participate in remote learning. The expectation is that we provide both as viable options to families;
- In addition to providing optional attendance for families, we are required to plan for three possible scenarios:
 - A normal school day with enhanced public health safety protocols;
 - A modified school day with routines altered, including a smaller cohort of students (no more than 15 per classroom) with students attending either on alternative days or alternative weeks; this would include a blended learning paradigm with some in-class work and some distance learning work;
 - Students learning remotely from home.
- The Ministry of Education is currently considering adaptations to EQAO assessments and will provide further information at a later point;
- The Ministry of Education is reinstituting the literacy graduating requirement for graduating students in the 2020-2021 school year;
- The Ministry of Education is reinstituting mandatory community involvement hours for graduating students in the 2020-2021 school year with the recommendation that virtual opportunities be explored and utilized;
- Transportation considerations will need to be carefully planned and parents/guardians should consider providing forms of private transportation wherever feasible. Boards are asked to survey parents on their preferred mode of transportation for their student in the event that they have chosen to send their child to a physical school site;
- The need for specific cleaning protocols to be put into place with consideration of students' use of specialized equipment (ie., science labs, etc.);
- Standard human resources practices will be followed with regard to staff attending their school and work sites, taking into consideration an awareness of the COVID-19 context and individual health and safety concerns;
- The need for a specific protocol for cases when and where cases of COVID-19 exposure is suspected;
- Boards should consider continuing with the practice of holding on-line board meetings;
- Firm cut-off dates for student registration need to be put into place, and families will need to be put on wait-lists before joining a school and/or specific class, in order to appropriately facilitate the logistics of accommodating smaller numbers of students per classroom;

- 3.2 Both the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers Federation (OSSTF) and the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) have released papers with their recommendations to the government;
- 3.3 The Minister of Education announced that students with complex needs may have a different plan for return-to-school.

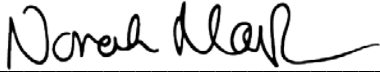
4. Analysis

- 4.2 Staff are actively working on preparing for the different scenarios outlined in the Ministry of Education's memo. Both ETFO and OSSTF have released position papers on school re-opening that are *not* congruent with the Ministry's. While we are not in a position to address the differences, we have decided, in the interim, to work closely with health and safety, and curriculum staff, from boards in the Greater Toronto Area, as well as our coterminous board, to streamline expectations as much as possible.
- 4.3 Local relationships to date have been positive with the federations, and they have been cooperative in adjusting some expectations of the collective agreement during this period. However, they have indicated they are not able to continue to do so in the longer term.
- 4.3 Staff are offering a summer institute for educators who are interested in better understanding pedagogical practice that will adapt to the current circumstances. Both ETFO and OSSTF are in full support of the summer learning opportunity.
- 4.4 Students, parents and staff are currently being surveyed so that we may consider their thinking in the creation of the DDSB plan for 2020-2021 school year.
- 4.5 The Ministry's memo did not reference modified calendars and was geared to a September start-up. We are requesting that families who participate in the modified calendar, indicate whether they would like to continue with it, and utilize distance learning as the entry-point into the school year in August, with a phased-in physical re-entry once public health and the Ministry of Education approve of the board's re-opening plan.
- 4.6 We are concerned about the possible impact of the Ministry of Education direction that graduating students complete their 40 hours of community involvement and literacy requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.

5. **Conclusion**

This report outlines the key highlights with regard to schools re-opening for September 2020. Staff are currently working on board plans for the reopening of schools and have targeted July 8, 2020 as the date when they hope to make these draft plans available to Trustees.

Report reviewed and submitted by:



Norah Marsh, Acting Director of Education