

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF
KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**Wednesday, August 12, 2020 At 7:00 p.m.
Roy H. Wilfong Boardroom, Education Centre
1994 Fisher Drive, Peterborough, Ontario**

Due to the current health advisory, the meeting was held through the WebEx Platform.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Diane Lloyd (Chairperson of the Board), Sarah Bobka (Vice-chairperson of the Board), Cathy Abraham, Terry Brown, Cyndi Dickson, Kailee Dupuis, Rose Kitney, Jaine Klassen Jeninga, Angela Lloyd, Emilio Ojeda and Steve Russell.

Also Present: J. Leclerc, C. Arnew, A.M. Duncan, S Girardi, G. Ingram, P. Mangold, J. Nigro, G. Tompkins, J. Tompkins, J. Maliha, G. Kidd and L. Burton.

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

The Chairperson recognized and acknowledged that the Board is meeting on the traditional territory of the Mississauga First Nations.

2. **NATIONAL ANTHEM AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The meeting opened with the singing of the National Anthem and a Moment of Silence.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was,

Moved by: Trustee Kitney
Seconded by: Trustee Dickson

(20-154) That the agenda be adopted as printed.

CARRIED

4. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

5. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

5.1 **KPR – School Reopening Strategy**

Director Leclerc spoke to the report KPR – Reopening Strategy stating that on July 29, 2020, the provincial government announced that elementary students in KPR will attend school full-time with enhanced health and safety requirements. Secondary students will also attend school full-time, with timetable adjustments that reduce the number of classes each day, and limit student and staff contacts. The report was reviewed briefly and followed by a slideshow.

Director Leclerc stated the Board's plan has a central guiding principle which is safeguarding the health and welfare of students, staff and the community in a manner that reflects the Board's core values. The plan is based on advice, guidance and directives of the provincial and local public health units.

The plan was reviewed with Board members which included the following:

- School Day Planning for Students
- Modified School Routines
- Healthy, Safe Schools and Facilities
- Support for Students, and
- Transportation

Board members were told this is a living document which reflects the most recent provincial directives and public health guidelines. The plan will be modified as changes are given provincially.

Board members were informed that parents who wish their child(ren) to participate in the Learn At-Home Program will be required to notify the Board by August 19, 2020.

Superintendent Girardi reviewed the plan for elementary students:

- Students in Grades 4-8 will be required to wear a face mask,
- Students K-Grade 3 will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask,
- Each classroom will be considered as one cohort,
- It will be determined by the principal which Classes/cohorts will be on the yard at the same time,
- Principals will not only be scheduling class time, but will now have to schedule outdoor time.

Superintendent Girardi spoke to the secondary plan for students:

- Students will see a quad-mester model, with
- Two classes for nine weeks each,

- Each period consisting of 150 minutes per day
- The physical contacts of no more than 100 can be met in this model,
- Guidance, Student Success and First Nations' rooms may be accessed during period 1 and 2 by appointment.

Board members heard that parents who wish the Learn At-Home option, have until August 19, 2020 to apply online. This will allow time for the Senior team to make the necessary adjustments. Students who are taking part in the Learn At-Home option are not allowed to attend school during this time.

Director Leclerc noted that parents who have children with health concerns are asked to seek medical advice from a doctor to decide whether to opt in or opt out of in-classroom instruction.

Superintendent Mangold spoke school cleaning and routines for students, noting school rules and school culture will continue with a heavy focus on safety protocols being reviewed/taught. The following was discussed:

- Signs will be placed throughout the school buildings,
- Based on the size of the school, students may have staggered entry as well as entering at different doors allowing for social distancing,
- Breaks and lunch hours will be staggered to accommodate time on the yard,
- Some class time may also be scheduled outside allowing more outdoor time,
- Visitors to the school will be limited,
- A pandemic cleaning plan is in place with high touch areas being sanitized at least 2-3 times per day. Night crews will perform general cleaning, which was not completed during the regular day,
- Superintendents are working with principals and teachers to ensure classroom setup best meets the social distancing requirements,
- Face masks and/or shields have been purchased for all staff,
- Hand Hygiene will be reinforced and become an important part of the school day.

Illness protocols were reviewed by Superintendents Girardi and Mangold.

- Staff, parents/guardians and children must not attend school if they are ill even if symptoms resemble a mild cold,
- Staff who become ill will be sent home and asked to seek COVID-19 Assessment advice and clearance,
- Students who become ill will be isolated until picked up by a parent or guardian,

- Siblings of a sick child will also be sent home from school,
- Parents of the ill student(s) will be asked to seek COVID-19 Assessment advice and clearance prior to return,
- Kits with sanitizer, masks and other items will be available in the event a student, staff or essential visitor becomes ill while at school, for use by the ill individual and the staff member attending to them,
- KPR will be working hand in hand with local health units through this process.

Superintendent Duncan reviewed supports for students, stating that mental health clinicians will be stationed in the secondary schools and the highest needs elementary schools. Remaining PPF funds will be used to have staff members come in on August 31 and September 1 to assist with climatizing the Learning Life Skills (LLS) students with their new environments. LLS students will not see integration for the first half of the school year. Special education resource teachers (SERTs) will not go class to class, however, will have students go to them in cohorts allowing for the appropriate contact ratio (elementary = 50 / secondary = 100).

Superintendent Arnew spoke to the current plans for transportation stating the bus companies will have enhanced cleaning protocols (buses cleaned 2 x per day with a focus on high touch areas) and the requirement of drivers and monitors to wear provided face masks/shields. The same face mask protocol for students will apply on buses as well. C. Arnew stated that Student Transportation Systems of Central Ontario (STSCO) will attempt to assign seating in a manner that will keep siblings together and/or same classroom students sitting together. This will assist with contact tracing. Students must stay in their assigned seat at all times during their ride to and from school.

Superintendent J. Tompkins displayed slides of classroom setups. Entire classrooms were emptied and then reassembled to accommodate student numbers, items to be used and the distance protocols. J. Tompkins stated the teachers are spending a lot of time creatively planning their classes and time. Board members were shown a visual of a primary classroom setup, a grade 8 classroom setup along with the hand washing station/sinks.

An active and in-depth discussion occurred where Board members were provided the ability to ask questions of clarification.

Concerns and questions consisted of:

- Can all students K to 12 be asked to wear masks on the bus and on entry into the school (K to Grade 3 can then remove their masks in the classroom),

- How will supervision of secondary students during lunch hours work (ensuring students do not leave the school),
- Will KPR have Breakfast and/or lunch programs for those in need,
- How will students with safety plans and calming strategies be accommodated,
- Has consideration be given to ventilation in older schools, windowless and/or non-opening windowed classrooms,
- What process will be followed with classroom organization should families opt out and classroom numbers drop,
- How will deep cleaning of buses to be carried out given some buses are running back to back routes,
- Concerns expressed with secondary students remaining in their classroom for lunch,
- What will be the process for secondary students who have a spare,
- Are there any courses within the secondary program not running due to the pandemic,
- Given the pandemic, how will the schools avoid the use of shared textbooks,
- What are the directions for extra-curriculars, will they take place,
- What is the process should a student test positive for COVID-19,
- Will the Trustees have an opportunity for a leadership walk to see the classroom set-up,
- Will supply teachers travel between schools,
- How will secondary school final exams occur based on quad-mesters,
- Will families facing financial restraints be supplied with masks,
- What will happen if a student does not wear a mask,
- Will the educational video show the type of mask required by students,
- Will reserve funds be used for extra masks,
- How will we ensure that the previous concerns over lack of soap and paper towels in the classrooms and washrooms does not occur,
- Water supply in rural schools,
- How will children with medical needs which prevent them from wearing a mask be handled/accommodated,
- How will the effects of sanitizing skin many times a day be offset,
- How will rural buses be loaded from back to front,
- Concerns expressed with classrooms with 1 metre between desks,
- STSCO bus rules state no food on the bus, can this be clarified to state no open food,
- When and how will families have the timelines on opting in or opting out,
- Timelines for families to change their mind,
- Will external providers continue to provide services within the schools,

- Are there concerns regarding the supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE),
- Will staff wear medical as opposed to cloth masks,
- Will staff self-access,
- When can teachers have access to their schools to begin the setup process,
- When can teachers expect to see the photos of suggested classroom setup,
- How will KPR honour the Kindergarten play base in a kindergarten setting given social distancing,
- How will the type of mask used, be monitored or enforced,
- Has funding been allocated for outdoor classroom spaces,
- How are daycares managing play base learning,
- Difference between masked class time and unmasking to eat in the same location,
- What does online learning look like for play based learning (children in kindergarten),
- Are we considering opening the schools for community use for those groups that are lower than 50 attendees,
- Protocols for when a family member is exposed to COVID-19,
- Can secondary students be encouraged to use the COVID alert app on their cell phones. This will alert them if they have been in close contact to a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Director Leclerc stated masking is mandatory for students in Grades 4-12. Those who will not wear a mask will be offered online instruction.

Director Leclerc stated she feels confident KPR will be ready for September 8 start.

It was,

Moved by: Trustee Ojeda
Seconded by: Trustee Dickson

(20-155) That the KPR School Reopening Strategy, September 2020, be received for information.

CARRIED

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was,

Moved by: Trustee A. Lloyd
Seconded by: Trustee Brown

(20-156) That the meeting be adjourned (10:37 p.m.).

CARRIED

Diane Lloyd
Chairperson of the Board

Jennifer Leclerc
Director of Education
and Secretary of the Board

**Kawartha Pine Ridge
District School Board**