

# HWDSB

## Special Board Meeting

Monday August 23, 2021

Virtual

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board  
20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558  
Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

### AGENDA: 6:15 pm

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement
2. O Canada
3. Meeting Roll Call
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

### Reports from Staff:

5. [School Re-Opening \(COVID-19\) Update #1](#)
6. Report from: Committee of the Whole (private) – August 23, 2021
7. [Written Notice of Motion: A. Johnstone re: COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Policy](#)
8. Adjournment

Meeting times and locations are subject to change. Please refer to our website for the latest information.

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/trustees/meetings/>

**curiosity • creativity • possibility**

## School Reopening 2021-22 UPDATE #1

August 23, 2021

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### GOALS (WIGs)

1. Safety – 80% ↑ identify
2. Reading – 75% ↑ K-6 cohorts
3. Graduation – 80% ↑ 7-12 cohorts

\* Close the gap for current and historically underserved \*

\* Anti-oppression, Anti-Colonial, Anti-Racism \*

Equity and Inclusion

The HWDSB Plan for Operating Schools in the 2021-22 school year is now focused on two principles:

1. Safety for all.
2. Return to in-person learning in schools.

### 1. Ontario Ministry Guide to Reopening Schools

- Health, safety, and operational guidance for schools 2021-22 (released August 3 – updated August 13, 2021)

### 2. Ontario Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance

- School Case, Contact, and Outbreak Management (updated August 11, 2021)

- Summer Learning/Support 2021
- Public Health
- Immunization Disclosure and Testing Policy
- Shared Spaces and Extra-curriculars
- Community Use of Schools and Visitors
- Elementary School Models (in-person and remote)
- Secondary School Models (in-person and remote)
- Student Safety and Well-Being
- Ventilation
- Transportation
- Director's Update (from Ministry and CODE)

## Specialized Services

### Summer Learning Sessions

- EMPOWER™ Reading Program – 73 students
- GLE – 78 students
- Children's Friendship Training – 24 students
- AIM/EXSL Camp – 31 students
- Centre For Success – 19 students
- I Am A Reader – 29 students
- Getting A Head Start – 15 students
- Social-Communication Learning Camp for Students with a Developmental Disability, ASD: 40 students

### Program

- Summer Learning Camps
  - Camp Power Kindergarten to Grade 1 - 304 Students
  - Gap Closing Grades 1-5 - 87 students
  - English Language Learners Camp Grades 1-5 - 253 students
  - De-streaming Grade 8's - 76 students

### Continuing Education

- Reach Ahead Credit Program
- Non-Credit Skill Builder Programs
- Literacy program for students learning English
- Credit summer school for new and upgrade credits
- Credit Learning Strategies Courses for
- International Language Courses



## Social Work Services – Mental Health Workers

- 76 referrals for mental health supports
  - 65 transferred from school social work
  - 11 from WeHelp or phonenumber
  - 7 of the 76 closed as of August 20th (69 continuing to be supported)
  - Different support response than summer 2020
  - Transfer to school-based support for September
- Treatment Groups
  - Teen Activation Group - 5 students
  - TRAILS – 6 elementary and 8 secondary
- Staff Learning through School Mental Health Ontario
  - Eating disorders
  - Gaming addictions
  - Advanced self-harm risk
  - Development of staff professional learning for full team on areas above

- Continued partnership with Hamilton Public Health on creating safe and welcoming learning environments at all sites
- The COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Schools speaks to a number of protective strategies which will continue from the 2020-2021 school year, including:
  - Daily screening
  - Masking for Grades 1-12 \*
  - Use of Staff PPE
  - Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
  - Case management

***\* In August 24, 2020 HWDSB RESOLUTION #20-95: Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 be required to wear masks***

### **School Based Vaccine Clinics**

- Hosted in all secondary schools
- Beginning August 21 – afternoons/evenings and weekends
- Communicated by both PH and HWDSB
- Open to students, their families and staff of HWDSB at a school/date most convenient for them

### **Youth Vaccination Eligibility**

- As of August 18th, all children turning 12 years old before the end of 2021 will be eligible for their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine

### **Libraries**

- Group and individual use now permitted with masking and as much distancing as possible.

### **Gyms/Multi-purpose Rooms**

- Group and individual use are now permitted with masking and as much distancing as possible.

### **Cafeterias**

- Capacity limits will be established to ensure two metres distancing between cohort and as much distancing as possible within cohorts.

### Enhanced Cleaning

- The HWDSB COVID-19 Cleaning Procedure is based on the Public Health Ontario – Cleaning and Disinfection in Public Settings document
- Emphasis will be placed on the frequent cleaning of equipment and high touch surfaces
- COVID Funding has been used for 22 additional temporary caretaking FTE to assist with enhanced cleaning

- Provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19; or
- Provide a formal/official documented medical reason for not being vaccinated against COVID-19; or
- Participate in an educational program approved by the Ministry of Education
- Rapid Antigen Testing if unvaccinated
- Applies to all staff, school transportation drivers and frequent visitors/volunteers

### Athletics

- We are planning for a full return of athletics at HWDSB, respecting guidelines issued by the province, Hamilton Public Health Services, as well as OPHEA (Ontario Physical and Health Education Association);
- High and low contact activities are permitted outdoors without masking;
- High and low contact activities are permitted indoors. Masking is encouraged for indoor activities where they can be worn safely based on the activity;
- We expect fall sports to begin as soon as possible and are planning for a safe return to activities.

### Bands and Clubs

- Ministry permits extra-curriculars with precautions
- Outdoor activities that mix cohorts, with distancing, are encouraged
- Indoor activities require masking and distancing
- Bands and clubs need to follow other guidelines regarding using instruments, singing, sharing equipment, etc.



### Outdoor

- Fields have been available to rent since June

### Indoor

- Facilities were available over the summer for our partners as directed by the Ministry
- Before and After usage will continue in the fall
- For general community use, Board staff will continue to review with HWCDSB staff and City staff to have consistency
- Will continue to follow Public Health guidelines

### Visitors

- Essential visits including third party service providers continue
- Screening and vaccination protocol will apply
- Virtual Registration continues

### Volunteers

- Volunteers for various activities or extra-curriculars can resume with vaccination protocol, screening and public health safety measures in place.

### **Cohorting**

- Students remain in one cohort for full day (300 instructional minutes)
- Students may be in small groups with students from other cohorts (ELL, spec ed support)
- Different cohorts may interact outside (distancing) and indoors (masking and distancing)

### **Safety Measures**

- Hand hygiene (entry/exit, eating food, washroom use, shared materials)
- Respiratory etiquette
- Distancing
- Masking indoors (masks not required outdoors)
- Controlled movement in hallways (staff supervision, distancing, masking)
- Desks distanced and forward facing
- Regular disinfecting of high frequency touch points and shared materials

### Programs that will resume with safety measures

- Extra curriculars with mixed cohorts (clubs, activities, sport teams, bands)
- Interactions with other cohorts during outdoor Nutrition Breaks
- Instrumental music
- Singing indoors
- Use of outdoor play structures (single cohort)
- Use of shared spaces (library, change rooms, fitness rooms, pods)
- Use of shared materials (manipulatives, iPads, books, PE equipment, outdoor equipment)
- Use of student lockers/cubbies

### **Elementary Parent Survey**

- Open in the Parent Portal from September 3 – September 10.
- Families who chose to change their placement choice during this time will be accommodated as part of re-organization.
- Families who chose to not attend in-person learning during this time will have access to learning resources created by the Program Division that can be shared by schools.

### **Secondary**

- Students will make changes through Student Services at their schools.

### Quadmester

|                  | Quadmester 1                |        |             | Quadmester 2             |        |             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------|--------------------------|--------|-------------|
| <b>Dates</b>     | Sept. 8 – Nov. 12 (47 days) |        |             | Nov. 15-Feb. 1 (46 days) |        |             |
| <b>4 Period</b>  | Period 1                    | lunch  | Period 2    | Period 3                 | lunch  | Period 4    |
| <b>5 Period</b>  | Period 1                    | lunch  | Period 2    | Period 3 and 4           | lunch  | Period 5    |
| <b>Minutes</b>   | 150 minutes                 | 75 min | 150 minutes | 150 minutes              | 75 min | 150 minutes |
| <b>Student</b>   | MAT1L                       | lunch  | GLS10       | PAL10                    | lunch  | SNC2P       |
| <b>Teacher A</b> | MCR3U                       | lunch  | Prep        | MAT1L                    | lunch  | MCR3U       |
| <b>Teacher B</b> | SPH4U                       | lunch  | SNC1L       | SNC1L                    | lunch  | Prep        |

# HWDSB Elementary Remote Learning 21-22

## September Start

- 1600 students English track, 160 French Immersion
- 65 English classes, 7 French Immersion classes
- Remote classes have been placed into physical schools
- Will begin learning on September 7th



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### September Start

- eLearning
- 360 students with full eLearning schedules
- Some students will take eLearning and in-person classes
- Additional staffing to add classes may be required





- **Reimagining Wellness** resource through community, connectedness, inclusion, resiliency, safety and belonging



*Community  
& Team Building*



*Physical  
Activation*



*Social Emotional  
Skill Development*

- ✓ **Overall Goal:** students and staff feeling safe and supported to begin the 2021/2022 school year with a successful start
- ✓ **Approach:** Educators and students in each division will engage in daily activities; three times a day for thirty days. (Elementary 3 x 30 minutes; Secondary 3 x 10 minutes)
- ✓ Activities selected within the categories of Community & Team Building, Physical Activation and Social Emotional Skill Development.

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### **Mental Health and Well-Being Supports**

- Consultations with school staff to support students with a variety of needs
- Individual support/treatment with students
- Anxiety and low mood treatment groups for students and skill building groups for caregivers
- Critical incident response for school communities impacted by a significant trauma

### **System Social Workers**

- Capacity building for educators (e.g., Emotion Coaching)
- Support for staff to support students who are currently and historically underserved
- Nurturing Safer Schools pilot treatment program for students around anti-bullying, bullying prevention and those impacted by bullying
- Community-Based Working Group responding to emerging student needs

- Staff will continue ‘air flushing’ 2 hours prior to student arrival by running ventilation equipment in ‘occupied’ mode
- 30 ventilation projects are being funded through the CVRIS (COVID Resilience Infrastructure Stream) program in addition to bottle filling stations, touchless power door operators, and hands-free water faucets
  - 14 completed by September 7/21
  - Remainder completed by the December 31/21 deadline
- 1,000 HEPA filter units will be deployed
  - All FDK classrooms and daycare spaces, regardless of mechanical systems in place
  - Schools without mechanical ventilation (exhaust only – Tier 3, as defined by the Ministry)
  - Schools undergoing ventilation upgrades that are not yet complete
  - Special Education spaces, where students can’t mask

- All current information be found @ <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/school-renewal/ventilation/>
- A Standardized Ventilation Report will be on our website September 3, as directed by the Ministry.
  - Will contain information on a school by school basis

- Transportation will run at full capacity with enhanced safety measures including:
  - Requirement to wear masks
  - Empty row behind driver
  - Seating plan
  - Enhanced cleaning
- There will be an option to opt out of transportation
- Courtesy transportation will be provided

### **Federal Elections and Schools**

- Ministry will be providing direction as Provincial Chief Medical Office is working with Elections Canada

### **New Provincial COVID Testing Pilot**

- 13 Public Health Units in identified Secondary Schools
- Asymptomatic and fully vaccinated who have been determined a close contact to a positive case
- 8 week pilot commencing September 7

Notice of Motion: COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Policy

Submitted by: Trustee Johnstone

Special Board: August 23, 2021

Whereas, Ontario has entered the fourth wave of the pandemic, and where the City of Hamilton is among the lowest COVID vaccination rates in the province, and where the City of Hamilton recorded Ontario's highest COVID rate on August 11 and August 12, and where the City of Hamilton's modelling predicts that the fourth wave will largely impact the young and unvaccinated, and

Whereas, public education is the cornerstone and foundation of a health, vital and progressive society; and

Whereas, keeping schools open has been deemed a priority for children's learning, mental health and well-being; and

Whereas, data shows that being fully vaccinated significantly reduces the risks of the most serious outcomes of COVID-19, including the variants of concern to date; and

Whereas, vaccines are readily available throughout the City of Hamilton; and

Whereas, it is incumbent upon society to protect children under 12 who are ineligible to be vaccinated at this time and vulnerable populations who are at highest risk of developing complications from COVID-19; and

Whereas, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health announced that new vaccination and testing policies will be in place for September 7<sup>th</sup> for publically funded school board employees; and

Whereas, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health announced that they are in discussions with the Ministry of Education on developing an immunization policy for students that would require parents to report their children's vaccination status and where those not vaccinated would be required to undergo regular testing. Further, whereas Hamilton public health is requesting permission from the province to link data and report on school-by-school COVID-19 vaccination rates; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees should lead by example and support the health and safety of students and staff and the overall effort to keep schools open by applying the same vaccination and testing policy to itself.

Be it resolved:

- a) That the same vaccination and testing policies applied to HWDSB employees also be applied to HWDSB Board of Trustees
- b) That the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education and request that any new vaccination and testing policy be fully funded, that focused efforts be made to protect the privacy of individual students and staff where and vaccination data is collected and reported publically, and that additional funding be released to target additional health and safety needs of school communities identified by Hamilton public health as being at higher-risk to ensure HWDSB workplaces remain as safe as possible for students and staff alike.