

Notice of Motion

Special Meeting

August 6, 2020

In accordance with the Board's bylaws, 5.15.2, Trustee Aarts, seconded by Trustee Chernos Lin is providing notice of the following for consideration at the Committee of the Whole (Special Meeting) on August 18, 2020.

Masks for All Students, Staff and Visitors

Whereas, the Ministry of Education has mandated the use of masks for all staff as well as for all children in Grade 4 and higher as part of the safe reopening of schools; and

Whereas, research shows that young children do contract COVID-19 and carry high viral loads in their respiratory system, therefore indicating both the ability of young children to contract and spread COVID-19; and

Whereas, research shows that the primary route of spread of COVID-19 occurs via respiratory droplets and that face-coverings, including non-medical masks, combined with frequent handwashing, are effective at reducing spread of virus via droplets; and

Whereas, all levels of three levels of government health agencies in our country, province and city recommend or require the use of face coverings indoors in situations of the three Cs (closed spaces, crowded spaces, and close contact) to effectively reduce exposure to virus via respiratory droplets; and

Whereas, Toronto Public Health advises the public of the following:

- *The use of masks/face coverings is non-invasive, inexpensive, and can help save lives,*
- *Wearing masks or face coverings indoors helps us keep our respiratory droplets to ourselves to prevent spreading germs to others. There is evidence that cloth masks can reduce the spread of respiratory droplets into the air and landing on surfaces. Jurisdictions that have legislated mandatory masks have seen a decrease in new COVID-19 cases,*
- *all people two years of age and older wear a mask in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain;*

and;

Whereas, Toronto Public Health guidelines as outlined in the [City of Toronto By-law 541-2020](#) now require the use of masks in all publicly accessed indoor spaces, including apartment buildings, for everyone over the age of two years; and

Whereas, Toronto Public Health data shows that communities across the City are differentially impacted by COVID-19 and suggests that our most vulnerable populations of students and families are at highest risk of continued and renewed outbreaks; and that, it seems likely that these same communities have less flexibility to 'opt-out' of in-school learning to protect their families;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Director:

- i. include the requirement for masks indoors for all students, staff, and visitors, with appropriate medical exemptions, where two metres of social distancing cannot be maintained, until such time as masks are no longer required or recommended in the general population to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
- ii. explore alternatives, such as face shields for students who are unable to wear face masks;
- iii. present a report to the Committee of the Whole (Special Meeting) scheduled for August 18, 2020 on the projected costs to provide students with reusable masks or medically-approved masks beyond the funding provided by the Ministry of Education.