

# Ward 10 Virtual Forum

## Staying Well During COVID-19

Thursday December 3, 2020 7:00pm, Via Zoom

### Minutes

#### Missed the Forum?

Watch it here: Topic: Virtual Ward 10 Forum - Staying Well During COVID-19

Date: Dec 3, 2020 06:16 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

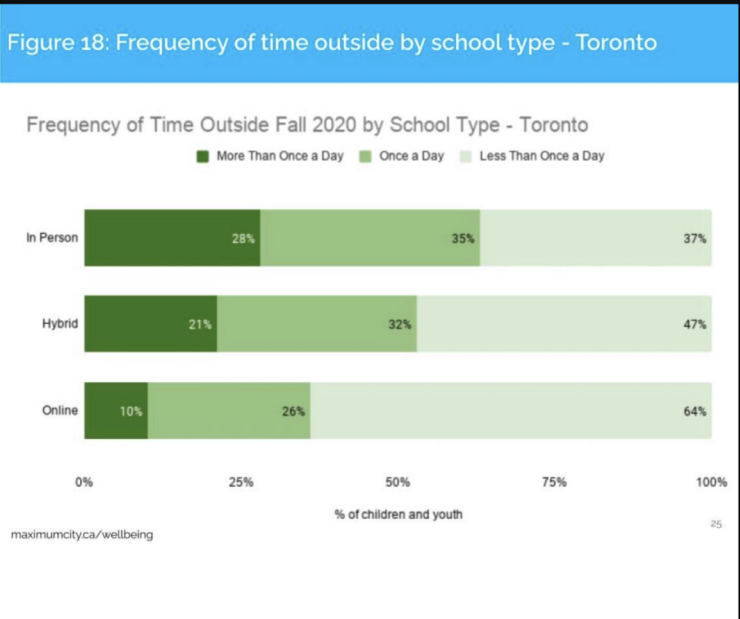
Meeting Recording: <https://tdsb->

[ca.zoom.us/rec/share/Eg7zUyBdyB5KhrTeC1GRKUT3fWG4meE9DLqgjhxe77SpgBLBDe8jrhXG5Pje3ez.PGK0Cghqs5Hnnavq](https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/rec/share/Eg7zUyBdyB5KhrTeC1GRKUT3fWG4meE9DLqgjhxe77SpgBLBDe8jrhXG5Pje3ez.PGK0Cghqs5Hnnavq)

- ❖ There was a pre-forum chat via zoom led by PIAC Co-Chair D. Williams regarding virtual school connectedness. How to counter the feeling of isolation Virtual School students and families are having.
- The forum was called to order at 7:04pm by Chair Nigel Lawson.
  - Nigel welcomed everyone to the forum
  - Introduction of Ward 10 Trustee [Chris Moise](#), Executive Superintendent Sandy Spyropoulos and Superintendents [Mike Gallagher](#) and [Mary Linton](#).
  - Introduction of Guest Speaker Heather Johnson, Social Worker.
  - Land Acknowledgement given by Nigel Lawson

#### Trustee Update: Ward 10 Trustee [Chris Moise](#)

- Happenings in Ward 10;
  - 80000 students now in virtual school
  - There was a reorganization in October and staffing was adjusted, every student now has a teacher.
  - There will not be further reorganization until the new year.
  - French reorganization took place in November. There continues to be a shortage of french teachers and [recruitment](#) is ongoing
  - TDSB [Director of Education search](#) continues
- Here is a visual from the [Maximum City Report](#) address the frequency of outdoor time for students by school type:



- Statistics are showing that many of the families choosing virtual school are actually from marginalized areas of the city. We need to work as a community to make sure that the issues in the system are addressed holistically and support is given to in class and virtual school students.
- Tablets to schools: Below is a list of distribution to date of technology to Ward 10 Schools

Tablets and IPADS Devices being delivered to schools in Ward 10:

- King Edward - delivered in October 2020: 14 Upcoming Delivery: 24
- Lord Dufferin - delivered in October 2020: 28 Upcoming Delivery: 48
- L. Landsdowne - delivered in October 2020: 16 - Upcoming Delivery: 44
- Market Lane - delivered in October 2020: 9 Upcoming Delivery: 15
- Nelson Mandela delivered in October 2020: 23 Upcoming Delivery: 39
- Rose Ave. -delivered in October 2020: 12 Upcoming Delivery: 20
- Rosedale Heights- delivered in October 2020: 39 Upcoming Delivery: 108
- Rosedale - delivered in October 2020: 23 Upcoming Delivery: 64
- Sprucecourt - delivered in October 2020: 9 Upcoming Delivery: 16
- Whitney - delivered in October 2020: 25 Upcoming Delivery: 69
- Winchester - delivered in October 2020: 24 Upcoming Delivery: 69

- COVID-19 Outbreak at Thorncliffe Public School

- The outbreak at Thorncliffe Park Public School was discovered during a asymptomatic testing pilot project. The School will be closed until at least Wednesday December 9th.
- See all TDSB COVID Advisories [here](#)

## Superintendent Update:

- Executive Superintendent [Sandy Spyropoulos](#)
  - Welcome to all the parents and administrators who are here with us tonight
  - Expanded COVID-19 testing is being led by [Toronto Public Health \(TPH\)](#) We take our direction on cohorts isolating etc.. from TPH. As we get information on which schools will be getting mass testing, we will update the community
  - Grade 8 to 9 Transition [Virtual Open Houses](#)
  - Switching between streams: The next opportunity to switch streams will be in the new year.
    - [TDSB Secondary School Info](#)
    - [TDSB Virtual Secondary School Info](#)
  - TDSB will be rolling out another ThoughtExchange soon
- Superintendent [Mike Gallagher](#)
  - Thank you to parents and staff for being here tonight and for being thoughtful and engaged.
  - [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#):
    - Early reading goals are being pursued with a vengeance. The goal is to have all students reading at grade level by the end of grade 1. After the spring disruption, grade 2 students are being focused on this year to bring them up to grade level.
    - Work on equity and anti-black racism and bias continues. My learning network and [Mary Linton](#)'s are continuing working with Principals through the [Rotman I Think](#) program to adapt and continue to serve students.
  - Thank you to all the School Councils who have completed the [School Statement of Needs \(SSON\)](#)

- Our Vice Principal Interviews are coming up and parents have the opportunity to be involved in the process. Find out how [here](#)
- Superintendent Mary Linton:
  - Wanted to say Hi, let you all here my voice as I am new this year
  - We are working very hard to ensure the health and safety of students and staff at the TDSB, protocols are being met and I want to acknowledge the staff is working very hard on this.

### Parent Involvement Advisory Update (PIAC):PIAC Co-Chair D. Williams

- <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Advisory-Committees/Statutory-Advisory-Committees/Parent-Involvement-Advisory-Committee>
- Our Virtual Conference, [Ready, Set, Engage](#) took place on November 21 & 22. It was a great opportunity to learn and network.
- We need Ward Reps for Ward 10. The PIAC term is 2 years and right now all meetings are via Zoom.
- PIAC is looking at ways to support and engage Virtual School families.
- Parent resources can be found [here](#).

### Parent Engagement Advisory Committee (PIAC) and French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) Elections: Ward 10 Chair Nigel Lawson

- We will table the PIAC elections until our next meeting as we do not currently have any nominations. If you are interested, please contact [Trustee Chris Moise](#).
- FSLAC: Our Current Reps are; Polina Osmerkina, Ward 10 Rep and Hans Bathija, Ward 10 Alternate. A Motion was made to re-elect by D. Williams and seconded by Amy Zut. Both are acclaimed
- [Information about French as a Second Language Advisory Committee \(FSLAC\)](#)
- Nigel Lawson will be stepping down as Chair for Ward 10 after a two ear term. He will Chair the next Ward Forum as a hand over to the successive Chair. If you are interested in becoming Ward 10 Chair please contact Trustee [Chris Moise](#) or Chair [Nigel Lawson](#)

## Presentation: Heather Johnson

### Staying Well During COVID

- Q&A

- It was stated that many of the Virtual School families are marginalised, do we know why?
  - [Chris Moise](#): Parts of our city are over represented. The stats say the Virtual School population is 50/50 but broken down by neighbourhood it is a different story.
  - [Sandy Spyropoulos](#): [Learning Centre 4 \(LC4\)](#) has the lowest number of virtual school students in the Board which speaks to the demographics. Lower income neighbourhoods are experiencing higher instances of COVID-19, these families live in close quarters and often have multigenerational households which causes students to stay home in virtual school. Many also live in apartment buildings and are worried about moving through common spaces like elevators etc...
- How can we fundraise for Virtual Schools?
  - D. Williams: PIAC held a focus group with virtual school parents and fundraising didn't come out as a high priority. Communication and responsiveness were at the top of the list. PIAC will be having more focus groups and roundtable s going forward.
- What planning is in place to reintegrate the virtual school students into in-person learning?
  - [Sandy Spyropoulos](#) : Our focus has been and continues to be our readiness to pivot into fully remote learning for the entire Board if need be given the growing numbers of COVID-19 cases. Maybe once there is a vaccine we will shift our focus to the return to bricks and mortar.
  - Steve Yee, Principal at Harbord CI: We are much better equipped right now to pivot to remote learning then we were in March. Because of virtual school, we have many more resources etc.. We are not perfect but we are far more ready to serve our students virtually when and if it is needed.

- [Chris Moise](#) : Secondary students are already in a hybrid format so the pivot will be more seamless for them. It is the elementary schools where there are still things to work out. Technology for example. We sent a lot of technology home with students in March and it has remained there. We are (as I stated in my update) working to get technology back into the schools. This is ongoing and it is a funding issue as well.
- [Mike Gallagher](#) : There has been a strange benefit to having to send cohorts of students home to self isolate. It has allowed teachers to trial run their virtual classrooms. And, because of virtual school being in place we have much more collective professional knowledge to share.
- Nigel Lawson:
  - Thank you to Heather for your presentation tonight
  - Parents, guardians, administrators & teachers, thank you for attending tonight's forum
  - I will reiterate that we are looking for Ward 10 PIAC representatives and a new Ward Chair. Please contact us if you are interested.
- Chris Moise: Thank you everyone. Good night.