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We've heard from parents that they want smaller class sizes and today, Trustees approved more than \$30 million in funding to enable staff to develop a plan that will see the hiring of an additional 366 teachers and the redeployment of 400 central teachers to lower class sizes across the board to help improve student and staff safety in our schools.

- We're disappointed that the Ministry of Education did not provide funds to the TDSB to cover the full cost of more teachers, but the TDSB has stepped up with substantial new funding. We are hearing from our parents and our staff that we are doing the right thing.
- We would have liked to provide even more funding to hire more teachers and bring class sizes down even further but the Board is already spending millions in reserves.
- Toronto Public Health has identified communities as being at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19. Schools in these communities will have JK/SK classes would be capped at 15 students, while Grade 1 to 8 classes would be capped at 20.
- In all other schools, JK/SK classes would be capped at 26, Grade 1 to 3 classes would be capped at 20, while Grade 4 to 8 classes would be capped at 27.
- With regard to virtual school (or remote learning), students will be taking part in live online learning throughout the day and see class size caps of 29 in JK/SK, 20 in Grades 1 to 3 and 35 in Grades 4 to 8.
- With regard to space requirements, if every student returned, 34 schools would be short of space, while just 4 schools would be short of space if 80% of students returned. We continue to work with the City of Toronto and others to look for alternate space.
- To achieve these class sizes, the TDSB has used money from TDSB Reserves (\$29.5M), the Ministry (\$6.3M), and the regular TDSB budget (\$2.9M)
- This approach balances the urgent need to spend additional funds to lower class sizes, but doesn't get the board into financial trouble in the years ahead by using too much of those reserves, much of which are set aside for employee benefits.
- With regard to the use of masks/face coverings, Trustees approved a motion to require **ALL** students and staff wear masks/face coverings. We felt it was best to be in line with the overall City of Toronto requirements which require anyone over the age of 2 to wear a mask/face covering in indoor public spaces — with exemptions for medical reasons. Particularly for younger students, we'll ensure there are breaks outdoors so that they're not wearing them for multiple hours straight.
- Given the amount of time we'll need to prepare for the return to school, the decision has been made to move the first day of school (for elementary, secondary and virtual school) to Tuesday, September 15 at which point we will stagger the entry of grades over a few days.
- We gathered a lot of good information from the pre-registration phone surveys that were conducted, however with the significant changes and additional information, we felt it was best that parents/guardians have the opportunity to make their intentions known based on the latest information. That is why, next week, the TDSB will be asking parents to register their child to attend school in September or keep them at home and attend remote learning in virtual school. It's very important that parents state their intentions.

