

TCDSB Special Board Meeting of August 14th 2020

Hello to one and all.

We represent custodial, maintenance and couriers within the TCDSB. We are writing this letter to express concerns regarding the school reopenings taking place in just a few short weeks, and the impact our front line Membership will undoubtedly be dealing with.

Unfortunately, we are unable to attend in person, and are hoping that this letter can make you apprised of certain concerns we all have.

We have been at the schools ensuring that they are, and will be fully ready to accommodate the reentry in September. We take pride in our jobs and safety is paramount above all else in our day to day affairs within the TCDSB facilities.

In regards to the TCDSB Reopening Action Plan:

- Weekly consultations with Union Partners and collaboration with our employee groups. We can in good conscience say that this is NOT the case for CUPE 1280. We have been given information at the eleventh hour and after information was already sent out to other partners or parties. No input requested from CUPE1280 and no information sharing regarding steps to be taken from the TCDSB.
- Training for safe school reentry. As we are all aware, the government's directive for a safe school reopening, some of our membership may be on vacation, and may be unavailable to attend this crucial aspect of a safe return. Once again, there has been no communication us regarding this.
- Cleaning and other additional Measures. There has been NO dialogue with the TCDSB as to what is expected, how this will impact the front line staff that is required to do these "enhanced cleaning protocols" within the schools. Due to the nature of this virus, the workload will be increased tenfold and impact the physical and mental wellbeing of ALL CUPE 1280 members. We feel that we will be overloaded and overworked.

- PPE. Will it be communicated to administration staff in schools that PPE is for ALL staff including CUPE 1280 and not only teaching staff and students?

We would also add, there have been NO frequent JHSC meetings that have taken place over the summer months and as stated above and we feel this is a huge problem. We have been left to find out what processes will take place through the media and at the 11th hour.

We are all in this together, irrespective of the job title we have within the TCDSB. We are all working together to ensure that we can make the facilities we attend all year, and especially during these times, the safest they can be. We feel that we have been left out of the loop, have not been made aware of what next impactful steps will be undertaken, and this is problematic on many levels.

Thank you for your time, and we hope that our concerns noted above, will be taken into account, and addressed prior to school opening and going forward.

Sincerely

CUPE 1280 EXECUTIVE