



TECT Delegation to the Board of Trustees August 20, 2020

Thank you for showing leadership and taking action, particularly in terms of mandatory mask wearing for all students and numerous measures to better enable physical distancing, to ensure a safer reopening of our schools. However, with September looming, it is essential, now more than ever, that we do not waver from our shared commitment to protect the health and safety of all in our school communities.

To better achieve this objective, I ask that you consider the following:

- At the July 23rd Board meeting, I recommended that “to make the best decision more time must be requested from the Ministry.” Through the collective advocacy of so many stakeholders, the Ministry has now stated that “Boards can stagger their reopening over the first two weeks of school.” Use these two weeks to gradually reopen schools both in terms of timing and the number of students returning to in school learning. The Board should also develop specific metrics to evaluate each step of the reopening and determine what is working well and what needs to be adjusted. **When it comes to the health and safety of our students and staff, a cautious and measured approach is always prudent and necessary.**
- TECT continues to advocate for the development of a precise safety plan for each school based on the number of students returning to in-school learning at each site.

- The Board should also continue to lobby the Ministry to delay the start of school in some worksites if they are not safe as of September.
- I appreciate that trustees want to be flexible with parents in terms of their ability to opt children in or out of in-school learning, but I ask that you be aware that unlimited flexibility will impact on staffing and curriculum delivery.
- I also encourage Trustees to call me personally if they wish to discuss reopening in further detail. I believe that such dialogues lead to better outcomes.

COVID-19 is still here, and Toronto is still reporting cases in the double digits. Unfortunately, a second wave is likely on the horizon therefore we must continue to be relentless and unwavering in our commitment to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families.

Thank you.