

Lise Arseneau - Planning for Return to School – 9 July 2020

Since the 2019-2020 school year ended, I have felt through the emails and the survey, that the OCDSB wants to know how to improve a Learn from Home model and they are focused on a hybrid model of students going to school on Monday-Tuesday and another group going to school on Thursday-Friday. However, for two parents working full-time, we cannot be expected to teach part-time two elementary school age children (ages 7 and 9 years old in our case) and sustain that without it affecting our mental health. In addition, how is the school board going to ensure that both my children are going to school on the same two days? For elementary school age children, parents are trying to ensure that children do not have too much screen time. A Learn from Home model makes it a challenge. Also, a child in grade two is not able to type so every assignment that requires typing a sentence takes much longer than for an adult.

I would like to ask the school board to focus on how to get elementary children back to school full-time in September. Quebec and New Brunswick are provinces that have or will be focused on that solution...you can examine what they are doing. The mental health of our children and of full-time working parents is not being given the priority required with the proposed hybrid models. Honestly, it did not work in the spring and parents should not have to be considering options like quitting jobs in order to teach our children when we are not qualified to be elementary school teachers.