

July 9, 2020

## **Submission to OCDSB, Special Board Meeting on Planning for Return to School in September**

The focus of the discussion should be on how to get schools reopened on a full-time basis. Focusing on the two day per week scenario is a distraction from important planning and work that needs to be done to return to school full-time. Only a full-time return to school can ensure that kids obtain the education they need, and guarantee that parents, especially mothers, do not bear the economic brunt of the Covid-19 recession.

The number one thing the School Board needs to do, to reopen full-time, is to accept that it will cost money to do so, and it needs to make the commitment to spend money and obtain buy-in from other levels of government as necessary. The suggestions I am making below will cost money; I do not want to hear the excuse that the School Board does not have the money to do what needs to be done.

A full-time reopening depends on the following: physical space, people, and time.

### Physical Space

Look at using all available school space so that kids can go to school while respecting physical distancing. Libraries, gyms, cafeterias can provide much-needed space for kids to learn.

Other options: install portables, use community centers, and have kids learn in under-used schools.

### People

Splitting kids up into smaller groups will mean that more teachers or supervisors will be needed.

Hire teacher's assistants, supply teachers, and tutors to help guide kids through the work they need to do. These people will no doubt provide better teaching guidance than most parents are capable of.

### Time

Get kids to school 5 days a week. Cleaning can be, and needs to be done on weekends and nights, not during precious schooling time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Renée Caron', with a stylized, cursive script.

Renée Caron