

## **Dana Kuehl - Planning for Return to School – 9 July 2020**

I have already participated in the online learning feedback survey but wanted to provide some additional thoughts as a parent who has shared custody of two kids entering grades 9 and 7 in the fall (AY Jackson and Glen Cairn.)

First, I understand and recognize that COVID-19 is a real public health threat. I also understand that no matter what decision the board comes to, possibly with the exception of a full return to class, that it will not be convenient or please everyone.

Second, I recognize that over the years the board has made reasonable efforts to accommodate shared custody situations.

That being said, I already have major concerns with regard to transportation and the what-if scenario of week on, week off cohorts.

### **Transportation**

We submitted our joint variable transportation forms in June and we've been told that variable joint custody transportation requests will not be considered until the school year is well underway. I acknowledge the complexity of transportation planning and that COVID-19 presents even more challenges but single/co-parent households already face significant challenges in coordination, potentially more financial pressure than dual income households etc. Not having transportation available from both houses provided they are within the transportation zone to me is just unacceptable. Why should transportation favour those living in the same household? What are we supposed to do in the meantime?

### **What-if scenario of a week on/week off cohort**

Most (though not all) shared custody schedules tend to be week on/week off. While every second day will present some challenges for everyone - if it's week on/week off it could effectively put one parent out of work altogether, additionally, what if the children's weeks happen to fall on the weeks that the kids are not at the residence approved for transportation?

Like other parents I have a host of other concerns, mental health concerns for my kids, the fact that my daughter (who is on an IEP) is at risk of falling further behind but I feel like these will be well covered by others. I fully hope the board considers what both Sick Kids and CHEO are recommending and support a full return to class in the fall with appropriate public health measures.

Thank you  
Dana Kuehl