

Kelly and Larry Friesen - Planning for Return to School – 9 July 2020

We are very much interested in the planning process for the OCDSB 2020-2021 school year and would like the Board to also take into account the following when it makes its recommendations:

1) Will the Board continue to follow the ever changing science behind the Covid-19 as scientists and doctors discover more about the virus and how it spreads (airborne) and how it effects people?

2) Will the Board reinstall paper towel dispensers in all public schools as a way to reduce to spread of Covid-19? The dispensers had been removed and replaced with hand dryers which have proven to disperse the virus particles in the air.

3) As parents from the Barrhaven area, all three high schools are over capacity and the Board had approved the redirection of students from all the feeder schools directly to Longfields Davidson High School. This resulted in a 25% over capacity and a total of 30 portables. How is the Board going to handle schools that are extremely over capacity in the wake of this virus that continues to evolve?

4) When considering the health and safety of students, the Board can't just limit the number of students per class. It will need to consider limiting the number of students per school such as the case of Longfields Davidson High School with 30 portables. Students using portables will also need to use and access the services in the main building.

Our preference, given the current climate and given family members who are at high risk if contracting Covid-19, is at home learning until a vaccine is created and dispensed. In order for at home learning to work well, there needs to be standardization and uniformity in the school work being delivered and taught by

teachers. There needs to be more emphasis on virtual face to face learning with students if in-person learning is not considered safe. Teachers can't simply push the learning process to video links and expect parents to pick up the slack. If teachers are provided with a framework to build on they can, as a collective unit, create a learning platform all students can benefit from.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Kelly and Larry Friesen