

11 August 2020

I am a mother to 4 children all of who have attended the OCDSB. 3 currently still do, 2 at high school level and 1 in Grade 6 at the elementary level.

I am also the Co-Chair for Pleasant Park Public School Parent Council and attend Council meetings for Hillcrest High School.

My questions are as follows:

- 1) With respect to Parent Councils, we are curtailed by what we may and may not provide funding for. Will those limitations be updated by the Board since I haven't seen any updates coming from the Ministry so far? Councils need to know what they can fund for in light of COVID-19 and what they cannot. As well, Councils more than ever, need to take stock of their own financial health as many of our fundraisers cannot take place as usual such as pizza lunches, Lunch Lady lunches etc.
- 2) Will the Board help elementary schools who would like to create smaller class sizes but are currently at capacity already since the Ministry will not be providing funding for smaller class size? How will the Board do this? More portables? Will the OCDSB look at "Made in Ottawa" solutions unique to any other Board?
- 3) The alternative option the province is backing is Outdoor Classrooms – will there be a set fund to help establish these? What about inclement weather and the snow and cold that Ottawa gets? Will some form of bases be laid out so that bags and shoes do not lie on wet grass or wet concrete? Picnic tables? Shelters? Again who will be asked to pay for all of this and will there be set designs that schools have to choose from?
- 4) This stems from the last question: what is the Board doing with respect to schools who are at or over capacity? More portables? If yes, when will we be receiving them? There are 3 weeks left before school start. Should Councils be looking at renting tents, domes etc in order to supplement the footprint of a school which has no capacity to move classes to smaller sizes. If yes, will the Board have a pre-arranged list of vendors as it does with everything else that Councils must rent from to meet certain standards? Has this been done yet?
- 5) Assuming Boards will be funding the cleaning of schools and providing proper PPE as the funding is coming from the province, can you assure us that Councils will never have to supplement PPE in order for parents to feel their students are safe and for staff to feel safe?
- 6) I have read that the French Boards in Ottawa have requested that the Ministry allow some high schools with low enrollment to be able to open up using the full time model and not the 5 days out of 10 days hybrid for larger school boards. Has the OCDSB made this same request for it's many high schools which have low enrollment? An example being Hillcrest high school.
- 7) What are you doing about proper ventilation in schools, especially the older ones? We have been asking for air conditioning and an upgrade to our elementary school's ventilation systems for 5 years now with no movement from the Board. With 3 weeks left to go before school starts, what is the Board committed to doing?
- 8) Lastly, Councils have purchased many of the Chromebooks and iPads which were likely loaned out during the remainder of last year's school year for online learning for those in need. Can the Board guarantee that all tech that Councils purchased throughout the years have been returned to their individual school and that each school is not starting with a deficiency in tech because loaned out tech has not yet been returned?

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