

NEWS

TEMPERATURE CHECK ON THE HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PUBLIC BOARD FINDING ALTERNATE WAYS TO DELIVER #ESSENTIALSERVICES

Halton District School Board staff swiftly shifted gears when schools and administrative offices closed so business could continue, albeit remotely.

As issues have arisen in this constantly evolving situation, staff continue to manage everything from teacher-led online learning to electronic tendering for school renewal projects.

The focus, according to Superintendent of Education Colette Ruddock, is on "what is essential for right now; anything that may happen in May or June, we're not there."

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

As of April 6, it was "back to school" via an online learning format for students in K-12.

The goal, according to the board's website, is to ensure the successful completion of the school year by all students.

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION

The province has shut down all non-essential services for another month, meaning that school construction has come to a halt, as it is not deemed "critical public infrastructure." Many school boards are seeking separate legal opin-

ions for specific projects, and HDSB will investigate this for both the Oakville NE #2 school and Nelson High School, according to-Maia Puccetti, the superintendent of facility services.

While staff are confident the September 2020 opening date for the Oakville NE #2 school can be met, the same timeline for Nelson is not possible; however, staff are developing contingency plans for students for all projects that are impacted by the month-long construction shutdown, she said.

The scheduled September 2021 opening date of the board's new Milton high school will also be impacted.

Under the province's current order, scheduled essential preventive maintenance is allowed.

School renewal work scheduled for the summer is being handled through electronic tendering and bids and, where necessary, videotaping of building interiors while schools are closed.

Signage has been posted at all schools noting that the school grounds are closed, including all play structures, basketball courts, playgrounds and sports fields.

All schools have been deep-cleaned, with the exception of those with ongoing construction projects; those schools will be cleaned prior to students coming back into the buildings

The only people going into schools are field supervisors and security personnel, who do a check of facilities and portables every two days.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN

Registration for new students, including those starting kindergarten, is being done online.

Visit the board's Student Registration Page at https://bit.ly/2K18p3E, where you will find step-bystep instructions, as well as what documents are mandatory to complete registration.

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