



HWDSB photo

More elementary students chose to switch to the virtual learning model than vice versa when the opportunity arose last month.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LATEST HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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• Keeping schools open is a priority for her, said Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton's medical officer of health, in a presentation to the HDSB. This is why, she said, it's important for everyone in the community to be "extra vigilant" this fall to avoid a shutdown of essential areas such as schools.

• As of Nov. 2, 69 Halton schools had experienced at least one confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 among their students and staff, which included 24 staff and 101 students, with most of these infections believed to be acquired outside the school environment, said Meghani.

• A total of 2,400 elementary students chose to switch learning models during the allotted October time frame, with 600 students returning to in-person education and 1,800 switching to distance learning. These changes

will be in place for Nov. 30.

• Milton SW #1 high school will not be opening in September 2021, but is now anticipated to open in February 2022. The reasons and rationale behind the delay will be presented at the next meeting of the board on Nov. 18. As a result, a north Halton I-STEM program that is being implemented at the new secondary school will be postponed. Instead, the board will have only one I-STEM program in operation during the next school year, at Aldershot High School in Burlington.

An I-STEM Virtual Open House for the Aldershot program will be held on Thursday, Nov. 12 between 7 and 8 p.m. Visit [www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca) for more information.

• Discussion about school renovation projects (review the report here: [bit.ly/38fTOPI](http://bit.ly/38fTOPI)) included questioning about the board's administration building on Guelph Line, a

facility beyond repair, according to director of education Stuart Miller.

The cost of renovations is prohibitive, but at some point the building will have to be replaced, he said. The building is not compliant with the AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act), and there is "zero chance we will be by 2025," the date when Ontario is to be fully accessible. "It's inefficient and impractical to spend large quantities of money on this building because the structure itself is challenging," said Miller, adding that many school boards across the province are in a similar position.

Funds earmarked for schools cannot be used to replace administrative centres, but it shouldn't have to be a choice between fixing up school buildings and providing a proper administrative facility for staff and visitors, commented Oakville trustee Tracey Ehl Harrison.

# The solution to COVID-19 is in your hands.

- Wear a face covering.
- Keep 2m apart from anyone outside of your household.
- Limit your close contact to your household only.
- Wash your hands often.



Stopping the spread starts with you.  
Visit [ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://ontario.ca/coronavirus) to learn more

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