

HERE'S THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LATEST PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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A robust document known as the Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) — which outlines enrolment projections up to 2030 for secondary and elementary schools in all four municipalities, upcoming capital projects and boundary reviews — was approved by Halton District School Board trustees Oct. 20.

Within the report, there are also "future capital priority considerations," which include the possibility of replacement schools for McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School and Central Public School. In the latter case, staff is reviewing the viability of building a JK to Grade 12 school at Burlington Central, and seeking partnerships for an

urban community use campus.

Proposed school boundary reviews for 2021-22 include one for French Immersion students from Florence Meares Public School, who are currently directed to two different schools. The review would determine if this is the best scenario, or if all Florence Meares Grade 1 students choosing FI can be accommodated at the same FI school.

The report also suggests a process be initiated to determine whether boundaries in a small rural area south of Lower Base Line in Milton can be changed to avoid split Grade 2 and Grade 9 FI cohorts.

Boundary reviews may also be initiated during the school year for schools in Oakville and

Milton, pending provincial funding approval for new schools, the report states.

The board continues to await Ministry of Education approval for six priority capital submissions, which are listed in the LTAP.

To view the report in its entirety, visit <https://bit.ly/3C3CtF7>.

Here are some other highlights from the most recent board meeting:

VACCINATION ATTESTATION

The most recent data reveals that close to 96 per cent of permanent HDSB staff are fully vaccinated, according to Superintendent of Human Resources Sari Taha.

Those who have not disclosed their vaccination status will be considered unvaccinated and must undergo regular

rapid testing.

Those who do not comply with warnings will be assigned home on an unpaid leave in due time, said Taha.

MIXING COHORTS

Both Halton public health and HDSB staff are aware of students' and families' wishes that different classroom cohorts be allowed to mix on the playground, and when those restrictions might be eased, said Superintendent of Education Terri Blackwell.

"This is a really tough piece ... A lot of it is about contact tracing and balancing keeping schools open and keeping as many kids as possible in school, and also balancing the mental health and well-being of our students with the health and safety."

"If we're starting to mix

classes outdoors, that means that more kids would be home if there was a case."

GENDER EXPRESSION IN SCHOOLS

HDSB has developed a new administrative procedure related to Gender Identity and Gender Expression in Schools, which will be rolled out in the coming weeks through educational sessions for all stakeholders, from school equity leads and administrators to the general public.

Given the growing need to ensure an effective and consistent approach "in supporting this critical group of students in our system, the plan evolved from one of simply updating our prior guidelines to formalizing our processes in a very formal way," said Superintendent of Educa-

tion Rob Eatough.

Approximately 15 per cent of the board's student population identifies with a non-heterosexual orientation, said Eatough, based on student census findings.

"There have been very few schools in our system that do not have at least a couple of students that they are supporting, often as young as kindergarten, to Grade 1 and Grade 2. It's certainly a very critical area of support for the system. For a number of years now we have had guidelines in place and they've certainly continued to evolve and be updated over time."

Because of the "ever evolving nature of this work," said Eatough, in all likelihood, this document, due to be revised in two years, will require annual updating.



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A: Below are some tips:

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2. Go nylon, not natural.
3. Choose a handle with care. What you should really look for is toothbrush handle that feels comfortable in your hand and is easy to maneuver.
4. Does it have a timer? Many electric and power toothbrushes are equipped with timers to alert you when you've brushed for 2-3 minutes.
5. Does it have a sensor? Some electric toothbrushes are equipped with sensors, which



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