

Email correspondence sent to Peter Singh, Executive Officer, Information Technology Services and Maia Puccetti, Executive Officer, Facilities and Planning on 26 October 2020.

Good morning, Peter and Maia.

I am emailing on behalf of Runnymede Jr & Sr School Council and have copied our Executive Council members. We have a School Council meeting this Thursday and there are two primary concerns we would like to bring to your attention to address. We do understand the financial constraints the TDSB is under due to lack of funding from the Provincial Government. Our aim is to work cooperatively with the Board (as we do with our Administration) to solve these problems.

### **Technology devices**

Our teachers have indicated there are portions of the Ministry mandated curriculum that are undeliverable without adequate technology in the classrooms. Our senior students have been asked to bring their own personal devices (if they have them, many do not) to class in order to conduct research. This makes some teachers, students and parents uncomfortable because it creates obvious equity issues at our school. Last year, Runnymede had 245 devices or a 4:1 student/device ratio which our technology lead indicated was a bare minimum to successfully deliver the curriculum; however, it is our understanding the TDSB device average is 2:1 (student/device ratio).

1. 245 devices were lent out from Runnymede. To date, Runnymede has received approximately 45 of those devices back. We understand this is in line with the 18% delivered back to all schools this Fall. What is the TDSB's plan and projected timeframe for returning or replacing the remaining 200 devices?
2. How did you arrive at an 18% return ratio? Our school's in-person student ratio is 85% while there are schools with 30-50% in-person attendance this year. Were the returning in-person student ratios taken into account?
3. Does the TDSB have adequate funding to return or replace all of the devices that were lent out from schools in the spring as well as provide the necessary devices to support its virtual school?
4. If the 200 devices are not going to be returned in the next few weeks, what is the TDSB's plan to deliver the new math curriculum to Runnymede (and all TDSB) students this year?
5. We've been told there may need to be a workaround until the devices are able to be returned in full. What workaround is the TDSB planning to implement?
6. If the Board device average is 2:1, while Runnymede's is only 4:1, why is it that Runnymede has been left to fall behind other TDSB schools when it comes to technology devices available for its students?

## Ventilation

We received an email on October 23, noting, “The Ministry of Education has provided \$6.9 million in funding to the TDSB to improve air ventilation in our schools, and this funding is being used to purchase approximately 6,000 commercial HEPA units for all classrooms without mechanical ventilation or with limited ability to provide fresh air. Please see the [list of schools](#) that will be receiving these HEPA units. School not included on the list have sufficient ventilation for students, as currently recommended by TPH.” Runnymede is not on this list, even though the majority of the school does not have a mechanical ventilation system and the windows only open a maximum of 4-inches.

The issue of ventilation is a primary concern for the parents in our school community and we believe it is crucial for the windows to open to a larger degree to provide as much fresh air ventilation and exchange as possible to guard against COVID-19. This is a low-cost solution for the Board to make this adjustment. It is our understanding the Catholic Board has already done this, and they are governed by the same Building Codes as the TDSB.

1. What criteria was used to determine which schools have sufficient ventilation and which schools do not?
2. Has the air been tested in classrooms to determine CO2 levels at different times of the day?
3. The TDSB has an obligation to ensure all students and staff have fresh air. For the schools that will not receive HEPA units, when will the TDSB be addressing the issue of windows only opening 4-inches?

Again, we would like to work cooperatively with the Board to address these issues. Your attention to these problems and willingness to work with us to solve them is appreciated.

We look forward to hearing from you ahead of our Council meeting this Thursday and are amenable to a virtual meeting with you to discuss as well.

Regards,

Erin Meana, Runnymede Public School Council Chair