

**Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School
School Council Meeting
Wednesday, Oct 7, 2020
6:30 – 7:30 pm**

Minutes

Elections

The following people will serve in School Council roles for the 2020-2021 year:

Co-Chairs-Dionne Wu and Sara Bataghva

Treasurer-Karen Quang

Secretary-Diana Yau

For your information, our School Council meeting dates for the remainder of the year will take place on:

Thursday November 26

Thursday January 14

Thursday February 25

Thursday April 8

Thursday May 20

School Update

What's Happening at SWLPS

With some families opting to begin the year virtually and other families deciding to switch to online learning when given the opportunity more recently, Sir Wilfrid Laurier is presently about 50% of its typical student population. There are now 18 homeroom classes, as a number of our teaching staff have been reassigned to support the Elementary Virtual Schools (EVS). With the recent school reorganization, many of our students are settling into new classrooms. All are becoming familiar with new routines and engaging in rich, challenging, educational tasks. This year's instruction includes the new Math Curriculum, which focuses on fundamental concepts and skills, problem solving, and real-world applications.

Of course, this school year is different from most others due to the COVID pandemic. Under the direction of York Region Public Health, a number of safety measures have been taken to reduce the threat of COVID transmission at our school. These actions begin as soon as students leave home to come to Laurier!

- Students must adhere to a bus seating plan when they are bussed to school. The seating plan allows them to maintain physical distance as they ride the bus
- Entry time begins at 8:15 and continues to 8:30am. This is done in an effort to reduce crowding as students enter the building
- When students arrive they are asked to enter the building through grade-specific entrances. Again, this is done to reduce crowding at doors
- One-way directional arrows have been placed throughout the school to encourage a consistent flow of traffic in the hallways

- Enter and Exit signs have been placed on all doors; only students moving in the same direction use the same door
- Physical distancing and face mask posters have been placed throughout the school
- Classroom desks/seats have been organized in ways that maintain physical distancing during classroom instruction. As with bussing, students have been assigned specific seats
- All staff are required to wear masks and face shields when working with students
- All classrooms have sanitizing stations. Students are asked to sanitize their hands every time they enter and exit the classroom. Teachers also have additional cleaning supplies to disinfect resources each time they are used by a student
- Each classroom has been assigned two washroom breaks per day to limit the number of students visiting the washroom at one time
- Teacher schedules have been constructed in ways that limit the number of students they come into contact with
- Students assigned to one classroom do not interact with other students during instructional time, snack time, and lunch
- Students follow expectations during snack and lunch; they are asked to remain seated and maintain physical distance when taking their masks off to eat
- Recess/lunch-recess times have been reduced for all students. While students from half of the school are outside for recess, the other students remain inside for snack or lunch. At the midway point of a break, student groups switch. The reduction of students outside increases the ability to maintain physical distancing
- The school yard has been divided into grade-specific zones
- When recess or lunch-recess has been completed, students are asked to line up in an orderly fashion outside their assigned doors and wait for their classroom teacher to escort them back to class
- An isolation room has been created for students who exhibit COVID symptoms. Under the supervision of staff, a student remains isolated until a parent picks them up
- Our caretakers follow enhanced cleaning practices throughout the entire school, including the regular disinfection of high contact touch points (e.g., desks, chairs, door hardware, handrails)
- Visitors are not permitted entry into the school at any time; items cannot be dropped off at any time
- All procedures at Sir Wilfrid Laurier have been instituted with the support and guidance of York Region Public Health

All procedures put in place to ensure physical distancing with students and staff are maintained throughout the school day. Please help with these safety initiatives by reminding your children about the need to stay physically distanced. We understand that this can be difficult for children, however we all need to be vigilant in order to keep one another safe. Your support and reminders at home will be of great assistance to us!

What's Happening at Elementary Virtual School (EVS)

There are approximately 1500 staff and 38000 students participating in EVS across YRDSB. Here is an example of a typical EVS timetable:

Elementary Virtual School (EVS) Schedule: K-8		
Time	Mins	Days 1-5

8:45 - 9:35	50	Period 1
9:35 - 10:25	50	Period 2
10:25 - 10:55	30	Break
10:55 - 11:45	50	Period 3
11:45 - 12:35	50	Period 4
12:35 - 1:35	60	Lunch
1:35 - 2:25	50	Period 5
2:25 - 3:15	50	Period 6

As you can see, EVS classes have timetables similar to traditional classes, with breaks and lunches scheduled in. During a typical school day, online students participate in 225 minutes of synchronous learning time with their teachers. The remaining 75 minutes are designated work periods, where students complete assigned tasks independently. While there are a number of cases where SWLPS teachers have been assigned to teach SWLPS students, many of our online students are in classes with other qualified elementary teachers from across the board.

Similar to families of students who are attending face-to-face, EVS will be holding a Meet the Teacher Night on **Wednesday, October 21, 2020** for those families presently enrolled in virtual classrooms.

Switching Between In-Person and Virtual Models of Learning

We appreciate that with the ever changing landscape, families may wish to request a switch between the in-person and the virtual models of learning. The Board will communicate in January about the possibility of such transfers between models.