

## SPACE Coalition Virtual Meeting

July 20, 2020

### Summary Notes

**Participants:** Susan Fletcher (co-chair, SPACE), Heather Mitchell (co-chair, SPACE), John Ryerson, Sharma Queiser, Lynn Manning, Sophia Ali, Chiara Padovani, Peter Clutterbuck, Lyba Spring, Ronny Yaron, Bill Worrell, Mark Ucieklak, Kim Outton, Matt Bentley (PFR), Kevin Arnsdorff, Barry Rieder, Mollie Zebedee, Amanda Neale-Robinson, Shawn Burgess, Kalaichevy Atputhalingam, Tyheriah Philbert, Gayathri Samaroo, Ray Chateau, John Kok (see last page for photo)

#### 1. **Questions for School Boards** (what do attendees need to know from the school boards in order to think about running programs)?

Questions are numbered for identification. If a school board is not specified, the question is for all 4 Toronto school boards, plus Peel and York public and Catholic.

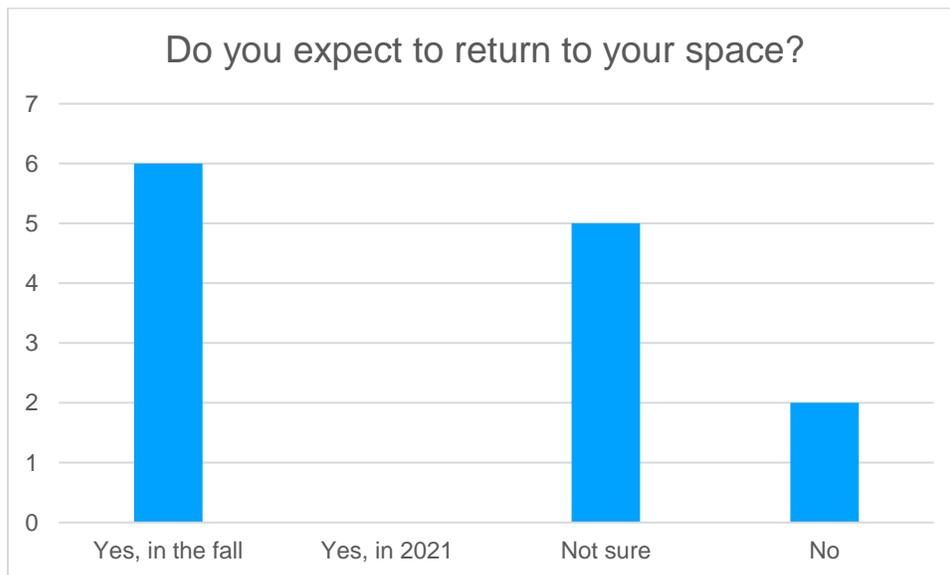
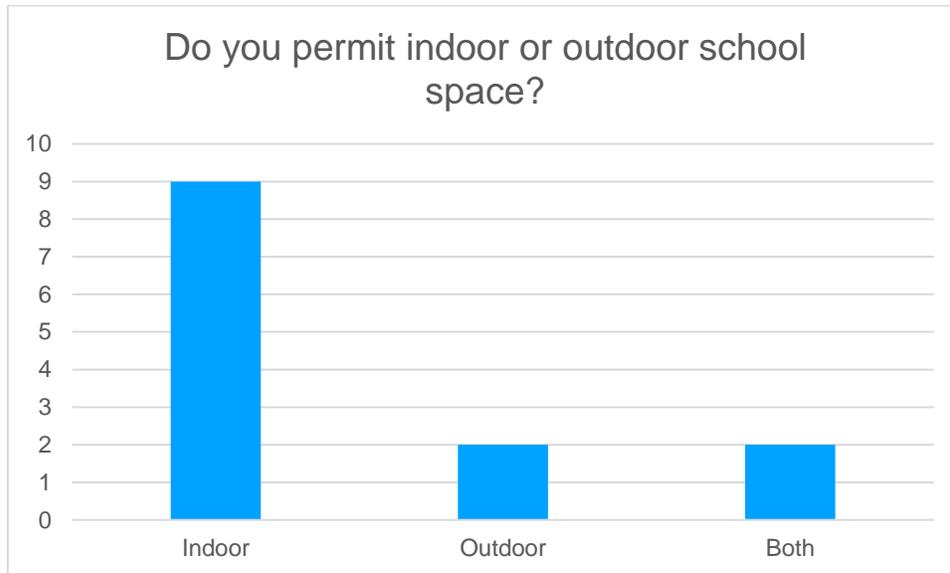
- a) Will there be guidelines on how many students can be seen at the same time, will that be monitored, and will everyone be required to wear masks?
- b) Why does the TDSB Return to School Plan not mention of community use?
- c) Will outside groups be allowed to run programs when children are not in school?
- d) What cleaning will take place between end of school and after school programs?
- e) When the school year starts, will children, teachers and families be allowed to use the Sportswalls that are already painted at 17 TDSB elementary schools?
- f) Will permit use from Parks, Forestry and Recreation permits operate as per usual at Vaughan Road Academy (TDSB)? (It was clarified that a number of Provincial Sports Organizations have their own guidelines that must also be followed in conjunction with city guidelines, which are to be monitored by the sports deliverers.)  
**ACTION:** Matt will get clarification from PFR Customer Service and forward that information to the group.
- g) Oakwood Vaughan Community Organization is looking for information on capital improvements to their school, fundraising and partnerships with the TDSB.
- h) Will schools only allow one tenant per school in leased space as they have this summer? Although rent has been deferred, when will tenants be able to access their space? How will private office space and shared meeting space be handled?
- i) Regarding lease agreements, if tenancies need to end, when will tenants be allowed to access their space to remove their equipment/materials?
- j) For buildings that are jointly run with school boards, i.e. libraries, community centres, it will be confusing to the public if there are different approaches to the rules. Can the boards work with the city to ensure there are consistent rules?
- k) Will the TDSB continue the Local Neighbourhood Support Program (LNSP) permits?
- l) How soon will information be communicated to permit holders? If gyms are repurposed to classrooms, will community use be allowed after school?

[TDSB Returning to School: Planning Ahead for September 2020](#)

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### 2. Zoom Poll results



Feedback request: for those not returning, please provide reasons so we can identify issues to highlight.

#### Notes:

TDSB Permits: once a decision is made on the return to school model in early August, permit holders will be notified via the board's eBase permit software. In the meantime existing permit holders are encouraged to submit their usual permit applications so they can be quickly approved once the return to school model is finalized.

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PFR Permits: outdoor field permits info was sent to all permit users by direct letter. Expect a similar communication will go to indoor permit users for the fall.

### 3. **How to ensure community use of schools is part of reopening schools?** Next Steps for Individuals/Organizations/SPACE, Action Items and Follow-up

Will SPACE develop their own position/recommendations on how to be involved in schools despite COVID? We do not wish to lose the gains we have achieved over the last few years. Will there be a strategy over what is minimally acceptable and what we would ultimately like to see?

Although SPACE has been working on community access for over 15 years, and the TDSB has had a Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee (CUSCAC) for most of that time, SPACE feels that we need the Premier to make it a priority for the province.

**ACTION:** SPACE will create a one-page statement for individuals and organizations to share with their contacts and endorse if appropriate.

If we want the government to mandate school boards to include community use when reopening, we need to persuade the Premier and Minister of Education that it is a key priority.

When speaking to your local Trustee/Councillor/MPP, or attending a town hall, ensure you ask how community use of schools will be included in reopening.

In order to circulate our concerns wider, it was suggested we share them with the media.

**ACTION:** Kevin will share our questions with his contacts. Susan will also reach out to her contacts.

**ACTION:** Respond to the provincial survey about the pandemic's impact by highlighting the losses from closing community use of schools, e.g., fitness, physical and mental health, after-school programs that provide safe places for school age children, economic impacts from job loss, etc.

<https://www.ontario.ca/form/survey-economic-impacts-covid-19>

**ACTION:** Invite relevant colleagues and supporters to the next meeting.

### 4. **NEXT MEETING**

August 6, 2020 (via Zoom) 7:00 - 8:30 pm

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## Links and Resources

### Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation

- PFR booking <https://www.toronto.ca/services-payments/venues-facilities-bookings/booking-park-recreation-facilities/>
- Contact [pfrcustomerservice@toronto.ca](mailto:pfrcustomerservice@toronto.ca) if you have questions about bookings in parks
- Guidelines for use of sports fields <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/8fcb-sports-fields-COVID-19-guidelines.pdf>

### Queens Park Contacts

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier, 416-325-7635

<https://correspondence.premier.gov.on.ca/EN/feedback/default.aspx>

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, 416-325-2600

[minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Marit Stiles, NDP Education Critic, 416-326-7202

[MStiles-QP@ndp.on.ca](mailto:MStiles-QP@ndp.on.ca)

Kathleen Wynne, Lib Education Critic, 416-325-4705

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