

**Clinton Junior Public School
School Council Minutes**

Meeting Date	October 7 2020	
Start/End Time	18:00 – 19:30 (ONLINE AT: https://meet.google.com/ixz-nyxt-jrz)	
Minutes Approved		
Attendees – Elected and Appointed Members	TK SH SP JD NL KM NA	
Attendees	MM AW BS CM CL CT DT DC EG EC GM JKK JL JH JCR KH	L LB LG MN MMa NS SB SE SI TC TP VK VL (Unknown)
Attendees – Staff & Administration	SA RC	

We acknowledge that We are hosted on the land of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, The Haundenosaunee, the Chippewa, and the Wendat Peoples. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

Question and Answer – COVID-19 and Clinton School

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Infectious Disease Specialists and Clinton parents

Matthew P. Muller, MD, PhD, FRCPC, Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control, Unity Health Toronto and Professor

Valerie Waters, staff physician Infectious Diseases, Hospital for Sick Children

- Chair TK notes that some questions have been received via the online portal, and questions will be taken via chat or online tonight.
- Chair TK thanks MM and VW for their participation as experts

Q1: Parents are trying to weigh in-person (vs virtual) learning with risk of infection from COVID. Parents are interested in a 'tipping point' advice for parents – what are the data points parents should watch for and who should we be listening to? Do you have advice?

- Consider individuals children's risk for disease. Current general medical advice is that COVID is not typically a serious condition in children. Underlying medical conditions will affect how children react and should be considered.
- Children can still transmit disease. Does the child live in home with an older person or a compromised person?
- How does the child function with online learning? Can they manage this on their own?
- Infection potential is related to case numbers in the public, and COVID numbers are currently rising and should be monitored by all parents.

Q2: What is the relevance or importance of the daily screening tool required for each student? Clinton is currently using the paper form.

- Primary importance is opportunity to check with children to see if they are demonstrating symptoms. Form plays a role as a daily reminder to parents to monitor for symptoms in students before sending to school.
- Symptomatic children should not attend school as this limits transmission.

Q3: Do clothes and the regular cleaning/laundry of clothes play a role in transmission of COVID?

- Very low risk relative to respiratory droplets in the air.
- Washing of clothes can continue per the standard laundry schedule of the home.

Q4: We are observing increasing rates of infection without corresponding increase in hospitalization / death as per the first wave - is this a reason for optimism?

- Too early to say definitively but some reason for optimism. Current increases are generally in a younger population.
- Lagging indicators of hospitalization/deaths.
- Spring 2020 saw exposure in long-term care facilities with highest risk patients. Current policies should help protect those patients.
- Continued rise in numbers will inevitably lead to outbreaks in all age groups, and strong public health action / individual action for social distancing, masking, hygiene etc is strongly encouraged.

Q5: Is it okay for kids to not wear masks outside? Given it is an elementary school with very young children, is it possible for them to play outdoors without masks?

- Generally speaking, kids need breaks from masks and outdoors is a great time for kids.
- Exposure to COVID outdoors is of low concern due to improved air circulation outdoors.
- Enclosed, indoors spaces are of most concern for transmission.
- Asking children to wear masks all day outdoors may not be feasible or desired for many families.
- Transmission is possible outdoors, but very low risk.
- Social distancing is still needed, but age appropriate, distanced play without mask while outdoors is okay.
- Contact sports not encouraged.

Q6: What is your view of indoor playdates with children who are home-schooled and not in the same class cohort?

- Follow public health instructions, which are currently not to be in other people's homes. Indoor playdates are strongly discouraged.
- The more interactions with others, the increased risk for transmission to you and others. Indoor environments especially bad.

Question from Chat / Online:

Would high quality HEPA filter be of use in a classroom?

- Notes that HEPA filters are used in hospital environments and substantial capital investment required. Benefits of these investments currently unclear.
- Basics of outdoor time, good air circulation, masking, hand washing, and physical distancing are the most important factors currently.

Is there anything you've seen other schools do that Clinton could do? TK notes the great efforts of Clinton staff/community.

- Generally speaking, efforts made at Clinton seem to be very good. Take advantage of outdoor space as much as possible during good weather.

Keeping sick kids out of the school is mentioned as a big help – what programs can support kids at home to learn etc and support parents who have kids at home?

- Speaks to value of workplace programs to support working parents

Do you see merit in plexiglass screens in class to separate children's work spaces?

- Physical distancing, masks, hygiene measures are most important.
- No clear benefit to plexiglass given the drawbacks of isolating kids. Notes impact on noise / volume of speaking required.

Is the lack of serious infections in children due to their relative isolation during lockdown?

- Available data from countries with many infections, such as China, Italy and the United states indicate that children are still not as severely affected as adults by COVID infection

If a family has two children and sends one in-person, is there any limited exposure in this case?

- Risk with one in school remains. If one child has an underlying condition, there is an increased risk with one child at school bringing home exposure.
- Decision could be made based on child's schooling preferences

Any tips for testing, given that children will need tests? Can you speak to accuracy of tests for children?

- Notes current testing system strain due to numbers of tests. Lines are inevitable and will be present at testing centres
- Monitor children for high risk symptoms like fever or multiple symptoms which may indicate infection

- 'Spit-test' is currently being assessed and could be rolled out in the future.
- Traditional nasal swab is very good at detecting the virus; quality of sample from patient can influence outcome and test can be challenging with kids. Spit test more child friendly.

Can you speak to the COVID Long-hauler cases and lasting impacts?

- Good reminder that there is a lot we don't yet know about COVID as it's a new disease
- This outcome is not common, not enough data currently to comment
- More likely to affect adults rather than children

NEXT MEETING TBD