

October 13, 2020

HYBIRD PLAN UPDATE

Today we met with Mary Battista, Nancy DiNardo, Diana Candido and Michael Gray who provided some details of the hybrid plan. As with every new venture, we will only know what works and what does not work once the plan is implemented. The Board has committed to having follow up meetings with CUPE to discuss and resolve issues as they arise. Please let me know of any issues that cannot be resolved through discussions with your Principal.

YCDSB is confident that this is a good plan that brings all students into their home school. The Board stresses that this plan is sustainable and would provide a seamless transition to full remote classes should schools shut down again.

ECEs

ECEs and teachers will continue to support FDK classes as a team. They will implement a schedule that can work for both face to face and remote students. The teacher would deliver the lesson and when face to face students are doing activities it is expected that both the teacher and ECE will take turns working with remote students by live streaming. This would provide students familiarity with both educators. FDK remote students would be logging into the Google classroom for approximately 3 hours per day. Please ensure that if the team is sharing a laptop that you sanitize prior to switching users. This can be done with wipes or a paper towel that has been sprayed with disinfectant. The Board is looking into supplying wireless headsets to both the teacher and ECE.

EAs/EIs/SEWs/SSWs

Diana Candido, the Superintendent of Student Services advised that the hybrid model does not impact how special need students are supported. Remote students will continue to be supported through google meets on scheduled times. Google meets can be 1:1 or with a teacher present. EAs/EIs/SEWs will continue to work with their Core teacher and the classroom teacher to fulfill the IEP expectations.

Please note that as per our collective agreement EA staffing will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

International Language Instructors

Mary Battista advised that ILI would follow the hybrid plan for the delivery of instruction similar to other itinerant staff. She stressed that this should be a seamless transition as the curriculum is already online, interactive and projected on a whiteboard. Instructors have all been provided with Chrome books. She recognized that Instructors were extremely successful in the Spring in developing resources that would be very useful during this time. Mary Battista is confident that the hybrid plan should be an easy transition.

School Secretaries

As with any change that happens in our schools, the workload of secretaries is impacted. We have advocated for the need of discretionary hours for elementary secretaries to be able to complete the required Maplewood entries and additional tasks to support the hybrid plan. The Board has agreed that they will provide discretionary hours where needed. Please ensure that you ask your Principal to make this request to their Superintendent if additional hours are needed.

It is expected that in the next few weeks there will be “growing pains” as the hybrid plan is implemented. I encourage all of us to do our very best to make this plan successful and to work together with our colleagues and Principals to resolve issues that may arise.

As we face the challenges of the hybrid plan, I leave you with this thought:

Being part of a plan that includes the services that we provide to remote learners affords us with some job security should schools shut down again.

We can do this!

In Solidarity
Mary Di Federico
President, CUPE 2331