



## REPORT TO

# CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

## COOLING CENTRES PROGRAM STATUS UPDATE (ALL WARDS)

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."  
Philippians 4:13 (NRSVCE)*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
September 4, 2018	September 13, 2018	

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### INFORMATION REPORT

#### Vision:

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

#### Mission:

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.*

*We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*

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## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*This report provides an update on the implementation of Cooling Centres in elementary and secondary schools that do not have air conditioning.* There are 146 TCDSB schools that do not have air conditioning or cooling centres, excluding new schools that are under construction or planned construction.

Cooling Centres have been incorporated into recent addition projects and will be included in upcoming child care projects. Board staff are in the process of retaining a project manager to expedite the roll-out of the Cooling Centres project across the system. Originally approved by Board as a four-year phased program, the time period may be shortened through the project manager approval. Year 1 work is planned to be completed by spring 2019.

The Cooling Centre program will also include installation of ceiling fans in third floor classrooms, where feasible. A pilot program has also been initiated to immediately provide portable fans in third floor classrooms.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 10 hours.*

## **B. PURPOSE**

This report is provided in response to a trustee inquiry at the June 6, 2018 Corporate Services, Strategic Planning and Property Committee Meeting regarding hot classrooms, referred to staff for a status update report on air conditioning.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. On December 13, 2017, the Corporate Services, Strategic Planning and Property Committee approved a four-year phased implementation plan to add Cooling Centres at non-air conditioned schools.
2. The December 2017 report also recommended that the Annual Pupil Accommodation and Portable Classroom requirements report provide detailed information and recommendations for the installation of air conditioning units to portables classrooms and that the Chair of the Board send a letter to the Ministry of Education (EDU) regarding the impact of hot weather on interior air temperatures in classrooms.
3. In January, 2018, a letter was sent by the Chair of the Board to EDU regarding the growing public concern related to the dramatic negative health impact of extreme, hot weather temperatures on students and staff in non-air

conditioned schools and requesting additional funding to boards, in order to support and expand the installation of air conditioning in schools (refer to Appendix A).

4. On May 7, 2018, EDU sent a response to the Chair's letter, stating that they agree with the TCDSB's goal of prioritizing safe and healthy learning environments and that the Board's School Renewal Allocation (\$17M for the 2017-2018 year) can be used to install air conditioning in schools (refer to Appendix B).
5. On April 12, 2018, as part of the Annual Portable Plan, the Corporate Services, Strategic Planning and Property Committee approved a plan to install air conditioning in all portable classrooms over a period of five years, at a cost of \$160,000 per annum, to be funded from the School Renewal Grant.
6. In establishing the Cooling Centres, high efficiency variable refrigerant fluid (VRF) air conditioning equipment will be specified. Floor-standing and window-mounted portable air conditioning units are not recommended for classrooms for the following reasons:
  - These units are typically intended for residential use and do not have the capacity to sufficiently cool an occupied classroom;
  - Installing several units in a classroom would in most cases overload the electrical service;
  - These units must be vented to the outside through a removable panel that fits within the window which are not secure, creating a risk of break-ins and rain penetration;
  - Ongoing operations and maintenance costs of system-wide use of individual portable air conditioning units would be significant.

## **D. ACTION PLAN**

1. The steps and status of the phased Cooling Centre implementation are as follows:
  - i. Identify schools – 140 elementary schools and 6 secondary schools without air conditioning or a Cooling Centre (does not include new schools that are under construction or planned construction which will have Cooling Centres and an option for full cooling);

- ii. Cooling Centre definition – library or multi-program room; gymnasium in cases where other rooms are too small to accommodate at least two classes;
  - iii. Criteria established for prioritization of the schools over the four years; all wards to have Cooling Centres established each year of the four-year program until complete. Criteria used were, number of floors, OTG, FCI and year of construction. In addition, schools in which temperature data loggers were installed were placed in Phase 1.
  - iv. A Request for Proposals has been issued to select a Project Manager to provide turnkey services to complete the program over the four years. It may be possible to reduce the four-year period pending review and success of Year 1.
  - v. Year 1 work is planned to be completed by spring 2019;
  - vi. The Project Manager will also evaluate and expedite installation of ceiling fans on the upper floor of schools with three or more storeys.
2. The list of schools in the Cooling Centre implementation program by Phase is included as Appendix C.
3. Ongoing construction projects have been leveraged to expedite the implementation of twenty-one (21) Cooling Centres as follows:
  - St. Paschal Baylon – Cooling Centre in library in new addition (completed);
  - St. Clement – Cooling Centre in library in new addition (completed);
  - St. Augustine – Cooling Centre in existing library or gym incorporated into addition project (under construction);
  - Cooling Centre added to James Culnan renovation project (under construction);
  - Cooling Centres added to two (2) child care renovation projects (in design);
  - Cooling Centres to be added to fifteen (15) child care addition projects (starting design).
4. Staff will look for opportunities to incorporate Cooling Centres into school renewal projects in the 2018-2019 Renewal Plan currently being developed to further accelerate the program.

5. In order to provide some immediate relief from excessive heat in the worst case three storey schools with no mechanical ventilation, staff have initiated a pilot program to provide ten (10) commercial grade pedestal fans to one three storey elementary school in each of the 12 Wards and one secondary school. An advantage of portable fans is flexibility of placement within the school based on the need at particular times of day or for particular activities or student needs. As well, no electrical wiring work is required. If the fans are found to be helpful, additional fans can be purchased in the spring. The cost of the pilot is approximately \$20,000.00, funded from the Operations and Maintenance budget.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. The progress of the Cooling Centre implementation program will be monitored by an annual report to Education Council and to Director's Council.
2. Further reporting on the program will also be included in the annual Renewal Plan report to Board.

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board.