

Ministry of Education

Office of the ADM

Capital and Business Support Division
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March 13, 2018

Rory McGuckin

Director of Education

Toronto Catholic District School Board

80 Sheppard Avenue East

Toronto ON M2N 6E8

Dear Mr. McGuckin,

I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Education has completed its detailed review of the business case(s) your school board submitted for consideration under the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Grant funding program. As outlined in **Memorandum 2017:B7 – Request for Capital Priorities Project Funding Submissions**, business cases could have included requests for school capital funding, including funding for joint-use schools and community hub space, as well as capital funding to support the creation of new or renovated licensed child care spaces and EarlyON (child and family program) centres in schools as part of the larger school capital project.

Demand for funding through the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Program was significant. Altogether, 55 school boards submitted over 250 requests for funding consideration for school capital projects valued at approximately \$3.3 billion. In addition, 45 school boards submitted 180 requests for early years capital funding for the creation of 407 new or renovated child care rooms and 102 EarlyON centres.

I am pleased to inform you that the ministry has approved funding to support the following project(s) for your school board, as outlined in the table below:

Funding Allocation					
Project	Capital Priorities	Full Day Kindergarten	Child Care	EarlyON	Total
St. Margaret CS			\$1,542,762		\$1,542,762
St. Michael's Choir School	\$11,155,222				\$11,155,222
Holy Angels CS	\$12,653,816		\$2,571,270		\$15,225,086
St. Matthias CS	\$10,164,962	\$1,049,077	\$2,571,270		\$13,785,309
Total	\$33,974,000	\$1,049,077	\$6,685,302		\$41,708,379

Please note that for the project(s) listed in the table above, the ministry has increased its funding benchmarks by two percent to recognize rising construction costs. This increase does not apply to any previously approved projects. Also, this benchmark increase does not apply to child care or EarlyON portions of the projects. The ministry's Expert Panel on Early Years Capital Standards is currently reviewing the benchmarks for child care and EarlyON space with recommendations expected to the ministry in spring 2018. If there are cost pressures associated with the Early Years component of a capital project, please contact your Capital Analyst.

Your funding approval is conditional upon amendments to the 2017-18 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) regulation by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Please see Appendix A for a complete list of the Capital Priorities project(s) submitted by your board along with the ministry's decision(s). Although the ministry recognizes that each project has unique circumstances, we have attempted to summarize our rationale for each decision through a high-level description. Your ministry Capital Analyst will contact board staff in the coming weeks to review the ministry's rationale and address any questions you may have.

Appendix B provides a table showing how funding was determined for the approved project(s).

Accountability Measures for Approved Projects

The funding approved for your board through the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Program represents a significant investment in school infrastructure by the Government of Ontario. Your board is responsible and will be held accountable for measures to ensure that the cost and scope of any approved projects are within the approved funding amounts.

As noted in **Memorandum 2018:B3: Capital Priorities – New Reporting and Accountability Requirements**, the ministry is also introducing new high-level reporting and accountability requirements for school boards, including the School Board Capital Attestation Form (see Appendix C) and quarterly project reports. Your board is required to complete the School Board Attestation Form and email it to your ministry Capital Analyst by April 27, 2018. The ministry will communicate additional information about the quarterly project reports in the near future.

The child care and EarlyON funding allocation you have received can only be used to address capital costs related to the creation of a child care and/or EarlyON room(s). As a reminder, prior to requesting an approval to proceed, school boards and the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) or District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) are required to provide the Ministry of Education's Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch with a floor plan of any child care space. Once the space has been approved, a floor plan approval letter will be issued to your school board. This letter is required to be sent to the Capital Analyst when requesting the approval to proceed. If you require further information about the floor plan approval letter process, please contact the Ministry's Child Care Quality Assurance and

Licensing Branch at 1-877-510-5333 or email childcare_ontario@ontario.ca. All child care rooms must be built in accordance with the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA).

Site Acquisition, Demolition and Unique Site Costs

The ministry has funding available to address costs related to site acquisition and preparation for project construction costs that are not included in the Ministry's Capital funding benchmark. Additional funding will be provided to boards based upon submission of a detailed estimates with supporting engineering reports. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to the following:

- the acquisition of a site for new school construction;
- the acquisition of lots adjacent to existing schools for school expansion, including child care centres and community hubs;
- site improvements to make the sites suitable for construction, such as soil remediation, additional fill or demolition of existing structures, and
- addressing extraordinary municipal requirements.

Payment

The Capital Priorities Grant, Full Day Kindergarten, Community Hubs Replacement Space, and all associated child care and EarlyON funding will operate on a modified grant payment process, where cash flow is based on school board spending. There are two annual reporting periods for these programs:

- For the period of September 1st to March 31st, all related expenditures are recorded in the board's March Report; and,
- For the period of April 1st to August 31st, all related expenditures are recorded in the board's financial statements.

School boards will also be funded for the short-term interest costs related to these capital programs reflecting that cash flows will occur on a semi-annual basis. The short-term interest payments will be calculated in a manner similar to how they have been calculated for other eligible capital programs.

School boards who have not expended their Schools First Child Care Capital Retrofit Policy (SFCCRP) funding, are expected to utilize their uncommitted allocation towards approved child care capital projects supporting additions and renovations that have been approved for capital funding consideration under the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Program.

Change in Project Scope

If your board chooses to amend the project scope approved through the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Program at a later date, you will be required to inform your Capital Analyst prior to engaging your architect regarding the new scope. If your project requires additional ministry funding, the board may be required to forfeit its project approval and re-submit a revised Capital Priorities business case with the alternative project scope.

In addition, any changes to approved child care or EarlyON capital components of the project will require the approval of your CMSM or DSSAB.

Projects Not Approved for Funding

I understand that your school board may have questions about any project(s) submitted and not approved through the 2017-18 Capital Priorities Program. Your ministry Capital Analyst will contact board staff in the coming weeks to review the ministry's rationale and consider potential next steps.

Ministry staff are committed to working collaboratively with your school board to provide guidance and respond to questions as your board considers the development of future capital plans, including requests for Capital Priorities funding.

Should you have any Capital Priorities questions, please contact your Capital Analyst, Matthew Anderson at 416-325-9796 or via email at Matthew.Anderson@ontario.ca.

For any questions related to the child care and/or EarlyON capital requests, please contact your regional representative from the Early Years and Child Care Programs and Service Integrated Branch.

Please refer to the Appendix D - Communications Protocol, for detailed requirements regarding public communications, events and signage related to the project. Should you have any communications-related questions, please contact Dylan Franks at 416-325-2947 or via email at Dylan.Franks@ontario.ca.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your assistance and support throughout this process, and look forward to continuing to work with your board.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Joshua Paul
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division

CAP 2018 003 Appendix B

Attached:

Appendix A – Complete List of Submissions

Appendix B – Details of Approved Projects

Appendix C – School Board Attestation Form

Appendix D – Communication Protocol Requirements: Public Communications and Events

cc: Paul Bloye, Director, Capital Program Branch
Colleen Hogan, Director, Capital Policy Branch
Shannon Fuller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Early Years and Child Care Division
Julia Danos, Director, Early Years and Child Care Programs and Service Integration Branch
Holly Moran, Director, Child Care Quality Assurance and Licensing Branch
Lloyd Noronha, Executive Superintendent of Business Services and CFO, Toronto CDSB
Kevin Malcolm, Early Years Lead, Toronto CDSB
Isilda Kucherenko, Early Years Advisor, Early Years and Child Care Programs and Service Integration Branch
Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Children's Services General Manager, City of Toronto