



REPORT TO

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### PURCHASE OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS) FOR ALL TCDSB SCHOOLS AND WORKPLACES (ALL WARDS)

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
November 12, 2018	December 6, 2018	
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<b>RECOMMENDATION REPORT</b>		

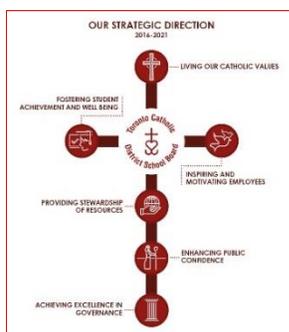
**Vision:**

*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**

The report provides the Board of Trustees with an action plan and communication plan for the purchase, deployment and parent communication of life saving Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for 108 TCDSB schools who currently do not have an AED.

Staff consulted with a parent whose oldest daughter died of a rare genetic heart disease. The parent's youngest daughter has the same genetic heart disease and attends a TCDSB elementary school. The parent had difficulty obtaining information on how to get an AED for her daughter's elementary school. The elementary school received an AED in October 2018.

The Student Equity Reserve approved by the Board of Trustees as part of the 2018-2019 Budget Estimates contains funding for the one-time estimated cost of \$0.21M to purchase an AED for 108 schools.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 12 hours.*

## **B. PURPOSE**

1. **November 1, 2018** - arising from a parent delegation at the Student Achievement and Well Being Committee meeting, staff were directed to provide a report outlining a plan to address the need for AEDs in TCDSB schools. The parent's oldest daughter died of a rare genetic heart disease. The parent's youngest daughter, a student in a TCDSB elementary school, has been diagnosed with the same genetic heart disease.
2. In consultation with the parent, staff were also directed to create a communication plan for schools on how to acquire an AED to meet the needs of medically fragile students who have been diagnosed with a heart disease that makes them vulnerable to sudden cardiac arrest.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. An AED is a life-saving electrical device that gives an electric shock to the heart through the chest wall to someone who is in sudden cardiac arrest, a condition that occurs when the heart suddenly stops pumping blood to the rest

of the body. An AED is easy to use, lightweight and portable. The combination of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and an AED raises the survival rate of sudden cardiac arrest by upwards of 75%.

2. **1997** - Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation, a national charitable organization, established a CPR training program for secondary school students. The ACT Foundation began to train secondary school teachers at no cost on CPR and in turn, these teachers taught their students. Since 1997, over 3.6 million students across Canada have been trained on CPR by secondary school teachers. The program continues to be implemented through our HPE Department.
3. **1999** - Ontario Ministry of Education made CPR part of the Grade 9 physical education curriculum as part of the Healthy Active Living course. Since 1999, TCDSB Health and Physical Education (HPE) teachers have taught Grade 9 students the lifesaving CPR skills. This annual training takes place towards the end of January in all TCDSB secondary schools. TCDSB students also learn how to use an AED.
4. **June 2011** - Ontario Provincial Government announced a \$10 million fund to deploy 2500 AEDs in Ontario, with the priority on placing AEDs in public access settings such as hockey arenas, recreational centres, community centres, libraries and schools with high community and sports use. The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario was tasked to lead this initiative.
5. **September 2011** - ZOLL Medical Corporation in partnership with the City of Toronto's Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and the Heart and Stroke Foundation donated AEDs to TCDSB and TDSB secondary schools. The TCDSB received 38 AEDs for 33 secondary schools. Schools are responsible for the monthly check of the AED and for funding the maintenance costs (PAD and battery replacement). The money to support this program ended in 2012.
6. **2012 to 2014** - 55 TCDSB elementary schools received an AED through a special grant from the Province.
7. **2015 to October 2018** - TCDSB Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Department purchased five (5) additional AEDs to meet the needs of

medically fragile students with heart disease. **There are 108 TCDSB schools that do not have an AED.**

8. The **Student Equity Reserve** is a new strategic reserve to set aside monies for various equity related initiatives across the Board. Student Safety equity can be achieved by ensuring all schools have an AED, i.e. purchase an AED for 108 schools that currently require this life saving device, and thus ensuring equity of access to AEDS among all schools.

#### **D. ACTION PLAN**

1. The cost of an AED in the Materials Management Health Supplies preprint is \$1,775.50. The total cost to purchase 108 AEDs excluding HST and shipping is \$0.19M. Adding a 10% contingency to this initial project budget brings the cost to \$0.21M. Staff will issue a Request for Quotation to obtain a competitive price.
2. Staff has identified the **Student Equity Reserve** as a possible funding source. Pending Board approval, the plan is to immediately purchase all 108 AEDs.
3. **AED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM:** The maintenance costs for the AEDs will be funded through the TCDSB OHS Department's operating budget, not the school's bloc budget. The PADS and lithium battery pack have an expiration life of 5 years. The total cost to replace the PADS and battery pack is \$315.00 per AED. The 108 schools who will receive an AED in 2019 will receive PAD and battery pack replacement in 2024 at an approximate cost of \$34K. The TCDSB OHS Department will fund the maintenance costs for schools that currently have an AED. The next maintenance cycle for most of these schools begins in 2021.
4. **AED LIFECYCLE:** The manufacturer's warranty for an AED is 7 years and the average lifespan for an AED is 10 years. School staff conduct a monthly online safety check of the AED to ensure it is in proper working order. The OHS Department will monitor the results of the monthly safety checks, particularly once the AED reaches the 10-year service mark to determine if replacement is necessary.
5. The TCDSB OHS Department has arranged to have all 700 custodians and maintenance staff trained in CPR and AEDs during March break 2019.

Custodians are assigned to operate the school for permit holders after school hours. Custodians will be trained to use an AED in the event of an emergency.

6. The TCDSB OHS Department has also arranged ten (10) first aid courses during the 2018/2019 school year so that a minimum of two (2) staff members per school are trained in standard first aid, CPR and AED. Most schools already have more than two (2) certified first aiders. Additional training can be arranged at the school during lunch and learn and professional activity days.
7. The Good Samaritan Act (2001) protects people who provide CPR or first aid assistance in an emergency. The Chase McEachern Act (Heart Civil Liability Act, 2006), protects users of AEDs from liability for damages.
8. **COMMUNICATION PLAN:** The deployment of the AEDs will be communicated to the 108 schools through a letter to the parent community and through school newsletters. The topic of AEDs will also be discussed at a CSAC meeting.
9. In the letter, parents will be reminded to update their child's medical information that is provided to the school annually and to report immediately if their child suffers from a heart disease that makes them vulnerable to sudden cardiac arrest. Any school with medically fragile students suffering from heart disease will receive an AED as soon as possible once the units have been received by the Health and Safety Department.
10. **PARENT CONSULTATION:** The TCDSB OHS Department consulted with the parent who has a child with a genetic heart disease in a TCDSB elementary school. The parent supports the action plan and made the following additional recommendations on the proposed communications plan:
  - a. That the letter that is sent to the parent community on the deployment of the AED be translated in different languages since English is a second language for many parents. The school Principal would be consulted to provide feedback on what other languages would best serve the parent community.
  - b. That the letter be posted on the TCDSB web site and on the schools' websites.

- c. That the letter include information from the Canadian Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndrome (SADS) Foundation, a registered Canadian charity that supports patients and their families affected by inherited cardiac rhythmic disorder. If the school is interested, the parent would welcome the opportunity to speak to school staff on this genetic disorder and how it has impacted her family.

## **E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

A status report will be submitted to Board early in the 2019-2020 school year and once all AEDs have been deployed in the 108 schools. Trustees will receive a copy of the parent letter regarding the deployment of the AED at their respective schools.

## **F. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Board of Trustees approve the allocation of up to \$0.21M from the Student Equity Reserve to fund the purchase of an AED for 108 TCDSB schools, within the 2018-2019 school year.
2. That the Board of Trustees adopt the parent's recommendations regarding the communication that will be sent to the parent community on the deployment of AEDs.