



REPORT TO

## CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

### RETURN TO SCHOOL UPDATE

*"The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous."  
Psalm 146:8*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
November 3, 2020	November 12, 2020	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>

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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**

The last update to the Reopening Action Plan was submitted to the November 4, 2020 Student Achievement meeting for information and consideration. The Plan is updated as necessary and is available on the TCDSB website. Key updates and strategies are provided for consideration.

On October 28, 2020, the Ministry released “*Memo 2020:B20 COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream: Education Related (CVRIS-EDU) Projects*”. This report includes an explanation of the types of projects that are being considered for submission to the Ministry. An addendum to the agenda will provide a proposed list of projects at schools for consideration of the Board prior to the submission deadline of November 18, 2020.

Permitting of TCDSB facilities continues to be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings. Regular permitting is currently suspended until January 2021 and will be monitored as provincial guidance on restrictions is updated.

TCDSB schools continue to adjust to in person routines and safety measures following guidance from Toronto Public Health.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 20 hours*

## **B. PURPOSE**

To provide the Board with updates as they pertain to the TCDSB Reopening Action Plan.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. *The TCDSB Reopening Action Plan continues to be updated to reflect recent changes.* Items from Board motions and Ministry updates that are confirmed have been included for parents to reference. The plan will continue to be updated as information changes moving toward a complete school reopening.

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

### **Staffing and Recruitment**

- 2. A verbal update regarding strategic staffing and recruitment will be provided.*

### **Communications**

- 3. Reorganization related communications products have been shared with staff, families with children in elementary and secondary, and parent organizations.* A webpage has been created with information about the reorganization including a section on frequently asked questions. Families were provided with an opportunity to switch learning modes.

### **Permits**

- 4. In order to continue to support both the health and safety protocols and enhanced cleaning procedures in place for our schools, the TCDSB will continue to pause permits for community use of schools until January 2021.* The postponement of school permits will provide additional time to ensure the availability of sufficient resources for permit supervision. This direction is consistent with Community Use of Schools at TDSB as well as City-run recreational and instruction programs.
- 5. Staff will continue to monitor the parameters of a limited community use of schools program in order to provide opportunities for outside organizations to access space and offer programming in TCDSB facilities.* Any permits issued will be consistent with both in-force physical distancing requirements, permitted activities, and restrictions on the size of gatherings.
- 6. A revised communication is being prepared for distribution to all permit applicants regarding the additional delay in the issuance of permits for the 2020-2021 school year.*

### **Distribution of Resources**

- 7. The deployment of various resources to schools as additional health and safety measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 is ongoing.* A detailed listing of the distribution of resources (*Appendix 'A'*) updated as of the writing of this report is included for information. Class reorganizations may result in further redistribution.

### **CVRIS Funding**

8. ***Staff have prepared a list of eligible projects for submission to the Ministry of Education for COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream funding.*** The purpose, eligibility and submission process for the CVRIS funding, announced October 28, were outlined in the last Return to School Update on November 3. It is critical to ensure that projects can be completed by December 31, 2021. Funded projects cannot be tendered until approval is received from the Federal government, so urgent COVID response work that must proceed now cannot be included. Projects can be broken down into stages, however, so that later stages that can commence after the funding announcement (expected end of January 2021), with early staged projects being funded by another source.
9. ***Projects identified for submission are listed in Appendix 'B' (to be issued as an addendum to the agenda) and fall into five categories.***
- Facility Condition/Health & Safety Upgrades in Renewal Plan:
    - i. Ventilation upgrades
    - ii. Window replacements
    - iii. Water bottle filling stations
    - iv. Cooling centres
  - Facility Condition/Health & Safety Upgrades not in Renewal Plan:
    - i. Replacement of roof-top air handling units
    - ii. Ventilation/air conditioning upgrades in portable classrooms
    - iii. Upgrading/increasing handwashing facilities
    - iv. Minor alterations to support physical distancing/separation in administrative facilities
  - Physical Distancing/Outdoor Education:
    - i. Outdoor shelters/canopies/shade structures
    - ii. Playground Reserve projects that support physical distancing or outdoor learning (carry over Playground Reserve funding to next year)
    - iii. Artificial turf play zones (not sports fields)
    - iv. Other playground projects that support physical distancing or outdoor learning not included in Playground Reserve allocations
  - Child Care:
    - i. Child Care playground expansion/division
    - ii. Child Care separate washrooms
    - iii. Child Care separate entrances

- Information Technology
  - i. Wi-Fi cabling infrastructure and access points enhancements

10. *Selection of projects already planned under other funding sources, such as School Renewal Allocation, Playground Reserve and the ICT budget, provides greater assurance of completion within the deadline and, if approved, will free up funds for other projects.* For example, the CVRIS funding cannot be used to purchase devices, however using it for already planned Wi-Fi cabling infrastructure and access points projects would free up ICT funds to purchase additional student devices for remote learning needs or classroom equipment for hybrid learning. The CVRIS funding also provides the opportunity to obtain funding for much needed playground and facility enhancements that are not typically eligible for Renewal funding or for which funding is limited. The projects must be ranked for the Ministry submission and these factors will be taken into account in the ranking.

### Technology

11. Orders continue to come in and devices are flowing. *We recognize that there is more demand and have ordered an additional 3000 devices* to stay ahead of that demand.
12. *To ensure that deliveries are not slowed due to vendor volume and logistics a second vendor has been added* to spread the volume and process the latest order of 3000 devices.

## **E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

1. *FAQs continue to be gathered from parent feedback.* The board continues to provide updates, frequently asked questions and answers on the board website, social media channels, and shared with families via School Messenger.
2. A webpage has been created with information about *the classroom reorganization* including a section on frequently asked questions.

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board.