



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

ASSESSMENT OF ST. JOHN XXIII CANADIAN MARTYRS AND ST. ANSELM FOR POTENTIAL NEW SAFETY MEASURES

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me."
Matthew 25:40

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INFORMATION REPORT

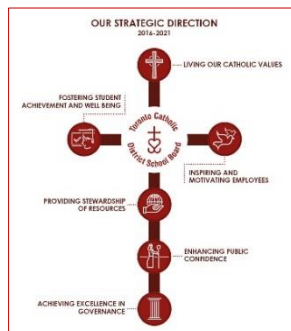
Vision:

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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Chief Financial Officer (Acting)

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Arising out of a delegation to Regular Board on December 10, 2020, this report provides Toronto Public Health's response to the request for asymptomatic testing and school statistics for St. John XXIII, Canadian Martyrs and St. Anselm elementary schools, to help determine whether additional safety measures are required.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 14 hours

B. PURPOSE

WHEREAS: There are three schools in Ward 11 Canadian Martyrs, St. Anselm, St. John XXIII where students from the Thorncliffe Park area are part of each of these school communities. St. John XXIII school is 700 meters from Marc Garneau and 1.6 and 1.7 km away from the other two schools;

WHEREAS: There are three schools in Thorncliffe Park that are closed due to COVID positive cases –Fraser Mustard Thorncliffe Park with 7 cases, Marc Garneau Secondary with 14 cases and Thorncliffe Park has 29 cases;

WHEREAS: We as a Board should be responsive to new information on a regular basis during this pandemic; and

WHEREAS: We have an obligation to protect our students and ensure their safety. We also have an obligation to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** These three schools be assessed for what new safety measures can be put in place immediately;
2. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Board advocate with Toronto Public Health for asymptomatic testing of St. John XX111, Canadian Martyrs, and St. Anselm;
3. **ALSO BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** St. John XX111 be assessed for reduction in class sizes with special attention to the Grade 7 and Grade 8 classes which are at 22 and 27 students; and

4. That Staff present the results of the assessment to Trustees before any decisions are made.

The Board of Trustee voted December 10 to ensure stability in school staffing, and this should be kept in mind when considering the safety measures available to schools and the unintended consequences their implementation will have on school communities.

C. BACKGROUND

1. Rankings of elementary schools were generated by TPH using the following steps:
 1. For each neighbourhood with TCDSB schools, confirmed/probable COVID-19 case counts were obtained from May 29 (the date where widespread testing was announced in the province) to Aug 16, 2020 (most recent available data). Cases associated with outbreaks in long-term care or retirement homes among individuals aged 65+ were excluded from case rates, as they represent institutionalized individuals. Rates proportionate to neighbourhood population size were used. Select sociodemographic indicators were obtained using Census 2016 data.
 2. To generate the risk score, each variable was assigned a weight. Case rates were assigned a higher weight than other variables. Effects of each socioeconomic indicator on COVID-19 transmission are difficult to tease out and therefore they have been assigned the same weight.
 3. Indicators within each neighbourhood were then multiplied by the assigned weight to generate a composite score. All neighbourhood scores (unique on neighbourhood level) were then subdivided into quintiles based on percentile score; higher quintiles indicate higher risk.
 4. Since sociodemographic indicators were available at the neighbourhood level only, all schools within the neighbourhood are considered of similar risk. Staff were asked to approach TPH to determine if they could provide the same data ranking utilizing student address as the qualifying factor. TCDSB is currently working with TPH to update the quintile

ranking based on student residence and will provide a report to the Board in the coming weeks.

2. TDSB elementary schools in the Thorncliffe Park neighbourhood were identified as Q5 by TPH. St. John XIII, located in Flemingdon Park across the street, was identified as Q4. St. Anselm and Canadian Martyr share busses with students who attend Thorncliffe Park schools. Thorncliffe PS was the first school to participate in voluntary asymptomatic testing pilot project and the findings caused the school to be closed for a week in December. Thorncliffe Park community experienced a 16% test positivity rate as of the end of November/beginning of December.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. Analysis of the enhanced safety measures in the three schools.

a. Current Status at 3 TCDSB schools in Thorncliffe Park area:

School	Students In Person	Classes	Student Barriers	Admin Barriers	Mechanical Ventilation (Y/N)	Air Purifiers
Canadian Martyrs	250	11	0	2	Y	0
St. Anselm	246	11	0	0	Partial	9
St. John XXIII	238	11	275	2	N	27

St. John XXII has been fully outfitted with all available resources to reduce the spread of COVID-19. St. John XXII also received an additional staff during the November re-organization to maintain lower class sizes.

- b. St. Anselm and Canadian Martyrs can be supplied with additional resources as follows:

School	Students In Person	Classes	Student Barriers (COST)	Air Purifiers (COST)	TOTAL COST
Canadian Martyrs	250	11	\$9,505	\$13,205	\$22,710
St. Anselm	246	11	\$9,505	\$12,510	\$22,015

Cost includes net HST

2. TPH criteria for asymptomatic testing:

- a. TPH cannot identify where the students or staff members got COVID-19.
- b. There is no apparent epidemiological link.
- c. Multiple cohorts are self-isolating.

Since Dec. 1, 2020, there have been no new cases at St. John XXIII, Canadian Martyr and St. Anselm. Therefore, criteria a) & b) have not been met in order to qualify for asymptomatic testing by TPH.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1. TPH has taken this request under careful consideration and found that the schools do not meet the criteria to recommend for testing at this time. TPH will determine future eligibility for elementary schools.
- 2. St. John XXII has been fully outfitted with all available resources to reduce the spread of COVID-19. St. John XXII also received an additional staff during the November re-organization to maintain lower class sizes.

If St. Anselm and Canadian Martyrs are supplied with additional resources and are approved for distribution, there is sufficient reserve resources available from the warehouse to fully satisfy this deployment. It should be noted that the reserve of air purifiers would be depleted leaving only 3 units left. Reserves of student barriers would be reduced to 73 cases which will serve approximately 5 medium sized school populations.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the board.