

My name is Sara Concordia, a parent from St. Gregory's. Our Parent Delegation is here to address an ongoing and critical issue with our school. St. Gregory is one of the few three-story schools in our Board. Originally designed with air conditioning, budget cuts prevented its installation. Windows, engineered for air conditioning, only open three inches, trapping in the hot and humid air.

Despite over a decade of parental complaints and two years of my personal advocacy, there's been no progress. A report commissioned by the Board in 2022, revealed alarming details: The external temperature that day stood at 25.5 degrees Celsius with a humidity level of 68.4%. Even though school was not in session that day, the third floor recorded a temperature of 35 C when factoring in humidity. The second floor at 34 C, while the first floor measured 31 C. Facility Management has withheld information needed to understand the impact of adding 30 students to a classroom already affected by extreme heat.

From May to October, our school swelters, often surpassing 30 degrees, posing severe health risks to our children ¹. Studies ² warn that temperatures above 80°F (26.6°C) impair cognitive functions, impacting students' performance, behaviour and attendance. With a school population at almost 800 people, our single cooling center in the library, capacity for 80 students, proves insufficient. Teachers must compete for library time or resort to outdoor activities to cool down. **This issue is not about comfort—this is hazardous to our children.**

It is also necessary to underscore the contrast of other schools in the TCDSB. nearby Our Lady of Sorrows with a similar student population and three-storey building, has air conditioning. Every student deserves a safe and conducive learning environment.

Therefore, we ask the Board to take immediate and decisive action to address this issue by implementing the following measures: 1. Expedite the installation of central air conditioning: 2. Distribute portable air conditioners to each classroom to mitigate the heat until long-term solutions are in place. 3.: Ensure all three-storey school are equipped to maintain safe temperatures year-round.

The Board is obligated to ensure a safe environment for its students. If the Board fails to act and incidents involving our students increase or worsen, it cannot claim ignorance of the issue presented today.

We cannot, and will not, stop advocating for our children's right to a safe and healthy learning environment. This issue has been repeatedly brought to the Board, and the lack of resolution is unacceptable.