



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

MISTING STATION PILOT UPDATE

"I can do all things through HIM who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13 (NRSVCE)

Table with 2 columns: Drafted (December 4, 2024) and Meeting Date (January 16, 2025)

Catherine Bologna, Head, Facilities & Environmental Services
Martin Farrell, Superintendent, Environmental Support Services

INFORMATION REPORT

Vision: IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope.

Mission: Nurturing the faith development and academic excellence of our Catholic learning community through the love of God, neighbour, and self.



MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope



Brendan Browne
Director of Education

Adrian Della Mora
Associate Director of Academic Affairs & Chief Operating Officer

Derek Boyce
Associate Director of Corporate Services and Chief Commercial Officer

Ryan Putnam
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report outlines the pilot project implemented in Spring 2024 and report on its effectiveness following the first year of operation.

The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 2 hours

B. PURPOSE

On May 4, 2023 the Board of Trustees approved a motion with respect to a pilot program for outdoor cooling misting zones to provide relief from heat at schools. The approved motion included:

- a) That Staff explore and implement a pilot project that installs an outdoor cooling mist zone system in twelve school communities (one per ward);
- b) The pilot school locations be based on lack of existing cooling options presently available;
- c) The local Trustee be consulted on the location of the installation of the outdoor cooling mist system;
- d) Staff evaluate the pilot project and consider the effectiveness and report its findings following the first year of operation;
- e) A cost of approximately \$75,000 be allocated in the budget (unspent funds to date) for outdoor cooling misting zones and considered in the budget for approval;
- f) Partnership Department explore possible sources of funding;
- g) Playground funds be considered if the cooling mist zone can be integrated into the design of approved playground improvements;

C. BACKGROUND

To provide an update to the Trustees on the evaluation and feedback received from the school administrators and to report on its findings and recommendations of the pilot.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

In March 2024, Environmental Support Services installed a pilot misting station at the following locations, in consultation with the local Trustee:

St. John Vianney	Ward 1
Father Serra	Ward 2
St. Jude	Ward 3
St. Mark	Ward 4
Sts. Cosmas & Damian	Ward 5
St. Clare	Ward 6
St. Victor	Ward 7
Sacred Heart	Ward 8
St. Thomas Aquinas	Ward 9
St. Bernard	Ward 10
St. Gerald	Ward 11
St. Richard	Ward 12

Having identified the sites, staff reviewed the various types of possible misting solutions available that would be suitable or could be adapted for a pilot. Each school site was different and posed different challenges in terms of availability of placement, water supply, electrical power, protection from vandalism and storage. Installation to satisfy these different factors would become more or less permanent and be costly to install on an individual basis.

Staff then considered a portable solution which could be used to establish the suitability of the misting station concept. The misting solution chosen provided a portable technology ideal for the pilot where investment in the high costs of installing infrastructure was not required. The misting kit chosen consisted of a portable water supply and (rechargeable) battery-operated portable pump to create a fine mist through a series of nozzles. The tubing was attached to the underside of the shade umbrellas that were installed in many school play areas.

The misting stations were used by the schools in May and June 2024. Following this period, staff surveyed the schools and received feedback from school staff and students. A number of schools appreciated being part of the pilot.

The responses varied from the twelve schools in the pilot:

- Most seem to find the portable stations were easy to set up and simple to operate.
- Being portable, it was necessary to put up and taken down when not in use to prevent damage/vandalism.
- Some comments received about the nozzle strength, mist flow and area of coverage.
- Some schools expressed concerns about losing instructional time.
- Noted the amount of time needed to cycle the multiple classes through and the need to provide equitable use.
- Students needed supervision while using the misting station, it could not be left up at recess even if not in use.
- Concerns of safety hazards from wet conditions created when students entered in the schools from getting misted outside. Need time to dry off.
- In terms of overall effectiveness for relief from heat or humidity, about half of the schools reported some benefit while the other half did not find misting to be particularly effective in providing some relief from the heat or humidity.

E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the information of the Board.