

Ministry of Education

Office of the ADM
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900, rue Bay
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November 14, 2016

Angela Gauthier
Director of Education
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue,
Toronto Ontario, M2N 6E8

Dear Ms. Gauthier,

On May 18, 2016, as part of the 2016 School Consolidation Capital program, the ministry provided the Toronto Catholic DSB with a conditional funding approval of \$9.49 million to construct a 350 pupil place replacement school, including a child care centre, for St. Raymond CS. The approval was conditional on the board providing the ministry with a comprehensive plan, including timelines and staff recommendations, of how the board intends to address the underutilization in the area of 18 schools including and surrounding St. Raymond CS.

I would like to thank you for submitting to the ministry your board's *Capacity Reduction Strategy, Wards 6, 9, and 10* ("Accommodation Plan"), approved by trustees on October 13, 2016, which outlines your board's strategy to address underutilization in the area around St. Raymond CS over the next 15 years. The ministry has now completed its review of the board's proposal and we are pleased to see that the Accommodation Plan proposes to reduce excess capacity by over 3,700 pupil places and raise the overall utilization rate to 75% at these schools.

I am pleased to inform you that at this time the ministry will remove the condition on the funding for the replacement St. Raymond CS to support the closure and consolidation of St. Bruno.

While the ministry is pleased that the board's proposal includes positive steps towards reducing excess capacity at area schools, we are concerned about the fact that the Accommodation Plan's timeline includes a planned pupil accommodation review initiation date of 2025 for St. Alphonsus CS and Holy Rosary CS. The ministry considers this planned initiation date to be too far into the future to effectively deal with the existing challenges facing the board around underutilization in this area of schools. As such, the ministry is requesting the board to amend its Accommodation Plan in order to initiate the pupil accommodation review for these schools within the next five to six years. The board is asked to submit to the ministry the trustee-approved

Accommodation Plan for the 18 schools in this area, reflecting this amendment, before the ministry will issue an Approval to Proceed to tender the construction of the new St. Raymond CS.

Please be aware that the ministry is also concerned that the Accommodation Plan does not address a large portion of the collective excess capacity at St. Helen CS, Holy Family CS, and St. Vincent de Paul CS. The ministry encourages the board to consider opportunities to further reduce the excess capacity in this area, however, an Approval to Proceed to tender the new St. Raymond CS is not contingent on addressing this issue specifically.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact your capital analyst, Lisa Bland at (416) 326-9921 or via email at lisa.bland@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by
Joshua Paul for:*

Gabriel F. Sékaly
Assistant Deputy Minister
Financial Policy and Business Division

cc: Grant Osborn, Director, Capital Policy and Programs Branch
Angelo Sangiorgio, Associate Director of Planning & Facilities, TCDSB
Carlene Jackson, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Superintendent, TCDSB