



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DECISIONS ON 2016/2017 CAPITAL FUNDING SUBMISSIONS ALL WARDS

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1 | NIV |

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
January 9, 2017	January 19, 2017	Click here to enter a date.

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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

In a recent memorandum dated November 21, 2016 (*Appendix 'A'*), the Ministry of Education provides a detailed review of the business cases submitted by the TCDSB for consideration of 2016 Capital Priorities Grant funding and Child Care Centres funding.

On July 15, 2016, the TCDSB submitted its top eight (8) Capital Priorities, in the following rank order: St. Michael's Choir, Bishop Allen Academy, St. Antoine Daniel, Holy Angels, Loretto Abbey CSS, St. Raphael, St. Marcellus, and Notre Dame CSS.

The Ministry of Education has approved \$13.2M in funding to support the replacement of St. Antoine Daniel, the Board's #3 Capital Priority: \$9.9M was approved for Capital Priorities, \$771,380 was approved for FDK and \$2.6M was approved for a Child Care Centre.

This report provides more detailed rationale for why the remaining top seven (7) Capital Priorities submissions were not approved by the Ministry for Capital funding at this time.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education has provided detailed instructions to school boards regarding public announcements—school boards should not issue news releases or any other media-focused public communication regarding Capital investments without publically recognizing the Ministry of Education's role in funding the project.

It should also be noted that the Ministry is “*strongly encouraging*” the Board to implement fixed boundaries at each secondary school in order to better balance enrolment and optimize available facility space. This report provides the Board of Trustees with summary results of a voluntary survey to Ontario school boards on the topic of secondary boundaries. The intent of the survey was to help staff and Trustees better understand how other school Boards manage enrolment at the secondary level.

The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 17.5 hours.

B. PURPOSE

This report provides more detailed rationale for why the remaining top seven (7) Capital Priorities submissions were not approved by the Ministry for Capital funding at this time. This report also provides the Board of Trustees with summary results of a voluntary survey to Ontario school boards on the topic of secondary boundaries. The intent of the survey was to help staff and Trustees better understand how other school Boards manage enrolment at the secondary level.

C. BACKGROUND

1. In a memorandum from the Ministry of Education dated November 21, 2016 (*Appendix 'A'*), the Ministry of Education provides a detailed review of the business cases submitted by the TCDSB for consideration of 2016 Capital Priorities Grant funding and Child Care Centres funding.
2. On July 15, 2016, the TCDSB submitted its top eight (8) Capital Priorities, in the following rank order: St. Michael's Choir, Bishop Allen Academy, St. Antoine Daniel, Holy Angels, Loretto Abbey CSS, St. Raphael, St. Marcellus, and Notre Dame CSS.
3. The Ministry of Education has approved \$13.2M in funding to support a 510 pupil place replacement school for St. Antoine Daniel, the Board's #3 Capital Priority: \$9.9M was approved for Capital Priorities, \$771,380 was approved for FDK and \$2.6M was approved for a Child Care Centre.
4. The remaining seven (7) Capital Priority schools are not Ministry funded at this time, with Ministry rationale provided below:
5. **St. Michael's Choir -- TCDSB Capital Priority #1**
The Ministry did not approve funding for a 503 pupil place replacement school. The Ministry has stated that it does not have a funding program for magnet schools, such as Arts, Sports, single-gender and Choir-focused schools. The Ministry "*would only fund these schools if there was no space within the catchment area of the school to accommodate these students.*"

The Ministry further states that a Choir program can be accommodated in any number of schools across the system with available space. The Ministry

makes it clear that the Board has in excess of 11,000 pupil places of excess space, and that over 20 elementary schools and 2 secondary schools are less than 50% utilized.

The Ministry of education notes that the recent purchase of the Duke of York / Regent Park PS from the TCDSB, which is less than 2 kilometres from St. Michael's Choir, could serve to accommodate both St. Michael's Choir students and future growth from the West Don Lands area.

6. **Bishop Allen Academy – TCDSB Capital Priority #2**

The Ministry did not approve funding for a 1600 pupil place replacement school. The Ministry has stated that the Board's choice to accept students in the school's Early French Immersion and Advanced Placement programs "*from across the board and beyond*" has contributed to oversubscription. Furthermore, the Ministry has noted that unused capacity exists at other TCDSB secondary schools, and current Bishop Allen students, "*many of whom travel significant distances*", can be accommodated in other schools with space.

It should also be noted that the Ministry is "*strongly encouraging*" the Board to implement fixed attendance boundaries at each secondary school in order to better balance enrolment and optimize available facility space.

7. **Holy Angels – TCDSB Capital Priority #4**

The Ministry did not approve funding for a 600 pupil place replacement school: "*The project was not considered for Capital Priorities Grant funding at this time due to a lack of an immediate need as identified by the Ministry.*"

8. **Loretto Abbey – TCDSB Capital Priority #5**

The Ministry did not approve funding for a 519 pupil place addition: "*The project was not considered for Capital Priorities Grant funding at this time due to limited capital funding. The Ministry may consider it in the future.*"

9. **St. Raphael – TCDSB Capital Priority #6**

The Ministry did not approve funding for a 510 pupil place replacement school: "*The project was not considered for Capital Priorities Grant funding at this time due to a lack of an immediate need as identified by the Ministry.*"

10. **St. Marcellus – TCDSB Capital Priority #7**

The Ministry did not approve funding for a 450 pupil place replacement school: *“The project was not considered for Capital Priorities Grant funding at this time due to a lack of an immediate need as identified by the Ministry.”*

11. **Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School – TCDSB Capital Priority #8**

The Ministry did not approve funding for a 700 pupil place replacement school: *“The Ministry recommends that the board consider existing capacity at other schools in the surrounding area.”*

12. The Ministry is currently reviewing stand-alone Child Care and Child and Family Program submissions and will be communicating decisions in the near future.

13. **Communication Protocols**

The Ministry has made it clear its memorandum:

“All public announcements regarding capital investments in the publicly funded education system are joint communication opportunities for the provincial government and the district school board.

Effective April 2016, school boards should not issue a news release or any other media-focused public communication regarding major capital construction projects without publicly recognizing the Ministry of Education’s role in funding the project.”

Furthermore, the Ministry has directed all Boards to invite the Minister of Education to ALL new school openings, or openings of major additions, including Child Care and Child and Family Programs. School boards are directed to not proceed with their public event until they have received a formal response from the Minister’s Office regarding the Minister of Education’s attendance and availability. Contact information and further instruction is included in the memorandum (*Appendix ‘A’*).

14. The memorandum further states that ALL boards will be required to display signage at the site of any Capital construction, which identifies the support of the Government of Ontario. Details of the signage will be provided by

the Ministry. All signage production costs will be covered by the Ministry of Education.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

15. Secondary School Fixed Attendance Boundary Survey

In response to the Ministry “strongly encouraging” the Board to implement fixed attendance boundaries at each secondary school, staff developed a simple voluntary survey to Ontario school boards on the topic of secondary boundaries. The intent of the survey was to help staff and Trustees better understand how other school Boards manage enrolment at the secondary level.

To date, 18 school boards have submitted responses.

The following questions were asked and responses received:

1. Does your Board employ Fixed Attendance Boundaries or Catchment Areas for your Secondary Schools?

Responses: 15-yes | 3-no

2. Does your Board employ Optional Attendance Areas or Flex Areas for your Secondary Schools to accommodate out-of-area students?

Responses: 7-yes | 10-no | 1-no response

3. Do any of your Secondary Schools have Regional Programs (e.g. Congregated Advanced Placement, French Immersion, Arts, etc.)?

Responses: 16-yes | 2-no

If yes, are these Regional Programs open to students from a larger Catchment Area where Admission is granted based on merit of application and/or audition? **Responses:** 15-yes | 1-no

4. What percentage of your Secondary students are considered out-of-area (e.g. they do not live within their schools Catchment Area)?

Responses: 2 - “Between 20% to 50%”

1 - “Greater than 50%”

15 - “Less than 20%”

16. Overall, the majority of Boards surveyed utilize fixed attendance boundaries for their secondary schools, of which, 39% also utilize optional attendance areas or “flex areas” to help manage demand. Most Boards surveyed offer Regional programming, whereby admission is granted based on merit of application or audition.

As noted above, the majority of Boards indicated that less than 20% of their secondary student population fall outside of their designated catchment areas (“out-of-area”).

Not surprising, HWCDSB indicated that they do not employ fixed attendance boundaries and also indicated that between 20% and 50% of their secondary enrolment is considered “out-of-area”. Follow-up research has indicated that HWCDSB does have Board approved secondary boundaries in place, but these boundaries are not being fully enforced.

Two smaller boards, Thames Valley DSB and Avon Maitland DSB, also indicated that they do not employ fixed attendance boundaries and less than 20% of their secondary enrolment is considered “out-of-area”.

E. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.