



REPORT TO

CORPORATE SERVICES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

APPLICATION OF GYM MATRIX CRITERIA (ALL WARDS)

*"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13 (NIV)*

Created, Draft	First Tabling	Review
October 3, 2017	October 12, 2017	
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RECOMMENDATION 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

On June 8, 2017, the Board approved a criteria matrix to prioritize schools system-wide for possible gymnasium additions. In total, ten criteria were to be considered. As noted in previous reports, the majority of Toronto Catholic District School Board gymnasiums are below the Ministry of Education space standard.

Appendix A-1 provides system-wide ranking of the top elementary schools with the smallest gymnasiums of 2,500 square feet (sq. ft.) or less in area, and the high utilization rates. Though other criteria as such as outdoor play area, facility condition index and future utilization rate were also considered, gymnasiums area, school enrolment plus utilization rate were the determining factors.

This report further recommends ranking secondary schools separately from elementary schools. Secondary schools, where the combined area of gymnasium and weight room (and/or alternate exercise room) is below 8,000 sq. ft. were also considered as highest priority.

At this time, none of the schools received points for external funding towards a gymnasium expansion. Other filters that were applied include whether the school is in a leased facility, schools that have received or will receive major additions with new gymnasiums, and new schools with gymnasiums over 4000 sq. ft. (elementary panel).

A list of the top elementary schools with the highest amount of points, is included in Appendix A-1. The highest ranking secondary schools based on gymnasiums under 8000 sq. ft., and utilization rate over 100%, are listed in Appendix A-2. The top three elementary schools and top secondary school per Trustee Ward is included in Appendix B.

The cumulative staff time dedicated to developing this report was 40 hours.

B. PURPOSE

Following approval of the Criteria Matrix and the evaluation points per criteria, the Board directed staff to provide a follow up report ranking the top schools system-

wide and the top three schools per Trustee Ward. In addition, Staff were directed to seek clarification from the Ministry of Education, regarding availability of funding for program upgrades, including gymnasium expansions/additions.

C. BACKGROUND

1. On June 8, 2017, the Board approved a criteria matrix to prioritize schools system-wide for possible gymnasium additions. The approved evaluation matrix is as follows:

	Criteria	Points
	Combined stage & gymnasium s.f. area as compared to EDU Space Benchmark based on OTG	Yes/No
1	External funding opportunities to fully or partially fund gymnasium addition (minimum 50%)	30
2	Combined stage & gymnasium s.f. area/by OTG	10
3	Facility Condition Index of School (FCI)	10
4	LTAP recommends a major addition or replacement school	10
5	Space deficiency of exterior play space based on 175 s.f./pupil	5
6	Current school utilization rate	4
7	School utilization rate by 2026	4
8	Access to other play or physical activity space in building	3
9	Barrier-free access to existing gymnasium, from within the building and from the site/exterior.	3
10	Site Size	2

2. Previous reports have provided information to the Board that 171 schools, approximately 86% of the Board's existing schools, do not meet current Ministry of Education (EDU) space standards for gymnasiums based on OTG.
3. The development of a criteria matrix is necessary to evaluate and prioritize schools for possible future gymnasium expansions.

4. Current Ministry of Education space standard for new elementary school gymnasium and stage area combined is 0.929 m²/pupil (10 s.f./pupil). The current EDU space standard for a gymnasium and exercise room is 1.12 m²/pupil (12 s.f./pupil).
5. The estimated cost to build a new gymnasium addition for an elementary school is \$2.0 M to \$3.0 M and \$3.0 M to \$4.5 M for secondary school, depending on various factors such as site size and site conditions.
6. Currently, boards must request approval from the Ministry of Education for any capital projects, and for the use of Proceeds of Disposition (POD) funds to expand an existing school or to add a new gymnasium. Boards may submit a business case to the EDU, requesting an exemption to O. Reg.193/10 in order to use POD funds in support of a Capital initiative.
7. Since 2010, the Board's Capital Program has resulted in six (6) new elementary schools with gymnasiums in the range of 4000 square ft., including the stage area. Currently there are eight (8) new elementary and three (3) new secondary schools either in construction or in design development. These new schools will have larger gymnasiums as permitted under the current EDU space plan template. In addition, there are two (2) elementary school additions completed and two (2) others that are in construction, which include new, larger gymnasiums. By 2020, upon completion of the current Capital program, notwithstanding any additional capital projects approved in 2018, there will be a total of twenty-one (21) new schools with larger gymnasiums.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

1. **This report recommends refining the criteria matrix to focus on smallest gymnasiums, (combined area of gymnasiums and stage if applicable) under 2,500 sq. ft. in the elementary panel and under 8,000 sq. ft. in the secondary panel (combined area of gymnasium and exercise room).**
2. As the physical educational program needs differ for elementary school verses secondary schools, it is beneficial to separately rank each panel. **Appendix A-1** lists the smallest gymnasiums in elementary schools, with utilization rates over 100%.

3. Elementary schools with gymnasiums 3,500 to 4,000 sq. ft. or greater, in area can be divided into two and used by two classes at the same time.
4. **Appendix A-2** lists the top secondary schools that are ranked the highest – with gymnasiums (combined area of gymnasiums and exercise room) under 8000 sq. ft., and utilization rates over 100%.
5. In addition to ranking the top elementary and secondary schools, **Appendix B** provides the highest ranked schools per Trustee Ward.
6. None of the schools have received points for external funding of a new gymnasium. In the event of a school receiving external funding, this would give the school the highest score/ranking.
7. A letter has been sent to the Minister of Education, requesting clarification for future available funding to undertake gymnasium expansions, and other program-related facility improvements at schools.

E. METRICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. The Ministry of Education reviews and approves the number and area of spaces/rooms for every new capital project, (new school and major addition), including the gymnasium, to ensure the size/area meets the minimal requirements as set out in the Space Plan Template.
2. The gymnasium square foot area for a new school or addition may be increased by approximately 10% to 15% subject to Ministry of Education approval, provided that the overall building area remains within the EDU approved area benchmark. This information is provided to the local design committee, during the design development stage of the new building/addition.
3. The estimated project budgets for all new capital projects are submitted to the Board for approval. In addition, as per the Purchasing Policy, the Board also approves the award of the contracts associated with any capital projects.

F. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. Requests for capital priorities funding will continue to highlight the challenges of program-related space deficiencies with older, smaller schools, in particular, the need for larger gymnasiums for any new school or major addition project.

2. Staff will provide the Board with the Ministry of Education response, and further information as well as recommendations for implementation options.
3. An information letter will be provided to the principals in the schools that have been identified as having under-sized gymnasium/OTG, to share with their school communities, regarding the actions undertaken to date to seek funding clarification for a phased gymnasium expansion program. The letter will include a link to the various gymnasium reports presented to Board since 2016 as well as a Board staff contact email address in the event there are any questions regarding the letter. The local Trustee and Area Superintendent will be copied in any email responses.
4. A subsequent report to Board will be provided regarding the Ministry of Education's response regarding funding for future gymnasium and other program-related upgrades. At that time, subject to funding, the Board would be in a position to proceed with a capital program to build gymnasium additions at the top ranked schools.

G. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the top-ranked schools as detailed in Appendix A-1 and A-2, be approved and prioritized for future phased gymnasium expansion program, subject to available funding.
2. That the Chair of the Board send a letter to the Minister of Education seeking funding approval for a multi-year phased program of gymnasium additions, and other program-related facilities improvements.