



REPORT TO

REGULAR BOARD

## RETURN TO SCHOOL UPDATE

*"The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous."  
Psalm 146:8*

### Created, Draft

November 11, 2020

### First Tabling

November 19, 2020

### Review

[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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 Chief Financial Officer



## **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The last update to the Reopening Action Plan was submitted to the November 12, 2020 Corporate Services meeting for information and consideration. The Plan is updated as necessary and is available on the TCDSB website. Key updates and strategies are provided for consideration.

Staff are securing teaching staff to deliver core French to St. Anne students in Grade 7 and 8 as well as Experiential French for Grade 1 to 6 students. St. Anne elementary students will also be receiving progress reports and parent/teacher interviews will be conducted to maintain the connection with a regular school year.

The Ministry of Education in collaboration with Public Health units announced an initiative to make readily available saliva COVID-testing to asymptomatic students and nasopharyngeal testing to staff in schools who have had positive cases.

TCDSB recently received information from consultants regarding indoor air quality and specifically use of window opening restrictors. This is preliminary information that will form part of the fulsome report back to the Board following completion of the study.

TCDSB schools continue to adjust to in person routines and safety measures following guidance from Toronto Public Health.

*The cumulative staff time required to prepare this report was 20 hours*

## **B. PURPOSE**

To provide the Board with updates as they pertain to the TCDSB Reopening Action Plan.

## **C. BACKGROUND**

1. *The TCDSB Reopening Action Plan continues to be updated to reflect recent changes.* Items from Board motions and Ministry updates that are

confirmed have been included for parents to reference. The plan will continue to be updated as information changes moving toward a complete school reopening.

## **D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS**

### **Staffing and Recruitment**

2. *Human Resources (HR) Staff provided four days of direct support to all system Principals as they operationalize time-sensitive school re-organizations.*
3. *Senior HR staff is liaising with Field Superintendents to determine the optimal deployment of retired administrators. Recent announcements expanding eligible days from 50 to 95 per year are informing these discussions.*
4. *Senior HR staff is working with our elementary union partners to identify excess French as a Second Language (FSL) teacher capacity in our brick and mortar schools that can be immediately redeployed to St. Anne Catholic Academy to deliver core French to grade 7 and 8 students. Staff is also finalizing discussions with our union partners to inform the launch of a virtual core French experiential program to support French language acquisition for St. Anne students in grades 1 – 6.*

### **St. Anne Academy**

5. *In elementary, classes are being reorganized to accommodate approximately 1500 new students.*
6. *Progress Reports are being completed for elementary students with teachers distributing to parents via email Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. Parent/Teacher Interviews (occurring Nov 17 and 19) are being conducted, as they would be for in person learning.*
7. *In secondary, student timetables are being created and reviewed for quad two.*
8. *Professional learning opportunities are being offered to support new and current St Anne staff.*

### **Communications**

9. *A reminder communication of start dates has been shared with families whose children are in elementary.* Communications will also be shared with families whose child(ren) will be impacted by the reorganization including information about change to classroom structure. The classroom number and name of teacher will be provided.

### COVID-testing

10. *The Ministry of Education in partnership with Ontario Health and Public Health units announced a targeted testing initiative to make readily available saliva COVID-testing to asymptomatic students and nasopharyngeal testing to staff in schools who have had positive cases.* Currently, once there is a positive case at a school, staff and students in affected cohorts who wish to be tested are required to make their own arrangements with their nearest assessment center at a local hospital. Due to wait times at local hospitals, this can be inconvenient to working parents.
11. *Under this new Ministry initiative, testing will be expanded and made available on a voluntary basis to asymptomatic students outside of the affected cohorts where the positive case was identified.* The testing will be fast tracked by the Local Health Integration Network who will make the testing arrangements on behalf of the school with one of the local hospitals near the school. Toronto Public Health will identify schools for the expanded targeted testing based on case investigations, where multiple cohorts have been dismissed and where there are suspected outbreaks. *The targeted testing will occur over a 4 week period starting November 23 and end the week of December 14 as per Ministry direction.*

### Windows/Indoor Air Quality

12. *Staff recently sought the assistance from two architectural firms, which specialize in schools, in the interpretation of Ontario Building Code requirements that have led to the use of window opening restrictors.* Relevant portions of the Ontario Building Code section that apply are quoted as follows:

*O. Reg. 332/12: Building Code, under Building Code Act, 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 23*

#### *Section 3.3.1.17*

*(1) Except as provided in Sentence (6) and Article 3.3.4.7\*, a guard not less than 1070 mm high shall be provided,*

(c) at each raised floor, mezzanine, balcony, gallery, interior or exterior ramp, and at other locations where the difference in level is more than 600 mm.

(2) Except as provided in Sentence (3) and Sentence 3.3.2.8\* (4), openings through any guard that is required by Sentence (1) shall be of a size that will prevent the passage of a sphere having a diameter more than 100 mm unless it can be shown that the location and size of openings that exceed this limit do not represent a hazard.

(5) Unless it can be shown that the location and size of openings do not present a hazard, a guard shall be designed so that no member, attachment or opening located between 140 mm and 900 mm above the level protected by the guard will facilitate climbing.

(6) Sentence (1) does not apply at the front edges of stages, floor pits in repair garages and loading docks.

\*3.3.4.7 Stairs, Ramps, Landings, Handrails and Guards for Dwelling Units

\*3.3.2.8 applies to guards for fixed seating in places of assembly

13. ***As previously reported, following completion of one month of Indoor Air Quality monitoring in three sample schools, the Building Science consultant will comment on how larger window openings might be achieved safely in classrooms with vertical sliding windows.*** The study will also provide data on the performance of large double-awning windows with restrictors in improving air quality and staff are investigating options and costing to provide guards on larger window openings. Staff will report to Board on the findings.

### **Technology**

14. ***Orders continue to flow and be fulfilled. An additional 2600 Chromebooks and 400 iPads have been ordered to stay ahead of demands and emergency needs.***
15. ***Information and instructions will be shared with secondary school principals on the technology allocation for secondary schools available to address local technology needs for the hybrid model.***

## **E. IMPLEMENTATION, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

1. *FAQs continue to be gathered from parent feedback.* The board continues to provide updates, frequently asked questions and answers on the board website, social media channels, and shared with families via School Messenger.
2. A webpage has been created with information about *the classroom reorganization* including a section on frequently asked questions.

## **F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This report is for the consideration of the Board.