



REPORT TO

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL BEING, CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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	First Tabling	Review
January 28, 2021	February 4, 2021	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:

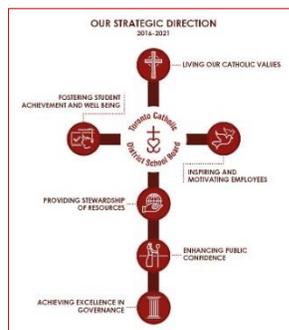
The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.

We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.

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A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The last update to the Reopening Action Plan was submitted to the January 28, 2021 Regular Board meeting for information and consideration. This report provides additional information concerning items occurring over the last week. The Reopening Action Plan is updated as necessary and is available on the TCDSB website. Key updates and strategies are provided for consideration.

Toronto Public Health has indicated that school-related cases throughout the shutdown have been caused by staff interactions.

Health Canada has approved the use of KN95 masks. TCDSB is providing KN95 masks for Special Needs Education workers.

Technology continues to be distributed to students in need.

TCDSB schools will continue to follow safety measures and guidance from Toronto Public Health when schools return to in person learning.

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, Staff Manual and Transition to Distance Learning Plan continue to reflect the process for operating schools safely.* Items from Board motions and Ministry updates that are confirmed have been included as required. Schools will continue to follow established protocols for virtual and in person learning.

D. EVIDENCE/RESEARCH/ANALYSIS

St. Anne Catholic Academy School of Virtual Learning

2. ***Online resources that support teaching and learning at St. Anne were approved by Board (total cost \$372,990) have been purchased and rolled out to all St. Anne Staff.*** These resources include:
 - K-5 Literacy Portal (SPARK)
 - K-3 Mathology
 - Gr 4-5 MathUP Teacher
 - Gr 2-5 Many Gifts (Social Studies)
 - Core French Gr 1-8 SmashEducation
3. ***Central Resource staff continue to support St. Anne teachers by:***
 - Offering subject and resource specific professional learning opportunities
 - Seeking out and sharing promising practices, supplemental resources, and virtual opportunities for classes
 - Co-Teaching opportunities to support teacher growth and learning
 - Providing live stream sessions for students while teachers engage in professional learning related to resource implementation
4. ***We continue to review discretionary spending requests, as they arise, that would be supported through the St. Anne block budget.***

Toronto Public Health

5. ***TPH data has shown that during the shutdown school-related cases are related to staff interactions. Targeted asymptomatic testing will continue based on TPH criteria and remains a TPH decision.***
6. ***Currently, the return to school date remains Feb. 11, 2021 following the 28-day extension of the provincial lockdown. TPH is updating their screening tool which is anticipated to be released before students return to the schools.***

KN95 Masks

7. ***N95 Masks are the North American standard for health care personnel. KN95 (while similar to N95) has been approved by Health Canada and available for special education staff in our schools. Medical grade masks and face shields continue to be used together for an additional measure of protection. KN95 is available for special education staff that work with students who can't /don't wear masks as it provides a good level of protection.***

Staffing and Recruitment

8. ***The Human Resources (HR) Department continues to support critical school-based programs during the school lockdown period.*** We are capitalizing on recent rule changes that expand the use of retired teachers and administrators. In particular, we are using retired administrators to bolster school-based administrative and supervision needs in cases involving family status needs. Occasional teachers are also being used temporarily to support in-person Special Education Program instruction.
9. ***HR staff is developing a strategy on how to leverage the College of Teachers' announcement that they will be issuing Temporary Teaching Certificates (effective until December 2021) for students who are nearing the completion of their formal Bachelor of Education program.*** The TCDSB will endeavor to use these talented teachers to address class coverage needs that are not being addressed through normal channels.
10. ***Senior HR staff is analyzing enrolment projections to proactively plan for potential staffing scenarios related to September school staffing requirements.*** Timely communication with the Ministry of Education will inform our approach.
11. ***The Sick Leave & Disability Department continues to diligently manage its extensive active sick leave cases. HR staff is closely monitoring absences during the school lockdown period and has implemented a process allowing Principals to advise HR staff of instructional/support gaps. The careful and regular review of sick leave metrics for all employee groups remains a priority.*** Significant caseloads are being reviewed daily and granting employees the ability to work virtually, where feasible, is being considered. Enhancing employee awareness of our employer-sponsored Employee Family Assistance Plan remains a priority.
12. ***Senior TCDSB staff members have maintained regular contact with our union partners (TECT, TSU, and CUPE) to collaboratively address issues.*** Recent discussions have focused on how we can sustain robust instruction and enhanced support staff monitoring/supporting students' learning/social/emotional needs during the school lockdown period.
13. ***The SMASH Education virtual experiential Core French program has been successfully launched.*** This program provides St. Anne students (Grades 1 – 8) with a Ministry of Education aligned core French supplemental resource.

Senior staff continues to work with our union partners to provide direct remote core French instruction at St. Anne Catholic Academy where possible.

14. ***HR staff is monitoring all quarantined staff to ensure that proper parameters are maintained.*** We continue to communicate with all employees regarding travel plans, quarantine requirements that may apply, and the need to commit to the employer to ensure continuity of program delivery and service.
15. ***Timely recruitment efforts are being sustained as we endeavor to bolster supply pools for key employee groups.*** All efforts reflect a deliberate focus on equity.

Technology

16. ***Thousands of devices have been distributed, orders to continue to flow, however supply levels are now running low.*** To date, the TCDSB has distributed over 17,000 devices to students in need for remote learning. More than 4,000 of these devices were pre-shipped to elementary schools beginning January 4, 2021, in anticipation of increased needs due to the school closure period. There are approximately 100 Chromebooks and 600 iPads remaining in our supply with the vendor.
17. ***Measures are being taken to efficiently manage our remaining supplies for students in need across the system.*** Student device asset records indicate that there are excess Chromebooks at elementary schools in pre-shipped inventories that have not been assigned to students. Coordination is underway to collect any excess devices to make available for students in need across the system.
18. ***Normal order processing continues, and urgent cases continue to be addressed.*** Principals continue to be able to place device orders for students in need. For any urgent needs, staff continue to work directly with schools to expedite on the needs.

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.

F. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

This report is for the consideration of the Board.