



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees
From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education
Date: May 25, 2021
Subject: **COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update**
Origin: Administrative Council

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board receive and file as information, the COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update dated May 25, 2021.”

Rationale

As the provincial landscape in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, ongoing communications, guidance and directives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and Durham Public Health continue to be received. To keep the Board of Trustees advised of our current situation and recent developments, staff are providing the following Operational and Academic and Student Services Updates.

Operational Updates

COVID-19 Positive Case Management

Due to the provincial government’s remote learning directive for most DCDSB students, the last confirmed COVID-19 case that attended during period of communicability was on April 24, 2021. DCDSB will continue to report COVID-19 cases for students and staff that are on-site during remote learning.

The Durham Region Health Department had a successful vaccination pop-up clinic at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School on May 5, 6, and 7, 2021. The DCDSB Health, Safety and Wellness Coordinator is currently working with the Durham Region Health Department concerning more locations.

Memorandum | Page 2 of 3

Re: COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update

In partnership with Life Labs and the Durham District School Board, DCDSB is continuing with asymptomatic testing for staff and students. As of May 14, 2021, 1,658 tests have been conducted with 14 cases identified.

On May 18, 2021, an asymptomatic and symptomatic COVID-19 testing clinic was held at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School. This testing was a drive thru testing site.

Facilities Services

The Board has continued to receive orders of personal protective equipment (PPE) each month that an order has been placed. An order for June has been submitted in preparation for a return this school year.

Provincially supplied disinfectant was distributed to custodial staff, who have been completing additional cleaning tasks and disinfecting all spaces in preparation for a return to normal operations.

All of the additional custodial staff had been hired to assist with the increased disinfecting and cleaning, and we are at our full complement of staff.

Provincial funding for improved heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) changes was provided in September, and a second round of funding was issued at the start of 2021. Measures that have been completed as part of the funding, and some planned measures with the additional funding include:

- upgrading filters to a higher efficiency (MERV13). The first delivery of the filters have been received and installed. Supply of MERV13 filters was delayed due to global demand for the materials used in the manufacturer. Subsequent orders of filters are scheduled;
- the mechanical systems have been programmed to increase the amount of fresh air, and additional HEPA filter air purifiers have been distributed to all elementary classrooms. Extra units are available to be dispatched to secondary schools should there be a mechanical system issue;
- Retro-commissioning of a limited number of schools has been scheduled.

The Federal government under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) announced up to \$700 million in the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) funding. The board received approximately \$7.4M, and projects are in various stages of implementation. Projects include:

- Outdoor space improvements to some kindergarten yards and outdoor teaching spaces;
- Improving facility conditions with new heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment; bottle filling stations in childcare centres; and window replacements;

Memorandum | Page 3 of 3

Re: COVID-19 Operational and Academic Update

- Enhancing physical distancing with gym dividers and childcare touchless auto operators;
- Facilitating distance learning with updated wifi/network.

The funding had some restrictive timelines that required all projects to have been started by September 30, 2021, and be substantially complete by December 31, 2021.

Information Technology

Under the supervision of the Chief Information Officer – Freedom of Information and Privacy, Ronald Rodriguez, the Information Technology team continues to provide timely and effective technical support to our students, parents and staff.

We have acquired a Zoom business license for all active teachers to facilitate virtual learning with features such as co-host, integration with D2L and Single Sign-On with Azure AD to name a few. Also, we have renewed a six-month lease for 240 iPads with LTE for students.

Academic Services

Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting during Remote Learning

All areas of the curriculum continue to be assessed and reported on with adaptations made as necessary within the context of remote learning and guided by Policy/Program Memorandum No. 164 (PPM 164). As well, staff from Academic Services continue to collate and provide supplemental resources in support of educators during the current period of remote learning.