



## **Lease Agreements with Agencies for the Ontario Autism Program's Entry to School Program at Beaumonde Heights Junior Middle School, Cornell Junior Public School, and Emily Carr Public School**

**To:** Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

**Date:** 7 April, 2022

**Report No.:** 04-22-4294

### **Strategic Directions**

- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Toronto Lands Corporation be authorized to negotiate and execute Community Planning and Partnerships leases with the following agencies for the use of classroom space at the following schools to support the Ontario Autism Program's Entry to School Program:

- a) Kerry's Place at Beaumonde Heights Junior Middle School;
- b) Strides Toronto at Cornell Junior Public School; and
- c) South Asian Autism Awareness Centre at Cornell Junior Public School and Emily Carr Public School.

### **Context**

This report is seeking approval to enter into leases with three agencies for the use of classroom space at Beaumonde Heights Junior Middle School (Ward 1, Trustee Gill), Cornell Junior Public School (Ward 19, Trustee Patel), and Emily Carr Public School (Ward 22, Trustee Sriskandarajah) to support the Ontario Autism Program's Entry to School Program.

## **Ontario Autism Program**

Launched in 2021, the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) offers support to families of children on the autism spectrum. Children who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder by a qualified professional are eligible for this program. Through this program, children receive services and supports until the age of 18. The program is funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

## **Entry to School Program**

A new component of the Ontario Autism Program is the Entry to School Program beginning in March 2022. To participate in the program, a child must be registered with the OAP, three to six years of age as of December 31 in the year they are starting school, and entering school for the first time. This program will focus on building skills to support the children's successful transition into school such as communication, play, social interaction, functional routines (like dressing and toilet training), and behavioural self-management (learning to regulate emotions). The Entry to School Program will be delivered by agencies that provide services to children with autism and their families.

## **Space for the Program**

The agencies are seeking space in operating schools to accommodate the program as classrooms are ideal spaces to assist the children in acclimatizing to the school environment. The classrooms should be near an entrance, have access to a dedicated washroom, and be available for use beginning in March 2022.

A team of staff from Special Education, Planning, the Toronto Lands Corporation, and the agencies have worked with Superintendents and Principals to identify appropriate classrooms. Available classrooms have been found in Beaumonde Heights JMS, Cornell Jr PS and Emily Carr PS. Floor plans and key statistics of the schools can be found in Appendix A.

The agencies that will occupy the available classrooms are:

- Kerry's Place at Beaumonde Heights Junior Middle School;
- Strides Toronto at Cornell Junior Public School; and
- South Asian Autism Awareness Centre at Cornell Junior Public School and Emily Carr Public School.

To accommodate the start of the Entry to School program in March 2022, the three agencies have been provided with permits to the rooms beginning March 21, 2022.

Toronto Lands Corporation staff will negotiate leases with the agencies as per the Community Planning and Partnerships policy to provide them with access to the rooms for a longer period.

## **Action Plan and Associated Timeline**

Toronto Lands Corporation staff will initiate negotiations for leases with the three agencies. The agencies have been given permits to use the rooms beginning March 21, 2022. Permits will continue to be used until the leases are executed.

## **Resource Implications**

The TDSB will not incur any costs besides staff time to negotiate and execute the leases.

## **Communications Considerations**

NA

## **Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)**

P076 – Community Planning and Partnerships

PR713 – Community Planning and Partnerships

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Floor Plans and Key Statistics for Beaumonde Heights JMS, Cornell Jr PS, and Emily Carr PS

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