



Emergency Purchasing During Pandemic Follow-up: Update

To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Date: 20 January, 2021

Report No.: 01-21-4013

Strategic Directions

- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

Recommendation

It is recommended that this report be received.

Context

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on pandemic-related emergency purchases since last reported to the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee on October 14, 2020 that included purchases made between March 2020 and October 7, 2020. The purchases in this report were made between October 8, 2020 and January 11, 2021.

As reported in October, the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) announced in July 2020 that they will be taking on the role of providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and related supplies to all Ontario school boards. As MGCS was ramping up their capacity, the TDSB was required to continue to purchase a significant amount of PPE and related supplies on its own as it was not readily available from MGCS. Over the last several months this situation has improved significantly and much of these products are now flowing through to the TDSB Distribution Centre from MGCS at no cost to the board. It is estimated that MGCS is now supplying approximately 80-85% of the PPE and related supplies being consumed by schools and administrative centres. A notable exception is disinfectant wipes, which make up approximately 60% of the TDSB spend for products not available through MGCS shown in Appendix A.

There is a small number of products not provided through MGCS where deliveries were made direct to schools from the suppliers. The spend for these items has diminished significantly as shown in Appendix B.

Along with all the PPE and related supplies purchasing, large amounts of technology were and continue to be required to support student remote learning. Much of this was required very quickly at the beginning of the lockdown to support the pivot from on-site school and work to remote. Appendix C shows IT related purchases made from October 8, 2020 to January 11, 2021 providing ongoing technological support.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Not applicable.

Resource Implications

A portion of these emergency expenditures will be funded by 2020-21 federal and provincial funding relating to school reopening.

Communications Considerations

Not applicable.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

PO17: Purchasing Policy

Appendices

- Appendix A: PPE and Related Supplies Emergency Purchases – TDSB Spend
- Appendix B: Pandemic Related Emergency Purchases for Products Provided Directly from Vendors
- Appendix C: IT Pandemic Related Purchases

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