



## **2020-21 Pandemic Funding Update**

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

**Date:** 24 February, 2021

**Report No.:** 02-21-4041

### **Strategic Directions**

- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the 2020-21 Pandemic Funding Report be received.

### **Context**

On February 1, 2021, the Ministry released the 2021: B01 Memo, outlining the second phase of the investments under the Safe Return to Class Fund. The total Federal funding to be distributed across Ontario is \$381.0M. This funding focuses on priorities to support the learning, health and safety of students for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

The total allocation to the TDSB is \$24.4M. This represents approximately 12.2% of the \$199.4M in total funding allocated to all Ontario school boards to date. Staff will continue to update Trustees as information becomes available regarding the remaining funding allocation.

Details relating to the second instalment of the Safe Return to Class Fund are outlined below:

### Investments in Technology - \$9.4M

On February 11, 2021, the Ministry confirmed that the \$9.4M in technology funding must be spent on new investments and cannot be used to offset existing Board funded technology purchases. As such, TDSB plans to purchase over 29,000 additional Chromebook devices with this funding. The Board will be leveraging the pricing from its existing Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM) contract to procure these devices. This purchase will be added to the previously projected \$15.6M technology spend, for a total of \$25.0M in technology purchases for the 2020-21 school year. \$3.6M of this amount will be Board funded expenses.

### Optimizing Air Quality and Ventilation - \$6.9M

To date, 3,563 HEPA filter units have been distributed to 235 TDSB schools, and 435 HEPA filter units will be distributed to Wellness Rooms in remaining quintile 5 schools. The remaining \$3.8M from the first instalment of the Safe Return to Class Fund will be used to address HVAC recommissioning deficiencies. \$6.9M from the second instalment of the funding will be used to purchase over 10,000 additional HEPA filter units across 314 schools.

The new HEPA units will be distributed for use in occupied classrooms based on the quintile model as identified by Toronto Public Health's COVID-19 risk assessment. Distribution of HEPA units will be first targeted to the quintile 5 schools and triaged according to the school quintile ranking. The Facility Services department is currently working on a schedule for system distribution of HEPA filters and will be communicating with schools regarding their allocation in the coming weeks.

### Health and Safety - \$7.8M

This funding will be used to offset costs incurred by school boards associated with acquiring PPE and critical supplies and equipment (CSE), including for student transportation, beyond what has been provided through the MGCS supply chain. TDSB's projected expenses for 2020-21 is \$8.2M, which is fully funded through this funding and the \$0.46M PPE funding from the first instalment.

### Transportation - \$0.3M

This funding will be used for additional PPE and costs relating to enhanced health & safety measures incurred by student transportation service providers.

## Other Updates from the Ministry 2021: B01 Memo

TDSB is still awaiting additional information regarding funding allocations relating to student nutrition programs, summer learning, online learning, equity initiatives, pandemic education needs and mental health supports.

On February 8, 2021, the Ministry confirmed that there will be additional funding for 2020-21 Focus on Youth programming through new transfer payment agreements. Staff will provide updates at future FBEC meetings as more information becomes available.

The memo also indicated that school boards will be allowed to access up to 15% of uncommitted Proceeds of Disposition (POD) for COVID-related expenses if there is an in-year deficit in the 2020-21 school year in excess of 1% of the lower of either the operating allocation or accumulated surplus balance.

## Revised 2020-21 Financial Position

As a result of the Health & Safety funding to support previous purchases of PPE, TDSB will see a reduction of \$6.8M to the 2020-21 operating deficit, resulting in a revised deficit of \$38.8M or \$1.3% of operating grant allocation. TDSB does not anticipate the need to use POD to offset the operating deficit for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Please refer to Appendix A for a summary of pandemic funding and expenses and Appendix B for the Ministry 2021: B01 Memo.

## **Update on COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) Funding**

In November 2020, TDSB submitted \$159.3M in capital projects for the CVRIS submission across 18 project categories for Ministry approval.

On February 2, 2021, the Ministry informed TDSB that they have put forward a pre-approved list of projects, in the amount of \$81.6M, for nomination to Infrastructure Canada. The Ministry will work with Infrastructure Canada to support their review of nominations and to secure final approvals.

As of February 17, 2021, TDSB is still awaiting the Federal government's final approval on the \$81.6M in nominated capital projects. Staff will provide a final list of the approved projects to FBEC once Federal approval is obtained.

## **Action Plan and Associated Timeline**

The COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Funding must be spent by December 31, 2021.

## **Resource Implications**

N/A

## **Communications Considerations**

N/A

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

N/A

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Summary of Pandemic Funding and Expenses as of Feb 1, 2021
- Appendix B: Ministry 2021: B01 Memo Federal Safe Return to Class Fund and Expanded Targeted Testing in Schools

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