



Provincial Capital Priorities Program 2021-22

To: Planning and Priorities Committee

Date: 6 April, 2021

Report No.: 04-21-4070

Strategic Directions

- 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 list of ten Capital Priority projects outlined within this report be submitted to the Ministry of Education for funding consideration.

Context

Capital funding to support new schools, replacement schools, additions and deep retrofits to existing schools is provided to school boards by the provincial government. This funding is allocated through the Capital Priorities program, an annual process where school boards are able to identify their most urgent pupil accommodation needs.

On March 24, 2021 the Ministry of Education announced a new Capital Priorities program for 2021-22, which is outlined in the memorandum found in Appendix A. School boards are required to submit business cases for each project by **May 21, 2021**.

The last opportunity for school boards to identify Capital Priority projects was in 2019-20. Although there was no Capital Priorities program announced for the 2020-21 school year, the Ministry selected projects from the unfunded 2019-20 list. For the 2020-21 school year, the Board received funding for a single project: \$5.7M to support an 8-classroom addition and child care expansion at David Lewis PS (Ward 20).

In the current round for 2021-22, school boards across the province are permitted to submit ten business cases that outline their most urgent capital projects. To be considered for funding approval, eligible projects need to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Accommodation pressures;
- Replacing schools in poor condition;
- Supporting past consolidation decisions;
- Providing facilities for French-language rights holders in under-served areas (increasing access to francophone schools operated by the French language school boards – this does not apply to the TDSB); and
- Creating new licensed child care spaces in schools.

It is important to note that not all of the capital projects submitted to the Ministry receive funding approval. The Ministry has a fixed capital budget that they allocate to school boards based on their assessment of where the greatest priorities lie across the province. Historically, the TDSB has received approval for one to six capital projects in a round of the Capital Priorities process.

In their review process, the Ministry assigns a higher priority to projects where utilization rates are equal to or greater than 100% at all nearby schools, as well as to those where the need for additional pupil places is demonstrable within the near-term as opposed to longer-term accommodation pressures.

The memorandum also stipulates that the projects identified must be completed and open by the 2024-25 school year. This is to ensure that school boards are reflecting their most urgent pupil accommodation needs, and that where required, Trustees have already made the decisions necessary to support the projects that have been identified (e.g. school consolidation project with a Board decision to close a school).

Ranking of Capital Priority Projects 2021-22

Capital Priority projects are identified in the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy, which is approved by the Board of Trustees each year. All of the TDSB's emerging Capital Priority projects are listed in the document; however the ranked list of ten is contained within the Annual Planning Document.

Since the next version of the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy and the Annual Planning Document are currently being developed, the purpose of this report is to present a ranked list of ten projects to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Capital Priority projects are ranked to align with the criteria set out by the Ministry. For 2021-22, the projects have been ranked based on the approach described below.

Projects #1 and #2 are urgent projects that are time sensitive. Projects #3 to #8 are projects that were submitted in the 2019-20 Capital Priorities program, but did not

receive funding approval; they are ranked in the same order as the previous submission approved by the Board. Projects #9 and #10 are emerging projects anticipated to open beyond the timeframe specified in the Ministry’s memorandum of 2024-25.

Group	Rank	Capital Project	Ward
Group 1 – Urgent and Time-Sensitive Projects	#1	Lower Yonge Precinct New Elementary School	9
	#2	Consolidated Secondary School at York Memorial CI	6
Group 2 – Previously Approved Projects with Changes	#3	Davisville Jr. PS / Spectrum Alt. Sr. PS Addition	8
Group 3 – Projects Supporting School Consolidations	#4	Poplar Road Jr. PS Replacement	19
	#5	Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. PS Addition	19
Group 4 – Projects that Address Multiple Standalone Portables and/or Port-a-Packs	#6	Regent Heights PS Replacement or Addition	18
	#7	St. Margaret’s PS Replacement	19
	#8	Secord ES Replacement	16
Group 5 – Emerging Projects Beyond 2024-25	#9	West Don Lands New Elementary School	9
	#10	705 Progress New Elementary School	19

Group 1: Urgent and Time-Sensitive Projects: #1 Lower Yonge Precinct Elementary School; #2 Consolidated Secondary School at York Memorial CI; and

The top two Capital Priority projects are required to address new and urgent accommodation issues, and/or have specific time commitments that must be met.

A new elementary school is required to support rapid intensification that is occurring along the City’s central waterfront area. The Lower Yonge Precinct elementary school is embedded within the podium of a mixed-use development. A condition of the Memorandum of Understanding that has been entered into with the developer, Menkes, requires that funding approval for the new school be received by October 2021. The 2021-22 Capital Priorities window is the only opportunity to ensure that the funds are in place to support this new school.

York Memorial CI was devastated by fire in the spring of 2019. The building's replacement will be primarily supported by the Board's insurance; however, an expanded facility of 1,300 pupil places is required to support the potential outcome of the active Pupil Accommodation Review that includes George Harvey CI. Subject to the conclusion of the process and approval by the Board, the two schools could consolidate into a single 1,300 pupil place school. The Pupil Accommodation Review is expected to conclude in June 2021, shortly after the due date for Capital Priority projects to be submitted. The Ministry does not expect to announce decisions on Capital Priorities funding until August or September 2021 so there is sufficient time for the Board's decision on the Pupil Accommodation Review to be communicated to the Ministry and considered within their decision-making timeline.

Group 2: Previously Approved Projects with Changes to Scope: #3 Davisville Jr. PS / Spectrum Alt. Sr. PS Addition

In 2015 the Ministry provided funding for a 731 pupil place replacement school for Davisville Jr. PS / Spectrum Alt. Sr. School. The project needs to be expanded with additional classrooms to address the unprecedented growth in the Midtown area. The new school is nearly complete and is expected to be open and operating in September 2021. This project was submitted for consideration during the 2019-20 Capital Priorities cycle, but was not funded because the Ministry staff did not consider the accommodation pressure as significant when compared to other projects submitted by school boards around the province.

Courcelette PS was included as the #3 ranked project in the 2019-20 list but was not funded. The project has been removed from the 2021-22 list based on the feedback from Ministry staff. Their position is that funding has already been provided to address the accommodation pressure at the school, and that additional funds will not be provided to support a different configuration of the project. The additional funds required to support the higher costs of the northeastern addition will be explored through the use of Proceeds of Disposition.

Group 3: Projects Supporting School Consolidations with Board Decisions: #4 Poplar Road Jr. PS; and #5 Elizabeth Simcoe Jr. PS Addition

In June 2018, the Board of Trustees approved the closure of Jack Miner Sr. PS subject to the provision of adequate capital funding to support the implementation of the pupil accommodation and program plan. These projects were submitted for consideration during the 2019-20 Capital Priorities cycle but were not funded.

Although it is still staff's position that both projects are required to support the closure of Jack Miner Sr. PS, the feedback from the Ministry suggested that the requirement of both projects outweighed the net benefit of a single school closure. Based on this

feedback, staff will revisit the proposed scope of both projects in an attempt to reduce the overall cost.

Group 4: Projects that Address Multiple Standalone Portables and/or Port-a-Packs on-Sites: #6 Regent Heights PS; #7 St. Margaret's PS; and #8 Secord ES.

The accommodation drivers contained within the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy recognize that multiple standalone portables on a school site are undesirable and should be addressed by capital intervention where no other accommodation options are feasible.

Port-a-packs differ from standalone portables in that they are connected to the school building via a corridor and often contain washrooms, providing a more acceptable means of student accommodation than standalone portables.

Large port-a-packs in the system that are in poor condition will be addressed first; St. Margaret's PS and Secord ES fall into this category.

All of these projects were submitted for funding consideration in 2019-20, however no funding was provided. The feedback from Ministry staff on these projects suggested their accommodation pressures were not significant when compared to other projects submitted by school boards around the province.

Further, Ministry staff suggested that the Board's available space in surrounding schools should be explored to redistribute students. It is staff's position that these changes are out of sync with the Guiding Principles of the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy, and that these projects should proceed as planned.

Group 5: Emerging Projects Beyond 2024-25: #9 West Don Lands Elementary School and #10 705 Progress Elementary School

A new elementary school is required to support rapid intensification that is occurring in the West Don Lands area of the central waterfront. The Board already owns a school site within the new neighbourhood, Block 9. The Block 9 site will be utilized by Metrolinx for constructing the Ontario Line until 2027. Staff will be working with Metrolinx to ensure the new school can be constructed as soon as Metrolinx leaves the site.

A new elementary school at 705 Progress Avenue is required to support ongoing intensification and population growth within the Scarborough City Centre. The Board co-owns a site with the City of Toronto that will support the future elementary school. This project is related to a future elementary Pupil Accommodation Review as per the Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy. This review is currently identified as 'TBD' due to the moratorium that remains in effect.

Appendix B provides more information on each of the Capital Priority projects.

Child Care

Similar to previous years, as part of the Capital Priorities program school boards also have an opportunity to request funding to support new child care spaces as part of their major capital projects identified for 2021-22.

New child care spaces are to be identified in consultation with the City of Toronto's Children's Services Division, the agency that administers and distributes operating funding to child care providers, and for developing an overall system plan that identifies where service gaps exist.

TDSB Planning staff and Child Care Services staff will be working collaboratively with the City of Toronto's Children's Services staff over the coming weeks to ensure that any feasible opportunity to provide new child care spaces as part of our Capital Priority projects is explored. The child care submission that accompanies the Capital Priority submission must be signed by the City of Toronto to support the need. Operating funds will come from the child care operators through direct agreements.

Applying to the Minister of Education for Use of Proceeds of Disposition for Unfunded Capital Priority Projects

Once the business cases have been submitted to the Ministry of Education on May 21, 2021, the Ministry staff will review them in comparison to the business cases received from the other school boards in the province. It is anticipated that the Ministry of Education will announce the funding decisions in August or September 2021.

It is not likely that all of the Board's Capital Priority projects will receive approval and funding. After the announcement of approved Capital Priority projects, staff will present a report to the Board of Trustees with a recommendation to submit a request to the Minister of Education to use Proceeds of Disposition to finance the unfunded Capital Priority projects.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Funding requests for Capital Priority projects is supported through the submission of individual business cases. For the 2021-22 Capital Priorities program, completed business cases and joint child care submission forms are due by May 21, 2021.

To support this work, TDSB Planning staff, Facilities staff, Child Care Services staff, and Toronto Lands Corporation staff are working collaboratively to ensure that this deadline is met. Discussions will also be arranged with coterminous school boards to determine if there is interest in joint-use projects. Discussions are also occurring with the City of Toronto's Children's Services staff to determine if child care rooms should be included in the individual capital projects.

Once finalized, the business cases will be provided to Trustees for information.

Resource Implications

The development of Capital Priority business cases will be led by TDSB Planning staff and supported by other departments, using internal staff time and resources.

Communications Considerations

The Capital Priority business cases will be posted on the TDSB public website after they have been submitted to the Ministry and provided to Trustees.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

Not applicable

Appendices

- Appendix A: Provincial Memorandum 2021:B05, Launch of 2021-22 Capital Priorities Program including Child Care Capital Funding
- Appendix B: Description of the Capital Priority Projects 2021-22
- Appendix C: Map of the Capital Priority Projects 2021-22

From

Maia Puccetti, Executive Officer, Facilities and Planning, at maia.puccetti@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-393-8780

Andrew Gowdy, System Planning Officer, Strategy and Planning, at andrew.gowdy@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-394-3917

Dan Castaldo, Senior Manager, Strategy and Planning, at daniel.castaldo@tdsb.on.ca or at 416-428-1857