



Chair's Report

CDSBEO Chair, Todd Lalonde, provided a report to the Board.

"Last week we commemorated Orange Shirt Day. In the Cornwall area, Superintendent Cameron invited me to join her and Mayor Clement, and some of our Indigenous partners. I want to thank the Board on behalf of Trustees for the banner that was created, which looked amazing on the Cornwall clock tower. We have had great acknowledgement within the community of our outstanding partnerships, and I want to thank everyone for their work in establishing and maintaining these many successful partnerships."

"We would also like to acknowledge our school staff who are teaching our students and maintaining our schools. On behalf of myself and the Trustees, we are grateful for our staff and all of their contributions," concluded Lalonde.

Plant and Maintenance Capital, School Renewal and School Condition Improvement Projects 2019-2020

For the last several years, the Ministry of Education has provided significant investment in school renewal and school condition improvement funds allocated to school boards to respond to the results of the province-wide school condition assessment program.

The Ministry expects that school boards will spend their School Renewal and School Condition Improvement Allocation funds on schools that need to remain open. The funds are to be used to cover the repair and replacement of existing building systems (ie; HVAC and plumbing), major building components (ie; foundations, roofs, windows), and building interiors and surrounding site components (ie; utilities, parking lots, and pavements).

James Proulx, Acting Manager of Plant and Maintenance, shared details of the projects which were completed during the 2019-2020 school year with the Board of Trustees.

"The 2019-2020 school year was a challenging time, however, the Plant and Maintenance Department completed work on projects in all board facilities, including 3,800 work orders, and more than 70 projects under School Renewal, School Condition Improvement, Capital Projects and Accessibility."

The largest project, which is currently underway, is the Daycare and EarlyON Centre addition at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Gananoque. With a total budget of \$2.3M, of which \$336,000 is funding from the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville for the EarlyON Centre, the addition will be complete in the new year.



“Renovations will include a three-room daycare addition, support spaces consisting of an office, staff room, staff washroom, kitchen, laundry room, and general storage room,” noted Proulx.

“The EarlyON Centre includes a play area, office, and washroom. Additional parking is also being added at the site.”

Holy Name of Mary Catholic School also received approximately \$850,000 in upgrades which included the addition of 10 new roof top units to supply ventilation and air conditioning, new ceilings, lighting and the removal of the old heat pump. An additional \$1.1M in renovations were completed at St. Anne Catholic School, including eight new roof top units, a new roof over the second story core of the building, new electrical service upgrades, a new universal washroom, new ceilings in the corridor, and new lighting on main floor corridor.

Many additional projects were also completed such as new asphalt and concrete installation, interior renovations, fences, portable installations, accessibility upgrades and improvements to other mechanical systems.

“Other important upgrades were implemented to help support prevention of the spread of COVID-19, including the installation of hand sanitizer dispensers, plexiglass barriers, signage, and new water bottle filling stations,” concluded Proulx.

Air Quality in Board Facilities – COVID-19

On August 25, 2020, the Ministry of Education released B Memo: 2020: B12. This memo included details around a \$50M provincial funding announcement to prepare ventilation systems and maximize air quality in Board facilities to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The CDSBEO’s share of this allocation is \$354,400. The funds were announced as part of the government’s reopening of the schools and were made available to Boards so plans could be put in place as quickly as possible to bring the benefits of this investment online for staff and students.

School boards are expected to employ multiple strategies to support healthy and safe learning environments for students and staff. A well-designed, modern HVAC system, properly installed and maintained, will improve comfort and productivity while ensuring and enhancing health and safety.

Acting Manager of Plant and Maintenance, James Proulx, presented information to the Board of Trustees on how the CDSBEO is working to optimize air quality in schools during COVID-19.

“There are very specific requirements set out by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), which the board follows,” began Proulx.



To optimize air quality in schools, the board has implemented changes to previous practice with regard to school ventilation.

"The ventilation systems are started two hours before the beginning of each school day, and shut down two hours after the end of each school day. In addition, air filters installed in the rooftop HVAC units which circulate the air and bring in fresh air from the outside, have been upgraded to the highest possible standard to ensure optimized air circulation and pressure," noted Proulx.

All HVAC systems are tested monthly by a contract vendor, and filters are changed at inspection. Previously, this inspection and filter change was done quarterly. Building automation system (BAS) logs are checked daily and maintenance vendors are contacted immediately for all items requiring attention.

"While most CDSBEO schools are well equipped with modern HVAC systems, any classrooms that do not have a direct ventilation system will be equipped with standalone HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Air) filtering units. Currently, there are six schools that will be receiving these units to some of their classrooms."

Also, additional HVAC upgrades are being considered at nine schools.

"It is important to note that these are all layers for protection that we are putting in place on top of personal protective equipment, and other prevention measures," concluded Proulx.