



## REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### February 23, 2021

Deb Crawford, Director of Education

**SUBJECT:** Optimizing Air Quality in Schools – Update

**PREPARED BY:** Amy Janssens, Associate Director – Corporate Services & Treasurer  
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#### BACKGROUND:

On August 25, 2020, the Ministry of Education (Ministry) sent out memorandum 2020:B12, which provided funding and guidance on air quality and ventilation in schools. At the September 9, 2020 Board Meeting, a presentation was provided on the strategies for supporting healthy and safe learning environments for students and staff through the Optimizing Air Quality in Schools funding. Our board's funding allocation for Optimizing Air Quality in Schools was \$227,000 and the funds were directed to the following three categories:

1. Upgrades to air filtration - All HVAC equipment is being inspected monthly by a HVAC technician and air filters were upgraded to MERV 13 and are changed every three months.
2. Mechanical consultant - Chorley and Bisset conducted school assessments to review air distributions, school HVAC equipment and directed the board how best to handle 'exhaust' only schools.
3. Purchase portable air conditioners and HEPA air purifier units - Teaching spaces with limited HVAC equipment and conditioned air received portable air conditioner with HEPA air purifier to ensure safe and comfortable environments.

Current expenditures as of February 23, 2021 are as follows:

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Upgrades to Air Filtration	\$96,000	\$24,117
Mechanical Consultant	\$15,000	\$14,005
Portable Air Conditioners & HEPA air purifiers	\$116,000	\$120,095
	<u>\$227,000</u>	<u>\$158,217</u>

On February 1, 2021, the Ministry announced the second phase of Safe Return to Class Funding. This funding includes an additional allocation for Optimizing Air Quality in Schools and Ventilation of \$227,000. The plan for use of this funding is supported by recommendations from Chorley and Bisset and has been submitted to the Ministry. Administration is committed to providing further updates to the Board of Trustees as this important work continues.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

**That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Optimizing Air Quality in Schools - Update* for information.**