

May 2, 2022

Following correspondence of December 17, 2021, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) has the following updates to share regarding the restoration of St. Leonard Catholic Elementary School.

Since the fire event that damaged St. Leonard, DPCDSB has been working diligently to ensure that St. Leonard students will return to a refreshed environment that is air conditioned, and a new four (4) classroom addition to replace the two Relocatable Classroom Modules (RCMs). One of the greatest hurdles in the process has been the on-going COVID-19 pandemic which has delayed various stages of the project.

As noted in previous bulletins, the clean-up of the main building is complete. The firm of Hossack and Associates Architects Inc. has been retained by the DPCDSB to refine the scope of work, design, and develop a schedule for this project and the Ministry of Education has confirmed the funding source for the construction of the addition.

A number of events have occurred since December 2021. The survey and geotechnical investigation were completed which enabled the submission of appropriate applications for municipal approval the insurance claim was settled, and, most impactful, is that DPCDSB recently received confirmation from the Ministry of Education that additional funding required due to rising costs in all aspects of construction (that were identified in the cost consultant's report prepared for the project), has been approved. This confirmed approval of the additional funding has allowed DPCDSB to move forward with engaging a contractor to commence construction activity on the site.

With Ministry approval to proceed, and municipal approvals imminent, next steps for the project include the selection of a contractor to commence demolition of the RCMs, restoration of the original building, and construction of the addition. The contractor selection is anticipated to be completed by early June, at which time activity will commence on the St. Leonard school site.

While DPCDSB expected to share with the community that students would return to the newly refreshed St. Leonard building for September 2022, unfortunately, this is not feasible. DPCDSB continues to work with the architect to determine a timeline and options for staff and student return to the building however, until a contractor is selected a return date cannot be confirmed.

DPCDSB will work with the principal to determine a date, prior to end of the school year, to which Planning and Operations staff can attend a meeting of the St. Leonard Catholic School Council and share plans for the addition and provide an update on the return timeline.

St. Leonard students will continue to be hosted at St. Rita Catholic Elementary School and busing will continue to be made available to all students currently residing within the St. Leonard School boundary who meet the DPCDSB transportation eligibility requirements.

The YMCA before and after school program will continue to operate at St. Rita for St. Leonard students.

Community Information Bulletin

Please note that this and future Community Information Bulletins regarding the temporary relocation of St. Leonard Catholic Elementary School can be found on the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's website, dpcdsb.org, in the [About Us](#) section under [Planning and Operations](#).